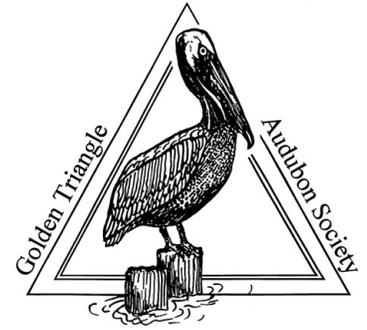


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 23 No. 9

September 2017

**Membership Meeting
Thursday September 21, 2017
Meeting cancelled owing to damage to the Garden Center**

**Membership Meeting
Thursday October 19, 2017 7:00 p.m.
Location to be Determined**

**Birds of Ecuador
Jana and John Whittle**

Ecuador is a relatively small South American country of about 115,000 square miles, less than half the area of Texas, that sits on the west (Pacific) coast of South America south of Colombia and north of Peru. The capital, Quito, is at 9,350 feet in the volcanic Cordillera Real of the Andes, but the terrain drops down to the Pacific coast at Guayaquil in the west, and down to a series of Amazon feeder tributaries in the east. The country is named after the equator, which runs just north of Quito.

Ecuador has, despite its small area, among the most diverse avifauna anywhere. Mainland Ecuador has over 1,550 species, but only seven endemics as most species spill over into Colombia or Peru. (This does not include the Galapagos Islands, also part of Ecuador, that have an additional 30 endemics.) Notable among the bird species are a large number of hummingbirds and many tanagers. In addition there are "specialty" species such as the Cock-of-the-Rock and the Andean Condor.

The program will illustrate a selection of the birds on the eastern side of the Andes taken during a trip in February 2017 to the Tandayapa area, northwest of Quito and the higher altitude area around the Antisana volcano, southeast of Quito.

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.9 September 2017
Issue number 242

Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Sherrie Roden (409-962-7911)

Vice-President

Dana Nelson (409-790-3286)

Treasurer

Harlan Stewart (409 727-4441)

Secretary

John Whittle (409-722-4193)

Directors-at-Large

Edra Bogucki (409-835-7245)

Michael Cooper (832-876-4912)

Gerald Duhon (409-899-3368)

Sherry Gibson (409-385-6302)

John Haynes (409-724-6842)

Gary Kelley (409-697-2346)

Randy Lewis (409-617-1070)

John Mariani (985-373-5016)

Steve Mayes (409-722-5807)

Christine Sliva (409-782-1832)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Program

Jana Whittle (409-722-4193)

Field Trips

Steve Mayes (409-722-5807)

Conservation

Gary Kelley (409-697-2346)

Membership, Publicity

Sheila Hebert (409-767-1216)

Education

Volunteer needed

Webmaster

Jeff Pittman (geojeff@geojeff.org)

Facebook Administrators

John Mariani (985-373-5016)

Jana Whittle (409-722-4193)

Newsletter Distribution

Mary Stafford (409-460-3653)

Newsletter Editor

John Whittle (409-722-4193)

(Johnawhittle@aol.com)

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. 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.

Saturday September 16. Jefferson County Fall Migration Count. This is an all-county count. Contact John Whittle (johnawhittle@aol.com) to offer to help or for more details.

Thursday September 21, 2017. Membership Meeting. See page 1. For details.

Saturday September 23, 2017. Field Trip to Smith Point Hawk Watch. Our leaders will be there from about 8:30 a.m. Hopefully, this will be close to a peak in this year's Broad-winged Hawk migration, but there will always be some hawks. Any day from mid-September through mid October should produce a good number of migrating hawks.

FM1985 is likely to be still closed at East Bay Bayou. To reach the Smith Point Hawk Watch site from Winnie, take (or continue on) IH-10 west for 16 miles, then take Highway 61 south for about 3.7 miles, continuing straight (south) on FM562 from that intersection for about 8 miles. At the intersection with FM1985, follow FM562 to the right (south) another 14 miles to Smith Point. At the end of FM562, there are usually signs to the Hawk Watch. Continue straight until almost reaching the bay, and turn left, bearing left again to the parking area next to the Hawk Watch Tower on the Candy Abshier Wildlife Management Area. It takes at least 90 minutes from the Golden Triangle to reach the site. This Field Trip is much more a come and go as you wish trip, and help on hawk identification is always available on the tower during Hawk Watch season!

Our leaders may lead a group into the nearby woods looking for migrants, but you may stay on the tower if you wish. Mosquitoes are not normally a problem on the tower itself, although they

almost always are in the woods. Availability of food and fuel is limited or non-existent in Smith Point, so bring your lunch!

The Smith Point Hawk Watch is conducted every day from August 1 through the end of October by the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory.

Historically, the peak of Broad-wing Hawk migration is September 25, although in recent years at Smith Point, it has been later. In recent years there has often been a brief one-day spike in the September 20-24 time frame, followed by a higher and often multi-day peak. Last year the peak day was October 1, although there were a large flights on September 20 and each day from September 27 through October 1. The exact peak day probably depends more on the weather on the migration path from Pennsylvania down to east Texas, and particularly on the two or three days prior. Should a cold front pass through, the days immediately following usually have a north wind, and there tend to be more migrating hawks of all species on those days. You may want to pick a day to visit accordingly!

Thursday October 19, 2017. Membership Meeting. See next month's *Brown Pelican* for details.

Saturday October 21, 2017. Field Trip to Sabine Woods. Leader Steve Mayes. Meet at Sabine Woods, which is 4.1 miles west of Sabine Pass on the north side of Highway 87 at 7:30 a.m. or join the trip in progress in the woods later. Waterproof footwear will probably be a good idea, especially if it is at all wet from previous rain or just heavy early morning dew. Bring mosquito repellent just in case. There are few services available on weekends in Sabine Pass, but normally gasoline is available. The



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

available. The deli is no longer open. Bring drinks.

The 21st of October is towards the end of fall songbird migration, but often brings a good variety of birds. A cold front may drive down the last of the warblers and the first big push of wintering birds. Some of our winter birds may be arriving, and often the woodland species that winter in the Big Thicket overshoot a little at first. In some past years, this has included Red-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper.

Although the boardwalk was destroyed in Hurricane Ike, the trails are clear and mostly reasonably wide, and, although some care is needed to avoid uneven ground, birding Sabine Woods is relatively easy.

Thursday November 18, 2017. Annual Meeting and Pot-luck Dinner. Bring your favorite bird photos.

NAS Chapter Services Updates

National Audubon Society's Chapter Services sends frequent emails and holds Chapter Policy Call webinars every few weeks to keep the membership onboard with their current conservation concerns and sometimes initiate political action. On August 10, David Yarnold, Audubon CEO, sent an email promoting Al Gore's recently released climate change film

"An Inconvenient Sequel." While David Yarnold is a true believer in manmade climate change, he acknowledged that not all NAS members are fans of Al Gore and he gave those members dispensation to just "pass" on the article.

At the Annual Audubon meeting in July at Park City, Utah, a new Elected Official Toolkit for planning meetings with and lobbying public officials was rolled out, and it's now available on the Audubon Works website. Initially, these tools will be useful for lobbying officials to protect the Alaska National Wildlife Range and NPR-A from oil development and preservation of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Also in July, Audubon leaders were requesting action to preserve an agreement between the previous administration's Interior Department and various development and conservation groups to protect Sage Grouse and their habitat across eleven western states. The previous agreement has been re-opened under Secretary Zinke, despite its success as a workable consensus. Details of the new policy should be available soon and may result in a fight to list the Sage Grouse as an endangered species, which most supporters of the previous policy opposed. Stay tuned.

Gary Kelley

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 2018 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.

Electronic Delivery of the *Brown Pelican*

We currently mail most copies of the *Brown Pelican* to members by first class mail. While we certainly do not want to cut off any members who are unable to receive a copy electronically, we encourage you, if you are able, to receive your copy as a pdf attachment to an email. This way, you can save us both expense and volunteer time. To do this please send an email to johnawhittle@aol.com from the email address you want us to use. Be sure to include your name so we can find you in our membership records!

Why Solar Power is Good for Birds

Solar energy is a boon for the environment, but some methods can be harmful to birds and other wildlife. Here's how to go solar safely.

By Lynsy Smithson-Stanley and Liz Bergstrom

From the Audubon Website, first published January 9, 2017

If you install solar panels on your roof, don't expect your birds to show any appreciation. At best, they'll bless them with a splatter of droppings. But if they knew better, they'd be grateful, because installing solar panels at home is one of the best ways to help birds avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

Why do solar panels help birds?

Currently, about two-thirds of the electricity used in the United States comes from burning coal, oil, and

natural gas. In a furnace, those materials combust and release carbon pollution, which forms a thin layer in the atmosphere and traps heat like a blanket. Over the past century, that greenhouse-gas blanket has grown so thick that here on the ground we can feel and see its effects through rising temperatures, which in turn affect long-term trends in rainfall, polar ice, and sea levels.

So can birds. And on the wing, they can quickly react to subtle changes in their environments—temperature, food, water, habitat—and shift their ranges. Already we're seeing evidence of this in response to the changing

climate. Carolina Wrens, Northern Mockingbirds, and Tufted Titmice are creeping into the Midwest. Caspian Terns are nesting at Cape Krusenstern National Monument in Alaska, nearly 1,000 miles farther north than previously recorded. Horned Puffins are following food farther north into Arctic waters than ever before, where they're evicting Black Guillemots from their burrows and devouring eggs and chicks.

That's just the start of the changes to come. The changing climate threatens more than 300 species of North American birds and thousands more worldwide. Cutting carbon pollution is essential to avoid the worst impacts on birds and other wildlife.

In contrast to coal, oil, and natural gas, solar panels produce plentiful electricity without releasing any carbon pollution. By taking the step to install them on your roof, you ensure that your energy use won't contribute to the climate problem.

In addition, each solar panel installation is an investment in our future economy driven by renewable energy. The more demand exists for solar panels, the cheaper their production becomes. And the more people that install solar panels on their rooftops or buy into community solar gardens, the louder the message to communities and elected officials that people care about climate change and protecting the environment.

It's clear that solar energy can have big benefits for birds. Still, it's also important to keep in mind that there are several different types of solar technologies, and some types are better for wildlife than others.

What type of solar is good for birds?

Photovoltaic (PV) solar is what you've likely seen on the roofs of houses or in a community solar garden. A solar panel is composed of hundreds of photovoltaic cells, which collect sunlight and transform it into electricity.

The presence of PV panels on a roof—whether on a house, office building, or other structure—doesn't disrupt wildlife habitat and takes advantage of already-built space.

Large-scale PV installations (like utility-scale solar, solar parks, solar power stations, or solar farms) place many large solar panels in a single location to generate electricity for utility companies to distribute to many homes. These large-scale solar farms can benefit birds overall, but it's vital for developers to minimize their harm to wildlife. For example, some solar developers in Minnesota and other states are growing native plant species around solar panels to benefit birds and other pollinators.

In the Western United States, these large-scale installations are often planned for desert areas that receive a lot of sunlight. However, these same desert

lands are often habitat for birds and other wildlife. It's important for installers to consider solar farm placement and avoid uprooting habitat wherever possible. In fact, some states are working with conservation groups to choose locations for solar farms that will minimize harm to wildlife, such as Audubon California's work to shape the state's new Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.

Another problem with large solar farms is that birds sometimes mistake the glossy blue expanse of solar panels for bodies of water and try to land on them. This is called a "lake effect." Birds have been found dead, wounded, or stranded at several solar projects in the desert. The "lake effect" puts waterbirds in particular at risk because some species can't take off from the ground; they require a running start on the water's surface. Some developers are adding special patterns to their panels or using other strategies to reduce the risk of crash landings.

What type of solar is not so good for birds?

Thermal solar, also known as concentrating solar, generates electricity by focusing solar rays to transform a fluid into steam. That steam then turns a turbine to power a generator.

These installations can kill birds. Some concentrated solar installations arrange a huge number of mirrors that point to a central tower, and the concentrated solar towers create an incredibly high-heat area that's dangerous for anything to touch. What's worse, the light beam and surrounding mirrors actually *attract* birds and the insects they like to eat.

The potential harm of this solar power method can be seen at the Ivanpah concentrated solar tower in California. In 2015, Ivanpah killed about seven birds per gigawatt hour of electricity produced—or more than 6,000 birds estimated over the course of the year. By comparison, the climate change impacts of burning fossil fuels are estimated to kill only one bird per gigawatt hour. Because of this, Audubon opposes any further construction of concentrated solar towers.

All energy development has some impact on habitats and wildlife, and in the big picture, the threat of climate change poses a greater risk to entire species than renewable energy installations generally pose to individual birds. However, it's crucial to reduce these projects' impacts on wildlife as much as possible. For this reason, Audubon continues to work with developers and elected officials to choose locations for new renewable energy projects that take birds and their habitats into consideration, and to call for better methods to reduce bird strikes and deaths at all types of energy facilities.

Jabiru in Chambers County

What bird is 52 inches long, has a wingspan of 90 inches, and when in North America, it hangs out with Wood Storks, Ibis, and Roseate Spoonbills? And its normal range is Central and South America. That is right! A Jabiru.

It was so exciting to see a post on FB Texbirds that Jan and David Hanson had spotted a Jabiru while they were collecting wildflower seeds around 5:30 PM on August 1st of this year, near the intersection of FM1985 and Pear Orchard Road. That intersection is on the way if you travel on FM1985 to go to Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge. Many people drove down to the area that evening to try to relocate it, but no one else saw it. About 75 people appeared the next morning to try to relocate it. At 8:25 John and Debbie Park saw it very closely. Then the bird went down below a levee. The bird had flown about a mile down Pear Orchard Road when they saw it. So then the rest of the people searching for it, came down, but they could not find it either. A landowner came with some equipment and scared the Jabiru up. Around 11:00 AM, every person there saw it fly for a good while and then it flew out of sight. But seeing it then made many birders happy. Birders had been standing on the beds of their trucks and some were even standing on top of their cars to try to see over the levees and into the fields better. That afternoon there were several other sightings in that area also. I did not get to the site until 7:15 PM Wednesday night. There were about eight of us there and we saw it very well as it was eating in the field. Then it flew away from where we could see. On Thursday, more people came out. One lady said that she saw it at 7:00 AM, but no one was with her. One person that came a little later said that she and others could not relocate the bird until after 11:00 AM which meant that they searched the roads for at least 4 hours. They all got to see it and it flew away. No other people have seen the bird as far as I know. This was the first sighting of a Jabiru in Chambers County.

I have tried to research how many have been seen in the States. At this point, I believe that this recent sighting was the 17th. Most of them are in Texas, but there was one at Mississippi, one in Oklahoma in a catfish pond, and in Louisiana. So here are the records and dates that I have found: We are not sure that this is all of the sightings, but at this time, this is all that I could locate. I would like to thank Ron Weeks and Eric Carpenter for allowing me to use a list of the accepted TRBC records. Please, if you know of others, let us know.

An 1867 Jabiru specimen was found in Austin and given to the Museum of Science in Philadelphia, but it is now

missing, so some people will not count this.

August 11-September 8, 1971 Escondido Lake, Kleberg County

September 1972 La Sal Vieja, Hidalgo County

July 26-27, 1973 Harris County

July 28-August 9, 1974, Bixby, Oklahoma

October 29, 1979 there were 2 Jabirus seen at Encino, Brooks County

September 6-18, 1981, Oso Bay, Corpus Christi, Nueces County

August 5-8, 1985, Near Bentsen State Park, Hidalgo County

August 11, 1997, Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Cameron County

August 24-25, 2007, a catfish farm in Isola, Mississippi, in Sunflower County

July 31, 2008, Houma, Louisiana, which is about 100 miles from New Orleans

August 10-22, 2008, near Raymondville, Willacy County at hwy. 409 and 1/2 mile from FM 1425.

June 10, 2009. Nueces Delta Preserve, San Patricio County

September 20, 2009, San Benito, Cameron County

August 6, 2014, private ranch, Victoria County

August 20-25, 2016, near Placedo, Victoria/Calhoun County, 90 miles northeast of Corpus and 140 miles southwest of Houston.

August 1-3, 2017, near Anahuac Wildlife Refuge, Chambers County

In summary, six times the species only appeared for one day. two times it appeared for two days, two times it appeared for three days, and the rest of the sightings were anywhere from five to 28 days. So, we need to be diligent getting the word out when we hear about this species. There are still many birders who would like to see it in North America. I will leave you with one of the many things people have been known to say after seeing the bird.

"It looked like a small plane compared to other birds flying." I guess it did look big because of its long length and the wide wingspan. It is the second largest flying bird when it appears in North American yielding only to the Whooping Crane.

Again thank you to David and Jan Hanson for posting it on FB Texbirds. If they had not been so quick to post it, there would have been many people who would not have seen it. More than 100 people were able to see the Jabiru if you look at eBird, and then add in the people like me who do not use eBird.

Jana Whittle

Field Trip to Liberty Area – 5 August 2017

The Liberty field trip started as an unofficial field trip by a few Golden Triangle Audubon members to see the numerous Swallow-tailed Kites that gather in the lower Trinity valley in the late summer. Gradually, it changed into a hunt for more species than just the kites and into an official field trip. This was because of all of the good birds that kept turning up on the trip! Eventually, the few birders who started it just had to let everyone else in on the secret!

The Trinity River bottomlands are made up by a large amount of swamp, forest and river habitat, much of it around the town of Liberty, Texas. For some years, this was the only reliable place in Texas to find the elusive Swallow-tailed Kite. This elegant black and white raptor had once been common but DDT and other issues had all but eliminated it from Texas. Recently, the Swallow-tailed Kite has made an excellent comeback in eastern Texas and is now relatively easy to find in Harris, Jefferson, Orange and Hardin counties among others. The Liberty trip has persisted though, because of the excellent birding habitat in the area.

The first stop on this field trip is Liberty Municipal Park. This has always been a fairly birdy park but, in recent years, additional trails have been added into the woodlands of the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge adjacent to the park. This has opened up even more habitat to visiting birders. A walk through the park in early August will often produce multiple breeding birds and a few early migrants. Past visits have produced such species as Hooded Warbler, Northern Parula and Great Crested Flycatcher. And there is always the chance of a Swallow-tailed Kite flying over the park itself. Of course, not every visit turns out so well ...

On this trip to Liberty Municipal Park, it was a bit slower bird wise. A number of Mississippi Kites gave the group good looks but Pileated Woodpeckers were heard more than seen. Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reasonably cooperative and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird or two were noted by most of the group. Carolina Chickadee was obvious but the usual Tufted Titmouse was not to be found. A Summer Tanager was heard along with Red-headed Woodpeckers. Acadian Flycatcher was both heard and eventually seen and Northern Cardinals were present as always. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were around in good numbers but not everyone got to see Red-eyed Vireo. A Broad-winged Hawk cooperated briefly and Carolina Wrens eventually came out for a look. A Louisiana Waterthrush played hide and seek with the birders but persistence paid off with most of the group eventually getting decent looks. Finally, a Swallow-tailed Kite soared over the

woodlands giving the group all a look at the starring attraction of the day.

After an excellent lunch at Jax (highly recommended if you find yourself in Liberty, Texas!), came the next stage of the trip. This involves cruising Highway 90 between the towns of Liberty and Dayton on the lookout for Swallow-tailed Kites or anything else of interest. On a good day, a dozen or more Swallow-tailed Kites might be seen along with numerous other raptors, Wood Storks and other interesting birds. The trip through the town of Liberty to get to the highway turned up several Mississippi Kites and, for some of the group, another Swallow-tailed Kite. Highway 90, unfortunately, turned up very little. It was not exactly the raptor show that has been experienced on some past field trips.

Some of the group added an unofficial supplement to the trip on the way home by visiting the well known Wood Stork roost on Highway 90 just east of the Liberty County line and were rewarded by the sight of about 80 of these stately birds. Not satisfied with that, a visit was also made to the Doguet Turf Farm on Highway 326 immediately north of Nome. While the numbers of shorebirds was not large, the quality was quite good, as there were a few Buff-breasted Sandpipers and a few Upland Sandpipers in addition to the more common Pectoral Sandpipers and Least Sandpipers.

Sometimes, on a field trip, all of the pieces fall into place perfectly and the birds are easy and numerous. Some other trips, the birds are harder to come by and some work has to be put in to see anything! Still, with multiple Swallow-tailed Kites, Mississippi Kites and some nice woodland birds, the day still turned out pretty well. And, as the writer of this article currently sits here typing while trapped inside by the rains of Hurricane Harvey, it can honestly be said that any that one is able to spend out birding is a good day!

The following species were recorded by the field trip leaders: Great Blue Heron (1); Great Egret (1); Snowy Egret (1); Cattle Egret (5); White Ibis (1); Roseate Spoonbill (1); Black Vulture (10); Turkey Vulture (5); Swallow-tailed Kite (2); Mississippi Kite (12); Broad-winged Hawk (1); Killdeer (15); Mourning Dove (6); Yellow-billed Cuckoo (4); Chimney Swift (4); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (2); Red-headed Woodpecker (2); Red-bellied Woodpecker (3); Downy Woodpecker (3); Pileated Woodpecker (3); Acadian Flycatcher (3); Loggerhead Shrike (1); White-eyed Vireo (1); Yellow-throated Vireo (1); Red-eyed Vireo (1); Blue Jay (5); American Crow (6); Purple Martin (20); Carolina Chickadee (7); Carolina Wren (3); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (6); Northern Mockingbird (5); Louisiana Waterthrush (1); Summer Tanager (1); Northern Cardinal (2)

Steve Mayes

Bird Sightings – August 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 Peninsula 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: A very short report this month. August is never a big month, but Hurricane Harvey cut birding short. The great excitement this month was the Jabiru in Chambers County at the beginning of the month, described elsewhere in this issue.

While not quite in the same category, the finding of a near adult California Gull on McFaddin Beach on August 23. Unusual gulls on the Upper Texas Coast are usually early cycle immature birds, but this bird appears from photographs to be a third year bird. Also somewhat unusual was its appearance in the middle of summer; most unusual gulls appear in winter.

We are taking the opportunity afforded by extra available space to comment on some birds noted in these columns in recent months. First, we will note some species that were not merely early or late migrants. Swallow-tailed Kites were seen frequently in Nederland in an area from Doornbos Park eastwards and northeastwards, , and also in Beaumont, especially along Highway 105. Despite their size, these kites can be very difficult to find when they perch in the tops of tall trees and seem likely to be at least roosting if not nesting somewhere in these areas. They strongly favor pine trees. It will not be long before we no longer consider them to be rare in our area!

We continue to record, in an abbreviated form wherever possible, the Least Grebes in Cattail Marsh in Tyrrell Park. They are clearly not rare there, but we only know of this one location, so overall they are still rare or very rare.

Great Kiskadees are visiting Sabine Woods quite frequently. In addition, there are known nests in the Baytown area, and probably two locations in nearby Louisiana in Sulphur and in Sam Houston Jones SP. They have been recorded occasionally for some years now, but seem to be increasing in frequency.

Seen in our Core Counties (listed above)

Gadwall	Jul 31	JEF-TP (1) TP HS
Least Grebe	thru Aug 14	JEF-TP (up to 13) JEF-TP HS, J & L Bryan
Magnificent Frigatebird	Aug 9	JEF-SW (2) JHH (seen flying offshore)
Swallow-tailed Kite	Jul 31	JEF-Beaumont (1) Randy Lewis
California Gull	Aug 23	JEF-McFaddin Beach (1) Gary Binderim
Lsr. Black-backed Gull	Aug 23	JEF-McFaddin Beach (1) Gary Binderim
Great Kiskadee	Jul 31	JEF-SW (1) JHH
	Aug 11, 14, 16, 18	JEF-SW (1) JHH
	Aug 21	JEF-SW (1) SH
Bank Swallow	Jul 31	JEF-TP (12) HS
Northern Waterthrush	Aug 9	JEF-SW (1) JHH
Worm-eating Warbler	Aug 24-27	JEF-SW (1) JHH, SH
Yellow Warbler	Jul 31	JEF-SW (3) JHH
	Aug 1	JEF-TP (1) J&L Bryan
	Aug 4	JEF-SW (4) JHH

Nearby Counties (very rare species only)

Jabiru	Aug 1 thru 3	CHA-Pear Orchard Rd (1) David Hansen, multiple observers
--------	--------------	--

Glossy Ibis	Aug 2	CHA-Pear Orchard Rd (1) Adrian Johnson. Arman Moreno
	Aug 4	CHA-ANWR (1) Sandy Dillard, Bill Eisele
Wilson's Snipe	Aug 5	CHA-FM563 N of Dble Bayou (1) Carl Poldrack
White-rumped Sandpiper	Aug 4	CHA-ANWR (2) Sandy Dillard
Belted Kingfisher	Aug 11	CHA-Smith Point (1) Winnie Burkett
Vermilion Flycatcher	Aug 5	CHA-ANWR Access Rd (1) Todd White
Bank Swallow	Aug 3	CHA-Pear Orchard Rd (1) Ruben and Victor Stoll

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

Message from David Yarnold

The following message was sent to Audubon Chapter Leaders in mid-March. Although that was some time ago, it is still an important message as we approach the next Federal Budget cycle.

I wanted to share with you the message that went out to all our members and supporters last weekend. With the semi-hysterical headlines over proposed budget cuts and concern about de-funding environmental priorities, I wanted our members to get a thoughtful and measured accounting of Audubon's commitment to taking a balanced, assertive

approach to the new administration. We are committed to working with like-minded colleagues on both sides of the aisle to protect the funding that is critical to advancing our conservation work. I'd love to hear what you think.

David Yarnold, President, National Audubon Society

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Form

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Gift from: _____

Check enclosed Please bill me

Golden Triangle Audubon C7ZW250Z

Brown Pelican SUBSCRIPTION/ MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete this form or include the information on or with your check. Mail to Golden Triangle Audubon Society, P. O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292 or bring to any Membership Meeting. Subscriptions from National Audubon members with mailing addresses outside our official territory, and others wishing to subscribe are \$15 per year (Jan-Dec). Members with addresses within our official territory are also asked to contribute \$15 if they are able.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____

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. 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>.