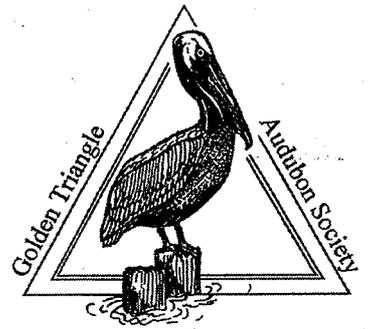


# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 23 No. 11

November 2017

**Annual Meeting and Elections  
Thursday November 16, 2017 7:00 p.m.  
Mid-Jefferson Extended Care Hospital  
See page 3 for directions and information**

## **Your favorite bird pictures**

Once again, 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 13. 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 format or are a series of jpg files.

## **Elections**

We will hold our annual elections at this meeting. If you have any suggestions, please contact a member of the Nominations Committee: Gary Kelley, John Haynes or Jana Whittle.

## *The Brown Pelican*

Vol. 23, No.11 November 2017  
Issue number 244

### Golden Triangle Audubon Society

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

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## Calendar of Events

*Important Note: Field Trip notices published here should always be regarded as needing confirmation just before the date. Changes will always be posted on the web site at [www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](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 16, 2017. Annual Meeting and Elections.** See p. 1 for program details and p. 3 for important information on the meeting venue.

### 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. **Our November meeting is our traditional pot-luck dinner meeting.** However, please note the limitations of the facilities available to us at this month's meeting location noted on page 3. 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.

**Saturday November 18, 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. Three years ago's trip found a Mountain Bluebird, which stayed all winter and was visited by birders from all over the region.,

Fall 2017 has so far been a most unusual year. Hurricane Harvey resulted in water in areas where there is not usually water. Although the water drained relatively quickly, it may have resulted in subtle effects. Insect eggs and larvae may have been washed into the bayous that drain the area and on to the Gulf. The small invertebrate and small rodent population may have been significantly affected. Aerial spraying may also have greatly affected the insect population. On the other hand, there may be increased growth of vegetation, although the area is quite moist most years. At this point, we do not have much idea on how the wintering birds will be affected.

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.

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

**Thursday January 18, 2018. Membership Meeting.** Details in next month's issue.



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).

**Saturday January 20, 2018. 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 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)

## Our October and November Meeting Location

As many of you know, the Garden Center was damaged by water in Hurricane Harvey, and will not be available for our use for the November meeting and possibly for the first few meetings in 2018.

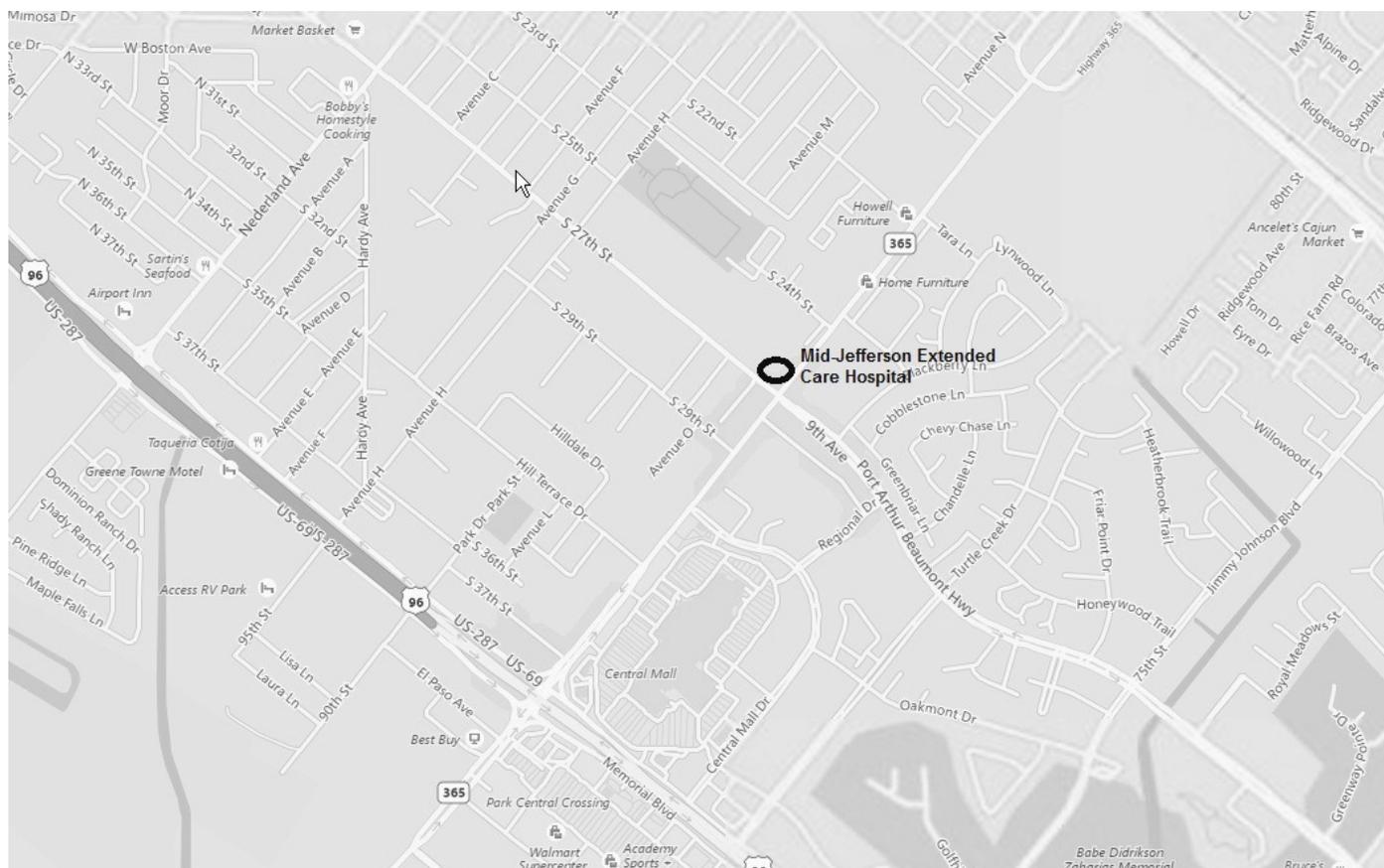
We are deeply grateful to Mark and Julie Pittman Rice, CEO and owners of Mid-Jefferson Extended Care Hospital for making available a meeting room in the Hospital for our October and November meetings.

We will need to make some minimal adjustment to our normal meeting format. We will be able to have refreshments, probably in a separate room across the hall, but you may have to balance your plate on your knee. There will not be a

kitchen, so we will need to limit our refreshments to items that do not require a kitchen for dish clean up etc.

The Hospital is at 2600 FM365 in Nederland. It is on the corner of FM365 and 27th Street in Nederland. See map below.

The meeting room is best reached by entering through the side entrance which is on 27th Street, across from the CVS Pharmacy. The side parking lot is limited in size, so you may have to park in the main lot on FM365, which has plenty of spaces.



# 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.*

## **Johnson Bayou in SW Louisiana: Thursday, December 14, 2017**

Johnson Bayou CBC has a rich history beginning in 1976 to present. Though the count is located just across the state line in Louisiana, most participants are from Texas and everyone is welcome. While much of the area 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. Areas covered include beach, coastal cheniers, marsh and grasslands. 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: Saturday, December 16, 2017**

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.

## **Galveston: Tuesday, December 19, 2016**

Although this count has very limited land area and a particularly small amount of wooded areas, it still typically is a top 20 or near top twenty U.S. CBCs. 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: Thursday, December 21, 2017**

This count circle in Chambers and Galveston Counties 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).

## **Beech Creek: Saturday December 23, 2017**

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.

## **Sea Rim State Park: Thursday, December 28, 2017**

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: Thursday, December 28, 2017**

Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge will be hosting the 20th Annual Trinity River Christmas Bird Count for northern Liberty County. Areas 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. The wrap-up dinner will be held at the Texas Seafood & Steakhouse restaurant in Cleveland. Birdwatchers of all levels are welcome. 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: Monday, January 1, 2018**

Habitat covers marsh, woodlands, and the Cow Bayou watershed. All are invited, even if you 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. Contact Gary Kelley ([garymke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:garymke@sbcglobal.net), telephone 409-679-1616), for more information.

## **Old River: Tuesday January 2, 2018**

The count covers all points within 7.5 miles of Lake Charlotte. This is less than an hour's drive east of Houston. The count circle for this count centers in Lake Charlotte in Chambers Co. and takes in almost all of the Wallisville Project, all the way out to the far back in of Trinity Bay and north into the southern part on Liberty Co. Please contact count compiler David Hanson ([DHanson139@aol.com](mailto:DHanson139@aol.com)), if you'd like to participate or have any questions.

# Yellow-Breasted Chat – One of a Kind

John Sproul

[Reprinted with permission from *The Roadrunner*, the Newsletter of El Paso Trans-Pecos Audubon.]

In the early editions of *A Field Guide to the Birds*, Roger Tory Peterson observed, “Except for its color, the [Yellow-breasted] Chat seems more like a Catbird or a Mocker than a Warbler.” The chat’s placement in the wood-warbler family (Parulidae) has long been questioned. Many taxonomists suspected it should be assigned elsewhere. But lacking persuasive evidence for a change, and with some evident ties to Parulidae, it remained classified a wood-warbler. Until now.

The North American Classification Committee of the American Ornithological Society (AOS) in July released the 58<sup>th</sup> supplement to the AOS’s Check-list of North and Middle American Birds. As genetic studies continue to bring new insights into avian taxonomy, the check-list continues to undergo large changes.

This year, one set of changes involved revising “familial limits and the linear sequence of families within the nine-primaried oscines.” And that revision included placing the **Yellow-breasted Chat** in a new family. Recent studies indicate the chat has evolutionary relationships with both Parulidae and Icteridae (blackbirds, meadowlarks and orioles) but is sufficiently distinct from both to merit placement in a family all its own – the **Icteriidae** (differing from Icteridae by only an extra “i”). The chat is the sole member of this new family.

The 58<sup>th</sup> supplement presents many other changes, including:

- The “white goose” genus *Chen* has been merged into the “gray goose” genus *Anser*. The scientific name for **Snow Goose** is now *Anser caerulescens*; for **Ross’s Goose**, *Anser rossii*.
- Ducks in the genus *Anas* have been split into 4 genera (*Sibirionetta*, *Spatula*, *Mareca* and *Anas*). Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal and Northern Shoveler are now in the genus *Spatula*. Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon and American Wigeon are in *Mareca*. Mallard, Northern Pintail and Green-winged Teal remain in *Anas*.
- The Magnificent Hummingbird has been split into 2 species. The species found in the southwestern U.S. retains the scientific name *Eugenes fulgens* and regains its old common name, **Rivoli’s Hummingbird**. The other species, Talamanca Hummingbird (*Eugenes spectabilis*), is found in Costa Rica and Panama.
- **Thayer’s Gull** is no longer a full species. It is now treated as a subspecies of Iceland Gull.
- The **Northern Harrier** is now treated as a separate species from the Hen Harrier of the Old World. The Hen Harrier retains the scientific name *Circus cyaneus*, and the Northern Harrier is now *Circus hudsonius*.
- The **Northern Shrike** is now treated as a separate species from the Great Gray Shrike of the Old World. The Great Gray Shrike retains the scientific name *Lanius excubitor*, and the Northern Shrike is now *Lanius borealis*.

And, of course, there are again multiple changes in the linear sequence of families and species on the check-list. Don’t expect these to be the last of such changes.

## Field Trip to Sabine Woods – 21 October 2017

It has been an interesting birding year on the upper Texas coast (though one could argue that it is interesting every year). But what has been interesting this year is that the birding has been well, a bit lackluster to be honest. Spring migration was pretty slow early on but eventually got going and fall migration has been very slow by the standard of recent years. But if you look at it with a larger perspective, even in a “slow” year, our area still sees more species more easily than just about any other area in the country. So what would an October field trip to Sabine Woods to look for migrating land birds look like? There was only one way to find out!

Gathering at the front of the woods, some good birds were found right away. A small flock of Greater White-fronted Geese flew by, the first of the fall for many of the birders present. The distant but distinct call of a Great Kiskadee was quickly discerned. Though this colorful flycatcher is generally thought of as a bird of south Texas, it is an annual visitor to the upper coast and this particular bird has been present in the Sabine Woods area for months. A Clapper Rail called from the marsh across the street along with a tiny Sedge Wren. The first of numerous Blue-gray Gnatcatchers to be seen on the day was spotted and a Wilson’s Warbler gave its mousy chip from the thick underbrush along the front path.

Warblers are always a focus at Sabine Woods during migration whether during the spring or fall. Although this would not prove to be a huge warbler day (especially by Sabine Woods standards) the assembled birders still put together a decent list. Black-and-white Warblers were spied here and there as they probed the crevices in the bark of the live oaks. A Common Yellowthroat called from thick vegetation while a Northern Parula gave nice looks as it foraged in the tree tops. A single Hooded Warbler gave only fleeting glances and a few chip notes to most of the birders but a lucky few got to see it come out to the drip. A few American Redstarts did their flycatching routine among the high branches while the Magnolia Warblers were a little more difficult to see. A couple of Black-throated Green Warblers were a treat for everyone. Though no longer technically considered to be a warbler, a quick look at a Yellow-breasted Chat was still appreciated. Taxonomic changes aside, the Chat was declared to be an honorary warbler for the purposes of the trip list!

But warblers are hardly the only migrants that were present that day. A White-eyed Vireo was detected skulking in the bushes along with a House Wren or two. A couple of Indigo Buntings were noted in the more open areas while a Gray Catbird called from a thicket. Flycatchers noted included a newly arrived Eastern Phoebe and a soon to depart Eastern Wood-Pewee. An

ochre-colored Summer Tanager eventually gave good looks after teasing the birders for a while and, with a little work, most of the group also got looks at a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker as it hitched up a tree trunk. Brown Thrashers are resident at Sabine Woods but with multiple birds present on the day some were certainly migrants passing through. And, yes, those ever-present Ruby-crowned Kinglets have made their way down to our area to greet birders in every available wooded habitat for the winter!

One of the great things about Sabine Woods is that it is not just about song birds. A birder can easily pad their stats with many other kinds of birds here whether in the woods, in the ponds or flying overhead. On this date, a number of these species were seen. A Northern Harrier cruised low over the nearby fields while a young Red-shouldered Hawk perched in a tree enjoying a meal. A pair of Mottled Ducks flew over the woods and a flock of Cattle Egrets passed by as well. A Solitary Sandpiper was well seen in the back pond while a Chuck-will’s-widow was flushed from the ground near the drip pond. Both White Ibis and dark ibis (probably White-faced Ibis) were seen from the property and both Black and Turkey Vultures soared overhead.

The group ended the day with over forty species seen including eight species of warbler (nine if you count that Chat!). It may not have been a spectacular migration day but that is only because the local birders are spoiled by the riches of the upper Texas coast! In most parts of the country, this would have been considered an excellent fall migration trip and with multiple warblers, raptors and Great Kiskadee? The birders considered it a successful trip here as well!

The following species were recorded by the trip leaders:

Greater White-fronted Goose (7); Mottled Duck (2); Tricolored Heron (2); Cattle Egret (25); White Ibis (15); White-faced/Glossy Ibis (15); Black Vulture (4); Turkey Vulture (5); Northern Harrier (1); Red-shouldered Hawk (1); Clapper Rail (2); Long-billed/Short-billed Dowitcher (1); Solitary Sandpiper (1); Chuck-will’s-widow (1); Red-bellied Woodpecker (1); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1); Downy Woodpecker (2); Eastern Wood-Pewee (1); Eastern Phoebe (1); Great Kiskadee (1); Loggerhead Shrike (2); White-eyed Vireo (1); Blue Jay (2); House Wren (2); Sedge Wren (1); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (15); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (7); Gray Catbird (1); Brown Thrasher (6); Northern Mockingbird (2); European Starling (8); Black and White Warbler (3); Common Yellowthroat (1); Hooded Warbler (1); American Redstart (3); Northern Parula (1); Magnolia Warbler (2); Black-throated Green Warbler (2); Wilson’s Warbler (3); Yellow-breasted Chat (1); Summer Tanager (1); Northern Cardinal (3); Indigo Bunting (2); Red-winged Blackbird (10); Common Grackle (2); Boat-tailed/Great-tailed Grackle (2)

*Steve Mayes*

# Bird Sightings – October 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:** Quite an interesting month. Raptors are perhaps the most prominent, with Harris's Hawks appearing in

three widely separated locations on October 28, and two Golden Eagles at the Smith Point Hawk Watch the following day. The second Black-throated Gray Warbler of the fall showed up at Sabine Woods on October 29, but its stay was apparently very brief.

The sparrows in Jefferson County on October 28-29 were only very slightly early, and were quite likely the result of the passage of a very strong cold front the day before.

If the Connecticut Warbler at Smith Point on October 11 is accepted by the Texas Bird Records Committee, it will be one of very few currently accepted records for the state for this species. Some other species reported below have not yet been accepted by eBird.

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

Least Grebe	Oct 4-28	JEF-TP (up to 3) HS et al
Brown Booby	Oct 30	JEF-Pleasure Is (1) Facebook
Harris's Hawk	Oct 28	JEF-TP (1) SM, JHH, et al
White-tailed Hawk	Oct 28	JEF-McFaddin NWR entrance (1) multiple observers
Black Tern	Oct 14	JEF-TP (7) SH (late)
Chuck-wills-widow	Oct 21	JEF-SW (1) SM, JAW
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Oct 1	CAM-LA82 (1) Jody Shugart
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Oct 28-29	JEF-SW (1), J&L Bryan, multiple observers
Great Kiskadee	Oct 7-29	JEF-SW (1) multiple observers
Black-crested Titmouse	Oct 15	ANG-Lufkin (1) Daniel Allen
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Oct 11	JEF-SW (1) MC
	Oct 23	JEF-SW (1) MC, Chris Bergman
	Oct 29	JEF-SW (1) MC, SM, TH
Black-thr. Gray Warbler	Oct 29	JEF-SW (1) SM, multiple observers
Chipping Sparrow	Oct 28	JEF-SW (1) multiple observers (slightly early)
	Oct 30	JEF-Hwy 87 Mulberry area (1) JAW (immature, slightly early)
White-crowned Sparrow	Oct 29	JEF-TP (1) HS, JAW (immature, slightly early)
Vesper Sparrow	Oct 30	JEF-Hwy 87 Mulberry area (1) JAW (immature, slightly early)
Song Sparrow	Oct 30	JEF-Hwy 87 Mulberry area (1) JAW (slightly early)
Summer Tanager	Oct 28	JEF-SW (1) Susan Foster (heard only)
	Oct 29	JEF-SW (1) multiple observers.
Scarlet Tanager	Oct 2	ANG-Lufkin (1) Theresa Mathis, Daniel Allen (no details)
	Oct 20	JEF-SW (1) Michael Cooper
American Goldfinch	Oct 29	JEF-SW (2) SM, JAW (flyover)

### Nearby Counties (very rare species only)

Wood Stork	Oct 26	LIB-Lakeland Dr, Liberty (41) Shelli Ellerbe
Magnificent Frigatebird	Oct 13	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Oscar Johnson, Dan Lane, Lauren Soloman (late)

Golden Eagle	Oct 29	CHA-Smith Pt Hawk Watch (2) Harris's Hawk Oct 28 CAM-Holly Beach (1) multiple observers
	Oct 28	CHA-Smith Pt Hawk Watch (3) Janet Neath et al
Amer Golden-Plover	Oct 16	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Claire Jordan (unconfirmed)
	Oct 18	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Scott Buckel (unconfirmed)
Snowy Plover	Oct 1	CHA-Smith Point, Robbins Park (1) Susan Heath
Baird's Sandpiper	Oct 20	CAM-Holly Beach (2) Paul Conover, Daniel Lane
Semi-palm. Sandpiper	Oct 28	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Paul Conover, multiple observers
Least Tern	Oct 16	GAL-Bolivar Flats (3)
	Oct 18	GAL-Bolivar Flats (2) Daniel Elting
Great Kiskadee	Oct 9	CAL-Sam Houston Jones SP (2) Deanna Griggs
Cave Swallow	Oct 28	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Paul Conover
Prothonotary Warbler	Sep 30	CAM-Peveto Wds (1) Paul Conover
Connecticut Warbler	Oct 11	CHA-Smith Point, Candy Abshier (1) Gene Campbell, David Hansen, Chuck Davis (no photos, throat and chest not seen, unconfirmed)
Brewer's Blackbird	Oct 13	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Oscar Johnson, Dan Lane, Lauren Soloman (very early)

**Abbreviations used:** ANG – Angelina County; 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

## 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. 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.

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.

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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](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>.