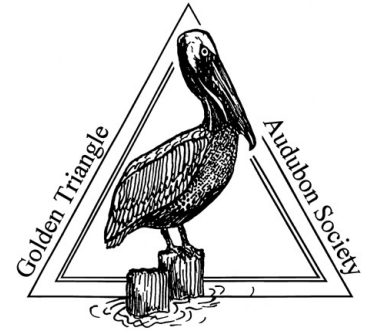


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 24 No. 5

May 2018

Membership Meeting
Thursday May 17, 2018 7:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Your Favorite Bird Pictures

The favorite bird pictures programs have been so well received that 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 May 12. They can be emailed as attachments to Harlan at 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.

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 24, No.5 May 2018
Issue number 250

Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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Calendar of Events

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

Saturday May 12, 2018. North American Migration Count. On International Migratory Bird Day, the Saturday of the second full weekend in May, we undertake an all-Jefferson-County Bird Count. We have been doing these counts since 1995. This count attempts to cover as much of Jefferson County as is reasonably possible. We welcome additional participants, especially if you are able to count in the early morning from dawn through about 11:00 a.m. even if you would just like to cover your own neighborhood. It is not necessary to commit to the whole day. If you have special access to any areas within the county, we would certainly appreciate your help! Contact John Whittle (johnawhittle@aol.com or 409-722-4193) for details or offers to help.

Thursday May 17, 2018. Membership Meeting. Members' favorite bird photos. Details on page 1.

Directions to Tyrrell Park From the South

Go "north" on US69/96/287 around the south side of Beaumont.

Take Texas 124 (south or west, whichever it is signed) towards Fannett (left turn under the highway).

Travel about a mile to the first light.

At the first light, turn left onto Tyrrell Park Road and go about 3/4 mile.

Turn left into Tyrrell Park through the nice new arch.

From IH10

Exit at Walden Road on the west side of Beaumont. Go south on Walden Road for 1/2 mile to the first light.

At the light go straight over Highway

124 onto Tyrrell Park Road and go about 3/4 mile.

Turn left into Tyrrell Park through the nice new arch.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank all those who brought refreshments over the last few meetings. We are grateful to the Beaumont Convention and Visitors Bureau for offering to provide the sandwiches, drinks and desserts for this meeting and so we are all set this month!

Saturday May 26, 2018. Field Trip to Hardin County. This is a great opportunity to see the breeding songbirds of the southern part of the Big Thicket. We will focus on the area north of Silsbee to look for the breeding birds of the area. This is typically a half-day trip. We plan to look for the nesting species of the area – Hooded, Kentucky, Pine, Prairie and Prothonotary, and Swainson's Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, White-eyed, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireo, Indigo and Painted Bunting, Gray Catbird, Summer Tanager, Acadian Flycatcher, Brown-headed Nuthatch and others. Swainson's Warbler is a particular target of this trip. We have often been rewarded with excellent views of this normally very secretive species on this field trip. Yellow-breasted Chats have often been seen perched high up in the open. This area also has many breeding Prairie Warblers.

The meeting place will be at 7:00 a.m. (note the necessary early start if we are to find the breeding birds!) at the shopping center on the northeast corner of the intersection of FM92 and FM418 in the northern part of Silsbee. To reach this from Beaumont, take US 69 north and then US 96 north. Take Business 96 into and through downtown Silsbee. When Business 96 turns right, continue straight on FM92 for 3/4 mile to the shopping center. We normally finish sometime around noon or shortly after.

Field Trip to Sabine Woods – 21 April 2018

The April field trip is always one of the best attended for the Golden Triangle Audubon Society. And no wonder as it puts the birder in one of the best migrant hotspots in the world at the peak time of spring migration across the Gulf of Mexico from the Yucatan Peninsula. Some experts suggest birds may depart from areas further south and east. Still, even at peak times, weather plays a huge factor in what and how many birds will be seen in these coastal refuges. A day or two of the wrong wind and weather patterns and the woods may be almost totally empty even in late April. Trying to predict when the birds will show up on the Upper Texas Coast is not at all easy, even with much more weather information readily available. Some factors can be predicted quite readily, such as the winds over the immediate coast, but fewer observations are available from the center of the Gulf of Mexico, and we usually know nothing about how many migrants might be along the Yucatan coast waiting to come over. Last spring was noted as one of the slowest in recent memory as almost constant south winds pushed the birds past the coast for the most part. So what would the 2018 edition of the April field trip look like? Birds. Lots of birds!

In stark contrast to last year, the spring of 2018 will go down as one of the best on record for birding at Sabine Woods. A constant supply of north winds put migrants down at the woods on a regular basis and kept them there for days. This made for a lot of great birding days and the field trip day was no exception. Summer and Scarlet Tanagers were obvious especially in the many mulberry trees on the eastern side of the property. They were joined there by multiple Orchard and Baltimore Orioles. A new drip set up near the largest mulberry tree proved to be a big hit with these birds along with hordes of Indigo Buntings and Gray Catbirds. Blue Grosbeaks and Painted Buntings were also located in this area and even the Eastern Kingbirds were getting in on the mulberry feast.

Vireos, flycatchers and thrushes are important components of any migration day on the coast. Red-eyed Vireos were easily seen throughout the woods along with numerous White-eyed Vireos. Husky-voiced Yellow-throated Vireos sang from the trees and Blue-headed Vireos, often just thought of as a winter bird, made a nice late push. Eastern Wood-Pewees gave their distinctive calls and the Great Crested Flycatchers were even noisier. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was also spotted on the day. Wood Thrushes were everywhere! Eating mulberries in the trees, foraging in the leaf litter on the ground – you name the spot and there was probably a Wood Thrush present. Veeries were not as common but were still seen in decent numbers. Gray-cheeked Thrush was found by a least some of the birders.

But it's the warblers that everyone comes for and Sabine Woods happily obliged. A Yellow-throated Warbler worked the higher tree limbs as the many Hooded Warblers were more comfortable in the underbrush. A single Nashville Warbler was located while bark-probing Black and White Warblers were more numerous and easily seen. Ovenbirds and Kentucky Warblers foraged on the ground with Tennessee Warblers high in the trees and Prothonotary Warblers around the pond. Colorful American Redstarts were obvious but

Northern Parula was not as easily found. Single Magnolia and Blackpoll Warblers were seen but Black-throated Green Warblers (as usual) were more numerous. A late Yellow-rumped Warbler foraged in the canopy while the Worm-eating Warblers checked all of the clusters of dead leaves. Most birders got to see a tail-bobbing Northern Waterthrush while fewer got looks at a Yellow-breasted Chat (I know it's not technically a warbler but we can still count it if we want!). It has been unusually easy to see the normally elusive Swainson's Warbler this spring and a couple were located on this date. With Swainson's Hawk and Swainson's Thrush also being seen on the day, the birders completed the much coveted sweep of the Swainson's trio!

There were other birds seen on the day like Tricolored Herons and White Ibis flying over the marsh, Turkey Vultures soaring over the woods and Northern Rough-winged and Tree Swallows flying everywhere! But, there was no doubt that it was a great field trip to Sabine Woods. The migrant show at this southeast Texas gem is truly special and a constant reminder of the value of coastal woodlots and why they must be preserved.

The following species were recorded on the day by the leaders: Great Blue Heron (1); Great Egret (5); Snowy Egret (15); Little Blue Heron (1); Tricolored Heron (2); Cattle Egret (5); Green Heron (1); White Ibis (25); Glossy/White-faced Ibis (20); Turkey Vulture (2); Osprey (1); White-tailed Kite (1); Swainson's Hawk (1); King/Clapper Rail (1); Sora (2); Killdeer (1); Willet (2); Laughing Gull (4); White-winged Dove (5); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (2); Red-bellied Woodpecker (2); Downy Woodpecker (4); Eastern Wood-Pewee (2); Great Crested Flycatcher (2); Eastern Kingbird (6); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (1); Loggerhead Shrike (1); White-eyed Vireo (8); Yellow-throated Vireo (6); Blue-headed Vireo (2); Red-eyed Vireo (12); Blue Jay (2); Northern Rough-winged Swallow (25); Purple Martin (1); Tree Swallow (50); Barn Swallow (15); Veery (8); Gray-cheeked Thrush (2); Swainson's Thrush (5); Wood Thrush (45); Gray Catbird (45); Brown Thrasher (2); Northern Mockingbird (1); Ovenbird (11); Worm-eating Warbler (7); Louisiana Waterthrush (1); Northern Waterthrush (6); Blue-winged Warbler (8); Black-and-white Warbler (13); Prothonotary Warbler (5); Swainson's Warbler (2); Tennessee Warbler (4); Nashville Warbler (1); Kentucky Warbler (14); Common Yellowthroat (3); Hooded Warbler (35); American Redstart (6); Northern Parula (3); Magnolia Warbler (1); Yellow Warbler (8); Blackpoll Warbler (4); Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle) (1); Yellow-throated Warbler (1); Black-throated Green Warbler (6); Yellow-breasted Chat (2); Summer Tanager (15); Scarlet Tanager (14); Western Tanager (1); Northern Cardinal (2); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (16); Blue Grosbeak (6); Indigo Bunting (50); Painted Bunting (1); Orchard Oriole (25); Baltimore Oriole (5); Red-winged Blackbird (12); Brown-headed Cowbird (2); Common Grackle (3); Great-tailed Grackle (1); Boat-tailed/Great-tailed Grackle (6).

Steve Mayes

Spring Migration 2018

Jana Whittle

(We plan to have a full analysis of the spring season in a future issue, but this year has produced such exciting birding that we are including here, slightly edited, the postings on the Golden Triangle Audubon Facebook page. We have focused on passerine migrants at Sabine Woods.—Ed.)

March 25

Today there were nine warbler species at Sabine Woods. Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Black and White Warbler, Prothonotary Warblers, Orange-crowned Warblers, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Parulas, Hooded, and Yellow-rumped Warblers.

March 29

Well it happened..... The north winds and rain brought in birds to Sabine Woods. One birder saw 42 total bird species there today. Eleven of those were warbler species which include Worm-eating, Louisiana Waterthrush, Black and White Warbler, Prothonotary, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded, Northern Parula, Yellow-rumped, and Black-throated Green. Hopefully those will stay for a little while and others will come. I am grateful to friends who put their sightings on ebird so that I can go to see what is being seen there. If you have never gone to ebird, go to ebird.org, then to explore data, then type in the location into the search bar at the top.

March 30

Only nine warbler species were seen today, but it seems to have been an interesting day at Sabine Woods nonetheless. The Louisiana Waterthrush and the Nashville Warblers were not seen today, but the rest of the warbler species from yesterday were. There were 46 Yellow-rumped Warblers counted and one was an Audubon's Yellow-rumped with a yellow throat. A total of 46 bird species was seen and one was a Chuck-will's-widow.

March 31

Today again, there were only nine warbler species seen. The new one was a Swainson's Warbler. We could not find a Black-throated Green today, but we felt better when people saw the Swainson's.

April 1

Today at Sabine Woods, there were six warbler species seen. Yellow-rumped, Black and White, Prothonotary, Chestnut-sided, Hooded, and Common Yellowthroat were the ones reported. Yesterday, one observer saw a Scarlet Tanager and today someone reported three Scarlet Tanagers. Rain is predicted for Tuesday or Wednesday followed by one day of north winds. So there may be other birds dropping in for a few days.

April 2

eBird reports show two wintering warbler species plus some Northern Parulas.

April 3

eBird reports show at least eight warbler species present in

Sabine Woods, including the first of the year Blue-winged and Tennessee warblers.

April 4

What a good Day! It happened again. North winds and rain and all the sudden there were 14 warbler species seen at Sabine Woods. Worm-eating, Louisiana Waterthrush, Blue-winged, Prothonotary, Swainson's, Hooded, Northern Parula, Blackburnian, Blue-winged, Palm, Black and White, Yellow-rumped, Common Yellowthroat, Orange-crowned were seen today. 4 Vireo species (White-eyed, Red-eyed, Blue-headed and Yellow-throated) were seen along with Painted Bunting, Indigo Buntings, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanagers, and Orchard Orioles. Total species seen today at the woods 56.

April 5

Today at Sabine Woods, there were six warbler species seen. Yellow-rumped, Black and White, Prothonotary, Chestnut-sided, Hooded, and Common Yellowthroat were the ones reported. Yesterday, a friend of mine saw a Scarlet Tanager and today someone reported three Scarlet Tanagers. This week another rain is predicted for Tuesday or Wednesday and one day of north winds. So there may be other birds dropping in for a few days.

April 6

What a good day! It happened again. North winds and rain and all the sudden there were 14 warbler species seen at Sabine Woods. Worm-eating, Louisiana Waterthrush, Blue-winged, Prothonotary, Swainson's, Hooded, Northern Parula, Blackburnian, Blue-winged, Palm, Black and White, Yellow-rumped, Common Yellowthroat, Orange-crowned were seen today. 4 Vireo species (White-eyed, Red-eyed, Blue-headed and Yellow-throated) were seen along with Painted Bunting, Indigo Buntings, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanagers, and Orchard Orioles. Total species seen today at the woods 56.

April 7

It was a wonderful day at Sabine Woods. 22 warbler species were seen: Cerulean, Swainson's, Prairie, Black and White, Black-throated Green, Kentucky, Worm-eating, Prothonotary, Yellow-rumped, Blackburnian, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Waterthrush, Northern Parula, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Orange-crowned, Palm, Hooded, Yellow-throated, Kentucky, Blue-winged, and a Nashville was at Texas Point. There were five species of vireos. Red-eyed, Warbling, White-eyed, Yellow-throated, and Blue-headed. Other bird species were: Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Summer Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Sapsucker, Catbirds, House Wrens, Orchard Orioles, Ruby-throated Hummers, and several others. With the north winds forecast for tomorrow, we are hoping it will be another really good birding day. Days like we

had today are few and far between. At the end of the day, the temperature was 46.

April 8

Today was an excellent birding day at Sabine Woods. Cool temps, no insects, and lots of birds. At least 21 warbler species that were almost the same as yesterday. Ceruleans, Prairies, Swainson's, and a Blackburnian were there again today. The difference in today and yesterday was that there were almost twice as many birds. Today many birds were very low and easy to see. A possible Nashville and a possible Black-throated Gray were also reported. All five drips had birds bathing. One of our local photographers took over 3,000 pictures. Some of our birders estimated in eBird that there were at least 300 warblers there today. It was nice to have two straight days with over 20 warbler species so early in the spring. None of us recall when that has happened this early in the season.

April 9

The third day in a row with at least 20 warbler species at Sabine Woods! The warbler species seem to be the same the last three days. The Chestnut-sided Warblers were easier to see today. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Blue Grosbeaks made appearances today also. A few more Scarlet Tanagers and Painted Buntings were seen too. There were lots of birds all along the coast and more birds were flying in at the end of the day.

April 10

Today there were 22 warbler species at Sabine Woods. A Golden-winged Warbler showed up this morning and a few Nashville Warblers came in. There were still lots of Hoodeds, Black-and-whites, and thrushes. Painted Buntings were seen again today. This is now the fourth straight day of more than 20 warbler species being seen at Sabine Woods. Migration has been wonderful to see so far.

April 11

eBird lists show at least 17 warbler species at Sabine Woods and most in large numbers. Included was a careful count of at least 17 Swainson's Warblers!

April 12

eBird lists show at least 11 warbler species at Sabine Woods, including good numbers of Hooded and Kentucky Warblers..

April 13

Very few checklists were posted to eBird, as the flow of migrants slowed somewhat. No list showed more than five species of warbler.

April 14

Today there were 14 warbler species at Sabine Woods. The highlight was a Blackburnian Warbler. Large numbers of Indigo Buntings were present.

April 15.

At least 12 warbler species were reported today at Sabine Woods in eBird checklists.

April 16

Today at Sabine Woods, there were 16 warbler species including Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Waterthrush, Blackburnian, Worm-eating, Black and White, Hooded, Northern Parula, American Redstart, Yellow-throated, Black-throated, Tennessee, Ovenbird, Swainson's, and Kentucky. The nice addition to the woods today was a very colorful male Western Tanager that came to the large mulberry tree in the meadow.

April 17

Yesterday there were 16 warbler species and today there were 13 warbler species at Sabine Woods. The Western Tanager continues to be seen today.

April 18

Today at Sabine Woods there were 20 warbler species. They were: Kentucky, Hooded, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Worm-eating, Northern Parula, Golden-winged, Tennessee, Ovenbird, Yellow-rumped, Yellow, Black-throated Green, Common Yellowthroat, Black and White, American Redstart, Blue-winged, Palm, Blackpoll, Cerulean, and Swainson's. So the surprises of the day were the Blackpoll and Golden-winged Warblers and at least 100 Baltimore Orioles. At the drip after 4:00 there were several Painted Buntings also. In one binocular view there were three male Painted Buntings. Also the Western Tanager continued to be seen.

April 19

Today at Sabine Woods 15 warbler species were seen. The surprise today was the Cape May tail-less warbler. A Chestnut-sided and a Magnolia were with it. Other than that, nothing else unusual. The Western Tanager is still being seen in the east part of the woods.

April 20

Today at Sabine Woods there were 24 warbler species. They were: Bay-breasted, Golden-winged, Blackburnian, Ovenbird, Blackpoll, Magnolia, Chestnut Sided, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-throated, Cerulean, Black-throated Green, Swainson's, Yellow, Blue-winged, Prothonotary, Hooded, American Redstart, Tennessee, Northern Waterthrush, Black-and-white, Northern Parula, Worm-eating, Palm (one of a very few seen this season), and Kentucky. The Western Tanager continued for the fifth day to be seen. It was another fun day to be at the woods and watch migration happen.

April 21

Today at Sabine Woods there were at least 23 warbler species seen: Blackpoll, Cerulean, Golden-winged, Yellow, Black and White, Black-throated Green, Prothonotary, Worm-eating, American Redstart, Hooded, Kentucky, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Swainson's, Blue-winged, Nashville, Northern Parula, Ovenbird, Magnolia, Yellow-throated, Tennessee, Yellow-rumped, and Common Yellowthroat. We did not see a Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, or Chestnut-sided Warblers today. At the end of the day it seemed that male Scarlet Tanagers and a lot of female Summer Tanagers came in.

April 22

What a day! When you are driving to a birding place, you might be hoping to have a truly awesome birding day, well, this was it. The best day of the year so far. Here are the warblers seen: Golden-winged, Cerulean, Blackburnian, Blackpoll, Chestnut-sided, Northern Parula, Black-throated Green, Worm-eating, Canada, Hooded, Kentucky, Magnolia, Blue-winged, Tennessee, American Redstart, Yellow, Northern Waterthrush, Black and White, Prothonotary, Ovenbird, Blue-winged, Nashville, Yellow-rumped, Yellow-throated and Swainson's. Total 25. Four others were reported, but there were no photos or others that saw the birds. One birder saw so many Blackpolls today that she said she had Blackpoll burnout. The Western Tanager was seen again for the 8th straight day.

April 23

Today there were 26 warbler species at Sabine Woods and the Western Tanager continues to be seen for the 9th day.

April 24

Today there were at least 25 warbler species at Sabine Woods. 7 Golden-winged males and 2 Golden-winged females, 8 Blackburnians, 5 Swainsons, 32 Chestnut-sideds, and more than 15 Ovenbirds were just some of the interesting totals that were seen. The male Western Tanager was seen again for the 10th day in a row. Warblers seen other than the ones listed above were: Black and White, Hooded, Magnolia, Blue-winged, Northern Parula, Yellow, American Redstart, Tennessee, Kentucky, Bay-breasted, Cerulean, Common Yellowthroat, Black-throated Green, Yellow-rumped, Blackpoll, Worm-eating, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Waterthrush, Prothonotary and one more that I cannot remember. Another really good day!

April 25

Today there were at least 22 warbler species at Sabine Woods. Not sure but so far it seems like this is best spring migration ever. The Western Tanager continued to be seen for the 10th day

April 26

Another 26 warbler species day at Sabine Woods. The warblers were: Ovenbird, Worm-eating, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Blackburnian, Black-and-white, Swainson's, Tennessee, Kentucky, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded, Magnolia, Bay-breasted, American Redstart, Cerulean, Chestnut-sided, Blackpoll, Canada, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Prothonotary, Northern Parula, and Nashville. A Palm Warbler was at Sea Rim, so that would make 27 warbler species along the coast. Around 5:30 today there were Blue-wingeds, Black-and-whites, Tennessees, Bay-breasteds, Blackburnians, Chestnut-sideds, and Golden-wingeds were on the ground about 10 feet to the right of the sidewalk as you walk into the front gate. They were in a 20 foot by 20 foot space and stayed there a very long time. A few were still there when we left at 7:30. Another excellent birding day during spring migration. The male Western Tanager was seen for the 11th day straight.

April 27

Today at Sabine Woods, there were at least 25 warbler species. Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, Magnolia Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle), Black-throated Green Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-throated Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Canada Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush.

April 28

Today there were at least 23 warbler species at Sabine Woods. They were: Blackburnian, Golden-winged, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, American Redstart, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Hooded, Kentucky, Common Yellowthroat, Black-throated Green, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Black and White, Swainson's, Canada, Tennessee, Prothonotary, Blue-winged, Blackpoll, Northern Parula, and Worm-eating. The male Western Tanager has not been reported for two days now, but there was a report by one birder of a female Western Tanager yesterday.

April 29

Today there were at least 18 warbler species at Sabine Woods. They were: Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Black and White, Kentucky, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, American Redstart, Magnolia, Bay-breasted, Yellow, Blackpoll, Louisiana Waterthrush, Tennessee, Prothonotary and Swainson's. If I have done this correctly, there have been 15 days of over 20 warbler species since April 7th. That should work out to be 14 days out of 22 that it was possible to see more than 20 warblers each day. In order to get that many each day, a person would need to be at the woods at least eight hours because some of the warblers appear for a while and then leave. It has been a very good birding season for us. Migration does not stop automatically at the end of April. Many warblers still come through the woods in May.

April 30

There were 17 species of warblers at the woods yesterday. They were: Ovenbird, Hooded, Northern Waterthrush, Yellow, Northern Parula, American Redstart, Prothonotary, Black and White, Common Yellowthroat, Black-throated Green, Tennessee, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Magnolia, Blue-winged, and Kentucky and Golden-winged. There were only three eBirders that posted as of this morning from Sabine Woods.

Special Note

The June issue of the *Brown Pelican* will not be published until approximately June 12, and will include a report on the May 12 Spring Migration Count.

Bird Sightings – April 2018

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 records for Chambers, Galveston, Harris and Liberty Counties in Texas, and Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes in Louisiana.

The format of the listing is Species – Date – County-and brief location information if available – (number) – Observer(s). If more precise location information is needed, it can often be obtained by using the bird species map feature to find the sighting in eBird, opening the checklist, and using the map function to display the location as precisely as the observer provided.

Seen in our Core Counties (listed above)

Least Grebe	Apr 1-12	JEF-TP, N end Cell 3 (1) HS
Ring-necked Duck	Apr 16	JEF-TP (1) Gavin Bieber, Ladan Paul
Cinnamon Teal	Apr 25	JEF-TP (1) HS, Christine Majdalani
Hooded Merganser	Apr 26	JEF-Lawhon Rd just east of Greenpond Gully (1 female) Caleb Gordon, Robb Brumfield. Unconfirmed.
Black Rail	Apr 1, 29 Apr 14	JEF-SRSP (1 heard only) SH JEF-Backridge Rd (1) Bob and Bettina Arrigoni. Unconfirmed.
	Apr 23	JEF-Hwy 87 1 mile W of Sea Rim SP entrance (2) heard only
	Apr 30	JEF-McFaddin NWR Clam Lake Rd (1) Sidney Gauthreaux
Common Nighthawk	Apr 8	JEF-SW (1 heard) Mike Austin
Crested Caracara	Apr 9	HAI-Hwy 105-Old Sour Lake Road area (1) Pat Dwyer (rare in Hardin Co)
Great Kiskadee	Apr 13-28	JEF-SW (1) multiple observers
Philadelphia Vireo	Apr 8	JEF-SW (1) Patricia and Kenneth Isaacson. Unconfirmed
Black-whiskered Vireo	Apr 20	JEF-SW (1) Shirley Wilkerson. Photo proof.
Winter Wren	Apr 25	ANG-nr US69 and CR27 (1) Ashley Tibbs
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Apr 11	JEF-SW (1) Cynthia Hughes. No details or publically available photo
Golden-winged Warbler	Apr 10	JEF-SW (1) Chris Brgmann, Dale Bonk, Ronald Newhouse
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Apr 1	JEF-SW (1) Bob and Bettina Arrigon
Y-r Warbler Audubon's)	Apr 22	JEF-Backridge Rd (1) JM
Purple Finch	Apr 26	SAB-Hemphill (2) Norman Dore. Unconfirmed.
Western Tanager	Apr 15-27	JEF-SW (1 male) mult obs

Nearby Counties

Gtr White-fronted Goose	Apr 9-10	CAM-Cameron Priairie NWR (2) Winston Caillouet, Ted Buhl
Canada Goose	Apr 29	HAS-Kleb Woods (2) Michael and Sarah Kuzio
Cinnamon Teal	Apr 27	LIB-Devers (1 male) Caleb Gordon, Robb Brumfield
Long-tailed Duck	Apr 3-30	CAM-Davis Beach Rd and vicinity (up to 3) continuing birds
Common Merganser	Apr 16	GAL-Bob's Rd (1 imm male with abnormal bill) JAW
Wood Stork	Apr 1	HAS-Lakes off Eldridge (private) (1) Ken Hartman
	Apr 14	CAL-Sam Houston Jones SP (1) Julian Grudens
	Apr 23	GAL-Clear Creek Village (14) Jackie Farrell
Brown Booby	Apr 13	GAL-Texas City Dike (up to 5) multiple observers

Glossy Ibis	Apr 10-28	CHA-ANWR Shoveler Pond (1) Benjamin Griffin et al
	Apr 13-30	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) mult obs
	Apr 18	CHA-ANWR-White-fr Goose Unit (2) John Sullivan. Unconfirmed.
	Apr 26	GAL-Galveston Is SP (1) Woody Wheeler, Lori Cohen. No details
	Apr 30	CHA-FM1985 opposite ANWR East Unit (1) Robert Long, David Sarkozi
Harris's Hawk	Apr 7-20	GAL-Smith Oaks (1) mult. obs (continuing bird);
Pomarine Jaeger	Apr 3	GAL-BF (1) Ryan Abe
	Apr 8-15	GAL-Rollover Pass (1) Sightings by 7+ obs on Apr 8
Parasitic Jaeger	Apr 8	GAL-BF (1) Michael Martin, Jason Bonilla, Tiffany Erickson
	Apr 23	GAL-Bolivar Penin, E-Rd (1) Michael O'Brien, Linda McNulty, Louise Zemaitis,
Iceland Gull	Apr 6-14	GAL-BF (1) Philip Chaon, Chris Hysinger, mult obs
	Apr 26	GAL-Apfel Park (1) Matthew Daw
Glaucous Gull	Apr 18-28	BF(1) Bob and Bettina Arrigoni.et al
	Apr 19	GAL-Seawall Blvd near east end (1) Jeffrey Bojc and Stephanie Diluzio
	Apr 20, 26	GAL-Apfel Park (1) Kahla Mailinsky, Blaine Carnes
	Apr 22	GAL-Frenchtown Rd (1) Diana Strassmann, Cin-Ty Lee
	Apr 22	GAL-Sea Wolf Park (1) Nina Rach
	Apr 26	GAL-San Luis Pass (1) Greg Cook et al
	Apr 27, 29	GAL-Rollover Pass (1) multiple observers
	Apr 28	GAL-just west of Jamaica Beach (1) Diane Morton
Great Black-backed Gull	Apr 2-29	GAL-BF (1 second cycle) continuing bird
	Apr 19	GAL-FM3005 just west of Jamaica Beach (1) Mike Austin
	Apr 19-25	GAL-East Beach (1) Stuart Ryder
	Apr 26	GAL-San Luis Pass (1 1st cycle) Greg Cook
Black-legged Kittiwake	Apr 24-25	CAM-Rutherford Beach (1) Sam Saunders, Halle Brady
Common Ground-Dove	Apr 27	JAS-Jasper City (1) Davis Sarkozi, Mark Scheuerman, Tony Frank.
Common Nighthawk	Apr 3	HAS-Spring Branch (1) Nina Rach
	Apr 3	HAS-Briar Dr (1) Diana Strassaman
Rufous Hummingbird	Apr 20	HAS-Kleb Woods (1) Megan Ahlgren, Kendra Kocab, Linda Martin-Rust
Ladder-backed Wdpkr	Apr 9-10	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Duke Leibler
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Apr 25	HAS-Russ Pitman Park (1) Justin Bower, Barbara Stern. Unconf.

Willow Flycatcher	Apr 16	CHA-ANWR Willows (1) T. Jay Adams. No vocalization.		Apr 27	HAS-Johnson Space Ctr-Mall Area (1) Steven Berenzweig. Unconfirmed.
	Apr 23	HAS-Houston Zoo (1) John Scaramucci. No vocalization.		Apr 27	GAL-High Is Boy Scout Woods (1) Farokh Jamalyana. Unconfirmed.
	Apr 25	HAS-High Is-Smith Oaks (1) Jay Packer. No vocalization	Sprague's Pipit	Apr 18	CHA-Lagow Ranch (1) Chuck Davis
	Apr 26	CAM-Oak Grove Sanctuary (1) Oscar Johnson, Marky Mutchler. Glaucia Del-Rio. Photos but no vocalization.	Golden-winged Warbler	Apr 14	HAS-Edith Moore Sanctuary (1) Letha Slaigle.
	Apr 27	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Matt Brady. No vocalization.	Cape May Warbler	Apr 15	HAS-El Franco Lee Park (1 male) David Vander Pluym, Lauren Harter
	Apr 28	GAL-High Is-Smith Oaks (1) James Petersen, Sam Sanders. Identified by voice.	American Redstart	Apr 4	HAS-Edith Moore Sanctuary (1) Letha Slagle
Alder Flycatcher	Apr 27	GAL-High Is-Boy Scout Woods (1) Stanley Almoney. No vocalization.		Apr 7	HAS-Seabrook Wildlife Park (1 male) Sumita Prasad
	Apr 27	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Matt Brady. No vocalization.	Magnolia Warbler	Apr 7-8	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Dale Bonk, Deanna Griggs, Candyce Gribbin
Eastern Phoebe	Apr 8	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Van Remsen, Lindsay Seely	Yellow Warbler	Apr 7-8	CAM-Peveto Woods (1 male) Lindsay Seely, Annette Walker, Candyce Gribbin, Charles Lyon, Van Remsen, Marky Mutchler
Vermilion Flycatcher	Apr 20-21	GAL-Corps Woods (1) Odie Asscherick et al	Canada Warbler	Apr 7-8	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Deanna Griggs, Paul Conover, Dale Bonk, Van Remsen, Marky Mutchler
Great Kiskadee	Apr 1-4	CAM-nr. Peveto Woods (1) Candyce Gribbin, Paul Conover		Apr 14	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Sam Holcomb.
	Apr 5	CAL-Iowa (1) Winston Caillouet		Apr 7-8	HAS-Katy Prairie, Longenbaugh (6) Howard Smith et al
	Apr 9	GAL-High Island Boy Scout Woods (1) Daniel Elting	Harris's Sparrow	Apr 28	CAM-Lighthouse Road (1) David Muth
	Apr 21	CAL-Sam Houston Jones SP (1) Erik Enbody.	Song Sparrow	Mar 31	CAM-Peveto Woods (2 males) John Smelser
Couch's Kingbird	Apr 1	HAS-Golf Club of Houston (1) Stephen Gast	Rose-breast. Grosbeak	Mar 31-Apr 10	CAM-Peveto Woods (1 male) multiple obsr
	Apr 15	GAL Shaman Dr (1) Sally Pachulski, Cathy Hines, Lottie Bushmann	Western Tanager	Mar 31	GAL- High Island, Boy Scout Woods (1) Bonnie de Grood
	Apr 22-23	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Bonnie McKemzie, Cathy Hines		Apr 5, 8, 10	GAL-GAL-High Is, Boy Scout Woods (1 male) Ronald Newhouse, Madison and Todd White, Bob and Bettina Arrigoni
Trop./Couch's Kingbird	Apr 2	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Paul Conover		Apr 18	HAS-Warren Ranch (1) Stephen Gast
Bell's Vireo	Apr 24	CHA-ANWR-Willows Trail (1 heard only) Jane Tillman		Apr 25-26	HAS-nr. FM2920 and Stuebner Airline Rd (2m, 1f) Jennifer Bowden
Philadelphia Vireo	Apr 8, 13	GAL-High Island Boy Scout Woods (1) Todd White, Sonny Bratz. Unconfirmed	Yellow-headed Blackbird	Apr 25, 27	CAL-Fruge Rd S of LA14 (1) Matt Brady, Steven Cardiff, Dan Mooney
	Apr 9	GAL-Hooks Woods (1) Happy King, Sam Woods, Barbara Stern. Unconfirmed.		Apr 27	HAS-Tomball (5) Chris Hammond
	Apr 10	HAS-Hester Garden Park (1) Andrew Dickinson. Unconfirmed		Apr 27	HAS-Pine Trace Village (5 males) Nicholas DeMaio
	Apr 11	GAL-High Is. Smith Oaks (1) Nicole Koeltzow. Unconfirmed		Apr 29	HAS-John Paul Landing Park (1) Drew Dickert
Cassin's Vireo	Apr 10	GAL-High Island Boy Scout Woods (1) Barbara Stern. Unconfirmed	Blue Bunting	Apr 13	GAL-FM3005 just east of Rollover Pass (1) Jean Booth. Unconf.
	Apr 11	GAL-High Island Smith Oaks (1) Jana Singletary, Kimberly Williams (heard only)	Lazuli Bunting	Apr 26	LIB-CR4503 in Dayton (1) Judy Lehmberg
Fish Crow	Apr 11	GAL-SW of Jamaica Beach (1) Anonymous eBirder	Hooded Oriole	Apr 22	GAL-Galv Is SP (1) Nick and Logan Smith. Unconfirmed
Tamaulipas Crow	Apr 15	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Jeff Sexton		Apr 27	CHA-ANWR exact location not specified (1) Nina Rach. Unconf.
	Apr 21	GAL-Lebrun Ct (1) Greg Whittaker.		Apr 29	GAL-Bob's Rd (2) Kenneth and Patricia Isaacson. Unconfirmed.
	Apr 26	GAL-San Luis Pass (1) Howard Smith		Apr 1	HAS-Glenbrook Valley-Sim's Bayou (1 male) James Rieman
White-breasted Nuthatch	Apr 20	HAS-Humble Atascosita Shores (1) Mike E., Phyllis Howell	Bullock's Oriole	Apr 26	GAL-Galveston IS SP (2) Lori Cohen, Nicole Pulatie
	Apr 23	GAL-High Is Smith Oaks (1) Stephine Lacey. Unconfirmed.		Apr 29	GAL-Bob's Rd (1) Kenneth and Patricia Isaacso. Unconfirmed
Brown-headed Nuthatch	Apr 21	CHA-White Memorial Park (2) Carl Poldrack	White-winged Crossbill	Apr 26	GAL-Friendswood (1) Darrell Lee
Veery	Apr 8	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Charles Lyon	Pine Siskin	Apr 8	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Annette Walker
Hermit Thrush	Apr 22	CAL-Sam Houston Jones SP (1) Julian Grudens			

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; HAS – Harris County; HS – Harlan Stewart; JAS – Jasper County; 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; SAA – San Augustine Co.; 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 Co..

Commentary

This is the "full" version of the April report, and, probably predictably, it is very long. Many of the entries simply reflect a species that is either "early" or "late" relative to the past history of the species. There are a large number of birders active in the area during spring migration, and with the advent of eBird, we now have access to all sightings. As we noted last month, eBird flags as "rare" some sightings which are actually not rare, but are singled out because of reviewer concerns over identification of some species that for one reason or another are often misidentified or difficult to separate from a another, usually much more common species. We have adopted a policy of only including species that are actually rare on the date of the sighting. In the version printed in the hard copy of

the Newsletter, we have, for reasons of space, omitted some sightings that are only a day or two early or late. We have also removed from the printed version a number of sightings which are not backed up by sightings by a second independent observer or by a reasonably diagnostic photo. These are included in this full version and noted as unconfirmed. Our omitting a sighting does not necessarily imply that the sighting was not valid. But observers can help by making sure that diagnostic field marks are including in their eBird reports of such species. In a very few cases, there are reports are accompanied by photos that appear to be clearly not the species claimed, and these are not included. .

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Subscriptions from NAS Members with mailing addresses outside our official territory, and others wishing to subscribe are \$15 per year (Jan-Dec).

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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 forms of 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.

Detailed information/maps on birding sites in Texas is available on the Web at <http://www.texasbirds.org/birdingLocations.php>. This leads you to the maps of the various eBird hotspots. You can also subscribe (free) on eBird for email alerts for all rare birds reported in a specific county.