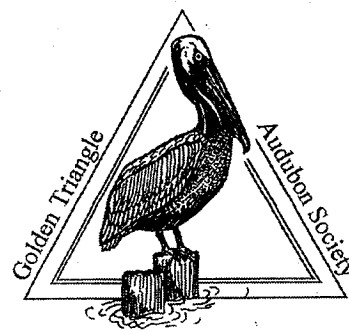


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 24 No. 11

November 2018

Membership Meeting
Thursday November 15, 2018 7:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Your Favorite Bird Pictures and Pot Luck Dinner

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." This will indicate the photographer and could 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. Viewers have especially requested that the identity of the bird be shown. 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 10. 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 other presentations that you prepare yourself if they are on a flash drive, and are in the Powerpoint format (preferred) or are a series of jpg files.

Elections

We will hold our annual elections at this meeting. Dana Nelson's term as President continues through the end of 2019. All other 2019 officer and board member positions will be elected at this meeting. If you have any suggestions, please contact a member of the Nominations Committee: John Haynes, Gary Kelley, or Dana Nelson.

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 24, No. 11 November 2018
Issue number 255

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 gtaudubon@aol.com.

Refreshments

We thank all those who brought refreshments over the last few meetings. November is our pot luck dinner and you are asked to bring a dish of side if you are able. We will be looking for offers to provide refreshments for all the spring meetings.

Saturday November 17, 2018. 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 "expected" 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. The cranes do not usually arrive until very late in October or early in November, and we are anxious to hear of any sightings in the week or so before this trip. In wet years, there can be lots of waterfowl including geese and many duck species as well as ibis and other waterbirds. This trip four years ago found a Mountain Bluebird, which stayed all winter and was visited by birders from all over the region.

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 G and A Turf Farm sign on Johnson Road at the intersection. There is good space on the side of Johnson Road at that intersection to leave vehicles safely off the road, and we need to consolidate into as few vehicles as possible. gtaudubon@aol.com for further information.

December. Christmas Bird Counts

Although there could still be changes, the following are the tentative dates for the Christmas counts in our area. Full confirmed details will be published in the December issue.

Johnson Bayou, LA	Friday Dec. 14
Bolivar Peninsula	Thursday Dec 20
Turkey Creek	Saturday Dec. 22
Sea Rim SP	Thursday Dec 27
Beech Creek	Saturday Dec. 29
Orange County	Tuesday Jan. 1

Thursday January 17, 2019. Membership Meeting. Program on the Davis Mountains Hummingbird Festival by Dana Nelson and Harlan Stewart.

Saturday January 19, 2019 Field Trip to Cattail Marsh, 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. Many birds can be seen from the boardwalk with minimal walking, **but the group will probably make a leisurely three-or-so-mile hike round the various cells in the marsh. Be advised that, while you can turn around and retrace your steps at any point, there are no meaningful "shortcuts" after you start on the levee between cells 3 and 4.** If you don't want to walk that far, there will be someone on the boardwalk to help you identify the many birds in the near cells. Walking is on the levees; the main ones are graveled, but some of the interior ones are essentially 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.

Membership Dues

To simplify our record keeping, all memberships now run from January through December. Membership dues effective with 2019 dues are \$20 per year. We are now accepting 2019 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. All dues already paid in advance for 2019 will be honored. For new members joining National Audubon on line and selecting our Chapter code (W25), we receive a rebate of the entire first year's national dues, and no Chapter dues are expected for that first year.

As a reminder, dues are voluntary for National Audubon Society (NAS) members living in the Chapter's official territory, which is defined by zip codes, but basically covers all of Jefferson, Orange and Hardin Counties and one or two zip codes adjacent to these counties. We do also welcome NAS members in other nearby counties although their membership in NAS does not automatically bring them to our attention.

We would very much encourage you receive the Brown Pelican electronically. To start that, simply send an email to gtaudubon@aol.com from the address you want us to use. Please include your full name if it is not contained within your email address.

Changes in West Jefferson County Bird Populations

Those who have followed closely the results of recent migration counts and our commentary on them will recall that we have been concerned about some apparent changes in the birds we have counted in west Jefferson County. In recent years, we have found far fewer blackbirds of all kinds – Red winged Blackbird and Brown-headed Cowbirds in particular. We also noted a drastic reduction in the number of Northern Mockingbirds and Loggerhead Shrikes. Residents of the area have remarked on the absence of House Sparrows after Harvey. Our counting of birds is subject to many variables, and only results collected over many years can average out weather effects and approach statistical significance. But we do need to review the anecdotal evidence represented by the raw numbers from year to year in the hope that we may be able to identify causes or otherwise explain the changes.

First, we should review any changes in the habitat. We are now many years after Hurricanes Rita (2005) and Ike (2008), but only one year after Hurricane Harvey (August 25-30, 2017). Generally speaking, habitat changes caused by hurricanes in areas such as west Jefferson County are relatively short lived. Rita and Ike were wind events as well as rain events. By the time it reached Jefferson County, Harvey had very little wind energy left, but unprecedented amounts of rain. The run off from the extreme rainfall scours the relatively flat mostly agricultural land, with water standing for several days while the drainage systems, both man-made and natural, catch up. The area has only a few areas with large trees. The run off may wash away ground dwelling animals and insects, including the eggs and larvae of the latter.

The area is largely agricultural with rice the predominant crop, but with some crawfish, and some rotation using soybeans. Not all rice fields are planted in any given year. But perhaps highly significant has been a change in the varieties of rice are being grown. Over the last few years, the traditional rice varieties have been replaced by semi-dwarf varieties that grow about half as tall. Harvesting of these varieties, probably also partially a result of improved harvesting equipment, apparently results in much less rice grain being scattered on

the ground. Quite likely, there is a cascade effect on the food items that birds depend on. Less grain on the ground will result in less food for the blackbirds and cowbirds that eat it directly as well as fewer arthropods and other insects that may also use the rice as a food source, and in turn become food for other species. There used to be large numbers of Red-winged Blackbirds with grackles and cowbirds mixed in feeding in rice fields by day, and heading east in long streams to areas near the Neches River just south of Beaumont to roost. Some of these streams could take up to an hour to pass a given location. This is no longer the case. Loggerhead Shrikes, although possessing a well know ability to hunt and capture smaller birds, lizards and small reptiles feed predominately on insects including larger arthropods when available. If it is the lack of insects because of recent weather events, then over three or four years, we should see a resurgence of shrike populations, although diminished shrike populations immediately after Hurricane Ike had not rebounded by the time Hurricane Harvey struck. There has been concern over shrike populations in the US for several years now, although some of the concern is simply that the species is retreating from the northern fringes of its breeding range. Anecdotally, Loggerhead Shrikes seem to be present in normal numbers in areas away from the rice fields, such as roads through the marshes. The cause of reduced populations of Northern Mockingbirds and House Sparrows is not at all obvious. Northern Mockingbirds are omnivorous and said to eat mostly insects during the summer breeding season. They eat fruit when available, and especially in residential areas to the consternation of the gardener. And there can be few who have not seen a mockingbird guard a berry laden bush in late fall and winter only to have a roving flock of Cedar Waxwings strip it of berries in an hour or less. Residents of west Jefferson County do not report fewer mockingbirds around their houses, but many mockingbirds live in bushes away from houses, and have certainly been fewer in number on recent counts. These residents, however, do report fewer House Sparrows. House Sparrows are rarely found away from human

habitation. They eat seeds and grains and almost any discarded human food. Perhaps in west Jefferson County they were more dependent on waste rice than we realized.

The other birds associated with west Jefferson County are the raptors. Almost all the raptors are winter visitors to the area, and few have arrived by the time of our Fall Migration Counts and most have left before the Spring Count. It is difficult to see any consistent trends in raptor numbers in these counts even after reviewing the last ten or twelve years. Most

of the larger species prey on small mammals, and we have no real information on how they fared in the hurricanes. Our impression is that the number of the larger raptor species has not significantly changed. However, any observations you may have, even if only anecdotal in nature will be welcomed. One species that is now in a second year of concern nationwide is the American Kestrel, which eats mostly larger insects.

John A. Whittle

Field Trip to Sabine Woods – 20 October 2018

Timing is everything. The September field trip for the Golden Triangle Audubon Society to Smith Point was a complete wash out. All day rain. No hawks. It was just the wrong day. But the October field trip to Sabine Woods? The timing was perfect. The combination of a recent front and favorable winds to keep birds in place meant that the birds piled up on the coast. This resulted in a birding day that any group would have been happy to have in April much less October! Again, timing is everything!

Fall birding can be tough as a southeast Texas "Fall" can still be quite hot and humid and there are usually plenty of unpleasant insects around to enhance the experience. In addition, the fall migration is not as concentrated as it is in the spring and so days of really big migrant numbers are not as common. On the other hand, when those big days come, they can bring a combination of migrant and wintering birds that may be hard to come by in spring and there are some species that just much easier to find in fall. An example of this can be seen in the vireo species found on the field trip. The group found Yellow-throated Vireo which is common in the spring and a local nesting species. They also found White-eyed Vireo which can be found somewhere in the area pretty much all year around. Then there is Blue-headed Vireo which is a wintering bird in our area. A good mixture of species!

A number of decent raptors were found on the day which was nice since the Hawk Watch field trip was rained out! An Osprey soared overhead showing its distinctive crook-winged profile. A beautiful White-tailed Kite gave a quick turn over the woods giving some birders a look. Migrating Broad-winged Hawks were seen by all. These small Buteos are generally the most common migrating raptor on the upper Texas coast and are an increasingly common nesting species in the area as well. Northern Harriers cruised low over the fields with their usual hunting style. Harriers are mostly wintering birds and are just starting to arrive in the area in numbers. A Merlin was also seen by many on the day. These fierce little falcons are a terror to the other small birds in the woods but are always welcomed by birdwatchers!

And the group had no shortage of small birds on the day along with a few larger ones. Indigo Buntings were common in the back fields though not looking quite as dapper as during the spring. The same might be said of a Blue Grosbeak found on the trip. A Painted Bunting was also spotted on the day. These gaudy little birds can often be seen well into November in our area and occasionally one will winter here as well. Summering Barn Swallows and wintering Tree Swallows

zipped overhead while stealthier Gray Catbirds and Brown Thrashers hopped through the underbrush. Mustard-colored Summer Tanagers were well seen as were the several Eastern Wood-Pewees present. A Belted Kingfisher rattled from the back pond and Wood Thrush hopped among the tree roots. A Barn Owl was quickly glimpsed as it flushed from the thick oak branches.

A special highlight was the multitude of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds found on the day. Though they were seen here and there though out the woods most were concentrated in one area: The Tennessee Trees. This is the nickname given to the stand of mature oaks found at the west end of the large pond and was earned by hosting large flocks of Tennessee Warblers on multiple occasions. But these trees host far more than that! Live Oaks all exude a small amount of sweet, sticky sap around the acorn cup when they fruit and hummingbirds and warblers (many of which have a sweet tooth) like it. For some reason, the Tennessee Trees seem to produce more copious sap than others because they attract these birds every fall. On the field trip day, the hummingbirds buzzed all through the trees sampling sap, the small gnats drawn to it or just battling each other. The center of warbler activity was around these trees as well. American Redstarts chased moths in the trees while Black-and-white Warblers probed the bark. A couple of tail-bobbing Palm Warblers were found near the trees along with a Northern Waterthrush working the muddy path. A Yellow-throated Warbler was seen creeping along the branches and a Nashville Warbler flitted about as well. A Black-throated Green Warbler was found by the group and several Northern Parulas were located on the day. And what would the Tennessee Trees be without Tennessee Warblers? There were plenty to see and they could be found probing for sweet sap around and in the acorn cups.

Another great treat on the day was the presence of two Cape May Warblers. These birds had been present in Sabine Woods for several days and it was much appreciated that they decided to stick around for the field trip! Cape May Warblers are uncommon at best on the upper Texas coast in the spring and are downright rare in the fall! The fact that these birds stuck around for multiple days may have seemed unusual but was tied to the Tennessee Trees and the food they offered. Cape May Warblers are sugar addicts and can often be found at Bottlebrush trees and others that offer nectar. A previous long-staying Cape May Warbler at Sabine Woods continuously returned to the same sapsucker wells to feed on sweet sap leaking out there. These birds never left a small area

of the Tennessee Trees and could be seen returning to the same acorn cups again and again for a sugary treat.

And there were other warblers as well. Blackburnian Warbler and Yellow Warbler were found. Ovenbird and Common Yellowthroat were spotted. A Worm-eating Warbler probed the dead leaves while Magnolia Warblers were seemingly everywhere. Hooded Warblers bounced around low in the open while a Wilson's Warbler did its best to hide in the bushes. A couple of other nice species found were Chestnut-sided Warbler and Bay-breasted Warbler. These are beautiful, colorful birds in the spring but are almost unrecognizable in the fall. Both lose most if not all of their chestnut/bay color at this season. The Chestnut-sided Warbler is a bright lime green on top in the fall with a bold eye ring. It looks and acts like a more colorful version of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. The Bay-breasted Warbler loses most of its distinguishing colors and subtle clues must be used to tell it apart from winter plumaged Pine and Blackpoll Warblers. All in all twenty species of warblers were seen by the group on the day. That would be a good day in spring but is fantastic in fall!

What a difference a day (or month) can make when birding. You can miss a rare bird that only stays around for a day or you may time it right and get that rare bird on the field trip day (like the Phainopepla seen on this trip in a prior year!). You may have a rain-out one month and then hit the mother lode on warblers the next! One thing is for sure though, all the birders will be checking the Tennessee Trees next fall!

The following species were recorded by the trip leaders:

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (40); King/Clapper Rail (1); Common Gallinule (1); Willet (1); Brown Pelican (1); Great Blue Heron (4); Great Egret (5); Snowy Egret (1); Little Blue Heron (1); Tricolored Heron (2); Green Heron (1); Roseate Spoonbill (10); Black Vulture (2); Turkey Vulture (2); Osprey (1); White-tailed Kite (1); Northern Harrier (5); Broad-winged Hawk (5); Barn Owl (1); Belted Kingfisher (1); Red-billed Woodpecker (1); Downy Woodpecker (2); Merlin (1); Eastern Wood-Pewee (7); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (1); Loggerhead Shrike (1); White-eyed Vireo (5); Yellow-throated Vireo (1); Blue-headed Vireo (1); Blue Jay (5); Tree Swallow (15); Barn Swallow (10); House Wren (1); Marsh Wren (2); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (6); Wood Thrush (2); Gray Catbird (2); Brown Thrasher (5); Northern Mockingbird (1); Red-winged Blackbird (3); Ovenbird (4); Worm-eating Warbler (1); Northern Waterthrush (1); Black and White Warbler (10); Tennessee Warbler (10); Nashville Warbler (1); Common Yellowthroat (3); Hooded Warbler (3); American Redstart (11); Cape May Warbler (2); Northern Parula (4); Magnolia Warbler (20); Bay-breasted Warbler (4); Blackburnian Warbler (1); Yellow Warbler (1); Chestnut-sided Warbler (3); Palm Warbler (2); Yellow-throated Warbler (1); Black-throated Green Warbler (1); Wilson's Warbler (1); Summer Tanager (4); Northern Cardinal (4); Blue Grosbeak (2); Indigo Bunting (20); Painted Bunting (1)

Steve Mayes

The 2018 Hawk Migration

Selected posts from the Golden Triangle Audubon Facebook Page by Jana Whittle

September 1•

For those keeping up with hawk migration in Texas, Smith Point had a two day total on August 30-31, of 103; 55 Mississippi Kites, 12 Swallow-tailed Kites totals were 12, and 23 Broad-winged Hawks.

The Corpus Christi Hawk Watch at Hazel Bazemore (which is the place that has the most raptors fly over in the United States) total for the same days were 582 which includes 515 Mississippi Kites, 15 Swallow-tailed Kites, and 18 Broad-winged Hawks. But today, they had a total of 1,128 hawks fly over. There were 1084 Mississippi Kites, 8 Swallow-tailed Kites, 29 Broad-winged Hawks, and 1 Zone-tailed Hawk.

September 18•

Yesterday was a really good day to be at the Smith Point Hawk Watch. They had 6,370 Broad-winged Hawks and 513 Mississippi Kites fly over the tower. Corpus Christi had 3,692 Broad-winged Hawks and 139 Mississippi Kites fly over. Today, 19,180 Broad-winged Hawks and 540 Mississippi Kites flew over Hazel Bazemore Hawk Watch

September 19•

Yesterday, Smith Point Hawk Watch had 15,566 hawks fly over the tower; 14,250 were Broad-winged Hawks and 1, 232 were Mississippi Kites.

September 27•

Today was very good at both Smith Point and Hazel Bazemore Hawk Watches. Smith Point had 5,677 hawks fly over the tower and Hazel Bazemore had 16,605. On September 25, Hazel had 2 528, on September 24, they had 1,082 and on September 22 they had 7,758. Thousands of Broad-winged Hawks are passing over each tower.

September 30•

Yesterday was our regular field trip to the Smith Point Hawk Watch. Eight members showed up but after looking at the rain and the weather radar our field trip leader, Steve Mayes made a good decision to cancel the field trip. Two of our retired birders had been to the hawk watch the day before and were able to see 3,925 hawks fly over them. The same day, Hazel Bazemore had 6,725.

October 2

Today at Smith Point Hawk Watch they had 6,088 hawks that flew over the tower. The counter said that 4,000 of them came over between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. The Corpus Hawk Watch had 2,997 hawks today.

October 3

Today Smith Point had 4,757 hawks fly over the tower.

Corpus had 3,334, Cape May, N.J. had 2,293, and Bentsen Rio Grande had 5,949.

October 7

Corpus Hawk Watch had 41,275 hawks fly over the tower on October 4th and on October 5th, they had 40,108. One of those days they saw 72 Peregrine Falcons. So far this fall they have seen 186,377 hawks total this season so far.

The Veracruz River of Raptors in Chichicaxtle, Mexico, had 171,920 hawks fly over their tower on October 4th. Their total so far this year is 719,630.

October 10

This morning, my great niece saw a Bald Eagle in Buna eating a squirrel.

October 11

Today at the Smith Point Hawk Watch, we only saw 235 raptors, but the weather was perfect with a temp of 65 and it was very pleasant. Some of the birds we observed from the tower were two Bald Eagles, Broad-winged Hawks, Caracaras, Cooper's, Peregrine Falcon, American Kestrel, Northern Harriers, White Pelicans, Brown Pelicans, Wood Storks, Anhinga, White Ibis, Red-shouldered, Mississippi Kite, Sharp-shinned, Vultures, and Osprey. Also, there was a Red-breasted Nuthatch, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, Chimney Swifts, lots of swallows, and on the way home we saw one Red-tailed Hawk.

October 13

There were 108 raptors at Smith Point yesterday: Broad-winged Hawk 9; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Harris's Hawk 1;

Sharp-shinned Hawk 17; Cooper's Hawk 18; Mississippi Kite 2; Turkey Vulture 11; Black Vulture 5; American Kestrel 26; Peregrine Falcon 1; Merlin 2; Osprey 2; Northern Harrier 3; Crested Caracaras 2.

On the way to Smith Point on FM 1985, we saw a beautiful adult Bald Eagle perched at the top of a huge tree. On the way home on FM 1941, we saw two White-tailed Hawks for a total of 16 raptor species that we observed yesterday.

October 14

Yesterday at Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park there were 23,008 hawks that flew over their tower. And on the 9th, 188,169 hawks flew over the Veracruz River of Raptors in Cardel, Mexico (Veracruz). The majority of those were Broad-winged Hawks and Vultures.

October 26

Hawk migration is still happening. Smith Point had 991 hawks pass over the tower today. Corpus had 25,282 today, 12,484 yesterday, 117 Wednesday, 4,370 Tuesday, and 10,409 Monday. Yesterday in Panama, they had 760,132 hawks, and the day before, they had 203,922. Today at the Veracruz River of Raptors in Cardel, Mexico, they had 232,061.

October 28

Yesterday at Smith Point Hawk Watch, there were 356 hawks that flew over the tower. Friday and Saturday, they had at least one Bald Eagle to fly over. Today at the Corpus Hawk Watch, there were 1,834 hawks that flew over including the very first adult Gray Hawk ever recorded at that hawk watch. Yesterday there were 3,140 hawks over the tower.

Jana Whittle

Bird Sightings – October 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.

Commentary. An overflowing section this month. The most startling find was a Flammulated Owl found by Sue Orwig in Houston on October 29. There is a record in eBird of one in Cameron Parish, LA east of Rutherford Beach in October 2007. Otherwise, the nearest records are in Big Bend NP. The bird apparently stayed only a few hours.

The month started off with relatively few rare species reported. But later in the month, there has been a steady stream of "late" migrants. It seems very likely that many of these were birds that hunkered down as various weather events affected the eastern part of the US, and were delayed in their

southern migration.

It is already clear that this is an "irruption" year for Red-breasted Nuthatches. In many years, there are a few Red-breasted Nuthatches wintering, many in the Big Thicket areas just north of the Golden Triangle. It is not unknown for one or two to overshoot on their southward migration, usually for only a brief period before backtracking a few miles to areas where their preferred winter food of conifer seeds is more plentiful. There have already been so many reports that we have not been able to list them below. Suffice it to note that the first two were seen October 11, a most careful count at Sabine Woods on October 22 was eight, and there were at least four still present on October 28. However, none were found on October 31.

We must also note that there are considerable differences between the various checklists for the Upper Texas Coast as to on what dates the various fall migrants are appropriately classified as rare. We have tried to be consistent, but the eBird filters for adjacent counties are often significantly different, and we may therefore not have picked up all observations that we would classify as rare.

There is no doubt that the number of Bay-breasted Warblers seen this fall was essentially unprecedented. Submissions to eBird have increased over recent years, but even so, 56 Bay-breasted sightings so far entered for fall 2018

in Sabine Woods compares to one in 2016, 14 in 2015, one in 2014 and none in 2013. Most Bay-breasted Warblers are

assumed to migrate much further east in the fall, as indeed do many other warbler species.

Seen in our Core Counties (listed above)

Groove-billed Ani	Oct 18	JEF-TX87 1/2 mile west of Sabine Woods (1)
Bonaparte's Gull	Oct 27	JEF-Sea Rim SP (2) SH
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Oct 16	JEF-SW (1) JHH
Acadian Flycatcher	Oct 21	JEF-SW (1) JHH, SM
Eastern Kingbird	Oct 2	JEF-Texas Pt NWR (1) Eric Ripma
Philadelphia Vireo	Oct 27	JEF-SW (2) SM, JHH, MC, JAW
Red-eyed Vireo	Oct 27-28	JEF-SW (2) JHH, MC, JAW
Cape May Warbler	Oct 16-21	JEF-SW (2 fem) JHH, mult obs
Bay-breasted Warbler	Oct 19-27	JEF-SW (up to 5) multiple obs.
Yellow Warbler	Oct 27	JEF-SW (1) MC, SM, JHH, SH
Blackpoll Warbler	Oct 16	JEF-SW (1) MC, JHH mult obs
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	Oct 18	JAS-Martin Dies SP Island Trail (1) Jeremy Webster
Yellow-throated Warbler	Oct 12-21	JEF-SW (1) JHH, MC, mult obs
Black-thr. Gray Warbler	Oct 5	JEF-SW (1) JHH
White-throated Sparrow	Oct 2	SAB-Hemphill (1) David Bell
Summer Tanager	Oct 27-28	JEF-SW (1 male) MC, JHH, JAW
Scarlet Tanager	Oct 15	HAI-Sandylands (1) SH
Orchard Oriole	Oct 21	JEF-SW (1) Dominic Le Croissette

Nearby Counties

Gtr White-fronted Goose	Oct 6	CAL-Hayes-Mississippi Ave (7) Oscar Johnson
Ring-necked Duck	Oct 20	GAL-7.5 mile Rd (4) Greg Whitaker, Alice O'Donell (3 m, 1 f)
	Oct 21	GAL-Galveston Is SP (2) Kyle Jones
Wood Stork	Oct 25	GAL-Smith Oaks (1) Houston AS
Brown Booby	Oct 28	CAM-Lake Charles (1) Paul Conover
Magnificent Frigatebird	Oct 8	HAS-Seabrook (1) Hilary Gibbs
Harris's Hawk	Oct 12	CHA-Smith Pt Hawk Watch (1) Multiple Obs
	Oct 28	CAM-6040 Hwy 27 about 8 mi W of Cameron (1) Ken Harris et al.
	Oct 30	CAL-LA108 at Fabacher Rd (1) Angelo and Inara Angelis
Ferruginous Hawk	Oct 27	CAM-Lacassine NWR-Pool unit (1) Stevebn Cardiff
Sandhill Crane	Oct 1	HAS-Paul Rushing Pk (35) Bonnie de Grood
Marbled Godwit	Oct 28	CAL-Sidney Derouen (2) David booth, Judson Lassiter
Wilson's Phalarope	Oct 26	CAL-Sidney Derouen Rd (17) Malise Prieto, Elise Read
Bonaparte's Gull	Oct 27	CAM-Holly Beach (13) Eric Hynes
Lsr Black-backed Gull	Oct 20	HAS/CHA-Sylvan Beach Pk (11) Brad Lirette, Ron Weeks
Glaucous Gull	Oct 21	CAM-Davis Rd (1) Paul Conover
	Oct 26	CAM-East Jetty Beach (1) Michael Musumeche, Jay Huner
Gt. Black-backed Gull	Oct 4	GAL-Galveston Is SP (1) Steve Rogow
	Oct 10	GAL-Texas City Dike (10) Dennis Cooke
Groove-billed Ani	Oct 7	CAL-Corbina Rd S (10) Judson Lassiter
	Oct 19	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Dave Patton
Flammulated Owl	Oct 29	HAS-Wilchester Blvd (1) Sue Orwig, mult obs
Hairy Woodpecker	Oct 1	GAL-Moody Gardens (1) Greg Whitaker
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Oct 11	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Steve Rogow
	Oct 11-13	GAL-Smith Pt Hawk Watch (1) multiple observers

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Oct 6	CAL-Hayes-Mississippi Ave (1) Oscar Johnson
Acadian Flycatcher	Oct 6	CAL-Hayes-Mississippi Ave (1) Oscar Johnson
Alder Flycatcher	Oct 6	CAL-Hayes-Mississippi Ave (1) Oscar Johnson
	Oct 22-24	HAS-White Oak Pk (1) Mark Steuer
Say's Phoebe	Oct 25	CAM-Sabine NWR Blue Goose Trl (1) Jeff Trahan
Vermilion Flycatcher	Oct 12	CAL-Lavoi Rd (1) David Booth
Tropical Kingbird	Oct 29	GAL-Apfel Pk (1) V L Kirby
Eastern Kingbird	Oct 5	CAM-Trosclair Rd (24) Eric Ripma
	Oct 6	CAL-Fruge Rd S of La14 (1) Judson Lassiter
	Oct 7	CAM-Creole (21) Paul Conover
Bell's Vireo	Sep 30	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Paul Conover
	Oct 7	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Paul Conover
	Oct 27	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Katherine Gividen
Philadelphia Vireo	Oct 28	Purple Martin Oct 13 HAS-Hegar Lakes (1) Drew Dickert
	Oct 19	HAS-El Franco Lee Pk (1) Nicholas DeMaio
	Oct 20	HAS-White Oak Park (1) Wendy Wrigly, Susan Kennedy
	Oct 27	HAS-Archbishop Fiorenza Pk (1) J. Berner
Cave Swallow	Oct 23	CAM-Lacassine NWR-Pool Unit (2) Ronald Beck
	Oct 27	CAM-East Jetty Beach (1) Eric Hynes
Ovenbird	Oct 6	CAL-Hayes-Mississippi Ave (1) Oscar Johnson
Prothonotary Warbler	Oct 3	HAS-Glenbrook Golf Course (2) Mary Anne Weber
Swainson's Warbler	Oct 2	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Kris Cannon
Mourning Warbler	Oct 15	CAL-Lavoi Rd(1) David Booth
Northern Parula	Oct 25	HAS-Edith L. Moore Sanctuary (1) Bill Matthews
Bay-breasted Warbler	Oct 27	CAM-Peveto Woods (2) mult obs
Yellow-throated Warbler	Oct 11	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Deanna Griggs
	Oct 27	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Malise Prieto
Prairie Warbler	Oct 30	GAL-Galveston IS SP (1) Kris Cannon
Black-thr. Gray Warbler	Oct 28	HAS-Little John Ln (1) Howard Haysom
Clay-colored Sparrow	Oct 27	CAM-Holly Beach Egret St (1) Jay Huner
American Goldfinch	Oct 11	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Jeanie Pousson
	Oct 19	GAL-Caduceus Pl (2) Patty Wood

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; 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..

Golden Triangle Audubon Society
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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.