

The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 31 No 4

April 2025

Membership Meeting
Thursday April 17, 2025 7:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Trans-Gulf Bird Migration Viewed from Weather Radars
on the Northern Gulf Coast

Sidney Gauthreaux, PhD

Dr. Gauthreaux began exploring the use of weather surveillance radar (WSR-57) to detect, quantify, and monitor migrating birds in the atmosphere at the National Weather Service installation in New Orleans while a college freshman at LSU-New Orleans in 1959. His graduate research focused on the use of the WSR-57 to study the arrival of spring trans-Gulf bird migration in southwestern and southeastern Louisiana for his M.S. (August 1965) and PhD. (August 1968) degrees at LSU-Baton Rouge. He continued his radar research at the WSR-57 station in Athens, GA while on a post-doctorate fellowship at the Institute of Ecology at the University of Georgia (1968-1970), and in August 1970 joined the faculty at Clemson University where he continued to work with the WSR-57 in Slidell, LA until he began research with the new Doppler WSR-88D south of Houston in Dickinson, TX in the spring of 1992. His research with this radar has continued beyond his retirement from Clemson in May 2006 and the end of his Visiting Professorship at the University of Illinois in September 2019.

We plan to have the doors open at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

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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 are subject to last minute changes. Such Changes will always be posted on the web site at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org.

Thursday April 17, 2025
Membership Meeting. Details on p1.

Directions to Tyrrell Park

From the South

Go "north" on US69/96/287 around the south side of Beaumont. Take Highway 124 west (left) towards Fannett

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

Turn left into the park through the arch. The Garden Center is on the left. For Cattail Marsh, continue ahead and proceed about two-thirds of the way round the main loop and into the well-marked Cattail Marsh parking area.

From IH10

Exit at Walden Road on the west side of Beaumont and turn south (right) on Walden Road. At the light at Highway 124, go straight ahead on Tyrrell Park Road and then as above.

Golden Triangle Audubon Facebook

Join us on Facebook! There is a Golden Triangle Audubon group on Facebook, moderated by Jana Whittle and John Mariani. Our aim is to provide a space for people around the Golden Triangle to share pictures, sightings, and other information about birds, other nature, and local birding sites and habitats. All levels of pictures are welcome, especially of less common birds. If you are looking for help with identification, please include the location and date of the picture, as both are important in narrowing the possibilities. Send your contribution through a Facebook message or an email to gtaudubon@aol.com.

Saturday April 19, 2025. Field trip to Sabine Woods.

This trip will look for Neotropical migrants at the height of spring migration. We will assemble at Sabine Woods at 7:30 a.m. In most years, the GTAS group has divided into two or

more parties to keep the number of birders with each leader as small as possible. (You should be able to find a group if you are unable to be there quite that early, but there are likely to be other organized groups in the Woods on this Saturday.)

We have portable toilets available at the entrance during spring migration, but even with an increased number, there may not be as much capacity on April weekends as would be ideal!

This trip involves relatively easy walking on the trails at Sabine Woods to look for migrant songbirds, although another option is to sit at one of the six water features (three of them new) and wait for the birds to come to you. The trails may be muddy and slippery if it has rained in the prior day or two. Armadillos and feral pigs have been very active, so there will be holes to avoid! There is a \$10 sanctuary pass donation at Sabine Woods for those who are **not** members of Golden Triangle Audubon or TOS.

Saturday May 10, 2025. Spring Migration Count. On International Migratory Bird Day, we undertake an all-Jefferson-County Bird Count. We have been doing these counts since 1995, so they have become a valuable way to monitor changes in local bird populations. International Migratory Bird Day/Global Big Day is the second Saturday in May. The count attempts to cover as much of Jefferson County as is reasonably possible. We will welcome birders at the inter-mediate level and higher, especially if you are able to count in the early morning from



EarthShare of Texas represents Audubon Foundation of Texas and the National Audubon Society in payroll contribution programs in workplaces throughout Texas. For more information about how you can support Audubon Foundation of Texas and the National Audubon Society at your workplace, call 1-800-GREENTX, or visit www.earthshare-texas.org

dawn through about 11:00 a.m. It is not necessary to commit to the whole day. If you have special access to any areas within the county, we would appreciate your help! We can assign that area to

you, and if necessary, can arrange for someone to help you. Contact John Whittle (gtaudubon@aol.com or 409-722-4193) for further details or offers to help.

We will try to cover as much of Jefferson County as we can

Sabine Woods Workday Saturday 8 March 2025.

The weather prognosticators were saying all week that we would have rain showers on the Saturday March 8, but as that time grew nearer, they changed the timing to late evening and the focus to areas well north of Sabine Woods. That proved to be more accurate, as the very limited rain that did fall at the Woods was well after dark and into the early morning hours. Fortunately, almost all of our volunteers are used to rain arriving well after the time it is forecast, and 18 volunteers worked on the Work Day until early afternoon and three others in the days immediately prior or immediately after. We thank each and every one of the following for their splendid accomplishments:

Andy Allen, Michael Cooper, Howard Davis, Liz Dennis, David Doyle, Ashley Fuselier, Claudia Gilson, John Haynes, Sheila Hebert, Thomas Hellweg, Paul Hromadka, Greg Jackson, Johnnie Johnson, Denise and Gary Kelley, Steve Kuritz, Steve Mayes, Frank Ohrt,

Sherrie Roden, Christine Sliva, Harlan Stewart

We got a lot accomplished. The Woods had experienced significant rain in the week or so prior, but we were able to work around some areas of standing water. All the trails and meadows were mowed. The sides of the trails were trimmed. We filled in a large number of armadillo excavations. We dealt with many fire ant mounds, and some likely hog damage. Trash along the fence line was removed. The areas around the bases of trees planted and transplanted in the last few years were cleared. Trash was removed from the fence-line along Highway 87. Numerous other small tasks were completed. Poison ivy was attacked in the days immediately after the workday. We discussed with a potential tree service person and developed a plan to remove potentially dangerous limbs on a few live oaks that did not survive the 2024 drought, while minimizing the loss of woodpecker habitat and perches for other species. This plan has been completed, and the work completed by a contractor.

The Woods are now in excellent shape as the spring migration season approaches. All birders who visit the Woods will surely enjoy the Sanctuary, and on their and TOS's behalf, we thank you for all your efforts on the Work Day.

John A. Whittle

The Great Texas Birding Classic

This is the 29th Annual Birding Classic. It is the biggest, longest, birdwatching tournament in the U.S. This is a yearly event/competition sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife. The event promotes birding while documenting species across the state of Texas. There is a tournament category for everyone, from the beginning backyard birder to the competitive lister! This year GTAS members will be participating in the tournament category Big Sit, consisting of one or more participants. Teams select a 50-ft diameter circle from which to bird. Team members can rotate in shifts or can be the same members all day. Birds identified and counted may be inside or outside of the 50-ft circle and MUST be seen/heard by a team member from WITHIN the circle. The length of time spent birding is up to 24 hours in a single day (midnight to midnight). There are nine regions to compete in. We will be competing in the Upper Texas Coast Region at Sabine Woods. Tournament Dates are between April 15 – May 15, and we will determine the exact date a few days in advance, based on the . Thank you to our sponsor, Visit Port Arthur Texas!

Wishing us lots of birds,

Christine Sliva

GTAS Membership Dues

To simplify our record keeping, all memberships now run from January through December. Membership dues are \$20 per year. We are now accepting 2025 dues. You may pay at any membership meeting (checks preferred) or use the subscription/membership blank on the back page. For new members joining National Audubon Society 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 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 bring them to our attention.

Although almost all of our activities are open to the general public, we appreciate those who formally join the Society. In addition to the costs incurred in producing the print edition of our Newsletter, the *Brown Pelican*, the dues

are needed to cover the general expenses incurred in running the organization. Use of the Garden Center for our meeting now incurs a charge

We would very much encourage you to receive the *Brown Pelican* electronically as this saves paper, cost and volunteer time. To start that, simply send an email to gtaudubon@aol.com from the address you want us to use. The newsletter is sent electronically as a PDF file. We often take advantage of the lack of significant space constraints to add supplemental information in the *Brown Pelican*.

Naming and Renaming Bird Species

This article was prompted by local reaction to the renaming of Anahuac NWR as the Jocelyn Nungaray NWR, which is apparently scheduled for 1 April 2025. We plan on a second article on Naming and Renaming Bird Places at some point in the near future. Some parts of this article represent the opinion of the author.

As many of you may already know, the American Ornithological Society (AOS) has *de facto* control (through its North American Classification Committee) over the English bird names that are used in North America. The British Ornithological Union (BOU) holds a similar position in British Ornithology. As far as species that are predominately species found in North America or Britain, the names selected are used by most other bodies in the rest of the birding world if the species are geographically wide-ranging. There is an increasing push to use the same name on both sides of the Atlantic whenever a species is routinely present on both sides. For South America, there is a South American Classification Committee that for many years was under the aegis of the AOS, but is now independent. In other countries, there is typically a body which publishes or endorses the names used in a list of species commonly seen in that country. These bodies often adopt the names used by AOS and BOU where applicable.

Many years ago, there became a need for a list of the birds of the world, not just part of it, and covering the scientific names as well as the common or English names. James F. Clements compiled such a list as his Ph.D. thesis in 1975 and maintained it until his death in 2005. The list was widely used and was taken over by the Cornell Lab for Ornithology which published the 6th edition of *The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World* in June 2007. Cornell has undertaken the task of updating the list to reflect additions and changes using the most accepted classification, and uses the list in eBird. As might be expected, the current edition is available only digitally as a spreadsheet. Lynx Editions in Spain published "The Handbook of the Birds of the World" in 16 printed volumes between 1992 and 2011, with a volume of additions (2013) and two volumes of checklists only (2014 and 2016). Edited by Josep del Hoyo, Andrew Elliott, and David A. Christie, the accounts in these volumes were prepared by recognized authorities on each species and include illustrations of the birds, with brief taxonomic and distributional information. Each volume is approximately 9 1/2 in by 12 in, runs up to 900 pages, and weighs 8 to 10 lb! All volumes are still available at approximately \$215 each.

The use of scientific names, expressed in Latin, dates back to the publication in 1735 of *Systema Naturae* by Carl Linnaeus, a Swedish botanist and physician in Uppsala, Sweden, although he spent 1735 to 1738 in the Dutch Republic. This work was heavily focused on botany but laid the foundation for the extension of the binomial system to zoology. In this system, species are first classified into genera, genera into families, and families into orders. Orders are further grouped into classes, classes into phyla (plural of phylum) and further into Kingdoms and Domains, although birds are all in the same Class. The term binomial as it applies to birds refers most usefully for practical purposes to the naming of birds based on genus (plural is genera) and species as the primary designators for identification in

scientific and semi-scientific materials. Those studying birds will often refer to families (groups of genera), occasionally divided for convenience into sub-families. Species can also be divided into subspecies, referring to groups that share common characteristics, differ almost always only in plumage, but do not meet the criteria for full species rank.

The most easily understood criterion for species rank is whether the "groups" routinely interbreed, but obviously there are issues when the populations are geographically separate (or isolated). Whether somewhat different characteristics are sufficiently different to justify being assigned as different species is a difficult question. This used to be based as much on plumage characteristics as anything else. In the last decade or two, it has become possible, if still not inexpensive, to determine the sequence of the bases in a given DNA sample. Philosophically, the differences in the sequence ought to indicate, and to a degree they do, whether separate species status is justified. But DNA is a huge molecule, and in the routine course of events, there are always tiny numbers of changes in the sequence of bases during the replication process. (Otherwise, each human would be identical to every other human, and evolution would likely not occur.) If the study is confined to the much smaller mitochondrial DNA, as it usually is, there is still a judgment call to be made as to how many differences are needed to justify separate species status.

Following this somewhat lengthy description of how birds get named, we will fast forward to the situations that we want to primarily address in this article. There are circumstances where changing the name, common and/or Latin, of a bird, is needed. We will first deal with the Latin names because it is easier to cover such changes. It used to be that changing Latin names was not common. But in recent times, perhaps the last 25 or 30 years, changes have occurred more frequently. Unlike the situation with common names, there are essentially not bodies that have acquired the status that makes their decisions more or less authoritative. Ornithologists studying specific genera or families are free to and do publish, typically in scientific journals, suggestions to change genus names and/or species compositions. Typically, in recent times, this has most often in the form of a division of a genus into two or more genera, or a species into two or more separate species. but less frequently, may involve merging two species into one. When a genus is divided, there is a need for at least one new genus name, and perhaps for more if it is undesirable to keep the existing name for one of the newly created genera. Generally, it is the prerogative of the proposer to choose any new names within the rules established to avoid duplications and similar practical matters. There are also prescriptions in the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (that also covers organisms other than birds). Strict priority rules dictate that the first name compliant with the few general rules that is used in the scientific literature has "priority". Latin species names are often descriptive of some structural,

plumage or distributional characteristic of the species, but in a few cases include the name of a person. The "authoritative" bodies in general use the Latin names first proposed in the literature and generally accepted within scientific ornithology, and typically disclaim any jurisdiction over the selection of these names, although they use them to identify the birds they are discussing.

The common names are under the complete control of the AOS, the BOU or the de facto bodies outside the Americas and Britain. Many of the British birds in particular were named long before the work of Linnaeus, and these names, even if they were only one word, were adopted by the BOU. Examples would include the Robin, the Starling and many others. Subsequently, but only fairly recently, the BOU added the modifier "European" to many such species to distinguish between the northern European species and related members of the same family in other parts of the World.

The name changing began in 2000 when the name of the "Oldsquaw" was changed to "Long-tailed Duck." The story is that a small group of US Fish and Wildlife biologists in Alaska brought to the attention of the then Secretary of the Interior, a native American, that they "feared" that "oldsquaw" would be offensive to native Americans and the AOU (as it then was) obliged, without accepting that political correctness should be a factor in selecting or retaining bird names, by officially changing the name in its lists to "Long-tailed Duck," a name already in use for the species in Northern Europe. It may be that this action actually contributed to the "Oldsquaw" name becoming considered politically incorrect as racist and sexist. As time went on, a few more names were changed. One more recent was to change "McCown's Longspur" to "Thick-billed Longspur" on the grounds that McCown apparently became a General in the Confederate Army some time after his amateur ornithological work.

In November 2023, the elected leadership of the AOS dropped a bombshell by declaring an intent to rename all bird species within its jurisdiction that were named after people (eponyms).

"Today 01Nov 2023, the AOS announced that in an effort to address past wrongs and engage far more people in the enjoyment, protection, and study of birds, it will change all English bird names currently named after people within its geographic jurisdiction. The AOS will also change the process by which English names are selected for bird species. The effort will begin in 2024 and will focus initially on 70–80 bird species that occur primarily within the U.S. and Canada."

The then and still existing policy statement of the North American Classification Committee (NACC) reads (in part).

The NACC will change well-established eponyms only in unusual circumstances, but these situations may occur. The NACC recognizes that many individuals for whom birds are named were products

of their times and cultures, and that this creates a gradient of disconnection between their actions and beliefs and our present-day mores. By itself, affiliation with a now-discredited historical movement or group is likely not sufficient for the NACC to change a long-established eponym. In contrast, the active engagement of the eponymic namesake in reprehensible events could serve as grounds for changing even long-established eponyms, especially if these actions were associated with the individual's ornithological career.

More details and justifications can be found on the AOS website at www.americanornithologicalsociety.org.

At the time of the statement, it was stated that 142 English names of NACC bird species are eponyms.

A press release stated AOS will "Establish a New Multidisciplinary Naming Entity and Seek Public Input, Beginning with 70–80 Bird Species in the U.S. and Canada" This Committee is apparently charged with developing procedures for renaming the species, not approving any actual renamings.

The web site currently states

The American Ornithological Society (AOS) is currently examining and revising our procedures for reviewing proposals to change English bird names. Consequently, the North American Classification Committee (NACC) is not actively considering proposals for the sole purpose of changing English bird names, unrelated to a taxonomic revision, at this time. We will update this announcement when our revised procedures and guidelines have been established.

The November 2023 announcement was met with considerable strong opposition. The membership of the Committee is not listed on the AOS website, although three co-chairs are. None of the three is well-known in academic or field ornithological circles. No details of any activity that may have occurred in 2024 has been published. AOS has a statement embracing DEI on its web page.

Commentary

We are of the opinion that bird names should only be changed for good reason. The still existing (pre 2013) AOS policy for the NACC seems very appropriate. The political activities outside of ornithology of most of the individuals named in eponymous bird names are to a significant degree unknown. Almost all appear to have made significant contributions to ornithology in their lifetimes, and to disregard that would probably constitute an attempt to rewrite history.

Unnecessary name changes are a serious impediment to those who have to use the very significant body of existing printed material, and should be avoided. We may reach the point where all the historical material has been scanned and converted to digital format by OCR allowing name changes to be automatically inserted as notes, but we are nowhere near that point yet and may never reach it.

John A. Whittle

Field Trip to Bolivar Flats - 22 March 2025

The March field trip to Bolivar Flats is a long-standing tradition for the Golden Triangle Audubon Society. There are many good reasons for this. It is one of the best shorebirding spots in the country, it has lots of birds every day of the year and it is a less than two-hour drive from Jefferson County! All this, combined with a day of perfect Spring weather add up to a great day of birding on the upper Texas coast.

Pulling on to the beach from Rettillon Road, certain birds are immediately obvious. Sanderlings will be milling about near the water's edge and there will be some Laughing Gulls nearby. Ring-billed Gull was found quickly and a larger Herring Gull was located nearby. The birders assembled near the vehicle barrier that marks the entrance to the Houston Audubon's Bolivar Flats Sanctuary and there were almost two dozen of them – a great turnout! The group filed through the entrance and started down the beach to see what was to be found.

Long-billed Curlew was seen quickly and it is hard to miss our largest shorebird. A Black-bellied Plover was located close to the vehicle barrier which was good as they were surprisingly difficult to locate on the day. Barn Swallows zipped over the beach, the first of the season for many of the assembled birders. Brown Pelicans are always obvious on the flats and larger American White Pelicans were seen flying over the marsh behind the beach. A few large, dark Mottled Ducks were also seen flying over the marsh. Mottled Duck populations are shrinking with loss of habitat and other issues so it is always good to be in a place where you can still find them. A Northern Harrier was also seen cruising over the marsh (hopefully not hunting Mottled Ducks).

Moving down the beach, the group began to encounter the small plover species for which this location is well known. Piping Plovers were immediately seen as they thrive as wintering birds here despite their endangered status. It did not take long to spot Snowy Plovers as well. One of the great things about Bolivar Flats is the ability to compare multiple species of small plover in a spotted scope at the same time. The differences between these two species were noted by the group including the difference in bill size/shape and leg color. Also, despite the name, Piping Plover is actually paler than Snowy Plover. Wilson's Plover soon became obvious as they loudly called from the dune line and posed on the beach in front of the birders. As a bonus, a Horned Lark was spotted behind a Wilson's Plover as scopes were pointed that way. It took longer to locate the darker Semipalmated Plover but they were eventually found on the muddy stretch near the water. Wilson's Plovers will stay to nest at Bolivar Flats while the Piping, Snowy and Semipalmated Plovers will eventually head north.

There were plenty of other shorebirds around as well. Least Sandpipers were the most common "peep" on the flats by far. Bill shape and their dull yellow legs are good points to observe for the identification of this species. Western Sandpiper was the next most common of the small sandpipers and a good number were seen on the day. A couple of Semipalmated Sandpipers were spotted among the peeps though identification of all of these birds is a challenge. No such challenge exists when identifying Ruddy Turnstone. These colorful shorebirds were found soon after crossing the vehicle barrier and were

appreciated by all of the birders. Other species that prove shorebirds can be colorful were also present at the flats. Black-necked Stilts were spotted working the shallow waters while much more numerous rusty-colored American Avocets waded through the deeper water. Marbled Godwit and Lesser Yellowlegs were found on the trip as they usually are at this location. Dowitchers were around, likely Short-billed by location and the quiet nature of the flock and Dunlin were common though none were yet in breeding plumage. The birders checked the flocks for Red Knot but came up empty.

Terns were in good supply on the day. Large Royal Terns were common as is usually the case at this location. Sandwich Terns were scattered among them showing off their yellow-tipped bills. Smaller Forster's Terns were located near the water while plenty of even smaller Least Terns were easily seen and heard on the beach as well. Great scope views were had of a Gull-billed Tern that was perched on the beach. Normally, birders have to be satisfied to see them hunting over the marsh from a distance so this was a nice treat. Huge Caspian Terns were eventually located along the water's edge, dwarfing the rest of the terns.

A number of other species were seen by the group before departing the flats that day. Great Blue Herons stalked the shallows while a single dark morph Reddish Egret danced in its typical erratic feeding manner. This species is never as easy to find in March as in the August field trip. Boat-tailed Grackle is hard to miss on Bolivar Flats or anywhere nearby really. Several Ospreys hunted overhead with at least one displaying a successful catch. Leaving the Flats gave some birders a nice view of White-tailed Kite, a lovely parting gift as the birders headed for lunch.

After lunch, the group headed to High Island for the Houston Audubon sanctuaries located there. A stop at Boy Scout Woods produced Gray Catbird and White-eyed Vireo but the hoped for Hooded Oriole did not materialize. Heading to Smith Oaks will always produce birds – the rookery never disappoints! Great Egrets already has fuzzy nestlings while many other species were still in the courting stage. Neotropic Cormorants sat on nests and there were Snowy Egrets and Tricolored Herons around as well. Roseate Spoonbills did not yet seem to be on nests for the most part but Black-crowned Night-Heron was seen gathering nest material. A pair of Anhinga seemed ready to nest as well but only a single Western Cattle Egret was seen.

Moving away from the rookery is never easy but a search for migrants was in order. Carolina Wren and Brown Thrasher were seen along with lots of Yellow-rumped Warblers. Some of the birders located a Northern Parula but could not find a recently seen Louisiana Waterthrush. It seemed that songbird migration was quiet that afternoon, so the group soon went their separate ways. Still, it was a beautiful day to be out birding the upper Texas coast. And with thousands of shorebirds and wading birds to keep birders happy, we can wait on the song birds at Sabine Woods!

The following species were recorded by the trip leaders: Mottled Duck (3); Blue-winged Teal (14); Red-breasted Merganser (14); Pied-billed Grebe (1); Black-necked Stilt (20); American Avocet (800); Black-bellied Plover (6); Semipalmated Plover (2); Wilson's Plover (14); Snowy Plover (15);
Continued on page 7

Bird Sightings – March 2025

For this column, we review, looking for rare and very rare species, all credible eBird and other records reported to us from nearby Texas counties – 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: No space this month. Also, we have condensed some sightings to save a little space.

Local Counties

Purple Gallinule	Mar 26	JEF-TP (1) Carolyn and Mike Broussard
Great Kiskadee Ovenbird	Mar 22-31+	JEF-SW (1) mult obs thru Mar 29 JEF-SW (1) mult obs
Prairie Warbler	Mar 21	JAS-Boykin Springs (1) Nicole Koeltow
Baltimore Oriole Painted Bunting	Mar 24 thru Mar 31	JAS-SW of Jasper (1) Fred Lyons JEF-Nederland (1) HS

Nearby Counties

Com. Ground Dove	Mar 5-31+ Mar 29	HAS-Bear Creek Park (2) cont CHA-ANWR (1) Charlotte Chehot-sky, Melissa Weaver, Charles Lyon
Broad-tail Humm'bird	Mar 1-6	GAL-Dickinson (1) mult obs)
Buff-bellied Humm'bird	Mar 22-23	LIB-Liberty (1) Shellie Ellerbe, Colette and Paul Micallef
Lesser Nighthawk	Mar 26-28-	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) mult obs
Common Nighthawk	Mar 27-28	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) mult obs
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Mar 24	HAS-Buffalo Speedway at Bellfort (1) Leslie Goodman
Baird's Sandpiper	Mar 2	GAL-League City (1) Greg Whitaker
Parasitic Jaeger	Mar 3	GAL-HI beach (1) WE
Iceland Gull (Thayer's)	Mar 2	GAL-Texas City Dike (1) WE
Swallow-tailed Kite	Mar 3	CAL-se Lake Charles (1)
Harris's Hawk	Mar 1-8	CAM-w of Grand Chenier (1) cont
Broad-winged Hawk	Mar 1	CAL-Grand Chenier (1) cont
Chuck-will's Widow	Mar 21-23	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) mult obs
Burrowing Owl	Mar 25	CAL-Lionel Derouen Rd, Bell City (1) Randy Frederick
Purple Gallinule	Mar 23	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) mult obs
Parasitic Jaeger	Mar 21	GAL-Texas City Dike (1) Cin-Ty Lee
Little Gull	Mar 24-25	GAL-Rollover Pass (1) mult obs
Yellow-head Caracara	thru Mar 31+	GAL-FM3005 at 89th St and fishing pier area (1) mult obs, cont
Acadian Flycatcher	Mar 24	GAL-HI Eubanks Woods (1) WE
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Mar 25-26	HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) Don Fullmer, Kevin Ramirez
Great Kiskadee	Feb 28	CAM-Cameron Volunteer Lane (1) Kathy Rhodes
	Mar 1	GAL-w of Kemah (1) Geordie Eschenbach
	Mar 1-26	GAL-57-acre Park (1) cont
	Mar 31	CHA-Wallisville (1) Crystal Hendrick
Tropical Kingbird	Mar 1-3	GAL-Clear Creek ISD Education Village (1) cont
Amur Stonechat	thru Mar 31	CHA-ANWR East Unit (1) mut obs
Black-whiskered Vireo	Mar 30	HAS-Rice U (1) Aiden Moser
Cliff Swallow	Mar 2	HAS-George Bush Park (5) Letha Slaigle
Bewick's Wren	Mar 26	GAL-Galveston Is State Park (1) Joan Matlock
Swainson's Thrush	Mar 28	GAL-HI Boy Scout Woods (1) WE
Wood Thrush	Mar 21	GAL-HI Boy Scout Woods (1) WE
	Mar 21	GAL-Eubanks Woods (1) Theresa Kelly

Purple Finch	Mar 22	HAS-Deer Park Nature Preserve (1) Dale Wolck
Green-tailed Towhee	Mar 1	CAM-CR343/Jimmy Savoie Rd (1) mult obs
Spotted Towhee	Mar 28	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) WE, Loch Kilpatrick, Glenn Walbek
Yellow-head Blackbird	Mar 27-28	GAL-Jamaica Beach (1) mult obs
Western Meadowlark	Mar 6	HAS-Weekley Park (1) Margaret Farese
Hooded Oriole	Mar 21	GAL- HI Boy Scout Woods (1) Theresa Kelly, WE, mult obs
Lesser Goldfinch	Mar 21	HAS-Hyde Park (1) John Duboise
Tennessee Warbler	Mar 3	HAS-Mitchell Nature Preserve. (1) Mary Landauer
Cape May Warbler	Mar 30	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) James Smithers
	Mar 29-31	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) mult obs
Black-thr Gray Warbler	--Mar 2	HAS-Hermann Park (1) cont
Western Tanager	Mar 1	HAS-Pine Brook Wetlands (1) Wen Li
Black-head Grosbeak	Mar 1-3	GAL HI 5th St (1) cont
Painted Bunting	Mar 1-2	HAS-Lee rd n of FM1960 (1) Eliseo Rojas,
	Mar 6	HAS-Green Trails Village (1) Kevin Smith
Dickcissel	Mar 1	GAL-Texas City Dike (2) Bradley Ober
	Mar 1	GAL-Settegast Rd (1) Robt Becker

Abbreviations used: ANG – Angelina County; ANWR – Anahuac NWR; (Jocelyn Nungaray NWR); CAL – Calcasieu Parish; CAM – Cameron Parish; CHA – Chambers County; GAL – Galveston County; HAI – Hardin County; HAS – Harris County; HI – High Island; HS – Harlan Stewart; JAS – Jasper County; JAW – John Whittle; JEF – Jefferson County; LIB – Liberty County; NEW – Newton County; ORA – Orange County; PI – Pleasure Is, Port Arthur; SAA – San Augustine Co.; SAB – Sabine County; SM – Steve Mayes, SRSP - Sea Rim State Park; SW – Sabine Woods; TP – Tyrrell Park including Cattail Marsh; TYL – Tyler County; WE – Wyatt Egelhoff; WJC – West Jefferson County.

Bolivar Flats (continued from page 6)

Piping Plover (30); Long-billed Curlew (2); Marbled Godwit (6); Short-billed/Long-billed Dowitcher (200); Willet (12); Lesser Yellowlegs (1); Ruddy Turnstone(4); Sanderling (125); Dunlin (60); Least Sandpiper (150); Western Sandpiper (25); Semipalmated Sandpiper (2); Laughing Gull (3); Ring-billed Gull (15); American Herring Gull (3); Gull-billed Tern (2); Caspian Tern (3); Forster's Tern (35); Sandwich Tern (15); Royal Tern (70); Least Tern (35); Double-crested Cormorant (2); Neotropic Cormorant (12); Great Blue Heron (3); Great Egret (100+); Snowy Egret (50); Little Blue Heron (5); Tricolored Heron (30); Western Cattle Egret (1); Black-crowned Night-Heron (2); Reddish Egret (1); Roseate Spoonbill (100+); Anhinga (2); American White Pelican (19); Brown Pelican (25); Black Vulture (2); Turkey Vulture (5); Osprey (3); White-tailed Kite (2); Northern Harrier (1); Common Gallinule (1); American Coot (3); Mourning Dove (1); Belted Kingfisher (1); Downy Woodpecker (2); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (1); White-eyed Vireo (3); Blue Jay (2); Purple Martin (2); Tree Swallow (20); Barn Swallow (6); Carolina Wren (1); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (1); Gray Catbird (2); Brown Thrasher (1); Horned Lark (2); Northern Parula (1); Yellow-rumped Warbler (30); Savannah Sparrow (1); Northern Cardinal (4); Red-winged Blackbird (20); Eastern Meadowlark (3); Boat-tailed Grackle (30); Great-tailed Grackle (4);

Golden Triangle Audubon Society
P. O. Box 1292
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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.

Many rare bird sightings in Texas are posted on Facebook Texbirds or on the TEXBIRDS listserv. Archives of the listserv are at www.freelists.org/archive/texbirds. It is not necessary to subscribe 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.