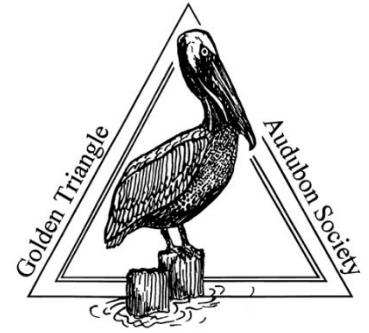


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 30 No 9

September 2024

Membership Meeting
Thursday September 19 , 2024 7:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Dania Sanchez and Greg Reynolds
From East to West Texas

Dania Sanchez started working on television media production at the age of 16, her first job was at a Rio Grande Valley school district television channel where she developed an interest in audio, video and technology. She has lived in Mexico, Spain and Texas. Her educational and professional background in Music, Information/Industrial Technology, Audio Engineering and Visual Production provides us a deeper look at nature and wildlife through her lens and technological perspective. This is what brought her to her current role as a freelance wildlife photographer, birdwatcher and Vice President of Golden Triangle Audubon Society. She is also a member of Texas Ornithological Society and the National Audubon Society. This 2024 Dania and Greg set a personal goal of observing and documenting 500 bird species in Texas. Without venturing to West Texas it would be impossible to reach their goal. Together they will be sharing with us a photo storytelling journal of birds, where you can find them and some advice on how you can get the most birds on your travels.

Gregory Reynolds was born in Houston, Texas. Not long after, his father's profession gave him and Greg an opportunity to travel all over the United States. This developed Greg's love for travel and nature at an early age. Greg moved back to the Houston area in 2013. On the opposite side of Houston his now fiancé Dania Sanchez had moved from Corpus Christi and years later they made South East Texas their permanent home. Greg profession is in the Natural Gas industry, but his skills do not stop there. He is an avid photographer and passionate about the outdoors. After Covid restrictions were lifted Dania and Greg researched outdoor/volunteering activities in their community and discovered the local organization Golden Triangle Audubon Society and the dedicated members who took them under their wings. To say the least their lives changed and their interest in feathered friends began.

We plan to have the doors open at 6:00 p.m., Port Arthur Convention and Visitors Bureau is providing the refreshments for this meeting. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

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Issue number 308

Golden Triangle
Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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The Brown Pelican is published monthly except July by the Golden Triangle Audubon Society, P. O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292
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Calendar of Events

Important Note: Field Trip notices published here are subject to last minute changes. Changes will always be posted on the web site at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org.

Thursday September 19, 2024. Membership Meeting. Details on page 1 and on the web site.

Saturday September 21, 2024. Jefferson County Fall Migration Count. Contact John Whittle at gtaudubon@aol.com for details or to volunteer to help. Several of our regular participants are unable to help this year, and therefore we have several areas not covered so far.

Saturday September 28, 2024. Field Trip to Smith Point Hawkwatch.

Note that again this month, our Field Trip will not be on the Saturday immediately following the Membership Meeting but one week later than that so as to be nearer the date when Broad-winged Hawk migration has peaked in recent years.

To reach the Smith Point Hawkwatch site from Winnie, take Highway 124 south towards High Island. After 12 miles, turn right on FM1985 and follow it about 14 1/2 miles until it meets FM562. Follow FM562 14 miles to Smith Point. Continue straight until almost reaching the bay, and turn left, bearing left again to the parking area next to the Hawkwatch Tower on the Candy Abshier Wildlife Management Area. It takes at least 90 minutes from the Golden Triangle to reach the site, more if you stop to bird. This Field Trip is much more a come and go as you wish trip, and help on hawk identification is always available on the tower during Hawk Watch season!

Our leaders will be there from about 8:30 a.m. on September 28. Hopefully, this will be close to a peak in this year's Broad-winged Hawk migration, but there will always be some hawks. Any day from mid-September through mid or late October should produce a good number of migrating hawks.

Our leaders may lead a group into the nearby woods looking for migrants, but you may stay on the tower if you wish. Mosquitoes are not normally a problem on the tower. Availability of food and fuel is essentially non-existent in Smith Point, so bring your lunch!

The Smith Point Hawk Watch tower is staffed by Gulf Coast Bird Observatory in cooperation with Hawk Watch International from August 15 through November 30 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Historically, the peak of Broad-wing Hawk migration was September 25, although in recent years at Smith Point, it has tended to be later and less uniform, and sometimes large numbers of Broad-wings have passed through in the first few days of October. Should a cold front pass through, the one or two days immediately following usually have a north wind, and more migrating hawks of all species on those days.

Previous years' results are at <http://hawkcount.org>, so you can do your own analysis! The exact peak day probably depends more on the weather on the migration path from Pennsylvania down to east Texas, and particularly on the two or three days prior. However, predicting is very difficult as there are relatively few Hawk Watches between Pennsylvania and Texas to let us know where the *en route* hawks are. Almost all migratory hawks come from areas north of Pennsylvania. Broad-wings breed over almost all of the eastern half of the United States, including the Golden Triangle and the southern tier of Canada, even as far west as British Columbia.

Accipiters, especially Sharp-shinned Hawks, tend to pass over Smith Point

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.

early in the morning, often concentrated in the 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. time period, while the Broad-winged Hawks tend to come later in the morning, rarely before 10:00 a.m.

For more information, contact our Field Trip Chair Steve Mayes (gtaudubon@aol.com).

Saturday October 5, 2024. Sabine Woods Work Day. (Tentative date). We plan to do our usual fall routine maintenance. We will be there from about 7:30 a.m. Normally, we work until about noon. We plan to do our usual fall routine maintenance. We will be there from about 7:30 a.m. Normally, we work until about noon. We will supply cold water and soft drinks and hope to be able to provide sandwiches for lunch.

Thursday October 17, 2024. Membership Meeting. Dr. Amanda Adams of Bat Conservational International.

Saturday October 19, 2024. Field Trip to Sabine Woods. Leader Steve Mayes. Meet at Sabine Woods, which is 4.1 miles west of Sabine Pass on the north side of Highway 87 at 7:30 a.m. or join

the trip in progress in the woods later. Waterproof footwear will probably be a good idea, especially if it is at all wet from previous rain or just heavy early morning dew. Bring mosquito repellent just in case. There are few services available on weekends in Sabine Pass, and no gasoline is available.

October 19 is towards the end of fall songbird migration, but often brings a good variety of birds. A cold front may drive down the last of the warblers and the first big push of wintering birds. Some of our winter birds may be arriving, and often the woodland species that winter in the Big Thicket overshoot a little at first. In some past years, this has included Red-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper. There are always interesting birds at Sabine Woods! Birding Sabine Woods is relatively easy walking.

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. Dues paid in September will cover through the end of 2025.

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 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.

We would very much encourage you 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.

28th Annual Great Texas Birding Classic Results

The Great Texas Birding Classic is the biggest and longest birdwatching tournament. This event coincides with spring migration with teams choosing a date between April 15 and May 15. Registration fees raise money for Texas bird conservation project grants. Texas is divided into 9 regions with 14 categories to participate in. GTAS is located and participated in the Upper Texas Coast region. This year GTAS members participated in two categories of the Great Texas Birding Classic. The Big Sit, team Visit Beaumont, TX sponsored by Beaumont Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the State Park, team Sea Rim Sandies sponsored by Port Author Convention & Visitors Bureau. The Big Sit team placed 7th out of 17 teams with a total of 75 species. The State Park team placed 3rd out of 14 teams with a total of 105 species. The Big Sit selects a 50-foot diameter circle from which to bird up to 24 hours within a single day. This team consists of one or more participants with birds being identified by at least one team member. The State Park division all birds must be seen or heard from within the park's official boundaries. This team consist of three to five participants. Ninety-five percent of all birds recorded by a team must be identified by the entire team. The remaining five percent may be identified by two or more participants. There is a tournament category for everyone from beginning birders to completeive. Looking forward to next year!

Feral Hogs and Alligators

Paul Gregg has drawn our attention to research on feral hogs conducted at the J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area in Port Arthur by researchers with the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Science, Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management They have been have been studying American alligator nests using game cameras to document instances where hogs have preyed on nests. Feral hogs are also predators and are large animals, much heavier than alligators. However, out of water, they are relatively ungainly, although they can run quite fast over short distances on land. They use their powerful jaws to consume prey, which can be, and at Sabine Woods often is large bull frogs and turtles, as well as any other animal that lingers along the edge of a body of water.

In the A&M study, biologists observed nests via game cameras and attached GPS transmitters to breeding-size male and female alligators to monitor their movement and habitat usage. Of the 28 active alligator nests monitored, roughly half were predated by feral hogs. A 2012 survey in Louisiana found that more than half of Louisiana alligator farmers reported v losing nests to feral hogs in 2011.

Back in the mid-1960s, alligators were listed as endangered due to hunting pressure and habitat loss. The species has recovered in the two decades following the designation. Currently, alligator populations in Texas are estimated between 400,000 and 500,000.

Golden Triangle Audubon helps Orange create a Nature Park

Levingston Park, in Orange, is a 17-acre natural park located on the east bank of Adams Bayou, less than a mile south of the city's historic district and just west of the shipyards. Although somewhat dated, Levingston is an active neighborhood park with a children's playground, off-street parking and an irregular streamside trail. The Orange City Department of Public Works plans a makeover for the park following a new wastewater pipeline to be installed across the park. Golden Triangle Polymers seeks to install the pipeline in cooperation with the city and intends to restore the construction area to a natural habitat. The city agrees to allow GT Polymers access to lay the pipe with the condition the landscape be restored and replanted as a nature park.

Last year, Golden Triangle Polymers Company announced it will build a facility in Orange in a joint venture with Chevron-Phillips Chemical and QatarEnergy. Before construction, Orange City engaged a group of citizens in the planning process to help draft a management plan for the park's renovation. The group includes leading representation from Lamar University's Center for Resilience, with Big Thicket Biosphere Reserve, GTAS, Texas Master Naturalists, Texas Master Gardeners, Texas A&M Agri-life Extension Service, individual citizens and the Orange Parks Department. The committee recommends that improvements focus on nature and wildlife viewing as the park is a green bridge between the bayou and nearby urban development. Levingston Park is a migratory and resident birding hotspot (142 species listed for the eBird hotspot) and also the Texas Historical Site of the Levingston homestead, the family who developed the Orange Levingston Shipbuilding Company. Proposed amenities for the makeover include bird blinds and benches, bird houses or nesting boxes, improved walking trails, a pollinator garden, a canoe launch, and perhaps, a fishing pier. There are also plans are to gravel the parking area and make the access to the trails ADA compliant. Ultimately restrooms and information kiosks are also planned for the park. Improvement of the pipeline footprint includes planting native grasses and wildflowers which will give the landscape a decidedly Texas look. The park's border is lined with yaupon and bald cypress trees providing a rich setting for wildlife on the bayou's oxbow channels. Plans are to clear away the invasive plants like the mimosa and tallow trees and remove the overgrown vines of greenbrier and peppervine. The resulting landscape should provide a better vista for bird watchers, and those who want to observe the scene along the banks. A pavilion in the back of the park will be restored for public gatherings and community educational outreach.

The Levingston Park project offers a large green space within the city limits. It's a rare occasion to have such an expanse with significant wildlife and recreational potential as found here. Also, conserving the floodplain to capture surface runoff, replenish groundwater, and store floodwater for its slow release are added benefits of the project.

A firm construction schedule is not available at this point.

Mary Bernard, Marily Guidry, Sue Benson and Gary Kelley

Hawk Watches

Hawk watches are so interesting. We can all learn about the migration of hawks through going to them and by looking at the numbers of hawks seen daily. Hawkcount.org is an excellent way to see the numbers of hawks in several locations that were seen on a specific day. I found that this site is also part of HMANA which stands for Hawk Migration Association of North America. There are 200 hawk count sites in the USA. John and I have been to four of them. Corpus, Smith Point, Florida Keys, and Anza-Borrego Spring hawk watch. We have also been to one in Central America in Panama. If I was younger, that would be one of my goals to go to as many as possible. They are all so very unique. We met a man from Pennsylvania last year in Corpus that has gone to lots and lots of them.

In Texas we have two hawk watches to go to. One of them is a little over an hour's drive from mid-county. It is the Smith Point Hawk Watch. Bob Baez is the official paid hawk counter and he has several dedicated volunteers to help him. He is there Wednesday to Monday and has Tuesday as his day off. He is a wonderful counter and such a very nice person. If you decide to go, enjoy the day and there are other places to bird on the way there and in Smith Point too. The hours of this hawk watch are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. You are welcome to come early or late, but the official counter will not be there outside these hours.

Note, however, that this Hawkwatch site is somewhat remote. There is no gasoline for sale in Smith Point, and there are no stores or restaurants, so come prepared. Gulf Coast Birding Observatory sponsors this hawk count. It has been operated each fall for 28 years. To get to the Smith Point Hawk Watch Tower at Candy Abshier WMA, take I-10 to the Texas Hwy 61 exit. Turn south (right) on Hwy 61. In a few miles it changes number to FM 562 and continues south to Smith Point. At the intersection with FM 1985, which branches left at a Y intersection, continue right to Smith Point. (FM1985 can also be reached from Texas 124 south of Winnie). Once in Smith Point continue on 562 until you pass Hawkins Camp Road on the right. Turn left at the next intersection and proceed to the parking lot for the tower.

The largest number of Broad-winged Hawks pass through between the middle of September and the end of that month or increasingly, the first few days of October, but there are raptors, albeit mostly of other species, and in smaller numbers, from late August through the first few days of November.

Corpus Christi Hawk Watch is located inside Hazel Bazemore County Park. This hawk watch counts the most species of hawks migrating in North America. They have several paid official hawk counters and have lots of other feeders up around the very large platform. Last year we sat next to three birders who came from Pennsylvania for a week to be a part of it. This hawk watch is a four-and-a-half- hour drive from mid-county. There are several hotels within a few miles of it. They are there from 9:00 until around 5:00. You are welcome to come early or late but the official hawk counters will not be there.

Jana Whittle

Field Trip to Bolivar Flats – 24 August 2024

It was just about as pleasant a day as could be asked for in August in Southeast Texas, not too hot, a little breeze and plenty of birds around! That was the beginning of the Golden Triangle Audubon's August field trip to Bolivar Flats (and nearby areas). Bolivar Flats is a good bet for birding at any time of year but in August, it is an especially good trip. It is always a bit cooler than inland areas, there are few (if any) bugs and there are always lots of birds! Shorebirds, gulls and other coastal loving species make Bolivar Flats a bird paradise and one of the premier birding spots anywhere. Golden Triangle birders are fortunate to have it so close that the group usually does two field trips there every year!

One of the first species seen was also one of the best - two Magnificent Frigatebirds were seen floating over the beach! These birds are more common in tropical waters but many spend the summer around Galveston Bay. Frigatebirds are harder to find in Jefferson County but are usually easy to find at Bolivar in the summer and can sometimes be found in large numbers at places like Smith Point. Frigatebirds feed almost exclusively by stealing food from other birds like gulls and terns. Despite living exclusively around the water, they do not have the oils that waterproof feathers so they cannot dive in the water for food. It must be picked right from the surface or (more commonly) stolen from other birds. Frigatebirds are fantastic aerialists and can outfly most other birds so they will chase around a gull or tern and harass them until they drop or disgorge their hard-earned meal. Maybe not pleasant but a bird has to make a living somehow!

Moving out on the beach, Sanderlings were ever present along the waterline and Willets were spotted here and there. Some Willets showed off their bold black and white wing patterns that contrasts with their duller overall plumage. Laughing Gulls were fairly common as they are the most abundant summer gull in the area. Brown Pelicans dove off shore and loafed on the shore in numbers. This was good to see as it was no so long ago that this species was all but extirpated from Texas beaches. A squad of Ruddy Turnstones worked the beach near the parking area. This is one of the most colorful of our shorebirds so it is lucky that are usually not hard to find in this area. It is also one of the easiest shorebirds to identify so that is also appreciated!

There may be no better place to see North American plovers than Bolivar Flats. Not only are several species found here but there are often in good numbers and close to each other to allow for easy comparison between species that may be sometimes confused. Wilson's Plovers were the first spotted and are the only small plover species that regularly nests on the upper Texas coast beaches. It appears to have been a good nesting year because there were plenty of Wilson's Plovers visible at Bolivar Flats on this day. A little larger than the other small plovers with a dark back, dull, pinkish legs and a large bill, Wilson's stand out and are usually easy to identify. Piping Plover was found next and there were plenty of these around as well. Smaller and much paler than the Wilson's, Piping has a small bill and orange to sometimes yellowish legs. At least one Piping that was spotted with colorful bands around its legs – part of a banding program done on nesting grounds in the northern great plains of the U.S. and Canada. Another small, paler plover is the Snowy Plover which was also located. With duller legs and a longer thinner bill than Piping, they can usually be easily separated with a good look. Semipalmated Plover proved a bit harder to find initially but were found further down the beach in some numbers. Semipalmated are shaped much like Piping but are much darker colored on the back and wings. It still has the small stubby bill and orange/yellow legs however but can always be separated by the darker coloration. Larger Black-bellied Plovers were also seen on the trip. These birds are significantly larger than even Wilson's Plover and can be found on the upper Texas coast at any time of year. On this trip, some birds were still in their eye-catching breeding plumage with the bold black undersides that give them their U.S. names. In the UK, they are called Grey Plover as they are mostly seen there in their duller winter plumage. Even in that plumage, they can be identified by their black axillaries (wing-pits) seen in flight. There were no American Golden-Plovers on the beach as were seen on the spring Bolivar trip but the group did see a Killdeer to add to the plover haul!

Larger shorebirds were also part of the trip. The area's largest shorebird, the Long-billed Curlew, was seen by the birders. With a long, decurved bill, large size and cinnamon coloration, this bird is hard to mistake. The Marbled Godwit has a similar coloration and is also pretty large but it has a long bill that is

straight to slightly upward curved so it is easy to tell apart from the curlew. The two species generally occupy slightly different habitats as well with the curlew preferring the mud and grassy areas and the godwits wading in the water.

Gulls and terns are always present on the flats and this trip was no exception. In addition to the usual Laughing Gulls there were a couple of Ring-billed Gulls along with the much larger Herring Gulls. Tiny Least Terns loafed on the beach and flew around overhead. A few Black Terns, now in the duller winter plumage were also located after a bit of searching. Large Royal Terns were numerous as is the normally the case here and the even larger Caspian Tern was also easily located. Some searching eventually turned up Sandwich Tern as well as Forster's Tern. A few Black Skimmers were seen near the waterline far down the beach but did not provide close looks. On the way out of the flats a couple of Lesse Black-backed Gulls were also identified. Less common than some of the other gulls, they are nonetheless seen often at this location and most of the group got a look.

A few other birds were also seen on the day at the flats. Reddish Egrets were well studied by the group. Both dark morph and white morph Reddish Egrets were well seen along with at least one immature bird still in the grayish plumage seen only at this young age. Great Blue and Tricolored Herons were spotted here and there mostly in flight. A smaller Green Heron was seen by some and most of the birders got a look at Roseate Spoonbill flying by. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron stalked on the beach providing photo opportunities. Barn Swallows zipped by searching for insects while a single Osprey soared overhead on the lookout for fish. No Horned Larks showed themselves on this day despite Bolivar Flats being the best location in the area for this species. But eventually, the weather on the beach started to turn and the birders headed for their vehicles.

After a lunch stop at the Big Store in Crystal Beach, the birders moved on to the last birding location of the day, Smith Oaks. A Houston Audubon sanctuary like Bolivar Flats, this is a great area for migrating land birds and it also features a spectacular canopy walk and an active rookery filled with egrets and spoonbills. The rookery did not disappoint. Though many species were already through with their nesting, there were plenty of birds still there. Mostly Cattle Egrets and Neotropic Cormorants were nesting but Snowy Egret and Little Blue Heron were also located. Anhinga was seen flying overhead and a

young Purple Gallinule worked the aquatic vegetation of the rookery pond. Both Mississippi Kite and Broad-winged Hawk were spotted passing overhead. These species are local nesters but likely preparing to head to South America for the winter very soon. A highlight of the trip was a few Wood Storks roosting near the other wading birds and occasionally flying between roosts. This is an increasingly common summer bird in southeast Texas but not always easy to see closeup. Some diligent hunting also produced woodland migrants though they were not common on the day. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen and heard and a White-eyed Vireo was mostly just heard. Yellow-throated and Canada Warbler were eventually located but they were not easy! Finally calling it a day, the birders added both Eastern and Western Kingbird on a wire on the way out of the sanctuary – a nice way to end the day!

Bolivar and High Island are always good choices as birding destinations and the day proved that again. With lots of shorebirds, gulls and other specialties at Bolivar Flats and nesting egrets and migrating warblers in High Island, the combination is hard to beat. Which is why the Golden Triangle Audubon Society will likely do this trip all over again next year!

The following species were located by the group leaders:

Mourning Dove (1); Common Nighthawk (1); Black-bellied Plover (8); Semipalmated Plover (7); Piping Plover (26); Wilson's Plover (30); Snowy Plover (10); Long-billed Curlew (1); Marbled Godwit (26); Long-billed/Short-billed Dowitcher (5); Willet (20); Ruddy Turnstone (16); Sanderling (65); Laughing Gull (25); Ring-billed Gull (1); Herring Gull (2); Lesser Black-billed Gull (2); Black Skimmer (2); Least Tern (6); Caspian Tern (6); Black Tern (7); Forster's Tern (1); Sandwich Tern (3); Royal Tern (55); Magnificent Frigatebird (2); Common Gallinule (2); Purple Gallinule (1); Wood Stork (7); Brown Pelican (88); Anhinga (1); Neotropic Cormorant (); Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (1); Little Blue Heron (1); Tricolored Heron (7); Reddish Egret (8); Green Heron (1); Great Blue Heron (2); Snowy Egret (2); Western Cattle Egret (100); Great Egret (1); White Ibis (1); Roseate Spoonbill (3); Black Vulture (7); Turkey Vulture (5); Osprey (1); Mississippi Kite (1); Broad-winged Hawk (1); Olive-sided Flycatcher (1); Great Crested Flycatcher (1); Western Kingbird (1); Eastern Kingbird (2); White-eyed Vireo (1); Blue Jay (2); Barn Swallow (14); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (2); Carolina Wren (3); Yellow-throated Warbler (1); Canada Warbler (1); Red-winged Blackbird (5); Great-tailed Grackle (3); Northern Cardinal (3)

Steve Mayes

Bird Sightings – August 2024

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: This August’s listing is one of the shortest in recent times. The month, especially the second half was dominated by a hot dry spell, followed by a very wet last week of the month. This combination seems to have kept birders

indoors! The fall birding season was beginning to take over in the last few days of the month.

Among the species reported, a long staying Snow Goose in Pasadena was likely a bird that never proceeded north this spring, although it is not obvious if it had a physical problem. A few “early” fall warblers is normal, likely birds whose breeding attempts failed. Black-whiskered Vireos have been unusually numerous over the last six months or so.

The eBird Alerts from which we compile the sightings each month are derived from "raw" submissions that mostly have not been reviewed by the eBird reviewer(s) for the county in question. We do ourselves review any details that are provided with the sighting and try to keep up with any withdrawals of identifications. However, in the last few days of each month, there is not enough time for any "outside" review to have taken place and been acted on. While we also omit any sightings of very rare species reported without any details, we prefer to err on the side of including rather than excluding reports of unusual species..

Local Counties (listed above)

Green-winged Teal	Aug 9	JEF-TP HS
Black-billed Cuckoo	Aug 13	JEF-Texas Pt NWR (1) Jonathan Breaux
Wilson's Snipe	Aug 9	JEF-TP (1) HS
American Redstart	Aug 11-24	JEF-SW (1) Howard Davis, Jonathan. Breaux, mult obs
Warbling Vireo	Aug 23-24	JEF-SW(1) Dania Sanchez, Greg Reynolds
Worm-eating Warbler	Aug 20-24	JEF-SW (1) Dania Sanchez mult obs
Yellow Warbler-	Aug 3	JEF-SW (1) SM
Black-thr. Green Warbler	Aug 20	JEF-SW (1) Danis Sanchez

Nearby Counties

Snow Goose	Aug 24-31	HAS-Bliss Meadows Park Pasadena (1) Dale Wolck, Richard Rulander, mult obs
Cinnamon Teal	Aug 31	CHA-ANWR Shoveler Pond (1) Nick Varvel
American Flamingo	Aug 20	GAL-over surface (2) Brenda Gonzales
Upland Sandpiper	Aug 3	GAL-HI WE
Black-chinned Himm'gbird	Aug 24	GAL-Stevenson Woods (1) Dean Silvers
	Aug 29	GAL-HI Boy Scout Woods (1) WE
Masked Booby	Aug 4	GAL-Gulf 288C Rig (2) mult obs
California Gull	Aug 16	GAL-Texas City Dike (1) Dean Silvers
	Aug 20	GAL-Texas City Dike (10) Robert Rogilio
American Bittern	Aug 7	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) WE
American Kestrel	Aug 24	CAL-Corbina Rd (1) James Smithers
Peregrine Falcon	Aug 7	HAS-IH10 Cinco Ranch (1) Kevin Smith
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Aug 3	GAL-HI Smith Oaks WE
Alder Flycatcher	Aug 8	HAS- Bear Creek Park (2) Cin- Ty Lee, mult obs

Great Kiskadee	Aug 3,12	GAL-57-Acre Park (1) Lisa Hardcastle, Brian Anderson
	Aug 15-16	CAL-Choupique Rd(1) Deanna and Gordon Griggs
Couch's Kingbird	Aug 3	HAS-Peckam Park (1) Margaret Farese
	Aug 28-29	HAS-Pine Forest CC,(1) Tomothy White
Bell's Vireo	Aug 20	HAS-Houston Arboretum (1) Khloris Wren, Claude Durand
Warbling Vireo	Aug 17	HAS-Houston Arboretum (1) Ning Ren
Black-whiskered Vireo	Aug 17-27	HAS-Houston Arboretum (1) Ning Ren, mult obs
American Goldfinch	Aug 28	HAS-Kleb Woods (1) Sarah and Michael Kuzio
Blackburnian Warbler	Aug 30	HAS-Houston Arboretum (1) Khloris Wren
Worm-eating Warbler	Aug 13	HAS-Houston Arboretum (1) Khors Minthe
Cerulean Warbler	Aug 31	CAM-Willow Island (1) Michele Giroir, Lawrtence Datnoff
Black-thr.Green Warbler	Aug 4	LIB-Micallef Woods (910) Collette Micallef
Wilson's Warbler	Aug 18	HAS-Arch. Fiorenza Park(1) Kristie Tobin
	Aug 23	HAS-Houston Arboretum (1) Drew Dickert

Abbreviations used: ANG – Angelina County; ANWR – Anahuac 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; JHH – John Haynes; 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.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Form

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

Name: _____

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Golden Triangle Audubon C4ZW250Z

Brown Pelican SUBSCRIPTION/ MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mail to Golden Triangle Audubon Society (GTAS), P. O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292 or bring to any Membership Meeting. National Audubon Society (NAS) members with addresses within our official territory are automatically GTAS members without further payment, but are asked to contribute \$20 if they are able since we only receive a very small amount from NAS after the first year.

Subscriptions from NAS Members with mailing addresses outside our official territory, and others wishing to subscribe are \$20 per year (Jan-Dec).

Name: _____

Address: _____

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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.