

GCA's Texas City Facilities are proud to have been a part of the 36th annual Christmas Bird Count.



A group of 10 avid birders visited our sites to count birds in the Galveston area. Birders were from all walks: a gas trader, Audubon Society Executive Director, SCENIC GALVESTON board members and friends, an NRG Energy employee, TCEQ Galveston Bay Estuary Program folks and more. Overall this year's count netted 167 different species – 55 of which were found on the GCA facilities.

Two species found: Stilt Sandpiper and Wilson's Phalarope, are uncommon winter finds seen during this count only by birders at GCA. One species, Great Kiskadee is a South Texas species very rare for this area, but which appears to be attempting to nest and winter at GCA.



Wilson's Phalarope



Stilt Sandpiper



Sandhill Crane



American Pipit



Great Kiskadee

There are also 13 Sandhill Cranes and many American Pipit that are wintering with us this year.

The counts, designed to eliminate spring and fall migrants, assess the true wintering birds for the purpose of ascertaining populations of North American species.

These numbers help designate various species as endangered, threatened, species of special concern or the many which have no special status.