

# South Texas Birding & Nature | Species List

## February 15 – 23, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by Bryan Calk with guide Michael Marsden and participants Phillip, Linda, Stacey, Elaine, Elizabeth, Tim, Charles, Carolyn, Maureen, and James



Reddish Egret by Bryan Calk

**Summary:** A lovely group of nature enthusiasts came together to share a spectacular week of birding the coastal prairies, complex wetlands, brush country and subtropical thornscrub of south Texas. Early in the week we spent most of our time along the coastlines tracking down water-loving species like Whooping Cranes, nineteen species of waterfowl, twenty-two species of shorebirds, and even a few dolphins. The second half of the week we moved more inland where we were greeted by the iconic south Texas specialty birds everyone comes here to see like Green Jays, Great Kiskadees, White-tipped Doves, Black-crested Titmice, and so many more.

This species report Ebird link below details the 174 species of birds our group either observed or heard during the tour. If you're new to Ebird, be sure to click on "Show All Details" on the right side of the list as this will expand the report to show you where and when all of the birds were seen and how many. Species list with location details can be found here:

[South Texas Birding & Nature February 15 – 23, 2023 | eBird Trip Report](#)

### **MAMMALS (11 species recorded):**

**Coyote** *Canis latrans*— one along the trail at Sabal Palm Sanctuary

**Eastern Cottontail** *Sylvilagus sp.*— Seen at a few locations during the week including Hazel Bazemore, Laguna Atascosa, and Estero Llano Grande SP

**Mexican Ground Squirrel** *Ictidomys mexicanus* – One at the feeding area at Rancho Lomitas

**Eastern Fox Squirrel** *Sciurus niger*— Seen at Estero Llano Grande State Park and at the National Butterfly Center/Bentsen RGV State Park

**Brown Rat** *Rattus norvegicus* – One at the Laguna Atascosa NWR headquarters area

**Evening Bat** *Nycticeius humeralis* – One roosted in the eaves of a wetland blind at Santa Ana NWR

**Collared Peccary** *Tayassu tajacu*— Seen at Hazel Bazemore drinking from the bird bath below the hawk watch platform

**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus*— Several seen well in the Rockport Area

**Bottlenose Dolphin** *Tursiops truncatus*— Seen from the ferry to Port Aransas

**Nine-banded Armadillo** *Dasyopus novemcinctus*—Seen foraging along the entrance road to Laguna Atascosa NWR  
**Nilgai** *Boselaphus tragocamelus*—One seen standing on the side of the entrance road to Sabal Palm Sanctuary

**REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (7 species recorded):**

**American Alligator** *Alligator mississippiensis*— At Estero Llano Grande State Park one large one basking and a few smaller individuals at Alligator Lake

**Red-eared Slider** *Trachemys scripta*— A few seen at the Port A. Birding Center, the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center, and at the river at Salineño

**Texas Spiny Softshell** *Apalone spinifera emoryi*— Seen sunning at Lola's Bistro

**Rose-bellied Lizard** *Sceloporus variabilis* – A couple on the paths at Santa Ana NWR

**Blue Spiny Lizard** *Sceloporus cyanogenys* – Sunning along the walls at Bentsen RGV State Park

**Texas Spiny Lizard** *Sceloporus olivaceus* – Seen at the National Butterfly Center