

South Texas Birding and Nature Tour Species List | February 12 – 20, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Troy Corman with guide Sharon Goldwasser and 9 wonderful participants that included Carol, Carolyn, Jennifer, Marsha, Patty, Freddie, Alex, Mary Lynn & Jay.

Summary: An entertaining and diverse group of nature enthusiasts came together from different regions of the U.S. to share a week of birding the coastal prairies, bays, various wetlands, brush country and subtropical thornscrub of south Texas. Strong winds and much colder than expected temperatures challenged us most days by limiting our time outside, but we persevered with some altered daily plans. As a group, we managed to see a respectable 180 bird species. Early in the week we spent most of our time along the coastlines tracking down water-loving species like Whooping Cranes, numerous species of waterfowl and shorebirds, and even a few dolphins. A coastal prairie highlight was an Aplomado Falcon. The second half of the week we moved south and more inland where we were greeted by the iconic and colorful south Texas specialties everyone hopes to see like Green Jays, Great Kiskadees, Altamira and Audubon's Orioles, Ringed Kingfishers, and so many more.

This species report eBird link below details the 180 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.

[South Texas Birding and Nature Tour | February 12 – 20, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

The following is a list of additional mammal and reptile species we observed during the trip. The lizards and amphibians apparently remained under cover with the cold and often windy weather that we encountered much of the tour.

MAMMALS (10):

Nine-banded Armadillo *Dasypus novemcinctus*—One close encounter (twice) while walking at Resaca de la Palma SP.

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*—Noted several in the Big Tree area one morning near Lamar.

Northern Raccoon *Procyon lotor*—One was observed by some at the Estero Llano Grande SP.

Collared Peccary (Javelina) *Pecari tajacu*—Some observed a small group as we drove into Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP.

Bottlenosed Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*—We noted a few while waiting for the Port Aransas Ferry.

Virginia Opossum *Didelphis virginiana*—Unfortunately, the only ones that we encountered were DOR (dead on road).

Coyote *Canis latrans*—Noted one briefly in a field while traveling south to the Valley.

Eastern Cottontail *Sylvilagus floridanus*—A few were seen while in the Valley.

Eastern Fox Squirrel *Sciurus niger*—Several encountered at the UTRGV Campus and the Santa Anna NWR feeders.

Rio Grande Ground Squirrel *Ictidomys parvidens*—We noted a few in the campground at Falcon SP.

REPTILES (5):

American Alligator *Alligator mississippiensis*—Observed a several younger individuals of this Iconic beast at Laguna Atascosa NWR.

Western Diamondback Rattlesnake *Crotalus atrox*—We discovered a massive, sleeping individual while walking the trails at Ranch Lomitas.

Rio Grande Cooter *Pseudemys gorzugi*—Numerous individuals sunbathing along the Rio Grande at Salineno.

Red-eared Slider *Trachemys scripta* —Many were at various ponds we visited.

Texas Spiny Softshell *Apalone spinifera emoryi*—Several noted along the Rio Grande River at Santa Ana NWR and Salineno.