

South Texas Birding and Nature Species List | November 10-18, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Bryan Calk with co-guide Vernie Aikins. Our clients included Gary, Ann, Sherry, Adele, Taylor, Tina, Janet, Charlotte, Val, Sarah, and Lisa.

Our week began on the coastal bend, where Rockport and Port Aransas's birding center set the tone with an overwhelming number of birds spread across the wetlands, including an American Flamingo, Whooping Cranes and our first Crested Caracaras. The boat trip into Aransas Bay brought calm water, bright weather, and dolphins riding the wake as we scanned for raptors and shorebirds. By the time we reached South Padre Island, the coastal theme continued with a Mangrove Yellow Warbler glowing in the mangroves, a Clapper Rail strutting across an open gap, and near Laguna Atascosa NWR, an Aplomado Falcon perched up perfectly along the roadside.. The South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center delivered sweeping views of the Laguna Madre, rare birds and butterflies.

Exploring the Lower Valley, the diversity widened. Sabal Palm Sanctuary had us walking beneath native palms, we saw Common Paurasques melting into leaf litter, and learned how South Texas partners are working to protect and reclaim its last precious pieces of habitat. Salineño in the early morning held a packed riverside sunrise with an oriole singing across the border and Green Kingfishers racing past our heads. Out west, Rancho Lomitas gave us long, close views of Scaled Quail moving in and out of the feeders. Later, the National Butterfly Center lit up with specialties swirling over the bait logs including Malachite, while the "Smudgy" hybrid oriole perched only a few feet away. From parrots to armadillos, bobcats to beautiful snakes, this was truly the iconic South Texas experience you always hope for!

BIRDS (174):

During the trip, 174 species were recorded of which one was heard only, and 6 were introduced. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 174 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[South Texas Birding and Nature | November 10-18, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

MAMMALS (10):

Eastern Fox Squirrel (*Sciurus niger*) – observed at Tule Marsh and common anywhere with oak trees.

Eastern Cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) – noted at many parks.

Hispid Cotton Rat (*Sigmodon hispidus*) – seen by some at Sabal Palm.

Mexican Long-nosed Armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*) – seen at Laguna Atascosa NWR.

Coyote (*Canis latrans*) – seen from The Skimmer near Whooping Cranes.

Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) – mother and kitten at Estero Llano Grande.

White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) – seen around the Rockport area.

Javelina / Collared Peccary (*Pecari tajacu*) – seen at Sabal Palm and Hugh Ramsey.

Nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) – seen at Laguna Atascosa NWR running across the road.

Common Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) – seen on The Skimmer, from Snoopy's, and from the Port Aransas ferry.

REPTILES (10):

Turtles

Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) – seen during lunch at Snoopy's.

Red-eared Slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) – observed at multiple sites.

Rio Grande Cooter (*Pseudemys gorzugi*) – adult and hatchling at Salineño.

Lizards

Brown Anole (*Anolis sagrei*) – seen at South Padre Island and a few other places.

Green Anole (*Anolis carolinensis*) – observed at Sabal Palm Sanctuary.

Blue Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus cyanogenys*) – seen at Estero Llano Grande and at Bentsen–Rio Grande Valley State Park.

Rose-bellied Lizard (*Sceloporus variabilis*) – seen at Estero Llano Grande.

Snakes

Texas Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon melanurus erebennus*) – seen from the tram at Bentsen–RGV State Park.

Speckled Racer (*Drymobius margaritiferus*) – seen along the trail at Sabal Palm, the only place in the U.S. to find this species.

DeKay's Brownsnake (*Storeria dekayi*) – seen going under cover at Sabal Palm.

BUTTERFLIES (69):

Most diversity was observed at the National Butterfly Center including a Malachite, Red-bordered Pixie, Pavon Emperor, and Spot-celled Sister, with other incidental highlights like Red Rim at South Padre Island, Ruby-spotted Swallowtail at Rancho Lomitas, Two-barred Flasher at Falcon State Park, and Mexican Bluewings at Resaca de la Palma. A truly remarkable year for butterflies!

Swallowtails

Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*)

Eastern Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*)

Giant Swallowtail (*Papilio cresphontes*)

Ruby-spotted Swallowtail (*Papilio garamas*)

Whites & Sulphurs

Great Southern White (*Ascia monuste*)
Southern Dogface (*Zerene cesonia*)
Cloudless Sulphur (*Phoebis sennae*)
Large Orange Sulphur (*Phoebis agarithe*)
Sleepy Orange (*Abaeis nicippe*)
Lyside Sulphur (*Kricogonia lyside*)
Dainty Sulphur (*Nathalis iole*)

Metalmarks

Fatal Metalmark (*Calephelis nemesis*)
Red-bordered Metalmark (*Caria telea*)
Curve-winged Metalmark (*Emesis emesia*)
Red-bordered Pixie (*Melanis pike*)

Brushfoots

American Snout (*Libytheana carinenta*)
Soldier (*Danaus eresimus*)
Queen (*Danaus gilippus*)
Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)
Gulf Fritillary (*Dione vanillae*)
Mexican Fritillary (*Euptoieta hegesia*)
Zebra Heliconian (*Heliconius charithonia*)
Hackberry Emperor (*Asterocampa celtis*)
Tawny Emperor (*Asterocampa clyton*)
Empress Leilia (*Asterocampa leilia*)
Pavon Emperor (*Doxocopa pavon*)
Mexican Bluewing (*Myscelia ethusa*)
Red Rim (*Biblis hyperia*)
Malachite (*Siproeta stelenes*)
Band-celled Sister (*Adelpha fessonia*)
Spot-celled Sister (*Adelpha basiloides*)
White Peacock (*Anartia jatrophae*)
Vesta Crescent (*Phyciodes graphica*)
Phaon Crescent (*Phyciodes phaon*)
Bordered Patch (*Chlosyne lacinia*)
Question Mark (*Polygonia interrogationis*)
Common Buckeye (*Junonia coenia*)
Common Mestra (*Mestra amymone*)

Hairstreaks

Gray Hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*)

Mallow Scrub Hairstreak (*Strymon istapa*)
Lantana Scrub Hairstreak (*Strymon bazochii*)
Marius Hairstreak (*Rekoa marius*)

Blues

Western Pygmy Blue (*Brephidium exilis*)
Ceraunus Blue (*Hemiargus ceraunus*)
Cassius Blue (*Leptotes cassius*)

Skippers

Long-tailed Skipper (*Urbanus proteus*)
Brown Longtail (*Urbanus procne*)
Two-barred Flasher (*Astraptes fulgerator*)
Northern Sicklewing (*Achalarus lyciades*)
Coyote Cloudywing (*Achalarus toxeus*)
Funereal Duskywing (*Erynnis funeralis*)
Mournful Duskywing (*Erynnis tristis*)
Guava Skipper (*Phocides polybius*)
White-patched Skipper (*Chiomara asychis*)
Desert Checkered-Skipper (*Burnsius philetas*)
Common Checkered-Skipper (*Burnsius communis*)
Tropical Checkered-Skipper (*Burnsius oileus*)
Laviana White-Skipper (*Heliopetes laviana*)
Fiery Skipper (*Hylephila phyleus*)
Sachem (*Atalopedes campestris*)
Clouded Skipper (*Lerema accius*)
Common Mellana (*Quasimellana eulogius*)
Eufala Skipper (*Lerodea eufala*)
Fawn-spotted Skipper (*Cymaenes trebius*)
Julia's Skipper (*Nastra julia*)
Southern Broken-Dash (*Wallengrenia otho*)

ODONATA (17):

Damselflies

Rambur's Forktail (*Ischnura ramburii*)
Familiar Bluet (*Enallagma civile*)
Dusky Dancer (*Argia translata*)
Blue-ringed Dancer (*Argia sedula*)
American Rubyspot (*Hetaerina americana*)
Smoky Rubyspot (*Hetaerina titia*)

Dragonflies

Common Green Darner (*Anax junius*)

Wandering Glider (*Pantala flavescens*)

Variegated Meadowhawk (*Sympetrum corruptum*)

Eastern Amberwing (*Perithemis tenera*)

Blue Dasher (*Pachydiplax longipennis*)

Spot-tailed Dasher (*Micrathyria aequalis*)

Eastern Pondhawk (*Erythemis simplicicollis*)

Black Saddlebags (*Tamea lacerata*)

Red Saddlebags (*Tamea onusta*)

Roseate Skimmer (*Orthemis ferruginea*)

Carmine Skimmer (*Orthemis discolor*)