

Georgia Coastal Birding: St. Simons Island & Savannah Species List | April 23-30, 2026 With Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Greg Butcher. Our clients included Cynthia, David, Janet, Andi, and Sue.

I can't think of a better place to be during the last week of April than along the coast of Georgia. It is the height of spring migration for both landbirds and shorebirds, the southern birds are breeding (some in large rookeries!), many flowers are blooming, and temperatures are usually moderate. It's also too early for most of the biting insects! We lucked out in all respects, except for a rainstorm on our last morning. Everyone fell in love with Little St. Simons Island, an all-inclusive nature retreat with good lodging, great food, and friendly and knowledgeable naturalists. We also sampled two excellent national wildlife refuges: Savannah and Harris Neck. We enjoyed the planning that ensured that all the lodgings were walking distance from all the dinners.

BIRDS (135)

The eBird link below details the 135 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.

[Georgia Coastal Birding: St. Simons Island & Savannah | April 23-30, 2026 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the mammals, reptiles, and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

MAMMALS: (8)

Virginia Opossum *Didelphis virginianus* – We saw one on our last day on Little St. Simons Island.

Nine-banded or Mexican Long-nosed Armadillo *Dasyops mexicanus* – This is obviously not a shy creature. We saw it on four different days, with several very close encounters. Mexican Long-nosed was split from Nine-banded in 2024.

Marsh Rabbit *Sylvilagus palustris* – We think that all the rabbits we saw were this one and not Eastern Cottontails. We saw them on three different days on Little St. Simons Island.

Hispid Cotton Rat *Sigmodon hispidus* – At Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area, we looked down on a rat, which we think was this species.

Eastern Gray Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis* – We saw this species every day of the tour, but I don't think we ever saw Eastern Fox Squirrel, which is also expected.

Common Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* – Our dolphin tour was very successful; we had a dolphin in sight for almost the entire boat ride. We started off with a shark, but we didn't get a specific ID on that.

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus* – I only remember one encounter with a deer while driving on Jekyll Island; we looked for the non-native deer that persist on Little St. Simons Island, but didn't see any.

Common Raccoon *Procyon lotor* – Our first raccoon encounter was with a scrawny little thing that looked sick. One of the naturalists was more encouraging, thinking that it might have just been an undernourished young one that still had a

chance to make it.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: (4 or 5)

American Alligator *Alligator mississippiensis* – We saw alligators most days, including some very large ones and some very large aggregations of small ones.

Pond Slider *Tachemys scripta* – We saw quite a few turtles, but never really got a handle on which species they were.

Green Anole *Anolis carolinensis* – We saw both green anoles and brown anoles, but one of us (sorry – I forget who) saw a green anole turn brown, so did we really see two species?

Brown Anole (I) *Anolis sagrei* – See above under Green Anole.

American Five-striped Skink *Plestiodon fasciatus* – We found this on Little St. Simons Island and got confirmation from one of the naturalists.