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## Texas Coast Species List: Birds and Other Species

**Naturalist Journeys Grand Texas Coast & Big Thicket: Birds, Butterflies & Dragonflies Tour**

**April 19-27, 2014**

**With Guide Bob Behrstock**

*A quick note from Bob at the tour's end: "Another successful tour with 34 shorebirds, all 8 terns, all the heron/egret/bittern/ibis things-including Glossy, Magnificent Frigatebird, Glaucous and Franklin's gulls, 29 warblers, 6 woodpeckers, Bobolink, White-tailed Hawk, Bald Eagle, Creole Pearlyeye, etc.*

**Birds** (No "Leader Only" birds are included); number of days encountered in parentheses

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	(5) Various coastal locations and Brazos Bend SP
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	(2) High Island south oilfield and Anahuac NWR
Gadwall	(1) High Island south oilfield
Mottled Duck	(4) Various coastal locations
Blue-winged Teal	(5) Various coastal locations
Northern Shoveler	(3) Various coastal locations
Green-winged Teal	(1) Cattail Marsh at Tyrrell Park, Beaumont
Lesser Scaup	(1) One at the Galveston North jetty
Red-breasted Merganser	(1) A dapper male at Rollover Pass
Northern Bobwhite	(2) A covey seen at Martin Dies, Jr. SP, and heard at Anahuac NWR
Pied-billed Grebe	(2) Anahuac NWR and High Island
Brown Pelican	(3) Common along the coast
Neotropic Cormorant	(5) Various coastal locations
Double-crested Cormorant	(2) Anahuac NWR and near Sabine Woods
Anhinga	(2) Martin Dies, Jr., SP and Brazos Bend SP
Magnificent Frigatebird	(1) A male just east of Freeport was a nice surprise
American Bittern	(1) Brazos Bend SP
Least Bittern	(1) At least 8 individuals and seen very well at Anahuac NWR
Great Blue Heron	(5) Various locations
Great Egret	(8) Various locations, nesting at High Island
Snowy Egret	(4) Various locations, nesting at High Island
Little Blue Heron	(4) Various wetlands incl. Martin Dies, Jr., SP and Brazos Bend SP
Tricolored Heron	(5) Common along the coast
Reddish Egret	(2) Rollover Pass
Cattle Egret	(9) Seen every day
Green Heron	(5) Various wetlands

Black-crowned Night-Heron	(1) Brazos Bend SP; completing the locally breeding large waders
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	(5) Various inland and coastal sites
White Ibis	(4) Common coastally; also at Brazos Bend SP
Glossy Ibis	(1) Locally uncommon; one or two at Anahuac NWR
White-faced Ibis	(2) Beaumont and Anahuac NWR
Roseate Spoonbill	(4) Several coastal sites; close views where nesting at High Island
Black Vulture	(9) Seen every day
Turkey Vulture	(9) Seen every day
Mississippi Kite	(2) Two over <i>The Woodlands</i> , and one in the Big Thicket
Bald Eagle	(1) An adult near Sam Rayburn Reservoir, an uncommon nester
Northern Harrier	(1) One at Anahuac NWR
Sharp-shinned Hawk	(1) One over woodland on Day 2
Cooper's Hawk	(1) One N of Jasper
Red-shouldered Hawk	(1) (Heard only) Big Creek Scenic Area
Broad-winged Hawk	(4) Best were a perched bird N of Jasper & migrants over Galveston Is.
Swainson's Hawk	(1) One over the Big Thicket area
White-tailed Hawk	(1) An adult near its northern limits at the entrance to Brazos Bend SP
Red-tailed Hawk	(4) Various locations
Osprey	(2) Near High Island and Brazos Bend SP
Crested Caracara	(2) Near Anahuac NWR and Brazos Bend SP where increasing
American Kestrel	(1) A pair near Sandy Creek Park at B.A. Steinhagen Lake
Peregrine Falcon	(1) Anahuac NWR
Clapper Rail	(1) North of Sabine Pass
King Rail	(1) Tyrrell Park, Beaumont where seen well
Sora	(4) Seen two days, heard two others; best views at Anahuac NWR
Purple Gallinule	(4) Best views at Brazos Bend SP
Common Moorhen	(5) Various freshwater wetlands
American Coot	(5) Common, especially at Anahuac NWR
Black-bellied Plover	(3) Anahuac NWR, Rollover Pass, rice fields; some in breeding plumage
American Golden Plover	(1) Rice field near Anahuac NWR, some in breeding plumage
Snowy Plover	(2) Rollover Pass
Wilson's Plover	(1) A near miss; one at Rollover Pass
Semipalmated Plover	(3) Various coastal sites; common at Rollover Pass
Piping Plover	(1) Rollover Pass where easily seen among other small plovers
Killdeer	(4) Various sites; small chicks at Sabine Pass
American Oystercatcher	(2) Rollover Pass
Black-necked Stilt	(5) Various coastal sites
American Avocet	(2) Rollover Pass and thousands at the North Jetty, Galveston Bay
Spotted Sandpiper	(2) High Island and North jetty of Galveston Bay
Solitary Sandpiper	(1) Anahuac NWR
Willet	(4)

“Eastern Willet” race *semipalmatus*: Widespread and territorial along the coast

“Western Willet” race *inornatus*: A few at the Galveston Bay North jetty

Lesser Yellowlegs	(4) Tyrrell Park and various coastal sites
Upland Sandpiper	(2) West of Port Arthur and at Crystal Beach
Whimbrel	(2) Rice fields and Anahuac NWR
Long-billed Curlew	(1) Near Pilot House outside Sabine Pass
Hudsonian Godwit	(1) Rice fields near Anahuac NWR
Marbled Godwit	(2) Rollover Pass
Ruddy Turnstone	(3) Rollover Pass, North Jetty, rice fields, and beaches
Sanderling	(2) Rollover Pass
Semipalmated Sandpiper	(2) High Island south oilfield lake and west Galveston Island

Least Sandpiper	(4) Tyrrell Park, Anahuac NWR, and High Island vicinity
White-rumped Sandpiper	(1) Rice field near Anahuac NWR
Baird's Sandpiper	(1) Tyrrell Park in Beaumont
Pectoral Sandpiper	(3) Tyrrell Park, Galveston Island, and Anahuac NWR
Dunlin	(3) Rollover Pass and Anahuac NWR
Stilt Sandpiper	(3) Anahuac NWR, Galveston Island, and rice fields
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	(1) A flock at the Ft. Travis historic site near the Bolivar Ferry
Short-billed Dowitcher	(1) Bob's Road Crystal Beach
Long-billed Dowitcher	(4) Tyrrell Park, rice fields, and High Island vicinity
Wilson's Snipe	(1) A couple at Anahuac NWR
Wilson's Phalarope	(1) Anahuac NWR
Laughing Gull	(6) Numerous along the coast, inland to Alvin
Franklin's Gull	(1) Two pink-breasted birds bathing at High Island
Ring-billed Gull	(3) Rollover Pass, High Island, and Galveston
Herring Gull	(2) Rollover Pass and High Island
Glaucous Gull	(1) South High Island oilfield lake (locally rare)
Least Tern	(3) Abundant and noisy along the coast where displaying
Gull-billed Tern	(1) East end of Galveston Island
Caspian Tern	(1) A few at Rollover Pass
Black Tern	(1) Rollover Pass where common and in breeding plumage
Common Tern	(1) A few at Rollover Pass
Forster's Tern	(4) Various coastal locations where fairly numerous
Royal Tern	(3) Numerous along the coast
Sandwich Tern	(2) Rollover Pass
Black Skimmer	(2) Flocks at Rollover Pass and Galveston vicinity
Rock Pigeon (Introduced)	(6) Various sites, mostly urban
Eurasian Collared-Dove (Intro.)	(3) Various sites, especially in town
White-winged Dove	(2) Numerous on Galveston Island
Mourning Dove	(9) Seen all days
Inca Dove	(1) High Island
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	(3) Heard at Turkey Crk. & Galveston Is., seen at Sabine Woods
Common Nighthawk	(4) Common along the coast on utility lines, fences, etc.
Chimney Swift	(2) Small numbers at Lumberton and along the coast
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	(6) Seen best where feeding on introduced honeysuckle vines
Belted Kingfisher	(2) Anahuac NWR and near Sabine Pass
Red-headed Woodpecker	(1) A pair near Sandy Creek Park at B.A. Steinhagen Lake
Red-bellied Woodpecker	(4) Numerous inland during the beginning of the trip
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	(1) Sabine Woods
Downy Woodpecker	(2) Jones State Forest and Sabine Woods
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	(1) Jones State Forest: an endangered U.S. endemic
Pileated Woodpecker	(1) Dogwood Trail near Woodville, heard three other days
Eastern Wood-Pewee	(5) Small numbers in the coastal migrant traps
Acadian Flycatcher	(3) Big Creek Scenic Area and in the coastal migrant traps
Great Crested Flycatcher	(4) <i>The Woodlands</i> and in the coastal migrant traps
Eastern Kingbird	(5) Numerous near the coast
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	(6) Numerous near the coast and difficult to ignore
Loggerhead Shrike	(5) Small numbers-often in ranch country near the coast
White-eyed Vireo	(5) Inland and in the migrant traps. Skulky but seen well several times.
Yellow-throated Vireo	(1) Wet forests inland, best looks at Big Creek Scenic Area
Blue-headed Vireo	(1) One at High Island
Warbling Vireo	(1) One at High Island
Philadelphia Vireo	(1) One in Sabine Woods

Red-eyed Vireo	(5) Inland and in the coastal migrant traps, often singing
Blue Jay	(7) Common and noisy in most woodlands
American Crow	(6) Common inland at around Brazos Bend at the end of the trip
Fish Crow	(1) Tyrrell Park, Beaumont
Purple Martin	(6) Best looks at Tyrrell Park in Beaumont
Tree Swallow	(1) Migrants numerous around Sabine Pass
North. Rough-winged Swallow	(1) Anahuac NWR
Cliff Swallow	(7) Numerous; nesting on bridges throughout
Barn Swallow	(6) Pretty much throughout, best looks at nests at Anahuac NWR
Carolina Chickadee	(4) Numerous at wooded sites during first part of trip
Tufted Titmouse	(5) As with chickadees above; also at Brazos Bend SP
Brown-headed Nuthatch	(2) Jones State Forest and near Sam Rayburn Reservoir; a near endemic
Carolina Wren	(8) One of the characteristic voices of East Texas
Sedge Wren	(3) Numerous but not easily seen. A cooperative bird at Anahuac NWR
Marsh Wren	(2) Easily seen at boardwalks at Anahuac NWR
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	(1) One at <i>The Woodlands</i>
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	(2) The Woodlands and forest between Livingston and Jasper
Eastern Bluebird	(2) Jones State Forest and Brazos Bend SP
Gray-cheeked Thrush	(2) High Island and Sabine Woods
Swainson's Thrush	(4) High Island and Sabine Woods
Wood Thrush	(3) Heard twice inland, seen at Sabine Woods
Gray Catbird	(4) Present by the dozens along the coast; a few breeders inland
Northern Mockingbird	(9) Not surprisingly, ubiquitous throughout. The State Bird of Texas
Brown Thrasher	(2) Gore Store Rd. and Sabine Woods where foraging on paths
European Starling (Introduced)	(6) Here and there
Ovenbird	(1) Sabine Woods
Worm-eating Warbler	(3) Seen breeding N of Houston, then in the coastal migrant traps
Louisiana Waterthrush	(1) (Heard Only) One distant bird singing at the Big Creek Scenic Area
Northern Waterthrush	(2) Sabine Woods and Lafitte's Cove Nature Preserve on Galveston Is.
Golden-winged Warbler	(2) Sabine Woods and at High Island
Blue-winged Warbler	(2) Sabine Woods and at High Island
Black-and-white Warbler	(5) Jones State Forest and in the coastal migrant traps
Prothonotary Warbler	(5) Seen on the nesting grounds and at Anahuac NWR
Swainson's Warbler	(1) Western <i>The Woodlands</i> . After missing it last time, it was the trip's first warbler!
Tennessee Warbler	(6) Jones State Forest and coastal migrant traps
Kentucky Warbler	(5) Sandy Creek Park at B.A. Steinhagen Lake & coastal migrant traps
Common Yellowthroat	(4) Inland and at the coastal migrant traps
Hooded Warbler	(8) Numerous inland, a few at the coastal migrant traps
American Redstart	(2) Sabine woods and High Island
Cerulean Warbler	(1) A female at Sabine Woods
Northern Parula	(2) Seen well at Martin Dies, Jr., SP and heard at Brazos Bend SP
Magnolia Warbler	(3) Sabine Woods and High Island
Bay-breasted Warbler	(2) Sabine Woods and High Island
Blackburnian Warbler	(3) Sabine Woods and High Island
Yellow Warbler	(3) Sabine Woods and High Island
Chestnut-sided Warbler	(2) Sabine Woods and High Island
Blackpoll Warbler	(1) A fine male greeted us at the entrance to Sabine Woods
Palm Warbler	(1) Sabine Woods: the locally rare Eastern race <i>hypochrysea</i>
Pine Warbler	(3) Heard two days, best views at Jones State Forest
Yellow-rump. "Myrtle" Warbler	(4) Jones State Forest and coastal migrant traps
Yellow-throated Warbler	(2) Seen and heard at Martin Dies, Jr., SP vicinity

Prairie Warbler	(2) Gore Store Rd. & near Sandy Creek Park at B.A. Steinhagen Lake
Black-throated Green Warbler	(3) Sabine Woods and High Island
Yellow-breasted Chat	(2) Heard only: sites in <i>The Woodlands</i> and in the Big Thicket
Summer Tanager	(7) Common inland and in the coastal migrant traps
Scarlet Tanager	(3) Sabine Woods and High Island
Bachman's Sparrow	(1) Twenty minute view of a very cooperative male N. of Jasper
Savannah Sparrow	(4) Best views at Anahuac NWR
Seaside Sparrow	(1) Near Sabine Pass
Swamp Sparrow	(1) One bathing at a pond at Sabine Woods
White-throated Sparrow	(2) Jones State Forest and on the coast
White-crowned Sparrow	(1) Near visitor's center at Anahuac NWR
Northern Cardinal	(9) All days; common throughout
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	(4) Sabine Woods and High Island
Blue Grosbeak	(2) Big Thicket and near Anahuac NWR
Indigo Bunting	(7) Seen on the nesting grounds and in the coastal migrant traps
Painted Bunting	(2) Stunning views of bathing males and females at High Island
Dickcissel	(1) One near Anahuac NWR
Bobolink	(1) Four males at Crystal Beach competed for Bird OF The Trip
Red-winged Blackbird	(7) Especially numerous near the coast
Eastern Meadowlark	(3) Mainly in ranchland near the coast
Common Grackle	(5) Most numerous inland, often in towns
Boat-tailed Grackle	(5) Coastal marshes, especially Anahuac NWR
Great-tailed Grackle	(9) Common throughout
Bronzed Cowbird	(2) High Island and Galveston Island
Brown-headed Cowbird	(3) A few inland and small numbers near the coast
Orchard Oriole	(6) Nesting inland and along the coast; migrants numerous
Baltimore Oriole	(5) Jones State Forest and numerous all along the coast
House Sparrow (Introduced)	(6) Here and there

## Mammals

Eastern Gray Squirrel  
 Eastern Fox Squirrel  
 Eastern Cottontail  
 Nutria (Introduced)  
 Raccoon  
 Feral Hog (Introduced)

## Reptiles

Green Anole  
 Skink sp. (three possible look-alikes)  
 American Alligator  
 Gulf Coast Ribbon Snake  
 Red-eared Slider

## Butterflies

Zebra Swallowtail  
Giant Swallowtail  
Spicebush Swallowtail  
Palamedes Swallowtail  
American Lady  
Creole Pearly-eye  
Southern Pearly-eye  
Little Wood Satyr

## Damselflies and Dragonflies

Ebony Jewelwing  
Blue-fronted Dancer  
Blue-ringed Dancer  
Blue-tipped Dancer  
Orange Bluet  
Fragile Forktail  
Rambur's Forktail  
*Probably* Ashy Clubtail (fast look)  
Prince Baskettail  
Four-spotted Pennant  
Faded Pennant  
Eastern Pondhawk  
Great Pondhawk  
Seaside Dragonlet  
Blue Corporal  
Hyacinth Glider  
Blue Dasher  
Eastern Amberwing  
Black Saddlebags