



Naturalist Journeys, LLC

Grand Texas Coast and Big Thicket, April 21-29 2012  
Trip Species List

Compiled by guide Bob Behrstock, and six participants, Dwayne and Marj, Judy, Betty, Terry and Susan

**Birds:**

**Note: (No "Leader Only" birds are included)**

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck  
Fulvous Whistling-Duck (Best looks on Galveston Island--also at Anahuac NWR)  
Wood Duck (Close looks at perched pairs at Jones State Forest)  
Gadwall  
Mottled Duck  
Blue-winged Teal  
Northern Shoveler  
Lesser Scaup  
Red-breasted Merganser  
Common Loon (One on Galveston Island)  
Brown Pelican  
Neotropic Cormorant (Nice looks at nesting birds at High Island)  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Anhinga  
American Bittern (One spotted by Dwayne at Anahuac NWR)  
Least Bittern (Another Dwayne find: Several at Anahuac NWR and one or two at Brazos Bend S.P.)  
Great Blue Heron (Several active nests at Brazos Bend S.P.)  
Great Egret  
Snowy Egret  
Little Blue Heron  
Tricolored Heron  
Reddish Egret (This SE regional specialty was seen well at several locations)  
Cattle Egret  
Green Heron  
Black-crowned Night-Heron (Eleventh hour birds at Brazos Bend S.P.)  
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron  
American White Ibis  
White-faced Ibis  
Roseate Spoonbill (Spectacular views at the High Island Rookery)  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Bald Eagle (One adult over Martin Dies Jr., S.P.)  
Northern Harrier  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Broad-winged Hawk

Swainson's Hawk (A migrant W of Port Arthur)  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Osprey  
Crested Caracara (Seen three times-apparently increasing in East Texas).  
American Kestrel  
King Rail (A Dwayne find at Anahuac NWR)  
Purple Gallinule (Best looks of close birds at Brazos Bend S.P.)  
Common Gallinule  
American Coot  
Black-bellied Plover (Lovely breeding plumage birds at several locations)  
American Golden-Plover (Near breeding plumage birds in the rice fields SW of Winnie)  
Wilson's Plover (Another SE regional specialty; our best looks were at the Bolivar Flats)  
Semipalmated Plover  
Piping Plover (A federally listed threatened species; seen well at the Bolivar Flats)  
Killdeer  
American Oystercatcher (Fairly numerous at Rollover Pass)  
Black-necked Stilt  
American Avocet  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Solitary Sandpiper  
Greater Yellowlegs  
Willet (both Eastern breeding and Western migrant forms)  
Lesser Yellowlegs  
Upland Sandpiper (Easily seen at Crystal Beach)  
Whimbrel  
Hudsonian Godwit (Stunning breeding plumaged birds seen at Anahuac NWR and in the rice fields)  
Ruddy Turnstone  
Sanderling  
Western Sandpiper  
Least Sandpiper  
White-rumped Sandpiper (Nice looks in the rice fields SW of Winnie)  
Pectoral Sandpiper (Several at a rice field SW of Winnie)  
Dunlin  
Stilt Sandpiper (Seen at various locations including Anahuac NWR and in rice fields)  
Buff-breasted Sandpiper (Seen in a rice field E of Winnie)  
Short-billed Dowitcher  
Long-billed Dowitcher  
Wilson's Snipe (One at Anahuac NWR)  
Wilson's Phalarope  
Laughing Gull  
Franklin's Gull (A nice pink-breasted adult at Rollover Pass)  
Ring-billed Gull  
Herring Gull  
Least Tern (One of seven species of terns seen from one spot at Rollover Pass)  
Gull-billed Tern  
Caspian Tern  
Black Tern  
Common Tern  
Forster's Tern  
Royal Tern  
Sandwich Tern

Black Skimmer  
Rock Pigeon  
Eurasian Collared-Dove  
White-winged Dove  
Mourning Dove  
Inca Dove  
Greater Roadrunner  
Barrred Owl (Heard only at Mitchell Preserve)  
Common Nighthawk (Seen roosting at Texas Point; flying birds elsewhere)  
Chimney Swift  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Red-headed Woodpecker (Perhaps the most beautiful U.S. woodpecker; seen at several sites)  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Red-cockaded Woodpecker (Excellent looks at this federally listed species at Jones State Forest)  
Pileated Woodpecker (Seen best at Jones State Forest; frequently heard)  
Eastern Wood-Pewee  
Acadian Flycatcher (Heard only)  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Western Kingbird (One in High Island)  
Eastern Kingbird  
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (Common, numerous, and always appreciated)  
Loggerhead Shrike  
White-eyed Vireo  
Yellow-throated Vireo (Seen at various sites early in the tour)  
Philadelphia Vireo (One at High Island)  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Yellow-green Vireo (We saw this U.S. rarity two days at High Island)  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Fish Crow (Seen at Tyrrell Park and near Port Arthur)  
Horned Lark  
Purple Martin  
Tree Swallow  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
Cliff Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
Brown-headed Nuthatch (Seen at Jones State Forest)  
Carolina Wren  
Marsh Wren (Heard only)  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Eastern Bluebird  
Swainson's Thrush  
Wood Thrush (Seen by some participants only)  
Gray Catbird  
Northern Mockingbird  
Tropical Mockingbird (A first U.S. record whose ornithological significance has yet to be determined)  
Brown Thrasher

European Starling  
Louisiana Waterthrush (Breeding birds at the Big Creek Scenic Area)  
Black-and-white Warbler  
Prothonotary Warbler (Sandy Creek Park and Brazos Bend S.P.)  
Tennessee Warbler  
Kentucky Warbler (A breeding bird at the LP Dogwood Trail)  
Common Yellowthroat  
Hooded Warbler  
American Redstart  
Northern Parula  
Magnolia Warbler  
Blackburnian Warbler (A male was photographed by Terry)  
Yellow Warbler  
Chestnut-sided Warbler  
Pine Warbler (Mitchell Preserve and other sites early in the tour)  
Prairie Warbler (Breeding birds near Boykin Springs)  
Yellow-breasted Chat (Breeding birds near Boykin Springs)  
Summer Tanager  
Scarlet Tanager (Easily seen at High Island)  
Bachman's Sparrow (Frustratingly, several heard only)  
Savannah Sparrow  
Seaside Sparrow (Seen well at several coastal sites)  
White-crowned Sparrow  
Northern Cardinal  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Easily seen in mulberry trees at High Island)  
Blue Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting  
Painted Bunting (Singing birds near Silsbee and a migrant at High Island)  
Dickcissel  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Eastern Meadowlark  
Common Grackle  
Boat-tailed Grackle  
Great-tailed Grackle  
Bronzed Cowbird (One at Anahuac and one at High Island)  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Orchard Oriole  
Baltimore Oriole  
House Sparrow

#### **BUTTERFLIES:**

Pipevine Swallowtail  
Zebra Swallowtail (A stunning SE species seen during the first few days of the tour)  
Palamedes Swallowtail (Another SE species seen early in the tour)  
Checkered White  
Great Southern White (A coastal species seen on the Bolivar Peninsula and at Galveston Island)  
Orange Sulphur  
Cloudless Sulphur  
Little Yellow  
Dainty Sulphur  
Banded Hairstreak (Seen during the early part of the tour at several sites)

Gray Hairstreak  
American Snout  
Gulf Fritillary  
Phaon Crescent  
Pearl Crescent  
Question Mark  
Mourning Cloak  
American Lady  
Painted Lady  
Red Admiral  
Common Buckeye  
Hackberry Emperor  
Tawny Emperor (On the butterfly tree at Boykin Springs)  
Creole Pearly-eye (This regional specialty was at the Big Creek Scenic Area)  
Little Wood-Satyr  
Monarch  
Horace's Duskywing  
Common Checkered-Skipper  
Clouded Skipper  
Southern Skipperling (One photographed by Terry on Galveston Island)  
Fiery Skipper  
Broad-winged Skipper (A decidedly aquatic species along pond edges at Brazos Bend S.P.)  
Obscure Skipper (A coastal specialty seen on the Bolivar Peninsula)

#### **Dragonflies:**

Sparkling Jewelwing (Big Creek Scenic Area--a SE specialty)  
Ebony Jewelwing  
Familiar Bluet  
Turquoise Bluet  
Rambur's Forktail  
Common Green Darner  
Oklahoma Clubtail (Upland Island Wilderness Area)  
Prince Baskettail (Seen at several sites coursing over the shoreline)  
Four-spotted Pennant (Brazos Bend S.P.)  
Eastern Pondhawk (Abundant at several sites)  
Seaside Dragonlet (Seen best at Texas Point--our only salt water dragonfly)  
Band-winged Dragonlet  
Hyacinth Glider  
Blue Dasher  
Wandering Glider  
Spot-winged Glider  
Variegated Meadowhawk (A female at Lafitte's Grove)  
Black Saddlebags  
Red Saddlebags

#### **Reptiles and Amphibians:**

American Alligator (Best at Anahuac NWR and Brazos Bend S.P.)  
Green (Carolina) Anole (Seen most days)  
Northern Fence Lizard (A dull male photographed by Terry at Boykin Springs)  
  
Broadhead Skink (Mitchell Preserve)

Eastern Six-lined Racerunner (High Island)  
Cottonmouth (Brazos Bend S.P.)  
Red-eared Slider (Various sites)  
Softshell Turtle (High Island)  
Northern Cricket Frog (Heard Only: various sites)  
Great Plains Narrowmouth Toad (Heard only: Martin Dies Jr., S.P.)  
Bullfrog (Seen at Brazos Bend S.P.)

#### **Mammals:**

Nine-banded Armadillo (Along the road in Winnie; nice to see a live one)  
Virginia Opossum (NW of Jasper)  
Raccoon (Anahuac NWR)  
White-tailed Deer (Various sites)  
Coyote (S of Winnie)  
Eastern Cottontail (Various sites)  
Eastern Gray Squirrel (Various sites)  
Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin (Bolivar ferry crossing)

#### **Additional life forms:**

Love Bug (*Plecia nearctica*) This charismatic insect was common throughout the tour  
Wolf Spider (A large female carrying an egg case at Boykin Springs)  
Sumichrast's Toothpick Grasshopper (Boykin Springs)