

# Texas Coast & Big Thicket | Species List

April 17 – 25, 2022 | with Naturalist Journeys



**With Guides Steve Shunk and Mason Flint, and participants:  
Penny, Carol, Peter, Linda, Marie, Rene, Mark, Sue, Carla, and Wendy.**

Compiled by Steve Shunk

(HO) = Distinctive enough to be counted by guides and clients as heard only

(GO) = Heard and/or seen by guide only

(#) = Number of days each species was encountered, among 9 days of birding on the trip

## **Tour Summary:**

We found 31 shorebird species and 20 different warblers on our annual return to eastern Texas. This region combines an abundance of local breeding species with waves of incoming migrants for a hefty bird list and a well-rounded birding experience. We visited the Pineywoods, where we found seven woodpecker species and specialties like Prairie Warbler, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Bachman's Sparrow. We dove into the swamplands of the Big Thicket for a half-dozen breeding warblers, such as Swainson's, Worm-eating, and Prothonotary. And we covered the upper Texas Coast, which is teeming with migrating songbirds and shorebirds, as well as a massive colonial waterbird rookery. By exploring a series of carefully managed oases, we enjoyed an amazing spring birding experience.

## **BIRDS (192 species recorded, of which 5 were HO, and 4 were GO):**

### **DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: ANATIDAE**

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis*—(5) Seen daily in the latter half of the trip, with the highest numbers at LaFitte's Cove and Brazos Bend.

**Fulvous Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor*—(2) We found two flocks: 17 at Anahuac's Shoveler Pond and 8 at Brazos Bend.

**Wood Duck** *Aix sponsa*—(3) Martin Dies Park had a few birds at the Island Trail and one at the Slough Trail, then we saw a couple more on the Neches River.

**Blue-winged Teal** *Spatula discors*—(5) Mostly latter half of the trip, though Martin Dies Island Trail had over a dozen; several at Bolivar Flats, Shoveler Pond, and LaFitte's Cove, with many at Brazos Bend.

**American Wigeon** *Mareca americana*—(1) A single bird observed by few in one of the flooded rice fields.

**Mottled Duck** *Anas fulvigula*—(3) A few at Shoveler Pond and one at LaFitte's Cove.

### **GREBES: Podicipedidae**

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps*—(2) Just two at Martin Dies Island Trail and two at Brazos Bend.

### **PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae**

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia*—(6) Urban areas throughout, with a large flock at Livingston Dam.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*—(4) Fairly widespread but not common.

**White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica*—(6) Seen almost daily in all habitats, including Sabine Woods and Anahuac.

**Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura*—(7) Most widespread dove, seen at Jones, Anahuac, Quintana, and more.

**CUCKOOS: Cuculidae**

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus americanus*—(2) Seen twice at Smith Oaks, with two birds on the first visit.

**Black-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*—(1) One bird seen by all at Smith Oaks; kind of a 'prize' bird for the trip.

**NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae**

**Common Nighthawk** *Chordeiles minor*—(4) Several locations later in the trip, including Boy Scout Woods and Quintana, where we watched one feeding and then landing on a fence to roost.

**SWIFTS: Apodidae**

**Chimney Swift** *Chaetura pelagica*—(3) Chittery flyovers seen poorly at Jones, Martin Dies, and Smith Oaks.

**HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae**

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** *Archilochus colubris*—(4) No great looks, with GO at Jones and Martin Dies, then seen by most at Sabine Woods and Boy Scout Woods.

**CRANES: Gruidae**

**Whooping Crane** *Grus Americana*—(1) Our good friend Shelli Ellerbe took us to a roadside spot where we watched two cranes that appear to be nesting. Very special treat!

**RAILS, COOTS, AND ALLIES: Rallidae**

**Clapper Rail** *Rallus crepitans*—(3) Seen by all at Bob Rd., then several HO at Bolivar Flats and 17<sup>th</sup> Street jetty.

**Sora** *Porzana carolina*—(3) One heard by GO in the field with the cranes, then seen by all at Smith Oaks and Shoveler Pond.

**Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata*—(5) A few at Smith Oaks but abundant at Shoveler Pond, with 175 counted; also dozens at Brazos Bend.

**American Coot** *Fulica americana*—(2) A handful at Shoveler Pond and dozens at Brazos Bend

**Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrio martinica*—(3) Seen well at the waterbird rookery at Smith Oaks and then 10 seen at Brazos Bend, including courtship displays.

**STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae**

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus*—(5) Small flocks scattered around on the last few days, including 20 with other shorebirds in a rice field, 11 at Bolivar Flats, many at Anahuac, and over 20 at Brazos Bend.

**American Avocet** *Recurvirostra americana*—(2) Great spectacle observed with thousands of birds in the Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary, seen from the Flats and the 17<sup>th</sup> Street jetty.

**OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae**

**American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus*—(1) Just two seen from the 17<sup>th</sup> Street jetty.

**PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae**

**Black-bellied Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*—(4) Seen only on Bolivar Peninsula, including Bob Rd. and 17<sup>th</sup> Street jetty, with about 20 at Rollover Pass.

**Snowy Plover** *Charadrius nivosus*—(1) One bird picked out among the other small plovers at Bolivar Flats.

**Wilson's Plover** *Charadrius wilsonia*—(3) Two seen at Rollover Pass and two at Bolivar Flats.

**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus*—(2) Small numbers at Rollover Pass, Bolivar Flats, and Shoveler Pond, but dozens in one flooded field near Anahuac.

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus*—(7) Widespread throughout, including Livingston Dam and Bolivar Peninsula.

**SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae**

**Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda*—(1) We saw some birds in a playfield at Gregory Park in Crystal Beach, and when we drove in for a closer look we found an ‘Uppie’ mixed in with the Whimbrels.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*—(4) Besides the small flock at Gregory Park, we had concentrations of birds in flooded rice fields south of Winnie, including more than 50 on White’s Rd. near Anahuac.

**Long-billed Curlew** *Numenius americanus*—(1) Just two seen at Bolivar Flats.

**Marbled Godwit** *Limosa fedoa*—(1) One bird found among the masses of other shorebirds at 17<sup>th</sup> Street jetty.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*—(3) All on the Bolivar Peninsula, with at least 16 at Bolivar Flats.

**Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus*—(2) A couple seen poorly in a rice field, but then supreme looks at 10 feeding right in front of us at LaFitte’s Cove.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*—(3) Many at Rollover Pass and hundreds at Bolivar Flats.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*—(2) A few in one rice field, then hundreds seen at Bolivar Flats.

**Baird’s Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii*—(2) Individual birds at Bolivar Flats and Anahuac.

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*—(3) Small concentrations scattered around, with 80 at Bolivar Flats and 15 at LaFitte’s Cove.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Calidris subruficollis*—(1) We got cursory looks at a flock of Buff-breasteds flying off French Rd., south of Winnie.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*—(3) Nice concentrations on this trip with flocks of 100+ in the rice fields and a handful at LaFitte’s Cove.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla*—(3) Small numbers but great study opportunities, with the best looks at Bolivar Flats and LaFitte’s Cove.

**Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri*—(1) One small flock of 14 at Bolivar Flats.

**Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus*—(2) A handful at the end of Bob Rd., then over 200 seen at Bolivar from the 17<sup>th</sup> Street jetty.

**Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*—(3) Best concentration was 85 in one rice field, then 50+ at Bolivar Flats and a few at Shoveler Pond and LaFitte’s Cove.

**Wilson’s Snipe** *Gallinago delicata*—(1) Five seen in one rice field south of Winnie.

**Wilson’s Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor*—(1) One bird was a nice surprise at LaFitte’s Cove.

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*—(1) Seen only once, when one bird flushed from the 17<sup>th</sup> Street jetty.

**Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria*—(1) Two seen well at LaFitte’s Cove.

**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca*—(4) Widespread on the last few days, including Bob Rd., Bolivar Flats, Shoveler Pond, and LaFitte’s Cove.

**Willet** *Tringa semipalmata*—(4) Also widespread, with ‘Western’ migrants seen on the open flats and displaying ‘Eastern’ birds in the marshes near Bob and Tuna Rds.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*—(4) Nearly equal numbers to Greater and in the same locations, with excellent opportunities for comparison.

#### **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae**

**Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla*—(6) Common and widespread in coastal areas, plus 120 at Livingston Dam.

**Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*—(4) Over 50 mixed with Laughing Gulls at Livingston Dam, then a few at Stingaree and Bob Rd.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*—(3) Three at Bolivar Flats.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*—(2) One each at Livingston Dam and Bolivar Flats, both adults.

**Least Tern** *Sternula antillarum*—(1) At least five at Bolivar Flats.

**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*—(3) Four in the upland ponds at Retilon Road near Bolivar Flats.

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*—(2) GO at Livingston Dam then another on the Bolivar Peninsula.

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*—(3) Small flocks of a dozen or so at Stingaree, Rollover Pass, and Bolivar Flats.

**Forster’s Tern** *Sterna forsteri*—(4) Dozens on the Bolivar Peninsula and then over 200 at Bolivar Flats.

**Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maximus*—(3) Many on the Bolivar Peninsula, with 50 at Rollover Pass and 250 at the Flats.

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*—(3) Also on the Bolivar Peninsula, with 185 at Rollover Pass and 100 at Bolivar Flats.

**Black Skimmer** *Rynchops niger*—(3) Flock of about 50 seen regularly at Rollover Pass.

### **FRIGATEBIRDS: Fregatidae**

**Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens*—(2) Two flyovers seen well at Smith Oaks.

### **ANHINGAS: Anhingidae**

**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga*—(4) A dozen+ at Martin Dies Island Trail, Smith Oaks, and Brazos Bend.

### **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae**

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*—(6) Over 250 at Livingston Dam, then 75 nesting at Smith Oaks and a few at Bolivar Flats.

**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus*—(1) One bird picked out of the Neotropicals at Livingston Dam

### **PELICANS: Pelecanidae**

**American White Pelican** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*—(2) Over 400 at Livingston Dam.

**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis*—(3) Seen daily on the open coast.

### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae**

**American Bittern** *Botaurus lentiginosus*—(1) One seen practically at our feet at Brazos Bend.

**Least Bittern** *Ixobrychus exilis*—(1) One seen across the pond at Smith Oaks.

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*—(7) Widespread along all water edges, with 30 at Livingston Dam.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*—(7) Also widespread, with at least 50 at Livingston Dam and about the same number nesting in the rookery at Smith Oaks.

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula*—(7) Equally as widespread as Great Egret, with a few at Livingston Dam and more than 100 nesting at Smith Oaks.

**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea*—(7) Also widespread, including at random small ponds, with 12 at Martin Dies Island Trail, 17 at Shoveler Pond, and a few at Brazos Bend.

**Tricolored Heron** *Egretta tricolor*—(6) About 25 nesting at Smith Oaks, and a few at Tuna Rd. and Shoveler Pond; scattered elsewhere.

**Reddish Egret** *Egretta rufescens*—(3) Small numbers but good looks, with a few each at Bob Rd. and Bolivar Flats, with one at LaFitte's Cove and a white-morph bird seen from the 17<sup>th</sup> Street jetty.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*—(7) Scattered throughout, with a few at Smith Oaks and at least 300 in the rookery at Brazos Bend.

**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens*—(5) A few here and there, including Martin Dies Island Trail, Sabine Woods, and LaFitte's Cove.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea*—(5) Also a few here and there, seen at Smith Oaks, Bolivar Flats, Shoveler Pond, and Brazos Bend

### **IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae**

**White Ibis** *Eudocimus albus*—(7) Widespread, with flocks of 10-50 in ponds, yards, fields and wetlands.

**White-faced Ibis** *Plegadis chihi*—(5) Small numbers found at Sabine Woods, Shoveler Pond, Galveston, and Brazos Bend.

**Roseate Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja*—(5) Best concentrations of 45+ at Smith Oaks and 25+ at Brazos Bend; a few scattered elsewhere.

### **NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae**

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus*—(7) Common and widespread.

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*—(8) Common and widespread.

### **OSPREY: Pandionidae**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*—(3) One seen at Bob Rd., others while driving along the coast.

### **HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae**

**White-tailed Kite** *Elanus leucurus*—(2) Individuals seen while driving along the coast.

**Mississippi Kite** *Ictinia mississippiensis*—(1) One flyover just as we were leaving Brazos Bend; maybe the last 'trip bird' of the trip.

**Northern Harrier** *Circus hudsonius*—(1) One seen while driving at Anahuac.

**Cooper's Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii*—(1) Seen once GO while driving through the Big Thicket.

**Bald Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*—(1) Hatch-year bird made a big low circle for all to see at Brazos Bend.

**Red-shouldered Hawk** *Buteo lineatus*—(4) HO in several locations but seen very well at Sandy Creek Park in Jasper dropping repeatedly from a low perch into the weeds to feed on beetles; quite a show. Also seen carrying prey at Brazos Bend.

**Swainson's Hawk** *Buteo swainsoni*—(1) One bird seen on the road to Anahuac.

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*—(5) Mostly seen while driving but also one at Brazos Bend.

### **OWLS: Strigidae**

**Barred Owl** *Strix varia*—(1) Two pairs were very responsive to playback at Brazos Bend; the first pair flew in and perched right in front of us.

### **KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae**

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon*—(1) Just one bird seen at Smith Oaks.

### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae**

**Red-headed Woodpecker** *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*—(4) Nice looks at this handsome bird: two at Jones; two at an apparent cavity at Martin Dies Slough Trail; another pair at a cavity in Sandy Creek Park; and three birds at the Pitcher Plant Trail.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker** *Melanerpes carolinus*—(6) Most widespread and conspicuous woodpecker; one pair at Jones was attending a cavity and feeding at an anvil site, and another pair was drumming at the Edgewood Picnic Area in Beaumont. Widely scattered elsewhere.

**Downy Woodpecker** *Dryobates pubescens*—(5) Also fairly common but mostly HO, with visuals at the Pitcher Plant Trail and Brazos Bend.

**Red-cockaded Woodpecker** *Dryobates borealis*—(2) Two great encounters: three chatty birds actively feeding at Jones, and three near Boykin Springs.

**Hairy Woodpecker** *Dryobates villosus*—(1) One pair seen briefly at Big Creek.

**Pileated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus pileatus*—(3) One bird flew by the group at eye level at the Martin Dies Island Trail, later seen drumming; another pair at Martin Dies Slough Trail at a likely nest site and two at Pitcher Plant Trail.

**Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus*—(2) GO at Martin Dies, then seen by all at the Pitcher Plant Trail.

### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae**

**Crested Caracara** *Caracara cheriway*—(5) Seen repeatedly in the Anahuac area, as well as at Tuna Rd. and Brazos Bend.

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*—(1) One bird seen along the roadside at Anahuac.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*—(1) One flyover at Smith Oaks.

### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae**

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** *Contopus virens*—(1) One singing at the Pitcher Plant Trail and one seen at Sabine Woods.

**Acadian Flycatcher** *Empidonax virescens*—(2) At least two birds HO at Big Creek, then seen by all at Martin Dies Slough Trail.

**Great Crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus crinitus*—(3) At least three HO in the canopy at Martin Dies Swamp, and then HO at Gore Store Rd and Sabine Woods; never got to see one.

**Eastern Kingbird** *Tyrannus tyrannus*—(6) Widespread, especially along the coast, with five at Sabine Woods and six at Shoveler Pond.



**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus forficatus*—(7) Widespread along the roadsides, with our first looks at a pair at Livingston Dam.

#### **SHRIKES: Laniidae**

**Loggerhead Shrike** *Lanius ludovicianus*—(3) Mostly along the coast, with one at Gregory Park and one carrying nesting material at the 17<sup>th</sup> Street jetty.

#### **VIREOS: Vireonidae**

**White-eyed Vireo** *Vireo griseus*—(8) One of the most widespread songbirds of the trip, heard often, with a few good looks when we felt like taking the time; found at Big Creek, Martin Dies (at least 10 on the slough trail) Pitcher Plant Trail, Sabine Woods, Smith Oaks, and elsewhere.

**Yellow-throated Vireo** *Vireo flavifrons*—(3) HO at Big Creek and the Martin Dies Slough Trail, then seen well at the Pitcher Plant Trail.

**Blue-headed Vireo** *Vireo solitarius*—(2) Two birds found twice at Smith Oaks.

**Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus*—(5) Widespread but elusive; several at Big Creek seen by some, HO at Martin Dies and Gore Store Rd., then seen at Sabine Woods and Smith Oaks.

#### **CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae**

**Blue Jay** *Cyanocitta cristata*—(8) Widespread but never allowing good looks; Jones, Big Creek, Martin Dies Slough Trail, Sabine Woods, Smith Oaks, and elsewhere.

**American Crow** *Corvus brachyrhynchos*—(4) Small numbers scattered in woodlands, including Martin Dies Slough Trail, Boykin Springs, and Sabine Woods.

**Fish Crow** *Corvus ossifragus*—(1) Group of three seen and heard at Livingston Dam.

#### **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae**

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*—(1) Seen only briefly at Sabine Woods.

**Purple Martin** *Progne subis*—(6) Several at Anahuac, then heard and seen regularly at High Island and again from the 17<sup>th</sup> Street jetty.

**Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor*—(2) A few feeding over the Whooping Crane field, a dozen at Shoveler Pond.

**Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia*—(1) Two seen briefly at Brazos Bend.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*—(7) By far the most common swallow, scattered throughout, with good numbers at Livingston Dam; one seen carrying a fecal sac at Brazos Bend.

**Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*—(5) Many at Livingston Dam and then several at Shoveler Pond.

#### **TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae**

**Carolina Chickadee** *Poecile carolinensis*—(5) Found daily the first half of the trip and then at Brazos Bend, HO several places; probable nest site seen at Martin Dies Island Trail.

**Tufted Titmouse** *Baeolophus bicolor*—(5) Equally as common as chickadee and in the same habitats; several birds HO, and one seen carrying nesting material at the Martin Dies Slough Trail.

#### **NUTHATCHES: Sittidae**

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta canadensis*—(1) One bird HO at Martin Dies Slough Trail.

**White-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta carolinensis*—(1) HO at Jones Forest.

**Brown-headed Nuthatch** *Sitta pusilla*—(2) HO at Boykin Springs but special effort made to see them at Jones and the Pitcher Plant Trail.

#### **WRENS: Troglodytidae**

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon*—(2) One seen at Jones, then HO at the Pitcher Plant Trail.

**Sedge Wren** *Cistothorus platensis*—(1) One bird singing loudly and barely seen at LaFitte's Cove.

**Marsh Wren** *Cistothorus palustris*—(1) HO at Shoveler Pond.

**Carolina Wren** *Thryothorus ludovicianus*—(8) Widespread and common, typically HO, with birds seen at Jones, Martin Dies, Pitcher Plant Trail, Smith Oaks, and Brazos Bend.

#### **GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae**

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila caerulea*—(3) Seen at Jones, HO at Big Creek, and then seen flycatching at the Pitcher Plant Trail.

#### **KINGLETS: Regulidae**

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus calendula*—(2) HO at Martin Dies Slough Trail, then seen at the Pitcher Plant Trail.

#### **THRUSHES: Turdidae**

**Eastern Bluebird** *Sialia sialis*—(3) Pairs seen at Jones, Livingston Dam, and Sandy Creek Park.

**Veery** *Catharus fuscescens*—(2) Individuals seen at Boy Scout Woods and Smith Oaks.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush** *Catharus minimus*—(1) HO twice, at Sabine Woods and Smith Oaks.

**Swainson's Thrush** *Catharus ustulatus*—(3) Three seen at Smith Oaks, then one at Brazos Bend.

**Wood Thrush** *Hylocichla mustelina*—(5) Heard singing at Big Creek and Martin Dies Slough Trail, then migrants seen well a Sabine Woods, Boy Scout Woods, and Smith Oaks.

#### **MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae**

**Gray Catbird** *Dumetella carolinensis*—(5) Commonly seen concentrated at migrant traps, including 8 at Sabine Woods, 13 at Smith Oaks, and 6 at Boy Scout Woods.

**Brown Thrasher** *Toxostoma rufum*—(2) Two seen at Sabine Woods then a single bird at LaFitte's Cove.

**Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos*—(8) Common and widespread, apropos for the Texas state bird.

#### **STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae**

**European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*—(6) Seen almost daily, with 20+ at Gregory Park in Crystal Beach.

#### **WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae**

**Cedar Waxwing** *Bombycilla cedrorum*—(1) Seen on day 4, maybe along the Neches River?

#### **FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae**

**Pine Siskin** *Spinus pinus*—(1) HO at the Martin Dies Slough Trail.

#### **NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae**

**Bachman's Sparrow** *Peucaea aestivalis*—(1) After some searching and following-up on recent reports, we finally found a singing Bachman's Sparrow in the Boykin Springs area.

**White-throated Sparrow** *Zonotrichia albicollis*—(1) One lingering bird of this boreal breeding species found in a mixed flock at the Pitcher Plant Trail.

**Seaside Sparrow** *Ammospiza maritima*—(1) Though only seen (and heard) on one day, we found many Seaside Sparrows on Bob and Tuna Roads on the Bolivar Peninsula.

**Nelson's Sparrow** *Ammospiza nelsoni*—(1) One see well on Bob Rd.

**Savannah Sparrow** *Passerculus sandwichensis*—(2) Three birds seen along the auto tour levee at Shoveler Pond.

**Swamp Sparrow** *Melospiza georgiana*—(1) As with the White-throated, one lingering bird seen at Smith Oaks.

#### **NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae**

**Bobolink** *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*—(1) Only seen once, among the dune grasses just outside Sabine Woods.

**Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna*—(6) Seen several times along the roadsides perched on fences and singing in the fields; good looks at Bob and Tuna Rds.

**Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius*—(5) Seen in several locations, including bright males; Sabine Woods, Boy Scout Woods, Shoveler Pond, and Quintana, among other sites.

**Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula*—(1) GO at LaFitte's Cove.

- Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*—(7) Seen almost daily, often along roadsides, with many birds at Livingston Dam, Sabine Woods, and Shoveler Pond.
- Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater*—(5) HO in a few spots and seen in scattered locations, usually among other blackbirds, with a flock of six at Shoveler Pond.
- Common Grackle** *Quiscalus quiscula*—(3) Small flock of six seen at Sabine Woods; also at High Island.
- Boat-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus major*—(6) Well-distributed in the coastal areas, with 20 seen at the 17<sup>th</sup> Street jetty and 25 at Brazos Bend.
- Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus*—(7) Widespread, especially in urban areas, with 45 at Smith Oaks. The real show, however, was at Quintana, where a very loud and gregarious swarm seems to have all but taken over the sanctuary.

#### **NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae**

- Ovenbird** *Seiurus aurocapilla*—(2) Two seen at Sabine Woods, and two at Smith Oaks.
- Worm-eating Warbler** *Helmitheros vermivorum*—(4) Seen by few at Big Creek, HO at the Martin Dies Slough Trail (not for want of concerted effort to see the bird!), and two seen at Smith Oaks.
- Northern Waterthrush** *Parkesia noveboracensis*—(2) Seen along pond edges at Boy Scout Woods and Smith Oaks.
- Blue-winged Warbler** *Vermivora cyanoptera*—(2) A stunning three birds seen at Sabine Woods, and then one at Boy Scout Woods.
- Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia*—(5) Regular breeder, found singing at Martin Dies Slough Trail, then likely migrants seen at most of the coastal sanctuaries.
- Prothonotary Warbler** *Protonotaria citrea*—(6) The only warbler seen on more than 5 days, hence our most widespread warbler, and delightfully so! Singing birds at Martin Dies Slough Trail and Edgewood Picnic area, with migrants seen at Sabine Woods, Smith Oaks, and Boy Scout Woods; also at the Willows at Anahuac and at least five at Brazos Bend.
- Swainson's Warbler** *Limnothlypis swainsonii*—(3) Loudly singing bird HO at Big Creek, but we all got nice visuals at the Martin Dies Slough Trail, and then later at Smith Oaks.
- Tennessee Warbler** *Oreothlypis peregrina*—(4) Seen at Martin Dies Slough Trail and coastal sanctuaries.
- Kentucky Warbler** *Geothlypis formosa*—(1) One very territorial bird seen well at the Pitcher Plant Trail, then another the same day at Sabine Woods.
- Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*—(4), Sabine Woods, Smith Oaks, Brazos Bend
- Hooded Warbler** *Setophaga citrina*—(4) Widespread breeding individuals found at Big Creek, Martin Dies Slough Trail, Pitcher Plant Trail, and Gore Store Rd.; also at Sabine Woods and High Island.
- American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla*—(4) One of the most common migrant warblers, including birds at Sabine Woods, Smith Oaks, and LaFitte's Cove.
- Northern Parula** *Setophaga americana*—(3) Female at a likely nest site in the parking lot at the Martin Dies Island Trail; singing birds also found at Martin Dies Slough Trail, Edgewood Picnic Area, and Brazos Bend.
- Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia*—(5) Most common migrant warbler, seen at most coastal sanctuaries.
- Blackpoll Warbler** *Setophaga striata*—(2) One male seen well in the Willows at Anahuac, then another at Boy Scout Woods.
- Black-throated Blue Warbler** *Setophaga caerulescens*—(1) Stunning and unexpected male seen at Smith Oaks.
- Pine Warbler** *Setophaga pinus*—(4) Widespread breeder the first half of the trip, with birds at Jones, Big Creek, Martin Dies, and Big Thicket sites; fledgling being fed at Boykin Springs area.
- Yellow-throated Warbler** *Setophaga dominica*—(3) Like Parula, a fairly widespread breeder, found at Martin Dies, Pitcher Plant Trail, and Edgewood Picnic area, among other sites, usually along creeks and rivers.
- Prairie Warbler** *Setophaga discolor*—(1) One singing male found in the perfect age of pine plantation, Big Thicket.
- Black-throated Green Warbler** *Setophaga virens*—(4) As expected, a common migrant, seen at Jones, Martin Dies Slough Trail, Sabine Woods, and Smith Oaks.

#### **CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae**

- Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra*—(9) Gorgeous bird to have been a regular fixture on the trip, seen every



day, including our first adult male at Jones on day one; other sites included Big Creek, Martin Dies, Sabine Woods, Smith Oaks, and the Willows at Anahuac.

**Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea*—(4) Stunning males seen at Sabine Woods and Smith Oaks, as well as other coastal sanctuaries.

**Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis*—(9) Another daily 'red' bird; a nice treat, especially for the western birders. Seen in practically all locations.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus*—(5) Migrating males and females seen repeatedly at coastal sanctuaries, including Sabine Woods and High Island.

**Blue Grosbeak** *Passerina caerulea*—(2) Surprisingly few, seen only at Sabine Woods and Smith Oaks.

**Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea*—(5) Breeding individuals singing on territories at Jones and Boykin Springs, with likely migrants at Sabine Woods, Boy Scout Woods, and Quintana.

**Painted Bunting** *Passerina ciris*—(2) HO at Boykin Springs, then finally seen well at the drip at Boy Scout Woods.

**Dickcissel** *Spiza americana*—(2) GO at Livingston Dam, then two seen at Anahuac.

### OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*—(6) Common and widespread, mostly in urban and agricultural areas.

### **MAMMALS:**

**Virginia Opossum** *Didelphis virginiana*—(X) Many road-killed.

**Nine-banded Armadillo** *Dasypos novemcinctus*—(X) Many road-killed.

**Eastern Cottontail** *Sylvilagus floridanus*—(1) One seen at Sabine Woods.

**Swamp Rabbit** *Sylvilagus aquaticus*—(2) Seen in coastal sanctuaries.

**Fox Squirrel** *Sciurus niger*—(1) Sandy Creek Park.

**Eastern Gray Squirrel** *Sciurus carolinensis*—(4) Widespread on Bolivar Peninsula.

**Common Raccoon** *Procyon lotor*—(X) Many road-killed.

**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus*—(2) Big Thicket and High Island.

**Norway Rat** *Rattus norvegicus*—(1) Seen at 17<sup>th</sup> Street jetty.

**Common Bottlenose Dolphin** *Tursiops truncatus*—(1) Seen by some of us from the Galveston ferry.

### **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (and a fish):**

**Pond Slider** *Trachemys scripta elegans*—(4) Red-eared subspecies seen in many locations.

**American Alligator** *Alligator mississippiensis*—(4) Widespread at High Island and Brazos Bend.

**Brown Anole** *Anolis sagrei*—(1) Don't remember where we saw this one.

**Western Ribbon Snake** *Thamnophis proximus*—(1) Anahuac.

**Western Rat Snake** *Pantherophis obsoletus*—(1) High Island.

**Watersnake** *Nerodia* sp.—(1) Sabine Woods.

**Rough Green Snake** *Opheodrys aestivus*—(1) GO at High Island.

**American Bullfrog** *Lithobates catesbeianus*—(2?) Heard often and a few seen at High Island and Brazos Bend.

**Toad** Bufonidae sp.—(?) Don't remember where we saw this one.

**Alligator Gar** *Atractosteus spatula*—(?) Don't remember where we saw this one.

### **ARTHROPODS:**

**Pearl Crescent** *Phyciodes tharos*

**Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta*

**Red-spotted Purple (aka White Admiral)** *Limenitis arthemis*

**Monarch** *Danaus plexipus*

**Queen** *Danaus gilippus*

**Eastern Giant Swallowtail** *Papilio cresphontes*

**Palmedes Swallowtail** *Papilio palamedes*

**Pipevine Swallowtail** *Battus philenor*

**Polydamus Swallowtail** *Battus polydamas*

**Long-tailed Skipper** *Urbanus proteus*

**Ebony Jewelwing** *Calopteryx maculata*