

Trip three: Brazoria and TX City Dike

Quintana / Brazoria National Wildlife, Refuges

Description: Quintana is a small but well equipped transit refuge for colorful neo-tropical migrants, south east of Freeport. Grooved-billed Anis have been seen several times in winter. East of the refuge is a jetty lining the south side of the Freeport harbor entrance that has occasionally been visited by a Purple Sandpiper. Bryan's Beach, just to the west, offers excellent shore birding. BNWR is a 40,000 acre managed refuge and from December thru February, offers spectacular waterfowl birding with thousands of wintering ducks and geese tucked into a beautiful marsh setting. Best viewing for geese is early or late in the day. Many sparrow species and raptors also winter here. During the spring and fall migration, it's a good place for warblers and shorebirds. Also, watch for alligators and other marsh animals.

Directions: From Galveston, go west on FM 3005 over the San Luis Pass Bridge to Surfside. At Surfside, turn right on TX 332, north over intra-coastal canal. For Quintana, turn left onto FM 523, at the lights after Buc-ee's, and then south on I495. For BNWR, turn right onto FM 523 and then right on CR 227 (Hoskins Mound Rd), then right on CR 459 to the entrance of BNWR.

Tips: Either going to or coming from, BNWR one can use the road atop the levee running between TX332 and FM 523.

Texas City Dike and Levee, back to Galveston.

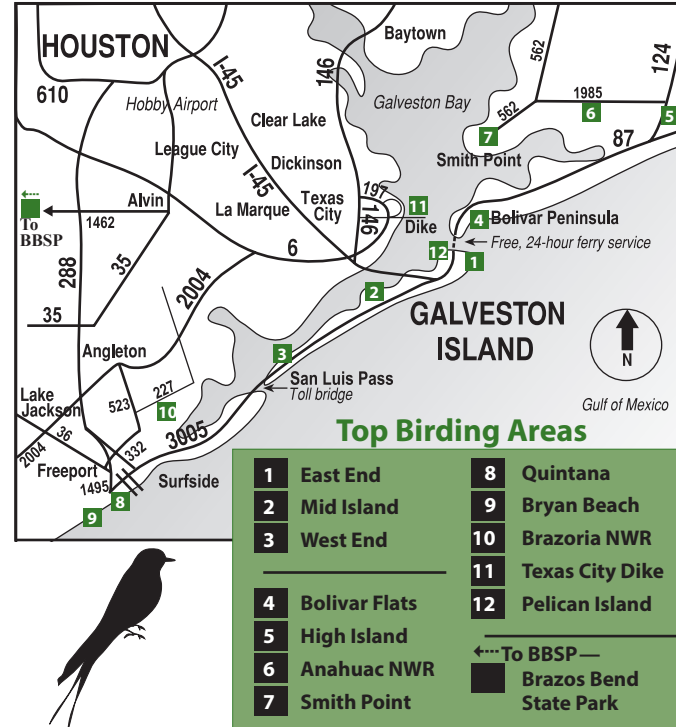
Description: The Dike extends 5 miles East into Galveston Bay, affording good birding along its entire length. It's also worth driving the levee, known as Skyline Drive. In winter, the dike is a great place to view loons, grebes, bay ducks, etc. It is good all year for shore birds and waders. Check the shrimp boat riggings for Black-crowned Night-herons. Returning from the dike, there is good birding either side of the levee road running north at the west end of the dike. In the spring, look for Upland Sandpipers, Golden Plovers and pipits in the grass and loons and bay ducks in the bay. One might also see otters playing in the fresh water lagoon. Continue birding to the end where there is a flood control gate and usually in spring, mergansers, Common Goldeneye, loons, herons, cormorants, egrets, Brown and White pelicans are fishing. Returning via the levee road, one has to divert to a one way return leg. After leaving the levee, enter and check out the water treatment plant grounds on the right. Along the left of the return road, below and parallel to the levee is an extensive and interesting park with a butterfly garden.

Directions: It's quite a long link continuing on from Brazoria NWR, but return to CR 227 (Hoskins Mound Rd), retrace left to FM 523, then turn right and continue to FM 2004. Turn right on FM 2004, continue to Hwy 6. Proceed east on Hwy 6. Go east under I-45, merge with Hwy 146 and at the first lights, bear right onto Loop 197. Stay on Loop 197 past the refineries and turn right on 8th Street, which becomes the Texas City Dike. After one leaves the levee and the butterfly garden retrace to Galveston via 8th street, Loop 197 and I-45.south.

Tips: Between I-45 and the refineries, there are wetlands and some water reservoirs. Stop and view from the south (with traffic) side of Loop 197 on the route out and on the north side (with traffic) of 197 on the return route.

Pelican Island

Since the prior edition of this guide, the most popular two birding locations on Pelican Island are either inaccessible to the public or have active construction.



This publication is produced by the Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council with support from Casa del Mar Beachfront Suites, Moody Gardens, and the Galveston Island Convention & Visitors Bureau.



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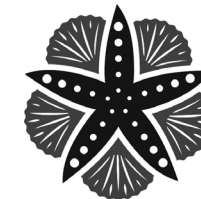


www.moodygardens.org



For more information on Birding opportunities and services in the Galveston area, including FeatherFest, the Spring birding & nature photography festival, please visit www.galvestonnaturetourism.org the website of 501c3, Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council Inc., coordinator of this guide.

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Trip one: Galveston Island, East to West

East Isle. The East End Lagoon /Big Reef /East Beach

Description: The northeast end of the island, seaward of the seawall is accreted land resulting from the creation of the South Jetty. The long lagoon resulted from a sand borrow pit for the Seawall. Habitats range from sandy beach, to upland prairie and black mangrove lined tidal wetlands and provide views of nature and of a busy ship channel. It is an exceptional area for natural outdoor recreation and the appreciation of nature and its preservation. It is a “must visit” area for all and especially beginning birders. One can enjoy vast numbers and variety of birds without leaving the car. The lagoons are good areas to find cormorants, egrets, herons, ibis, rails etc. At the beach, windblown sand and grassy hills provide nesting sites for Least Terns, Black Skimmers and American Oystercatchers. At water’s edge, great feeding flocks of gulls, terns, skimmers and pelicans are common. The protected Piping Plovers frequent East Beach for long periods while en-route to their northern breeding grounds.

Directions: Go east on Seawall, past Ferry Rd, scan the East End Lagoon Preserve on the right. Turn right on Boddeker Rd, then proceed south, where there is parking. You can bird either side of the road, including the landward end of the South Jetty, the Ship Channel edge and the Black Mangrove lined tidal lagoons to the west. Continue south to the East Beach toll booth. Park for free before the booth and explore where the uplands of Big Reef meet the beach. At peak use periods there will be a fee to go through the toll booth. Drive east on the beach from there, park where permitted, and walk east toward the jetty where it enters the Gulf.

Tips: Big Reef/East Beach is easier to walk along the edge of the ship channel and beaches at low tide.

East Isle. Corps Woods

Description: A small heavily wooded area opposite the Army Corps of Engineers Office, with paths and boardwalks, and two parallel narrow waterways straddling an abandoned rail track, now on the outside of a levee. It’s a major feeding area for spring and fall migrants (water thrushes love it), good for wintering nearctic species and all year round birds like herons and egrets, night herons and cardinals.

Directions: From Boddeker Dr, return west on Seawall, turn right at light onto Ferry Rd, turn right at the “US COAST GUARD” sign. Corps Woods is about a half mile on the right.

Mid Isle. 8 Mile Rd/Stewart Rd/Lafitte’s Cove Preserve

Description: This area includes examples of the ridges and sloughs that run along the island, remnants of ancient shorelines. The structure provides for shallow inter-tidal marshes, tidal creeks, oyster reefs, mud flats, brackish and fresh water ponds; upland pastures and woods on the highest points. 8 Mile Rd provides means to easily view a cross section of the island by car and provides birding surprises all year. Sportsman Rd provides the best auto viewing of Galveston bay edge habitats with herons, egrets and rails. Stewart Rd runs along the island grain with close views of wintering waterfowl and all year round waders, in the low lying wet areas and Sandhill Cranes in the fields in winter. Lafitte’s Cove Preserve protects part of the island ridge and offers a rare and excellent mott of oaks, fruiting trees and bushes. Being compact, it is a migrant trap and a vitally important transit stop for colorful songbirds migrating north in the spring and south in the fall. 137 species were recorded in one spring season.

Directions: Proceed west on Seawall Blvd just beyond the Seawall, turn right (north) on 8 Mile Rd, cross Stewart Rd and bird to the end of the road at the Bay. On returning, turn right (west) onto Sportsman Rd and check both sides of the road to the turnaround at the end. Return to 8 Mile Rd, south to Stewart Rd, then west on Stewart Rd to the second entrance of Lafitte’s Cove (Eckert Dr). Turn right, drive 100 yards and park on the right.

Tips: There are several N-S and E-W roads in the area north of Stewart Rd between 8 Mile and Settegast Rd which are worth exploring.

Mid Isle. Galveston Island State Park (GISP)

Description: The GISP (approximately 2000 acres) stretches from beach to bay with all the habitats common to barrier islands, beach, dunes, upland coastal prairie, fresh and salt water marshes, mudflats and some mixed hardwood trees areas. In winter, the sea grass in the shallow bay water supports huge rafts of waterfowl while inland wrens and sparrow species including Le Contes are likely seen. Black Rails can often be heard (and on occasion seen) in season. Spring/Summer breeders include meadowlarks, Black-necked Stilts and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. The park boasts pairs of White-tailed Kites, views of Crested Caracaras and Northern Harriers. Bayside of the main highway, are several mowed walking or biking trails with easy viewing and an ADA observation tower. Bayside is also an excellent and safe entry point for birding by kayak, winding within the restored marshes. Gulls and terns nest in large colonies in the far reaches of the marshes plus pairs of oystercatchers.

Direction: GISP entrance signs are visible both sides of Hwy 3005; approximately 6 miles from the end of the Seawall. If you have an annual TPWD pass, you can sign yourself in at the bayside Nature Center, otherwise go to the Park HQ on the Beachside and pay a small day use fee.

Tips: Bird list, park and kayak trail maps and other information is available at Park HQ. You can arrange for supervised kayak trips using park equipment. A moderate amount of walking will be rewarding.

West End: Dos Vacas Muertas, San Luis Pass Flats

Description: Dos Vacas Muertas is a nine acre preserve belonging to Houston Audubon with a range of bayside habitats and has several viewing areas with seating and water drips. San Luis Pass Flats are at the extreme end of the island where gulf side and bayside beaches meet. Large flocks of gulls, several year round tern species, skimmers, etc., are common, supplemented seasonally by thousands of Black Terns and plover and sandpiper species. It can be spectacular. Birds favor bay or gulf depending on winds and tides. The flats are forever changing with lagoons and sand bars, low sandy grasslands, cane grass and scattered salt cedar and shrubs. The sandy dunes are summer nesting areas for skimmers, Wilson’s Plovers, with Red-winged Blackbirds in cane grass stands. One can almost guarantee seeing a white morph Reddish Egret bayside.

Directions: For Dos Vacas Muertas, drive west from GISP about 8 miles and turn bayside (north) on Seabird Dr just before the Sea Isle neighborhood. For San Luis Pass Flats, continue another 4 miles to the San Luis Pass toll bridge but don’t pass over, take either left or right service roads under the bridge and proceed to the Gulf side, using a potted marl road. If the tide is low, you can drive along the beach at the edge of the Gulf and pass back north under the bridge at the pass itself to bird the bay-edge. If the tide is higher, pass under the elevated road to get to the bayside. Ideally, use an all-wheel drive vehicle.

Tips: En route to San Luis, check open pasture lands for feeding curlews and godwits and Sandhill Cranes in the fall and winter.

Trip two: Bolivar, High Island, Anahuac NWR

Bolivar Peninsula

Description: Across the ship channel from Galveston is the Bolivar Peninsula. Bolivar Flats on the Gulf side is one of the 20 most important shorebird wintering sites in North America. The Audubon sanctuary is a large tidal sand/mudflat adjacent to a significant marsh area and can be viewed either from a beach entry or from the North Jetty. Over 100,000 birds have been seen on the flats in a single day.

Directions: From Galveston, take the ferry to Point Bolivar. From the landing, proceed east on Hwy 87, turn right on 17th street and check out the Bolivar Flats from the North Jetty. When the tide is low, the shore-birding is spectacular. Retrace steps and proceed further east on Hwy 87. Turn right (south) at Rettilon Rd and turn right (west) at the beach and proceed to the piling barricade. The flats may be viewed from the nearby observation tower or on foot.

Tips: There are other good birding areas nearby. French Town Rd is just past the ferry landing but runs north and has areas of exposed oyster beds where oystercatchers are usually seen. Also, check Fort Travis Seashore Park for songbirds during the migrations. Loop 108, which intersects Hwy 87 twice is fine for viewing wading birds, shorebirds and ducks.

High Island

Description: This heavily oak forested mound above a salt dome, is known worldwide as a temporary haven for spring songbirds during migration from the tropics and South America, late March to mid-May. The southward fall migration is less concentrated but birding is often very good.

Directions: Continue east on Hwy 87, then north on Hwy 124 to High Island. The Houston Audubon Society (HAS) has two major refuges in the area – Boy Scout Woods and Smith Woods – both to the east of Hwy 124 and both marked by signs on the highway. During spring migration, Boy Scout Woods is staffed by knowledgeable volunteers and there is a small fee per person to bird both sites. There are other small marked HAS tracts in the area.

Tips: En route to High Island from Galveston, check for shorebirds in the ponds and pastures along Hwy 87 and in winter, raptors on the power lines and posts. About half way, take a look bay-side at Rollover Pass.

Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)

Description: This refuge, located along East Galveston Bay, has approximately 25,000 acres of brackish and freshwater marsh, walking paths and an auto loop. The latter makes for easy viewing of alligators, herons, egrets, waterfowl in season, as well as Peregrine Falcons and Wood Storks. Yellow Rails are regular in winter and spring. Birding is good all year.

Directions: From High Island; continue north on Hwy 124 about 4 miles, turn left (west) on Hwy 1985, continue west 7 miles, turn left (south) at the marked entrance to Anahuac NWR. Maps are available at the reception center. Take time to explore the several separate areas which require one to take separate entrances.

Tips: Continue west on Hwy 1985, then south on Hwy 562 to Smith Point to check out the Hawk Watch Tower and woods at the Candy Abshire Wildlife Management Area. In the fall, birds that migrate using thermals, like Swainson’s Hawks, “kettle” here in the thousands before crossing or circum travelling the Bay. Smith Point is a major commercial oystering center.

GALVESTON AREA BIRDING CHECKLIST

Bird Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Bird Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Bird Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	C	C	C	U	White-tailed Kite	C	C	C	C	Laughing Gull	C	C	C	C
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	C	C	U	U	Mississippi Kite	R	R	C	R	Franklin's Gull	R		U	C
Greater White-fronted Goose	U		C	C	Bald Eagle	R		R	R	Bonaparte's Gull	C		C	C
Snow Goose	U		C	C	Northern Harrier	C	R	C	C	Ring-billed Gull	C	R	C	C
Ross's Goose			R	R	Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		C	U	California Gull			C	C
Cackling Goose			R	R	Cooper's Hawk	U		C	U	Herring Gull	C	R	C	C
Canada Goose			R	C	Harris's Hawk				O	Thayer's Gull			C	R
Tundra Swan				O	Red-shouldered Hawk	C	C	C	C	Lesser Black-backed Gull	U		R	R
Wood Duck	C	C	C	C	Broad-winged Hawk	U		C	C	Glaucous Gull	R		R	R
Gadwall	C		C	C	Swainson's Hawk	U	U	U	U	Great Black-backed Gull	R		R	R
American Wigeon	C		C	C	White-tailed Hawk	R	R	R	R	Kelp Gull				R
Mallard	U	R	C	C	Red-tailed Hawk	U	R	C	C	Black-legged Kittiwake				R
Mottled Duck	C	C	C	C	Ferruginous Hawk			R	R	Sooty Tern				X
Blue-winged Teal	C	R	C	C	Rough-legged Hawk			O	O	Least Tern	C	C	C	C
Cinnamon Teal	R		R	U	Golden Eagle			O	O	Gull-billed Tern	U	U	U	C
Northern Shoveler	C		C	C	Crested Caracara	U	U	U	U	Caspian Tern				C
Northern Pintail	U		C	C	American Kestrel	C		C	C	Black Tern	C	C	C	C
Green-winged Teal	C		C	C	Merlin	U		U	U	Common Tern	C	C	C	C
Canvasback	R		C	U	Peregrine Falcon	U		U	U	Forster's Tern	C	C	C	C
Redhead	U		U	C	Prairie Falcon		O		O	Royal Tern	C	C	C	C
Ring-necked Duck	C		C	C	Yellow Rail	R		R	R	Sandwich Tern	C	C	C	C
Greater Scaup	R		C	U	Black Rail	R	R	R	R	Elegant Tern				X
Lesser Scaup	C	R	C	C	Clapper Rail	C	C	C	C	Black Skimmer	C	C	C	C
Surf Scoter	R			R	King Rail	C	C	C	C	Pomarine Jaeger	U	C	C	C
White-winged Scoter	R			R	Virginia Rail	C		U	U	Parasitic Jaeger	R		R	R
Black Scoter				R	Sora	C		U	U	Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C
Long-tailed Duck	O		O	O	Purple Gallinule	C	C	U	U	Eurasian Collared-Dove	C	C	C	C
Bufflehead	U		U	C	Common Moorhen	C	C	C	C	White-winged Dove	C	C	C	C
Common Goldeneye	R		R	U	American Coot	C		C	C	Mourning Dove	C	C	C	C
Hooded Merganser	R		R	U	Sandhill Crane	U		C	C	Inca Dove	C	C	C	C
Red-breasted Merganser	C		C	C	Whooping Crane	O		O	C	Common Ground-Dove	R	C	C	C
Masked Duck				O	Black-bellied Plover	C	U	C	C	Monk Parakeet	C	C	C	C
Ruddy Duck	U		U	C	American Golden-Plover	C		C	C	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	C	U	C	C
Greater Prairie-Chicken	R	R	R	R	Snowy Plover	C	R	U	U	Black-billed Cuckoo	U		R	R
Wild Turkey					Wilson's Plover	C	C	C	C	Groove-billed Ani	R			R
Northern Bobwhite	U	U	U	U	Semipalmated Plover	C	R	C	C	Barn Owl	C	C	C	C
Red-throated Loon				O	Piping Plover	C	R	C	C	Eastern Screech-Owl	C	C	C	C
Pacific Loon	U	O	R	U	Killdeer	C		C	C	Great Horned Owl	C		C	C
Common Loon	C	O	R	C	Mountain Plover			X	X	Burrowing Owl				O
Least Grebe				O	American Oystercatcher	U	U	U	U	Barred Owl	C	C	C	C
Pied-billed Grebe	C	U	C	C	Black-necked Stilt	C	C	C	C	Short-eared Owl	R		R	R
Horned Grebe	R		R	R	American Avocet	C	C	C	C	Lesser Nighthawk	R		R	R
Eared Grebe	U		U	U	Spotted Sandpiper	U		U	U	Common Nighthawk	C	C	C	C
Masked Booby	O	O	O	O	Solitary Sandpiper	U		U	U	Chuck-will's-widow	C		C	C
Northern Gannet	U	O	R	U	Wandering Tattler	X				Whip-poor-will	U		U	U
American White Pelican	U	R	C	C	Greater Yellowlegs	C	R	C	C	Chimney Swift	C	C	C	C
Brown Pelican	C	C	C	C	Willet	C	C	C	C	Buff-bellied Hummingbird				R
Neotropic Cormorant	C	C	C	C	Lesser Yellowlegs	C	C	C	C	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	R	C	C
Double-crested Cormorant	C	C	C	C	Upland Sandpiper	U		U	U	Black-chinned Hummingbird	R		R	R
Anhinga	C	C	C	C	Whimbrel	C	R	U	R	Anna's Hummingbird	R			R
Magnificent Frigatebird	R	U	U	U	Long-billed Curlew	C		C	C	Calliope Hummingbird	R			R
American Bittern	U	U	U	U	Hudsonian Godwit	U				Broad-tailed Hummingbird				R
Least Bittern	C	U	R	C	Marbled Godwit	C	R	C	C	Rufous Hummingbird	R		R	R
Great Blue Heron	C	C	C	C	Ruddy Turnstone	C	U	C	C	Belted Kingfisher	C	R	C	C
Great Egret	C	C	C	C	Red Knot	C	R	U	U	Red-headed Woodpecker	C	R	C	C
Snowy Egret	C	C	C	C	Sanderling	C	R	U	U	Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
Little Blue Heron	C	C	C	C	Semipalmated Sandpiper	C		U	U	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C		C	C
Tricolored Heron	C	C	C	C	Western Sandpiper	C	U	C	C	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	R	R	C	C
Reddish Egret	C	C	C	C	Least Sandpiper	C	U	C	C	Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
Cattle Egret	C	C	C	U	White-rumped Sandpiper	C				Hairy Woodpecker	R	R	C	R
Green Heron	C	C	C	R	Baird's Sandpiper	U		R		Northern Flicker	R			O
Black-crowned Night-Heron	C	C	C	C	Pectoral Sandpiper	C		C		Pileated Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	C	C	C	U	Purple Sandpiper	C			O	Olive-sided Flycatcher	C		U	C
White Ibis	C	C	C	C	Dunlin	C		C	C	Eastern Wood-Pewee	C		U	C
Glossy Ibis	R	R	R	R	Curlew Sandpiper	O	O			Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	O		U	U
White-faced Ibis	C	C	U	U	Stilt Sandpiper	C		C	R	Acadian Flycatcher	C	U	C	C
Roseate Spoonbill	C	C	U	C	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	U		R		Alder Flycatcher	R			C
Wood Stork		U	R		Ruff	O				Willow Flycatcher	R			C
Greater Flamingo		X			Short-billed Dowitcher	C	U	C	C	Least Flycatcher	U			R
Black Vulture	C	C	C	C	Long-billed Dowitcher	C		C	C	Eastern Phoebe	C			C
Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	C	Wilson's Snipe	C		C	C	Say's Phoebe	O			
Osprey	U	R		U	American Woodcock			R	R	Vermilion Flycatcher	R		R	R
Swallow-tailed Kite	R	O	U		Wilson's Phalarope	U		U		Ash-throated Flycatcher	R		R	R

Bird Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Great Crested Flycatcher	C	R	C	
Couch's Kingbird				O
Western Kingbird	U			O
Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C	
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	C	C	C	
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	X			
Loggerhead Shrike	C	C	C	C
White-eyed Vireo	C			U
Bell's Vireo	O		O	
Yellow-throated Vireo	C		C	
Blue-headed Vireo	C		C	C
Warbling Vireo	U		U	
Philadelphia Vireo	C		R	
Red-eyed Vireo	C	U	C	
Yellow-green Vireo	O			
Black-whiskered Vireo	O			
Blue Jay	C	C	C	C
American Crow	C	C	C	C
Fish Crow	O			U
Horned Lark	U	U	U	U
Purple Martin	C	C	C	
Tree Swallow	C		C	R
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C		C	
Bank Swallow	C		C	
Cliff Swallow	C	C	C	
Cave Swallow	U	U	U	R
Barn Swallow	C	C	C	
Carolina Chickadee	C		C	C
Tufted Titmouse	C	C	C	C
Red-breasted Nuthatch	R		R	R
Brown Creeper	R		R	R
Carolina Wren	C	C	C	C
Bewick's Wren	R		C	C
House Wren	C		C	C
Winter Wren			R	R
Sedge Wren	C		C	C
Marsh Wren	C		C	C
Golden-crowned Kinglet	R		C	C
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	C
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C		C	C
Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	C
Veery	U		R	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		R	
Swainson's Thrush	C		U	
Hermit Thrush	U		U	C
Wood Thrush	C		C	
American Robin	C	R	C	C
Gray Catbird	C		C	U
Northern Mockingbird	C	C	C	C
Sage Thrasher				O
Brown Thrasher	C		C	C
European Starling	C	C	C	C
American Pipit	C		U	C
Sprague's Pipit	R		R	R
Cedar Waxwing	C		C	C
Blue-winged Warbler	U		R	
Golden-winged Warbler	C		C	
Tennessee Warbler	C		C	
Orange-crowned Warbler	C		C	C
Nashville Warbler	C		C	
Northern Parula	C	C	C	R
Yellow Warbler	C		C	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	C		C	
Magnolia Warbler	C		C	
Cape May Warbler	R			
Black-throated Blue Warbler	R		R	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	C
Black-throated Gray Warbler	O			
Black-throated Green Warbler	C		C	
Townsend's Warbler	O			
Blackburnian Warbler	U		U	
Yellow-throated Warbler	U		U	
Pine Warbler	R		U	C
Prairie Warbler	R		R	
Palm Warbler	U		U	U
Bay-breasted Warbler	C		C	

Bird Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Blackpoll Warbler	C		R	
Cerulean Warbler	U		R	
Black-and-white Warbler	C		C	R
American Redstart	C	R	C	
Prothonotary Warbler	C	C	C	
Worm-eating Warbler	C		C	
Swainson's Warbler	U	R	R	
Ovenbird	C		C	
Northern Waterthrush	C		C	R
Louisiana Waterthrush	C		U	
Kentucky Warbler	C		C	
Mourning Warbler	R		U	
Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	C
Hooded Warbler	C	U	C	
Wilson's Warbler	U		U	R
Canada Warbler	U		U	
Yellow-breasted Chat	C		U	
Summer Tanager	C	U	C	
Scarlet Tanager	C		R	
Western Tanager	R		O	O
Spotted Towhee	O		O	O
Eastern Towhee	R		R	R
Chipping Sparrow	C		C	C
Clay-colored Sparrow	R		R	
Field Sparrow	U		U	U
Vesper Sparrow	U		U	
Lark Sparrow	R		R	
Lark Bunting				O
Savannah Sparrow	C		C	C
Grasshopper Sparrow	R		R	R
Henslow's Sparrow	R		R	R
Le Conte's Sparrow	C		C	C
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	C		C	C
Seaside Sparrow	C	C	C	C
Fox Sparrow				R
Song Sparrow	U		U	U
Lincoln's Sparrow	C		C	C
Swamp Sparrow	C		C	C
White-throated Sparrow	C		C	C
Harris's Sparrow	R		R	R
White-crowned Sparrow	U		U	U
Dark-eyed Junco				R
Lapland Longspur				R
Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C
Pyrrhuloxia				O
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C		C	
Black-headed Grosbeak	O			O
Blue Grosbeak	C		C	
Lazuli Bunting	O			
Indigo Bunting	C	U	C	R
Painted Bunting	C	U	C	
Dickcissel	C	U	C	O
Bobolink	R		C	C
Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	C
Eastern Meadowlark	C		C	C
Yellow-headed Blackbird	R		R	
Rusty Blackbird				R
Brewer's Blackbird	U		U	U
Common Grackle	C		C	C
Boat-tailed Grackle	C	C	C	C
Great-tailed Grackle	C	C	C	C
Bronzed Cowbird	U	R	U	U
Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C	C
Orchard Oriole	C	C	C	
Hooded Oriole	O			X
Bullock's Oriole				R
Baltimore Oriole	C		C	R
Purple Finch				R
House Finch	U	U	U	U
Pine Siskin	R		R	R
American Goldfinch	C		C	C
House Sparrow	C	C	C	C

The Bird Species Checklist follows the 49th American Ornithologists' Union order. It refers to all top birding areas, but not all species can be seen at every site.

C = Common to Abundant: certain in suitable habitat
U = Uncommon: present, not certainly seen
R = Rare: seen only a few times per season
O = Occasional: once every 2-5 years
X = Accidental: has occurred, not expected

Special Birds in the Galveston Area

Common Loon:	TCD, Offats Bayou
Pacific Loon:	TCD, Offats Bayou (rare winter)
Eared Grebe:	TCD, Offats Bayou
Northern Gannet:	Offshore, scope needed
Neotropic Cormorant:	Wide Distribution
Anhinga:	BBSP, SPHW, GISP (Rare, Freshwater)
Magnificent Frigatebird:	North SLP, SPHW, North GISP
Reddish Egret:	Sand flats EB, SLP, BF, BB
White-faced Ibis:	ANWR, BBSP
Glossy Ibis:	With White-Face Ibis
Roseate Spoonbill:	Brackish ponds along coast, nest HI
Fulvous Whistling-Duck:	Ponds ANWR, BBSP
Mottled Duck:	Ponds and lakes in area, all year
Cinnamon Teal:	BBSP, SPHW
Swallow-tailed Kite:	Coastal, Spring, SPHW Fall
White-tailed Kite:	Open areas near Coast, GISP pairs
Mississippi Kite:	BBSP, SPHW Fall migrant
Crested Caracara:	GISP, BBSP, BNWR
Yellow Rail:	Elusive ANWR, BNWR
Black Rail:	Very elusive ANWR, BNWR, GISP
Purple Gallinule:	ANWR, BBSP
Sandhill Crane:	West Galveston, BNWR, BBSP
Am. Golden-Plover:	Sand flats, Fields. BB, TCD
Plovers, Snowy, Wilson, Piping:	SLP, EB, BF, BB
Upland Sandpiper:	Coastal fields, TCD/SLD
Hudsonian Godwit:	Freshwater, Rice Fields
Pomarine Jaeger:	Off Coast w/feeding Gulls
Rare Gulls:	SLP, EB.
Franklin's Gull:	End of Oct. and first of Nov. EB, BF, SLP
Common Tern:	Spring/Fall Migrant, SLP, EB
Black Tern:	Spectacular! Huge flocks roost. SLP Aug/early Sept.
Eurasian Collared-Dove:	Galveston, east of 25th St. & Galveston Country Club.
White-wing Dove:	Galveston east of 61st St., GISP
Inca Doves:	Urban lawns, Cove Lane
Monk Parakeet:	Nest on light stands Ave S & 51st, and on Hwy 146
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:	Open Areas, GISP
Sprague's Pipit:	Grass habitats at TCD/SLP
Le Conte's Sparrow:	Brushy areas SLP, BBSP, GISP
Bobolinks:	Open fields on Island & Bolivar
Yellow-headed Blackbird:	Open Areas
Great-tailed Grackle:	Everywhere
Boat-tailed Grackle:	Mainly eastward, HI, ANWR
Bronzed Cowbirds:	HD 25th St. to 51st St.

Location Index for Special Birds

TCD/SL - TX City Dike/Skyline Dr.	ANWR - Anahuac NWR
BBSP - Brazos Bend State Park	EB - East Beach
SPHW - Smith Point Hawk Watch	BB - Bryan Beach
SLP - San Luis Pass	BNWR - Brazoria NWR
BF - Bolivar Flats	HD - Harborside Drive. Galv.
HI - High Island	GISP - Galveston Island SP