

Naturalist Journeys Texas Coast & Big Thicket

April 22-30, 2019



SPECIES LIST

With guides **Bob Behrstock and Robert Gallardo**, and **10 participants**
Pete & Betty, Jeanne, DJ & Henry, Leo & Joanne, Sid, Loretta, and Jane

Birds (No "Leader only" or "Participant only" birds are included)

Number of days out of 9 total days encountered in parentheses

Heard only birds (1) = (HO)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	(5) Numerous at most coastal wetlands and at Brazos Bend S.P.
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	(2) Tyrrell Park; later at Anahuac N.W.R. where seen very well
Mottled Duck	(3) Various coastal locations, ducklings at Anahuac N.W.R.
Blue-winged Teal	(5) Numerous at wet locations near the coast; fresh and saline
Northern Shoveler	(1) One at Anahuac N.W.R.
Green-winged Teal	(1) One drake at Cattail Marsh in Beaumont
Ring-necked Duck	(1) A pair at Anahuac N.W.R. was a bit of a surprise
Pied-billed Grebe	(1) Shoveler Pond at Anahuac N.W.R.
Rock Pigeon (Introduced)	(9) Seen every day; most common around towns
Eurasian Collared-Dove (Introduced)	(2) Found two days
White-winged Dove	(2) Abundant on Galveston Island; a few at Brazos Bend S.P.
Mourning Dove	(8) Numerous on utility and fence wires, lawns, rice fields, etc.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	(4) Seen at several coastal sites and heard at Brazos Bend S.P.
Black-billed Cuckoo	(1) One was seen pretty quickly at Sabine Woods
Common Nighthawk	(4) A couple on day roosts at Crystal Beach and a couple fly-overs
Chuck-will's-widow	(1) One was seen on its day roost in Boy Scout Woods
Chimney Swift	(1) several on the drive from Jasper to Winnie (perhaps a few others)
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	(4) Small numbers of probable breeders and a few migrants
King Rail	(1) A confiding bird was seen at length at Anahuac N.W.R.
Clapper Rail	(1) Seen on two salt marsh roads in Crystal Beach.
Virginia Rail	(1) Two in the open for an incredible 15 minutes at Brazos Bend S.P.
Sora	(5) Nice looks at Tyrrell Park, Anahuac N.W.R., and Brazos Bend S.P.
Common Gallinule	(4) Various lakes and marshes; one brood of chicks seen
American Coot	(3) Common at freshwater sites, especially Anahuac NWR
Purple Gallinule	(3) Seen well at Anahuac N.W.R., Cattail Marsh, and Brazos Bend S.P.
Whooping Crane	(1) Two, apparently from the new Louisiana population, NW of Winnie
Black-necked Stilt	(5) Numerous along the coast; fresh water and saline impoundments
American Avocet	(2) A few colorful migrants remained at Rollover Pass and Galveston Is.
American Oystercatcher	(1) We saw one at Rollover Pass

Black-bellied Plover	(3) Coastal sites such as Bolivar Flats; most in breeding plumage
American Golden Plover	(2) Rice field on 1941, and two recent trans-Gulf arrivals at Ft. Travis
Snowy Plover	(1) We had fantastic close looks on Bolivar Flats
Wilson's Plover	(2) Close looks at the parking area at Rollover Pass, and Bolivar Flats
Semipalmated Plover	(3) Various coastal sites including Rollover Pass, Bolivar Flats, etc.
Piping Plover	(1) Great looks and good comparisons with Snowies on the Bolivar Flats
Killdeer	(4) Coastal sites; salt flats, rice fields, marsh edge, etc.
Whimbrel	(4) Abundant in rice fields; a few on salt flats
Long-billed Curlew	(1) One was on Tuna Road outside Crystal Beach
Hudsonian Godwit	(1) Two in breeding plumage were in a rice field north of High Island
Marbled Godwit	(1) Several were present at Rollover Pass
Ruddy Turnstone	(3) Various coastal sites; Rollover Pass, Ft. Travis, beaches, etc.
Stilt Sandpiper	(3) Several in breeding plumage at Anahuac N.W.R.
Sanderling	(2) Rollover Pass and Bolivar Flats; some close to breeding plumage
Dunlin	(3) Rollover Pass, W. Galveston, etc. Some close to breeding plumage
Least Sandpiper	(2) Anahuac N.W.R. and W. Galveston Is.
White-rumped Sandpiper	(3) Initially, seen at a rice field; later, close looks on W. Galveston Is.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	(1) With some patience, we saw forty or so in a rice field on 1941
Pectoral Sandpiper	(3) Rice fields, Anahuac N.W.R. and W. Galveston Island
Western Sandpiper	(1) Sparse; a few at Anahuac N.W.R. with other shorebirds
Short-billed Dowitcher	(1) We saw a few at Rollover Pass
Long-billed Dowitcher	(2) A few in breeding plumage at Anahuac N.W.R. and W. Galveston Is.
Spotted Sandpiper	(1) Several were on a muddy flat at Anahuac N.W.R.
Solitary Sandpiper	(2) One or two at Anahuac N.W.R. and close looks at Lafitte's Cove
Willet	(3)

"Eastern Willet" race *semipalmatus*: Territorial along the coast on beaches and salt flats

"Western Willet" race *inornatus*: A flock of migrants at the east end of Galveston Island

Lesser Yellowlegs	(4) Rice fields, Anahuac N.W.R., and coastal salt flats
Laughing Gull	(3) Abundant along the coast
Ring-billed Gull	(3) Several at Rollover Pass, Bolivar Flats, and Galveston Is.
Herring Gull	(2) Just a few at Rollover Pass and Bolivar Flats
Least Tern	(3) Common and noisy along the coast; displaying and nesting at Bolivar
Gull-billed Tern	(1) Two were roosting along the entrance road to the Bolivar Flats
Caspian Tern	(1) A couple were roosting at Bolivar Flats
Black Tern	(3) Rollover Pass, Bolivar Flats, etc.; most in stunning breeding plumage
Common Tern	(2) Rollover Pass and Bolivar Flats in winter and breeding plumage
Forster's Tern	(2) Rollover Pass and Bolivar Flats
Royal Tern	(3) Numerous along the coast, especially Rollover Pass and Bolivar Flats
Sandwich Tern	(1) Roosting with other terns at Rollover Pass
Black Skimmer	(3) Flocks at Rollover Pass, Bolivar Flats, and Galveston Island
Magnificent Frigatebird	(1) A female was seen during the ferry crossing to Galveston
Anhinga	(1) Several were seen at Brazos Bend S.P.
Neotropic Cormorant	(3) Various sites, fresh and saline water; nesting at High Island
American White Pelican	(1) A large flock of these elegant birds was at Rollover Pass
Brown Pelican	(3) Common along the coast, we could drive with flocks along the beach

American Bittern	(1) A single bird was at Brazos Bend S.P.
Least Bittern	(2) Several were seen, first at Cattail Marsh then at Anahuac N.W.R.
Great Blue Heron	(7) Inland at reservoirs and along the coast
Great Egret	(6) Mostly coastal at salt flats and marshes; nesting at High Island
Snowy Egret	(6) Salt flats, rice fields, roadside ditches; nesting at High Island
Little Blue Heron	(5) Rice fields & reservoirs incl. Tyrrell Park and Brazos Bend S.P.
Tricolored Heron	(6) Frequently seen in small numbers, some lovely roadside views
Reddish Egret	(3) Good looks at Rollover Pass, Bolivar Flats and Galveston Island
Cattle Egret	(6) Flocks inland and coastally with cattle or in marshes and fields
Green Heron	(3) A few at Cattail Marsh, Anahuac, and High Island vicinity.
Black-crowned Night-Heron	(1) Just one, missed by most, on the Bolivar Peninsula
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	(5) Various sites from Tyrrell Park golf course to salt flats
White Ibis	(4) Common; inland near Livingston and Brazos Bend; most coastally
Glossy Ibis	(2) Locally increasing; seen at Cattail Marsh and Anahuac N.W.R.
White-faced Ibis	(4) Beaumont, Anahuac N.W.R., Galveston Is., and Brazos Bend S.P.
Roseate Spoonbill	(5) Seen at many coastal sites; nesting at High Island; a group favorite
Black Vulture	(8) Common and widespread throughout the trip
Turkey Vulture	(9) Ubiquitous inland and coastally
Osprey	(1) One on Stingaree Dr., Crystal Beach
White-tailed Kite	(1) One was seen along Hwy. 87 near Crystal Beach
Swallow-tailed Kite	(1) Three were over the boat ramp, W side of B. A. Steinhagen Lake
Mississippi Kite	(1) A kettle of at least 40 was seen over Boykin Springs Recreation Area
Northern Harrier	(1) One over fields near Anahuac N.W.R.
Cooper's Hawk	(2) One N of Jasper and one at Lafitte's Cove soaring over the rooftops
Broad-winged Hawk	(2) Singles over wooded areas inland; i.e. Big Creek Scenic Area
Swainson's Hawk	(2) Agricultural lands near Anahuac N.W.R.; one working a burning field
Red-tailed Hawk	(3) Singles inland over woodland or perched along pastures
Red-headed Woodpecker	(1) Found our first morning at W. G. Jones State Forest
Red-bellied Woodpecker	(5) Numerous and vocal inland during the first part of the trip
Downy Woodpecker	(2) W. G. Jones State Forest and Sabine Woods
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	(1) Nice looks at W. G. Jones State Forest: endangered U.S. endemic
Pileated Woodpecker	(3) Dogwood Trail, hotel in Jasper, various fly-bys; heard Brazos Bend
Crested Caracara	(4) Formerly sparse, now easily seen along the coast; i.e., Crystal Beach
Eastern Wood-Pewee	(4) Small numbers in the coastal migrant traps
Acadian Flycatcher	(2) Heard in the Big Thicket; seen (finally) at Sabine Woods
Great Crested Flycatcher	(4) Seen in <i>The Woodlands</i> ; heard three subsequent days
Eastern Kingbird	(5) Small numbers; agricultural land and marsh edge near the coast
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	(3) Numerous near the coast along rice field margins. Oooh, ahhhh.
Loggerhead Shrike	(3) Seen on utility wires or shrubs; typically singles
White-eyed Vireo	(8) Inland and in the migrant traps; several seen very well
Yellow-throated Vireo	(4) Inland and coastal woods; good looks along the Pitcher Plant Trail
Red-eyed Vireo	(5) One at Mitchell Woods; reasonably common at coastal woodlands
Blue Jay	(9) Seen or heard daily, both inland and coastally
American Crow	(3) Big Thicket; also at and en route to Brazos Bend S.P.
Fish Crow	(1) Seen in Kountze (Subway) and later at Tyrrell Park in Beaumont

Purple Martin	(7) Common; first views at Martin's Mexican Restaurant in Jasper!
Tree Swallow	(2) A few migrants noted twice; inland and coastal
Bank Swallow	(1) A few with other swallows at Tyrrell Park in Beaumont
Barn Swallow	(7) Pretty much throughout; over fields and ponds
Cliff Swallow	(7) Numerous; nesting on bridges and at Anahuac N.W.R.
Carolina Chickadee	(4) Probably best looks at the Pitcher Plant Trail and Brazos Bend S.P.
Tufted Titmouse	(2) Seen at W. G. Jones State Forest, heard at Brazos Bend S.P.
Brown-headed Nuthatch	(1) Finally, this near endemic was seen well on the Pitcher Plant Trail
Sedge Wren	(1) One was seen quickly in Crystal Beach
Marsh Wren	(1) (HO) several were heard at Cattail Marsh in Beaumont
Carolina Wren	(6) Heard four days and seen two; a characteristic song in East Texas
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	(1) One or two were in the Big Thicket on the Pitcher Plant Trail
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	(1) One or two in a flock at the Dogwood Trail near Woodville
Eastern Bluebird	(3) W. G. Jones State Forest (nest box), a couple sites in the Big Thicket
Gray-cheeked Thrush	(2) We had excellent views at High Island and Sabine Woods
Swainson's Thrush	(3) The most numerous thrush in the coastal woodlots where seen well
Wood Thrush	(4) Heard three days; finally one was seen at a drip in Smith Oaks
American Robin	(1) One was seen Day 3 in the Big Thicket
Gray Catbird	(5) A few inland; many in the coastal woodlands-often eating mulberries
Brown Thrasher	(2) Glimpsed at Sabine Woods, better looks trailside at Lafitte's Cove
Northern Mockingbird	(9) Common and noisy throughout; the State Bird of Texas
European Starling (Introduced)	(7) Here and there, mostly around towns
Cedar Waxwing	(6) Small flocks of migrants were seen coastally and inland
Pine Siskin	(1) Dozens in the tree tops our first morning at W. G. Jones State Forest
Bachman's Sparrow	(1) Nice looks at a cooperative bird S of Lake Sam Rayburn/N. of Jasper
White-throated Sparrow	(1) One was seen by some folks at Mitchell Woods in <i>The Woodlands</i>
Savannah Sparrow	(1) Several on the road at Anahuac NWR
Seaside Sparrow	(1) Numerous and seen very well at Tuna Rd., Crystal Beach
Nelson's Sparrow	(1) Nice looks at Tuna Rd. in Crystal Beach
Yellow-breasted Chat	(2) Heard several times, eventually seen well on the Pitcher Plant Trail
Yellow-headed Blackbird	(1) One was on a rice field dike near Anahuac N.W.R.
Eastern Meadowlark	(3) On fences or shrubs near the coast; several at Anahuac N.W.R.
Orchard Oriole	(2) One near Jasper; common in the reeds at Anahuac N.W.R.
Baltimore Oriole	(6) one near Zavalla; also in or near mulberry trees in coastal woodlands
Red-winged Blackbird	(6) Numerous coastally along rice fields, freshwater and saline marshes
Bronzed Cowbird	(1) A glimpse on the Bolivar Peninsula; one seen well at Lafitte's Cove
Brown-headed Cowbird	(4) A few inland and small numbers near the coast; no large flocks
Common Grackle	(1) Two were seen at Lafitte's Cove on Galveston Island
Boat-tailed Grackle	(5) Coastal marshes, especially Anahuac N.W.R.; also at Brazos Bend
Great-tailed Grackle	(7) Common throughout in pretty much all habitats
Ovenbird	(1) One was seen in Sabine Woods
Northern Waterthrush	(2) Seen twice: Sabine Woods (2) and Boy Scout Woods
Golden-winged Warbler	(2) Becoming sparse; we saw several at Sabine Woods and High Island
Black-and-white Warbler	(2) A few at High Island and Sabine Woods
Prothonotary Warbler	(3) Found at the rookery at Smith Oaks and Brazos Bend State Park.

Swainson's Warbler	(2) One at the Big Creek Scenic Area; a migrant was in Boy Scout Woods
Tennessee Warbler	(3) Small numbers at Dogwood Trail and in the coastal woodlands
Kentucky Warbler	(1) A singing male was present at the Pitcher Plant Trail parking area
Common Yellowthroat	(3) Heard at the Pitcher Plant Trail, seen at two coastal sites
Hooded Warbler	(4) Numerous where nesting inland; a few at the coastal migrant traps
American Redstart	(3) One at Dogwood Trail, later in the coastal woodlands where sparse
Cerulean Warbler	(1) A female was seen by some of the group in Sabine Woods
Northern Parula	(3) Seen at Martin Dies, Jr., SP and later in the coastal woodlands
Magnolia Warbler	(2) Males were found at Sabine Woods and Smith Oaks
Bay-breasted Warbler	(1) Two were seen in Smith Oaks at High Island
Blackburnian Warbler	(2) Lovely males were seen at Smith Oaks and Sabine Woods
Yellow Warbler	(3) Just a few migrants in the coastal woodlands incl. Anahuac N.W.R.
Chestnut-sided Warbler	(2) Though usually common, just a few at Sabine Woods and High Island
Black-throated Blue Warbler	(1) Locally rare; a striking male was seen in Sabine Woods
Pine Warbler	(3) Seen three days in the Big Thicket where vocal
Yellow-throated Warbler	(1) Seen well at the west boat landing at Martin Dies, Jr., S.P.
Prairie Warbler	(1) Two were seen well NW of Jasper on Hamilton Cemetery Road
Black-throated Green Warbler	(2) Just a couple two days at High island
Summer Tanager	(7) Common both inland (where singing) and in coastal woodlands
Scarlet Tanager	(4) A crowd pleaser that was easily seen in coastal woodlands
Northern Cardinal	(9) Seen all days; common inland and along the coast
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	(4) Easily seen, esp. in mulberry trees; High Island and Sabine Woods
Blue Grosbeak	(4) Small numbers around High Island and at Brazos Bend S.P.
Indigo Bunting	(6) Observed on the nesting grounds and along the coast
Painted Bunting	(2) Seen two days at High Island; long views of females at a drip
Dickcissel	(2) Seen N. of Winnie and on a fence east of Anahuac N.W.R.
House Sparrow (Introduced)	(8) Numerous in towns, around morels, etc.

Mammals

Eastern Cottontail
 Eastern Gray Squirrel
 Nutria (Introduced)
 Common Raccoon
 White-tailed Deer
 Feral Hog (Introduced)

Reptiles

Common (Red-eared) Slider
 Stinkpot OR Eastern Mud Turtle? (Anahuac)
 American Alligator
 Cuban Brown Anole (Introduced)
 Little Brown Skink? (three possible look-alikes)
 Cricket Frog (HO)
 Bronze Frog (HO)
 American Bullfrog

Butterflies

Pipevine Swallowtail
Zebra Swallowtail
Giant Swallowtail
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Palamedes Swallowtail
Cloudless Sulphur
Little Yellow
Little Wood Satyr
Monarch
Broad-winged Skipper

Damselflies and Dragonflies

Ebony Jewelwing
Blue-fronted Dancer
Blue-tipped Dancer
Four-spotted Pennant
Eastern Pondhawk
Seaside Dragonlet
Blue Corporal
Blue Dasher
Red Saddlebags