

South Texas Birding and Nature Species List | March 12-20, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



Guides James Peterson and Bryan Calk with guests Glen, Deanna, Jan, Kathleen, Irene, Debbie, Don, Linda, Frank, and Ruth

Summary:

This trip was nothing short of spectacular, filled with unforgettable wildlife sightings from beginning to end. The diverse semitropical habitats of South Texas and the Lower Rio Grande Valley created the perfect and necessary backdrop for our amazing experience. Over the course of our nine days together, we explored as many of these environments as we could, from coastal salt marshes to the dry Tamaulipan thornscrub.

Some of our highlights included sightings of bobcats, tons of butterflies and reptiles, and, of course, a wealth of birds. Among our rare finds were the Gray-collared and Rose-throated Becards, wild Muscovy, Whooping Cranes, and Roadside Hawk. We were also delighted by the usual "valley specialties," such as Green Jays, orioles, kingfishers, shorebirds, and abundant waterfowl.

Additionally, we timed our trip perfectly with the onset of spring migration, witnessing the first northbound species at stopover sites, including swallows, a few warblers, and local breeders like the Hooded Oriole. Overall, this trip was not only enjoyable but also particularly spectacular, thanks in large part to our wonderful group of participants.

Birds (181 species):

The eBird link below details the 181 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[South Texas Birding and Nature | March 12-20, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

Mammals: (11)

Eastern Cottontail *Sylvilagus sp.*— Seen at a few locations during the week including Rancho Lomitas, Laguna Atascosa, and Estero Llano Grande SP

Black-tailed Jackrabbit *Lepus californicus*— Seen on the road out to Rancho Lomitas

Mexican Ground Squirrel *Ictidomys mexicanus*— One at the feeding area at Rancho Lomitas and one at the Buena Vista Cemetery

Eastern Fox Squirrel *Sciurus niger*— Seen at Bentsen RGV State Park

Nutria *Myocaster coypus*— One at Bentsen RGV State Park swimming across the resaca

Mexican Free-tailed Bat *Tadarida brasiliensis*— One very wet and sad individual roosted in the eaves of a brick building at Bentsen RGV State Park

Collared Peccary *Tayassu tajacu*— At the feeder area of Hugh Ramsey Nature Park in Harlingen, many individuals

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*— Several seen well in the Rockport Area and at Laguna Atascosa NWR

Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*— Seen from the Skimmer boat ride out of Rockport

Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*—Seen on the banks of Aransas NWR while we were on the Skimmer and a couple at Bentsen RGV State Park

Bobcat *Lynx rufus* — Seen at the last minute while lining up for a group photo at the National Butterfly Center

Reptiles and Amphibians: (10)

American Alligator *Alligator mississippiensis*— Big individual seen very well at the Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center in Port Aransas

Red-eared Slider *Trachemys scripta*— A few seen at the Port A. Birding Center, the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center, and at the river at Salineño

Texas Spiny Softshell *Apalone spinifera emoryi*— Seen sunning at Lola's Bistro

Rose-bellied Lizard *Sceloporus variabilis* – A couple on the paths at Estero Llano Grande SP

Texas Spiny Lizard *Sceloporus olivaceus* – at Laguna Atascosa NWR and Santa Ana NWR

Brown Anole *Anolis sagrei* – Sunning along the walls at several locations like Resaca de la Palma and South Padre

Green Anole *Anolis carolinensis* – Most memorably at Sabal Palm where two were battling it out in a palm frond

Texas Spotted Whiptail *Aspidoscelis gularis* – Seen at a few locations like the Buena Vista Cemetery and Santa Ana NWR

Gulf Coast Ribbon Snake *Thamnophis proximus orarius* – One at Tule Marsh in Rockport on our first day in the field

Rough Green Snake *Ophodrys aestivus* – One found near the water feature in the butterfly garden at Sabal Palm