

# South Texas Birding & Nature Species List | November 11 – 19, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by guide Bryan Calk with Robert Gallardo. Our clients included Mark, Julie, Peg, Sara, Cliff, Dragus, Antonela, Sandy, and Bob**

The Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas is renowned among birders and nature enthusiasts across North America for its extraordinary biodiversity. This richness stems from its diverse habitats, its southernmost location in the U.S., and its position along the Central Flyway. As we traveled through the region, we witnessed this firsthand—large flocks of ducks, an incredible variety of shorebirds, and nineteen species of warblers. The resident species were equally remarkable, with sightings of gray hawks, red-crowned parrots, common pauraque, and vibrant green jays. Beyond the birds, we experienced unforgettable natural history moments. We watched a Texas indigo snake devour a blue spiny lizard and marveled at nearly fifty species of butterflies, expertly identified by world-renowned lepidopterist Robert Gallardo. The highlights were too numerous to list here —from a boat ride into Aransas National Wildlife Refuge gifting us with great views whooping cranes to exploring the dense subtropical thorn forest of Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge and the serene beauty of Sabal Palm Sanctuary. Even when birds weren't in sight, the region's natural wonders ensured there was always something exceptional to see.

## **BIRDS (206 species):**

The eBird link below details the 206 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 & Nature | November 11 - 19, 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 species):**

**Mexican Long-nosed Armadillo** *Dasypus mexicanus* – Seen well at Laguna Atascosa NWR and at Resaca de la Palma SP

**Eastern Cottontail** *Sylvilagus floridanus* – multiple encounters throughout the last half of the tour

**Black-tailed Jackrabbit** *Lepus californicus* – A few seen around the Corpus Christi International Airport

**Eastern Fox Squirrel** *Sciurus niger* – Several seen around, mostly areas where oak trees were present

**Hispid Cotton Rat** *Sigmodon hispidus* – Seen coming to the feeders at the National Butterfly Center

**Nutria** *Myocaster coypus* – One hanging out in a pond at Santa Ana

**Collared Peccary** *Tayassu tajacu* – A couple seen at Santa Ana NWR hanging out in a couple of the ponds there, and at Bentsen RGV SP

**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus* – Seen around the Rockport area and at Laguna Atascosa NWR

**Bottlenose Dolphin** *Tursiops truncatus* – Seen from the boat ride out of Rockport and the ferry across to Port Aransas

**Coyote** *Canis latrans* – Seen feeding on a red drum head along the JFK Causeway near Snoopy's and one at Laguna Atascosa

**Nilgai** *Boselaphus tragocamelus* – Seen at Laguna Atascosa NWR on the auto loop area

### **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (12 species):**

**American Alligator** *Alligator mississippiensis* – Large adult seen in the cattails at the Port Aransas Birding Center

**Rio Grande Cooter** *Pseudemys gorzugi* – Resting on rocks in the middle of the Rio Grande at Salineno

**Red-eared Slider** *Trachemys scripta* – Seen in several water bodies including the Rio Grande and a few ponds

**Texas Spiny Softshell** *Apalone spinifera emoryi* – Seen in the pond at Lola's and in the Rio Grande

**Brown Anole** *Anolis sagrei* – Seen at the Inn at Fulton Harbor and at Tule Marsh

**Green Anole** *Anolis carolinensis* – One at Big Tree and one at Sabal Palm

**Texas Spotted Whiptail** *Aspidoscelis gularis* – Seen at Santa Ana and Falcon State Park

**Blue Spiny Lizard** *Sceloporus cyanogenys* – Seen best at Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park

**Texas Spiny Lizard** *Sceloporus olivaceus* – Seen at Big Tree on the Lamar Peninsula

**Rose-bellied Lizard** *Sceloporus variabilis* – Seen at Santa Ana NWR

**Mesquite Lizard** *Sceloporus grammicus* – Seen on a tree trunk at Santa Ana NWR

**Texas Indigo Snake** *Drymarchon melanurus erebennus* – Remarkably seen on several occasions, including at Sabal Palm Sanctuary and one devouring a Blue Spiny Lizard at Bentsen RGV SP

### **BUTTERFLIES (46 species):**

**Giant Swallowtail** *Pterourus rumiko*

**Pipevine Swallowtail** *Battus philenor*

**Dainty Sulphur** *Nathalis iole*

**Lyside Sulphur** *Kricogonia lyside*

**Little Yellow** *Pyrisitia lisa*

**Mexican Yellow** *Eurema mexicana*

**Tailed Orange** *Pyrisitia proterpia*

**Sleepy Orange** *Abaeis nicippe*

**Cloudless Sulphur** *Phoebis sennae*

**Large Orange Sulphur** *Phoebis agarithe*

**Great Southern White** *Ascia monuste*

**Giant White** *Ganyra josephina*

**Great Southern White** *Ascia monuste*

**Southern Dogface** *Zerene cesonia*

**American Snout** *Libytheana carinenta*  
**Soldier** *Danaus eresimus*  
**Queen** *Danaus gilippus*  
**Monarch** *Danaus plexippus*  
**Band-celled Sister** *Adelpha fessonia*  
**Gulf Fritillary** *Agraulis vanillae*  
**Mexican Fritillary** *Euptoieta hegesia*  
**Empress Leilia** *Asterocampa leilia*  
**Tawny Emperor** *Asterocampa clyton*  
**Mexican Bluewing** *Myscelia ethusa*  
**Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta*  
**White Peacock** *Anartia jatrophae*  
**Northern Buckeye** *Junonia coenia*  
**Theona Checkerspot** *Chlosyne theona*  
**Bordered Patch** *Chlosyne lacinia*  
**Phaon Crescent** *Phyciodes phaon*  
**Common Mestra** *Mestra amymone*  
**Elada Checkerspot** *Texola elada*  
**Julia** *Dryas iulia*  
**Zebra** *Heliconius charithonia*  
**Fatal Metalmark** *Calephelis nemesis*  
**Gray Hairstreak** *Strymon melinus*  
**Mallow Scrub-Hairstreak** *Strymon istapa*  
**Ceraunus Blue** *Hemiargus ceraunus*  
**Long-tailed Skipper** *Urbanus proteus*  
**Brown Longtail** *Spicauda procne*  
**Northern Sicklewing** *Eantis tamenund*  
**Laviana White-Skipper** *Heliopetes laviana*  
**Fiery Skipper** *Hylephila phyleus*  
**Dorantes Longtail** *Urbanus dorantes*  
**Guava Skipper** *Phocides polybius*  
**Clouded Skipper** *Lerema accius*