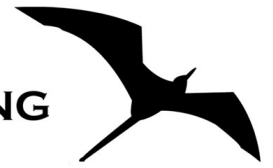




**TROPICAL  
BIRDING**



 **TEXAS**

**NORTH AMERICAN  
MEGA-DIVERSITY**

A Tropical Birding Custom Tour

**April 17-24, 2023  
Guide: Ken Behrens**

All photos by Ken Behrens

## **TOUR SUMMARY**

For those looking to see a huge selection of North American bird species in a short time, there is no destination better than Texas. And there is no time of the year better than the second half of April. Texas lies at the crossroads between the eastern and western United States, and northern Mexico. So there is a great diversity of resident species. It's also smack in the middle of the largest flyway of migratory birds in the Western Hemisphere. These facts together are a recipe for tremendous diversity. Texas even has a couple of species that are near-endemic breeders: Black-capped Vireo and Golden-cheeked Warbler (shown above). Without a doubt, it's one of North America's premier birding destinations.

Although longer trips can venture down to the Lower Rio Grande Valley for a larger dose of northeast Mexican species, or to west Texas for southwestern montane specialties, this short and sweet trip focused on three areas: the Upper Texas Coast, centered on High Island, the Pineywoods directly to the north, and finally the Hill Country of central Texas.

This was a custom trip for a group of family and friends from the western United States. The dynamic was fun and easygoing, while trying to see as many birds as possible. We did have some time off at midday or in the evening on most days. Despite the non-breakneck schedule, we managed to record 257 bird species; about a third of the regularly occurring species of the ABA

area - not bad for only eight days of birding! Several members of the group were keen eBirders, and so we eBirded throughout the trip, submitting a total of [70 checklists](#)!

As expected, migration was in full swing for this tour. When people think of bird migration, they tend to default to landbirds, but my favorite migration spectacles in Texas actually involve waterbirds. As usual, there were huge numbers and excellent diversity of saltwater-loving shorebirds, terns, and gulls. And as always, the Houston Audubon Bolivar Flats Sanctuary was a delightful spot to visit, a real gem of a place that offers world-class birding and photography. Rollover Pass was also good, despite the closing of the channel to the Gulf in the last couple of years. Inland, the



**We saw loads of freshwater-loving shorebirds, including remarkable numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers.**

freshwater shorebirding was as good as I have ever seen it. Apparently many farmers who had largely abandoned rice cultivation have resumed planting rice due to the current high prices for food. Unlike many previous years, it was easy this year to find rice paddies in the perfect state for all types of freshwater-loving shorebirds. We found scarce species like Hudsonian Godwit and Buff-breasted Sandpiper with ease! One field held over 150 Buff-breasted Sandpiper; more of this beautiful shorebirds than a typical North American birder sees in their whole lifetime! Drier fields held Upland Sandpipers, and lots of searching finally turned up the two scarce “peeps”: Baird’s and White-rumped Sandpipers. Birding some salt marshes produced another couple of highlights: amazing views of the resident Clapper Rail, and quick views of a lingering wintering bird – Nelson’s Sparrow.

Although Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge was largely dry, and a shadow of its normally birdy self, we still caught up with freshwater marsh birds in a variety of other sites, including Cattail

Marsh in Beaumont. Highlights in this habitat included Glossy Ibis (plus a classic hybrid with the common White-faced Ibis), Least Bittern, Sedge Wren, Purple Gallinule, and Sora. Driving through the suburbs of Beaumont, I kept a sharp eye out for crows, hoping to add Fish Crow to the trip list. I eventually found a rather tame crow in a half-derelict strip mall parking lot. Though it looked good for Fish, you want to hear the call to be completely sure. But this bird refused to call! After a frustrating 10 minutes, though, it finally gave in, flew up to an electric wire, and gave several diagnostic, nasal Fish Crow calls!



**Purple Gallinule is always a favorite bird on the Upper Texas Coast. Such rich colors!**

Another aspect of migratory birding is of course the migrant trap woodlots, such as the famous one at High Island. Although migration was fairly slow throughout our days on the coast, we did eventually assemble a good list of migrants. Our best morning of migration was actually at Sabine Woods, where there were lots of tanagers and Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes, along with a dozen warbler species. During the course of the trip, between the migrants on the

coast and the breeders in the Pineywoods and the Hill Country, we racked up 27 species of wood warblers!

Our base for our days on the Upper Texas Coast was Winnie, a sleepy town next to the I-10 interstate. One of Winnie's virtues is that a pair of Whooping Cranes has taken up residence nearby in recent years. We stopped to look for them one morning at one of their favored fields. After a long scan, I didn't see anything, then suddenly I spotted two huge white birds



**Black-throated Green Warbler, a long-distance migrant warbler that we saw in High Island and Sabine Woods.**

flying in from the other side of the highway. Everyone piled out of the van for good flight views of the Whooping Cranes, then we



**Red-cockaded Woodpecker is a specialty of old-growth pine forest.**

shot over to where they had landed and relocated them on the ground for scope views. A major bonus! Another of Winnie's virtues is a couple of good restaurants. We savored an excellent lunch at a recently opened Vietnamese restaurant, and by popular demand made three visits to Tia Juanita's, which specializes in Cajun dishes.

The next portion of the tour was a one-night swing through the Pineywoods. Although this area is only an hour and a half north of Winnie, it's a completely different world from the coastal prairies and woodlots. The habitat consists of

pine woods (as the name suggests!), along with broadleaf forest and primeval-looking swamp. This lush mix of habitats supports a great suite of breeding birds. Unlike on the coast, you can predictably find a bunch of warblers here, not subject to the vagaries of migration! To mention just a few highlights of our 24 hours in the Jasper area, we saw Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Yellow-throated, Swainson's, and Prairie Warblers. We enjoyed perhaps the best meal of the trip at a local barbeque joint with family photos all over the walls. Unforgettable melt-in-your-mouth brisket! After dinner we ventured back into the woods, and had an intimate encounter with a hefty Chuck-will's-widow!



**A Louisiana Waterthrush at Boiken Springs, in the Pineywoods.**

After a final night in Winnie, and a little more coastal migration birding, we parted ways with half of our group, who were heading home, then headed west for the Hill Country. On the way through Houston, we stopped by to see Limpkin, a bird that has started “invading” Texas and other areas outside of its normal range. Another bonus!

The Hill Country is without a doubt the most biogeographically fascinating place in North America. It has a unique mix of eastern, western, and southern species. You can be in the bottom of a valley with a cypress swamp, full of breeding Northern Parulas and Yellow-throated Warblers, then climb up a slope into juniper woodland with Ash-throated Flycatchers and Canyon Wrens! It's like going from a Louisiana swamp into the mountains of Utah in a few hundred feet!



**About 60 of the multiple millions of Mexican Free-tailed Bats that we saw emerging at dusk.**

One of our reasons for visiting the Hill Country was actually mammalian rather than avian. We made a visit to the Rio Frio bat caves, one of the biggest aggregations of mammals on earth. This spectacle never fails to astound. Millions of bats explode out of their cave at dusk, attended by various raptors trying for an easy meal. On the night that we visited there were gusting winds, which made it a struggle for the bats to fly, forcing them into some bizarre, twisting formations.

Texas's two near-endemic breeding birds, the Black-capped Vireo and Golden-cheeked Warbler, were naturally huge targets, and we had great sightings of both. The general birding was also excellent, and delightfully varied. In the Uvalde area, we had Mexican species such as Green Jay and Audubon's Oriole. Up in the Hill Country proper, we found Zone-tailed Hawk, Tropical Parula, Vermillion Flycatcher, Yellow-throated and Bell's Vireos, Painted, Indigo, and Lazuli Buntings, Hooded Oriole, Black-crested Titmouse, Pyrrhuloxia, and Lincoln's Sparrow. An early Olive-sided Flycatcher on a random roadside snag came as a surprise bonus! Our tour wrapped up with a drive back to Houston, punctuated by a stop at another "hole in the wall" local barbeque joint!



Amazing barbeque features prominently on this tour! This was where stopped on our way back to Houston from the Hill Country: Joel's BBQ in Flatonia, Texas. Highly recommended!

## ITINERARY

- April 17** Arrival in Houston. Drive to Winnie. Night Winnie.  
**April 18** Anahuac area, Rollover Pass, Bolivar Flats, High Island. Night Winnie.  
**April 19** Sabine Woods, Fairview Road, High Island. Night Winnie.  
**April 20** Winnie to Cattail Marsh to Angelina NF and Boiken Springs. Night Jasper.  
**April 21** Jasper to Martin Dies SP to High Island. Night Winnie.  
**April 22** Winnie to Uvalde. Neal's Lodges and Rio Frio Bat Cave. Night Uvalde.  
**April 23** Cook's Slough Nature Reserve to Neal's Lodges to Kerr WMA. Night Kerrville.  
**April 24** Kerrville to Houston via Joel's. Departure.



A migrant Acadian Flycatcher, in the Houston Audubon Smith Oaks Sanctuary, on High Island.



## PHOTO GALLERY



Ducks were thin on the ground this year, which apparently was the case throughout the winter, but there were still plenty of Blue-winged Teal to be seen.



Laughing Gull is one of the most common coastal birds, and a beauty to boot!



There were migrant Kentucky Warblers in the coastal woodlots, as well as breeding birds in the Pineywoods.



Marsh birds, salt and fresh: Nelson's Sparrow (left) and Common Gallinule (right).



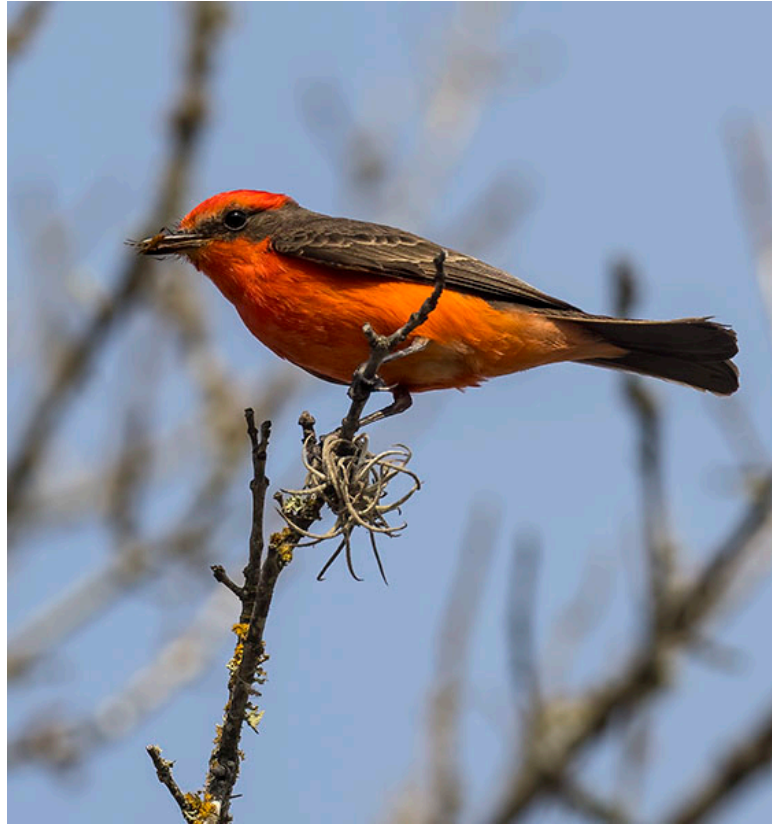
**Black-and-white Warbler creeping along a branch in typical nuthatch-like feeding style.**



**White-tailed Hawk (left) is resident in coastal prairies. Solitary Sandpiper (right) is a passage migrant.**



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron is the “default” night-heron; common along the coast.



**Vermilion Flycatcher is one of the surprising and delightful members of the bird assemblage in the Hill Country.**



**A pair of towering Whooping Cranes were a wonderful sighting near our coastal base in Winnie.**



**Horned Larks breed on the sand dunes at the Bolivar Flats Sanctuary.**



**The Upper Texas Coast in April has some of the absolute best shorebirding on Earth. Shown here are Short-billed Dowitchers (left) and Upland Sandpiper (right).**



**Red-winged Blackbird, a common denizen of fresh marshes.**



**Crested Caracara over the coastal prairie.**



This tour featured both species of waterthrush: Louisiana (left) and Northern (right). Very similar species!



On our morning in Sabine Woods, there were loads of Summer Tanagers.





No absence of colorful birds in the Hill Country! Painted Bunting (left) and Yellow-breasted Chat (right).



Freshwater shorebird bonanza in a flooded rice field! Most of these birds are Dunlin, but there are actually six different shorebird species in this picture!



The Hill Country is rich in sparrows. These included migrants like Lincoln's (left) and Clay-colored (right), as well as the resident Olive Sparrow (below).





Migrants galore: Western Sandpiper (left) and female Hooded Warbler (right).



Roseate Spoonbills and Neotropic Cormorants at the fabulous waterbird colony on High Island.



**Marbled Godwit is one of two godwits that we saw on this tour. Big, great-looking shorebirds!**



**Coastal woodlot migrants: female Painted Bunting (left) and Wood Thrush (right).**



**Clapper Rails gave us great views in coastal saltmarshes.**



**We saw both of North America's "brown warblers": Swainson's (left) and Worm-eating (right).**



**American Redstart is one of the more common migrant warblers.**



**Eastern Meadowlarks were in song throughout the coastal prairies.**



Purple Martins were all over the place, including nesting conspicuously in a martin house at Cattail Marsh.



Resident Loggerhead Shrike (left) and long-distance migrant Yellow-billed Cuckoo (right).



Late migrant Gray-cheeked Thrushes were just arriving at the time of our tour.



The chunky-billed Wilson's Plover nests at the Bolivar Flats Sanctuary.





**We had phenomenal views of the shy Bachman's Sparrow in the Pineywoods.**



**This Fish Crow finally vocalized, removing all doubt about its identity!**



There were three “flavors” of parulas around Neal’s Lodges: Tropical, Northern, and a hybrid of the two, like this individual!



A stop at a pond on the way to the Hill Country didn’t hold a lot of birds, but did feature a whole bunch of Neotropic Cormorants!



This tour features remarkable diversity in many groups of birds. Warblers are a classic example, but there are also a bunch of cool wrens! Shown here are Carolina (top left) Sedge (top right) and Canyon (below).





**This tour features nearly all of North America's wading birds, including the Tricolored Heron.**



The excellent feeders at Neal's Lodges attracted White-winged Dove (left) and Blue Grosbeak (right).



We saw Yellow-throated Warbler both in the Pineywoods and the Hill Country.



**Black-chinned Hummingbird is the common "hummer" in the Hill Country.**



**The Uvalde area has a very Mexican-feeling group of birds, including Bronzed Cowbird (left) and Audubon's Oriole (right).**



**Pyrrhuloxia is a dry country cardinal found in southwestern North America.**



**Willet is mostly gray when perched, but quite striking in flight.**



Another group with excellent diversity on this tour is vireos. This is especially true in the Hill Country, with its mix of eastern and western species. Shown here are Black-capped (above), Yellow-throated (below left) and White-eyed (below right) Vireos.







**On our first morning, we spotted a beautiful Northern Cottonmouth (left). While driving up into the Pineywoods, there were loads of migrating Mississippi Kites in the sky (right).**



**A Willet, at home in the coastal saltmarsh where it breeds.**



**Prairie Warbler, a delightful species at close range in the Pineywoods.**



**Ovenbird, a thrush-like warbler, in a migrant trap woodlot.**



**Pileated Woodpecker, the classic “woody” woodpecker! Boiken Springs.**



**Buff-breasted Sandpipers have a huge eye and an open face, giving them a gentle look.**



**Cave Swallows share the Rio Frio caves with the bats.**



**In the Hill Country, the local titmouse is Black-crested Titmouse, a Texas near-endemic.**



Classic “western” species in the Hill Country: Ash-throated Flycatcher (left) and Zone-tailed Hawk (right).



Pine Warbler is (perhaps not surprisingly) quite common in the Pineywoods.



Lesser Yellowlegs were conspicuously migrating in big numbers on the first morning of our trip.



Tennessee Warbler in Sabine Woods.



**Dickcissels were surprisingly tricky to find, but we finally connected with a few near Winnie.**



**Rufous-crowned Sparrow, a final addition to our sparrow list, in the Hill Country near Kerrville.**

## BIRD LIST

Taxonomy and nomenclature follow *The Clements Checklist of the Birds of the World v2021* (including updates through August 2021).

The full list, including numbers, and in the case of many species, photos, can be see as part of the [eBird trip report](https://ebird.org/tripreport/50215) for this trip: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/50215>

<b>ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae</b>		
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>	
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>	
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	
Mottled Duck	<i>Anas fulvigula</i>	
<b>PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae</b>		
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	
<b>COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae</b>		
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	
Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>	
White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	
<b>CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae</b>		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	
Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	
<b>CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae</b>		
Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>	
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	



Chuck-will's-widow	<i>Antrostomus carolinensis</i>	
<b>CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Apodidae</b>		
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	
<b>CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Trochilidae</b>		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	
Black-chinned Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>	
<b>GRUIFORMES: Rallidae</b>		
King Rail	<i>Rallus elegans</i>	
Clapper Rail	<i>Rallus crepitans</i>	
Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	H
Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>	
Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>	
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	
Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>	
<b>GRUIFORMES: Aramidae</b>		
Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	
<b>GRUIFORMES: Gruidae</b>		
Whooping Crane	<i>Grus americana</i>	
<b>CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae</b>		
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	
American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	
<b>CHARADRIIFORMES: Haematopodidae</b>		
American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	
<b>CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae</b>		
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	

American Golden-Plover	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	
Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius nivosus</i>	
Wilson's Plover	<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>	
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	
<b>CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae</b>		
Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	
Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	
Hudsonian Godwit	<i>Limosa haemastica</i>	
Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	
Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>	
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Calidris subruficollis</i>	
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	
Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	

Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	
Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	
<b>CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae</b>		
Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>	
Franklin's Gull	<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>	
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	
Least Tern	<i>Sternula antillarum</i>	
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	
Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	
Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	
Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>	
<b>GAVIIFORMES: Gaviidae</b>		
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	
<b>SULIFORMES: Anhingidae</b>		
Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	

<b>SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae</b>		
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>	
Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum brasilianum</i>	
<b>PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae</b>		
American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	
<b>PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae</b>		
Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	
Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	
Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>	
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	
<b>PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae</b>		
White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	
White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	
Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>	
<b>CATHARTIFORMES: Cathartidae</b>		
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	

Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	
<b>ACCIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae</b>		
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	
<b>ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae</b>		
White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	
Swallow-tailed Kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	
Mississippi Kite	<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>	
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	
Harris's Hawk	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>	
White-tailed Hawk	<i>Geranoaetus albicaudatus</i>	
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	
Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	
Zone-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>	
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	
<b>CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae</b>		
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	
Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	
<b>PICIFORMES: Picidae</b>		
Red-headed Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes aurifrons</i>	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	

Downy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates pubescens</i>	
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates scalaris</i>	
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates borealis</i>	
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates villosus</i>	
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	H
<b>FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae</b>		
Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>	
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	
<b>PASSERIFORMES: Tyrannidae</b>		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	
Acadian Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>	
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	
Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	
Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	
Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>	
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	
Couch's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus couchii</i>	
Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	

<b>PASSERIFORMES: Vireonidae</b>		
Black-capped Vireo	<i>Vireo atricapilla</i>	
White-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	
Blue-headed Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	
<b>PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae</b>		
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	
<b>PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae</b>		
Green Jay	<i>Cyanocorax yncas</i>	
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	
Fish Crow	<i>Corvus ossifragus</i>	
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	
<b>PASSERIFORMES: Paridae</b>		
Carolina Chickadee	<i>Poecile carolinensis</i>	
Tufted Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>	
Black-crested Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus atricristatus</i>	
<b>PASSERIFORMES: Remizidae</b>		
Verdin	<i>Auriparus flaviceps</i>	H
<b>PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae</b>		
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	

<b>PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae</b>		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	
Cave Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon fulva</i>	
<b>PASSERIFORMES: Regulidae</b>		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Corthylio calendula</i>	
<b>PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae</b>		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	H
Brown-headed Nuthatch	<i>Sitta pusilla</i>	
<b>PASSERIFORMES: Polioptilidae</b>		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	
<b>PASSERIFORMES: Troglodytidae</b>		
Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>	
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	
Sedge Wren	<i>Cistothorus stellaris</i>	
Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	
Carolina Wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	
Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	
Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>	
<b>PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae</b>		
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	



<b>PASSERIFORMES: Mimidae</b>		
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	H
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	
<b>PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae</b>		
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	<i>Catharus minimus</i>	
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	
<b>PASSERIFORMES: Bombycillidae</b>		
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	
<b>PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae</b>		
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	
<b>PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae</b>		
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	
Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	
American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>	
<b>PASSERIFORMES: Passerellidae</b>		
Bachman's Sparrow	<i>Peucaea aestivalis</i>	
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	
Olive Sparrow	<i>Arremonops rufivirgatus</i>	
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	
Clay-colored Sparrow	<i>Spizella pallida</i>	

Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	H
Black-throated Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>	H
Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	
Seaside Sparrow	<i>Ammospiza maritima</i>	
Nelson's Sparrow	<i>Ammospiza nelsoni</i>	
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>	
Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	<i>Aimophila ruficeps</i>	
<b>PASSERIFORMES: Icteriidae</b>		
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	
<b>PASSERIFORMES: Icteridae</b>		
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	
Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>	
Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>	
Audubon's Oriole	<i>Icterus graduacauda</i>	
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	
Bronzed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>	
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	
Boat-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus major</i>	

Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	
<b>PASSERIFORMES: Parulidae</b>		
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	
Worm-eating Warbler	<i>Helmitheros vermivorum</i>	
Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia motacilla</i>	
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>	
Blue-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora cyanoptera</i>	
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	
Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	
Swainson's Warbler	<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>	
Tennessee Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis peregrina</i>	
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>	
Nashville Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis ruficapilla</i>	
Kentucky Warbler	<i>Geothlypis formosa</i>	
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	
Hooded Warbler	<i>Setophaga citrina</i>	
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	
Northern Parula	<i>Setophaga americana</i>	
Tropical Parula	<i>Setophaga pitiayumi</i>	
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Setophaga magnolia</i>	
Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	
Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Setophaga striata</i>	
Palm Warbler	<i>Setophaga palmarum</i>	
Pine Warbler	<i>Setophaga pinus</i>	
Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Setophaga dominica</i>	

Prairie Warbler	<i>Setophaga discolor</i>	
Golden-cheeked Warbler	<i>Setophaga chrysoparia</i>	
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Setophaga virens</i>	
<b>PASSERIFORMES: Cardinalidae</b>		
Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	
Pyrrhuloxia	<i>Cardinalis sinuatus</i>	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	
Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	
Lazuli Bunting	<i>Passerina amoena</i>	
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	
Painted Bunting	<i>Passerina ciris</i>	
Dickcissel	<i>Spiza americana</i>	

H = heard-only      G = seen only by Tropical Birding guide

## REPTILES & MAMMALS

American Alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>
Green Anole	<i>Anolis carolinensis</i>
Common Snapping Turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>
Mexican Free-tailed Bat	<i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>
Swamp Rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus aquaticus</i>
Eastern Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>