

Mound Rd), then right on CR 459 to the entrance of BNWR.

**Tips:** At Quintana a number of unusual bird sightings such as Grooved-billed Anis and Purple Sandpiper (jetty), have been reported. At Bryan, late spring Golden Plovers in rare breeding plumage. Watch for Alligators and other marsh animals at BNWR.

### Texas City Dike and Levee loop.

**Description:** The Dike extends 5 miles East into Galveston Bay affording good birding along its entire length. It's also worth driving the levee (Skyline Drive).

**Directions:** It's 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 6, go under I 45, merge with Hwy 146 and Loop 197. Stay on L 197 through the refineries, and turn right on 8th Street, which becomes the Texas City Dike.

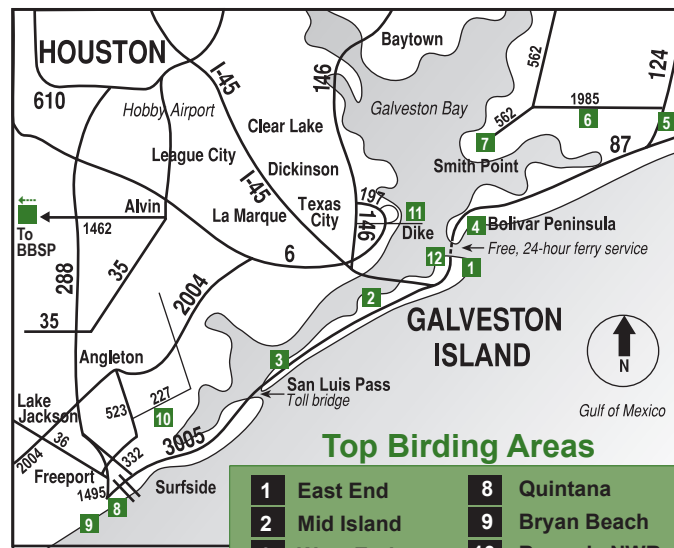
**Tips:** In winter, the dike is a great place to view loons, grebes, bay ducks, etc. It is a good all year for shore birds and waders. Check the shrimp boat riggings for Black-crown Night-herons. Returning from the dike, there is good birding on the levee road running north at the west end of the dike; continue birding to the end where there is a flood control gate and usually herons, cormorants, egrets, brown and white pelicans fishing. Returning via the levee road one has to divert to a one way return leg. After leaving the levee, check out water treatment plant ponds 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 there. Continue on the road back to 8th street.

### Pelican Island (May also be viewed as part of Galv. Isle East to West tour)

**Description:** The primary birding attraction is the large, salt water, very shallow bay on the NE side of the Island. It is shallow enough that the feeding/resting birds are seldom interrupted by noisy small powerboats. This is a must 'bird' area but the birding is dependent on the water depth which changes as the wind changes. There is a good deal of brush on the dredge spoil levee which often gives good views of Painted buntings and other migrants in season.

**Directions:** From the TX. City Dike and Levee, retrace 8th Street and Loop 197 to I-45 South, thence to Galveston Island. Turn left off Broadway onto 51st Street. Cross Harborside Dr. and cross the Port of Galveston draw bridge. Measuring from the bridge, continue down the road (aka Seawolf Park Rd) 2.8 miles, turn left on a dirt road and continue to an open shallow and muddy bay area on your right (east). The dirt road can be rough; travel at your own risk and try to ignore the trash. **This is not a public road.** At the end of the road you can turnaround, park, lock and take a walk on the levee. Pipits are common in the winter.

**Tips:** A spotting scope is a must to identify the birds on the far shore of the bay. After retracing to Seawolf Park Rd., turn right and return toward Galveston but there is more good birding on the right just before you reach the bridge. The land belongs to Texas A&M and offers a hiking loop, many mulberry trees which attract the tanagers and orioles in the spring and a small pond surrounded by willow trees, usually home to a large number of Black-crowned Night-herons.



### Top Birding Areas

1 East End	8 Quintana
2 Mid Island	9 Bryan Beach
3 West End	10 Brazoria NWR
4 Bolivar Flats	11 Texas City Dike
5 High Island	12 Pelican Island
6 Anahuac NWR	
7 Smith Point	

To BBSP —  
 Brazos Bend State Park



The distribution of this Birding Guide has been funded with donations from **Casa Del Mar Beachfront Suites** and **Moody Gardens Nature Activities**.

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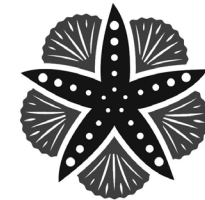
*For more information on Birding opportunities and services in the Galveston area, including FeatherFest, the spring Birding festival, please visit [www.galvestonnaturetourism.org](http://www.galvestonnaturetourism.org) the website of 501 c3, Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council Inc., coordinator of this guide.*



# GREAT BIRDING on & from GALVESTON ISLAND, TEXAS



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## Trip one: Galveston Island, East to West

### East End Lagoon /Big Reef Nature Park/East Beach

**Description:** A must see area for all birders. When conditions are right one can enjoy vast numbers and variety of birds without leaving the car. It's a great "easy viewing" area for beginning birders.

**Directions:** Go east on Seawall, past Ferry Rd, scan the East Lagoon Preserve parallel on the right. Turn right on Boddeker Dr. proceed south, bird both sides of the road which runs through Big Reef Nature Park. Continue south to East beach (at times there will be a fee to enter the beach). Drive east on the beach and park by the bollards, then walk to the jetty. .

**Tips:** East Lagoon, a good area to find cormorants, egrets, herons, ibis, etc. The beach/grass and pond areas along Boddeker Dr. are favorite resting areas for black skimmers, gulls, terns, and rails and bitterns in season etc. In season, the protected Piping Plover frequent the East beach beyond the bollards and it's a nesting area for Least Terns.

### East End (Corps Woods)

**Description:** A heavily wooded area opposite the Corps of Engineers Office along a narrow waterway on the outside of a levee. It's a major feeding area for spring migrants and unusual birds year-round. Corps Woods is a "must bird" during spring migration.

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

### Mid Isle (8 Mile Rd/Stewart Rd/Lafitte's Preserve)

**Description:** This area includes examples of the ridges and sloughs that run along the island, remnants of ancient dunes systems. 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. Lafitte's Cove is a 32 acre preserve with an excellent oak mott and fruiting trees and bushes, an excellent place for migrating songbirds in spring and 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 return, turn right (east) and bird Sportsman's Rd. checking both sides of the road. Return to 8 Mile Rd., south to Stewart Rd., then east on Stewart to second entrance of Lafitte's Cove, turn right, drive 100 yards and park on right.

**Tips:** There are many brackish and tidal wetlands along Stewart Rd between 8 and 10 Mile Rds. great for waterfowl in season and waders. There are several N-S and E-W roads in the area also worth scouting.

### Mid Isle (Galveston Island State Park)

**Description:** The GISP (appr. 2000 acres) stretches from beach to bay with all the habitats common to barrier islands. Bayside of the main highway, there are several mowed walking or biking trails with viewing blinds and an ADA observation tower. The mixed

hardwood mott with mulberry trees off Interpretive Trail Rd is an excellent spot for photos of neotropicals in spring and fall. Bay side is also an excellent and safe entry point for birding by kayak, winding between 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; approx. 6 miles from the end of the Seawall. If you do not have an annual TPWD pass, go to Park HQ. on the Beachside and pay small fee.

**Tips:** Bird list, park and kayak trail maps and other information is available at Park HQ. A moderate amount of walking will be necessary to bird the Park. The park boasts several pairs of White-tailed kites, views of Crested Caracaras and Northern Harriers.

### West End (Dos Vacas, San Luis Pass Flats)

**Description:** Dos Vacas Muertas, is just east of Sea Isle and bay side of Hwy 3005. This nine acre preserve belonging to Houston Audubon has seating and a water drip. San Luis Pass Flats are at the extreme end of the island where gulf side and bay side beaches meet. 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 grass-covered sandy hillocks are summer nesting areas for skimmers and other shore nesters. One can almost guarantee seeing a white morph reddish egret bayside.

**Directions:** Drive west from GISP about 10 miles for Dos Vacas; continue another 4 miles to the San Luis Pass toll bridge. Take the newly created road on the Gulf side, just before the toll bridge, to the beach. If the tide is low, you can drive along the beach at the edge of the Gulf and pass under the bridge and bird the Pass and bay- side. If the tide is higher, pass under the elevated road earlier to get to the bayside.

**Tips:** En route to San Luis check open pasture lands for feeding shore birds and waders, raptors, and sandhill cranes in winter.

## Trip Two: Bolivar, High Island, Anahuac NWR

### Bolivar Peninsular

**Description:** Across the ship channel from Galveston is the Bolivar Peninsular. Bolivar Flats on the Gulf side is one of the 20 most important shoreline wintering sites in North America. The Audubon sanctuary is a large tidal sand/mudflat adjacent to a large marsh area. Over 100,000 birds have been seen on the flats in a single day. But this western tip of the peninsular also offers other great birding opportunities.

**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 Road is just past the ferry landing but runs north and has areas of exposed oyster beds where oyster-catchers are usually to be seen.

Also check Fort Travis Seashore Park for songbirds during the migrations and an occasional Burrowing Owl in season. Loop 108, which intersects Hwy 87 twice is fine for viewing wading birds, shorebirds and ducks and offers great crabbing where it crosses the tidal slough.

### High Island

**Description:** This oak adorned mound above a salt done, is known worldwide as a temporary haven for spring songbirds during migration 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 manned by knowledgeable volunteers and there is a fee, currently \$5/day per person to bird both sites. There are other small HAS tracts in the area; all are marked.

**Tips:** En route to High Island from Galveston, check for shorebirds in the ponds and pastures along Hwy 87. 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 approx. 25,000 acres of brackish and freshwater marsh. It offers good 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 entrance gate.

**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, "kettle" here before crossing the Bay. Smith Point is a major commercial oystering center.

## Trip three: West Bay Loop

### Quintana WR, Bryan Beach, Brazoria NWR

**Description:** Quintana has a small refuge for neotropical migrants south east of Freeport. There is also a jetty. Bryan beach, just to the west, offers sand dunes and salt lagoons. BNWR is a 40,000 acre managed refuge and from December thru February offers spectacular birding, with thousands of wintering ducks and geese tucked into a beautiful marsh setting. Many sparrow species and raptors also winter here, and during the spring and fall migration it's a good place for warblers and shorebirds.

**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 at the lights and Bucces, onto FM 523 and then south on 1495. For BNWR, turn right onto FM 523 and then right on CR 227 (Hoskins

# GALVESTON AREA BIRDING CHECKLIST

Bird Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	C	C	C	C
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	C	C	C	C
Greater White-fronted Goose	U		C	C
Snow Goose	U		C	C
Ross's Goose			R	R
Cackling Goose			R	R
Canada Goose			R	C
Tundra Swan				O
Wood Duck	C	C	C	C
Gadwall	C	C	C	C
American Wigeon	C		C	C
Mallard	U	R	C	C
Mottled Duck	C	C	C	C
Blue-winged Teal	C	R	C	C
Cinnamon Teal	R		R	U
Northern Shoveler	C		C	C
Northern Pintail	U		C	C
Green-winged Teal	C		C	C
Canvasback	R		R	U
Redhead	U		U	U
Ring-necked Duck	C		C	C
Greater Scaup	R		R	U
Lesser Scaup	C	R	C	C
Surf Scoter	R			R
White-winged Scoter	R			R
Black Scoter	R			R
Long-tailed Duck	O		O	O
Bufflehead	U		U	C
Common Goldeneye	R		R	U
Hooded Merganser	R		R	U
Red-breasted Merganser	C		C	C
Masked Duck			O	C
Ruddy Duck	U		U	C
Greater Prairie-Chicken	R	R	R	R
Wild Turkey				
Northern Bobwhite	U	U	U	U
Red-throated Loon			O	O
Pacific Loon	U	O	R	U
Common Loon	R	O		R
Least Grebe			O	O
Pied-billed Grebe	C	U	C	C
Horned Grebe	R		R	R
Eared Grebe	U		U	U
Masked Booby	O	O	O	O
Northern Gannet	U	O	R	U
American White Pelican	C	R	C	C
Brown Pelican	C	C	C	C
Neotropic Cormorant	C	C	C	C
Double-crested Cormorant	C	C	C	C
Anhinga	C	C	C	C
Magnificent Frigatebird	R	U	U	U
American Bittern	U		U	U
Least Bittern	C	U	R	C
Great Blue Heron	C	C	C	C
Great Egret	C	C	C	C
Snowy Egret	C	C	C	C
Little Blue Heron	C	C	C	C
Tricolored Heron	C	C	C	C
Reddish Egret	C	C	C	C
Cattle Egret	C	C	C	U
Green Heron	C	C	C	R
Black-crowned Night-Heron	C	C	C	C
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	C	C	C	U
White Ibis	C	C	C	C
Glossy Ibis	R	R	R	R
White-faced Ibis	C	C	U	U
Roseate Spoonbill	C	U	C	C
Wood Stork			U	R
Greater Flamingo		X		
Black Vulture	C	C	C	C
Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	C
Osprey	U	R	U	R
Swallow-tailed Kite	R	O	U	

1

Bird Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
White-tailed Kite	C	C	C	C
Mississippi Kite	R	R	C	C
Bald Eagle	R		R	R
Northern Harrier	C	R	R	C
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		C	U
Cooper's Hawk	U		C	U
Harris's Hawk				O
Red-shouldered Hawk	C	C	C	C
Broad-winged Hawk	U		C	C
Swainson's Hawk	U	U	U	U
White-tailed Hawk	R	R	R	R
Red-tailed Hawk	U	R	C	C
Ferruginous Hawk			R	R
Rough-legged Hawk			O	O
Golden Eagle			O	O
Crested Caracara	U	U	U	U
American Kestrel	C		C	C
Merlin	U		U	U
Peregrine Falcon	U		U	U
Prairie Falcon		O		O
Yellow Rail	R		R	R
Black Rail	R	R	R	R
Clapper Rail	C	C	C	C
King Rail	C	C	C	C
Virginia Rail	C		U	U
Sora	C		U	U
Purple Gallinule	C	C	U	U
Common Moorhen	C	C	C	C
American Coot	C	R	C	C
Sandhill Crane	U		C	C
Whooping Crane	O		O	O
Black-bellied Plover	C	U	C	C
American Golden-Plover	C		C	C
Snowy Plover	C	R	U	U
Wilson's Plover	C	C	C	R
Semipalmated Plover	C	R	C	C
Piping Plover	C	R	C	C
Killdeer	C	C	C	C
American Oystercatcher	U	U	U	U
Black-necked Stilt	C	C	C	C
American Avocet	C	C	C	C
Spotted Sandpiper	U		U	U
Solitary Sandpiper	U		U	U
Wandering Tattler	X			
Greater Yellowlegs	C	R	C	C
Willet	C	C	C	C
Lesser Yellowlegs	U		C	C
Upland Sandpiper	C		C	C
Whimbrel	C	R	U	R
Long-billed Curlew	C	R	C	C
Hudsonian Godwit	U		C	C
Marbled Godwit	C	R	C	C
Ruddy Turnstone	C	U	C	C
Red Knot	C	R	U	U
Sanderling	C	R	U	U
Semipalmated Sandpiper	C		U	U
Western Sandpiper	C	U	C	C
Least Sandpiper	C	U	C	C
White-rumped Sandpiper	C		C	C
Baird's Sandpiper	U		R	C
Pectoral Sandpiper	C		C	C
Purple Sandpiper				O
Dunlin	C		C	C
Curlew Sandpiper	O	O		
Stilt Sandpiper	C		C	R
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	U		R	
Ruff	O			
Short-billed Dowitcher	C	U	C	C
Long-billed Dowitcher	C		C	C
Wilson's Snipe	C		C	C
American Woodcock			R	R
Wilson's Phalarope	U		U	
Laughing Gull	C	C	C	C

2

Bird Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Franklin's Gull	R		U	R
Bonaparte's Gull	C		C	C
Ring-billed Gull	C	R	C	C
California Gull				R
Herring Gull	C	R	C	C
Thayer's Gull			R	R
Lesser Black-backed Gull	U		U	U
Glaucous Gull	R		R	R
Great Black-backed Gull	R		R	R
Kelp Gull				R
Black-legged Kittiwake				O
Sooty Tern		R		X
Least Tern	C	C	C	
Gull-billed Tern	U	U	U	R
Caspian Tern	C	C	C	C
Black Tern	C	C	C	C
Common Tern	C	U	C	R
Forster's Tern	C	C	C	C
Royal Tern	C	C	C	C
Sandwich Tern	C	C	C	R
Elegant Tern				X
Black Skimmer	C	C	C	C
Pomarine Jaeger	U		R	U
Parasitic Jaeger	R		R	R
Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C
Eurasian Collared-Dove	C	C	C	C
White-winged Dove	C	C	C	C
Mourning Dove	C	C	C	C
Inca Dove	C	C	C	C
Common Ground-Dove	R		R	R
Monk Parakeet	C	C	C	C
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	C	U	C	C
Black-billed Cuckoo	U		R	
Groove-billed Ani	R		R	R
Barn Owl	C	C	C	C
Eastern Screech-Owl	C	C	C	C
Great Horned Owl	C	C	C	C
Burrowing Owl				O
Barred Owl	C	C	C	C
Short-eared Owl	R		R	R
Lesser Nighthawk	R		R	
Common Nighthawk	C	C	C	C
Chuck-will's-widow	C		C	C
Whip-poor-will	U		U	U
Chimney Swift	C	C	C	C
Buff-bellied Hummingbird				R
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	R	C	C
Black-chinned Hummingbird	R		R	R
Broad-tailed Hummingbird				R
Rufous Hummingbird	R		R	R
Belted Kingfisher	C	R	C	C
Red-headed Woodpecker	R	R	R	R
Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C		C	C
Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
Northern Flicker				O
Pileated Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
Olive-sided Flycatcher	R		U	U
Eastern Wood-Pewee	C		C	C
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	O		U	U
Acadian Flycatcher	C	U	C	C
Alder Flycatcher	R		C	C
Willow Flycatcher	R		R	
Least Flycatcher	U		C	R
Eastern Phoebe	C		C	C
Vermilion Flycatcher	R		R	R
Ash-throated Flycatcher	R		R	R
Great Crested Flycatcher	C	R	C	
Couch's Kingbird				O
Western Kingbird	U		U	O
Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C	C
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	C	C	C	C
Loggerhead Shrike	C	C	C	C

3

(continued)

Bird Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
White-eyed Vireo	C		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			O
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	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		R	R
House Wren	C		C	C
Winter Wren	R		R	R
Sedge Wren	C		C	C
Marsh Wren	C		C	C
Golden-crowned Kinglet	R		R	R
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		C	
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	U		U	C
Sprague's Pipit	R		R	R
Cedar Waxwing	C		C	C
Blue-winged Warbler	C		C	
Golden-winged Warbler	U		R	
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		O	
Blackburnian Warbler	U		U	
Yellow-throated Warbler	U		U	
Pine Warbler	R		R	C
Prairie Warbler	R		R	
Palm Warbler	U		U	U
Bay-breasted Warbler	C		C	
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	

Bird Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Ovenbird	C		C	
Northern Waterthrush	C		C	R
Louisiana Waterthrush	C		C	
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		C	
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	C
Lark Sparrow	R		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		O	
Indigo Bunting	C	U	C	R
Painted Bunting	C	U	C	
Dickcissel	C	U	C	O
Bobolink	R		R	
Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	C
Eastern Meadowlark	C	C	C	C
Yellow-headed Blackbird	R		R	
Rusty Blackbird				R
Brewer's Blackbird	U		U	U
Common Grackle	C	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	
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 Checklist follows the 49th AOU order. It refers to all top birding areas, but not all species can be seen at every site.

- C** = Common: 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  
**Northern Gannet:** Offshore, scope needed  
**Neotropic Cormorant:** Wide Distribution  
**Anhinga:** BBSP, SPHW, GISP (Rare in Freshwater Ponds)  
**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:** Ponds in Coastal areas  
**Fulvous Whistling-Duck:** Ponds ANWR, BBSP  
**Mottled Duck:** Ponds and lakes in area  
**Cinnamon Teal:** BBSP, SPHW  
**Am. Swallow-tail Kite:** Flying, Coastal area, March & Early April, SPHW  
**White-tail Kite:** Open areas near Coast  
**Mississippi Kite:** BBSP, SPHW  
**Crested Caracara:** GISP, BBSP, BNWR  
**Yellow Rail:** Very elusive ANWR, BNWR  
**Black Rail:** Nest ANWR & BNWR, Elusive  
**Purple Gallinule:** ANWR & BBSP  
**Sandhill Crane:** West Galveston, BNWR, BBSP  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** Rice and cut grass fields, BB  
**Plovers, Snowy, Wilson, Piping:** SLP, EB, BF, BB  
**Hudsonian Godit:** Freshwater, Rice Fields  
**Pomarine Jaeger:** Off Coast w/feeding Gulls  
**Rare Gulls:** SLP  
**Franklin's Gull:** End of Oct. and first of Nov. EB, BF, SLP  
**Common Tern:** Not present in January  
**Black Tern:** Spectacular! Est up to 25,000 roost at SLP Aug. to early Sept.  
**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** Along East of 25th St. from Seawall to Broadway; Galv. Country Club  
**White-wing Dove:** Galveston East of 61st St., GISP  
**Inca Doves:** Urbanized Galveston lawns  
**Monk Parakeet:** Centered around intersection of Hwys 146 & 646 near Kemah, San Leon  
**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** Open Areas, GISP  
**Sprague's Pipit:** Grass habitats at TCD  
**Le Conte's Sparrow:** Grassy area SLP, BBSP, GISP  
**Bobolinks:** Open fields on Island & Bolivar  
**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Open Areas  
**Great-tailed Grackle:** Everywhere  
**Boat-tailed Grackle:** High Island and ANWR  
**Bronzed Cowbirds:** HD 25th to 51st St., (Rice Elevators)  
**Burrowing Owl:** Ft. Travis Park

### Map Index

TCD - Texas City Dike	EB - East Beach
BBSP - Brazos Bend State Park	BB - Bryan Beach
SPHW - Smith Point Hawk Watch	BNWR - Brazorial NWR
SLP - San Luis Pass	HD - Harborside Drive,
BF - Bolivar Flat	Galveston
ANWR - Anuhac NWR	GISP - Galveston Island SP