

# Texas:

## Gulf Coast Migration Special

11 – 19 Apr 2009



**Tour Leader:** Chris Charlesworth

### Tour Round-up

Migrant birds deluged the Upper Texas Coast this April, providing our tour of the region with a long list of mouth-watering species. The weather, while often very ominous, proved to work in our favour, grounding many of the migrant songbirds. Damage from last September's Hurricane Ike will be etched in our memories forever, especially on the Bolivar Peninsula, where almost everything was destroyed. Amazingly, the birds are still there and our 8-day trip managed to rack up a respectable 197 species.

Our tour began in Houston, the region's largest city. We explored Jones State Forest where towering Loblolly, Short-leaved and Long-leaved pines are home to a number of interesting birds. Woodpeckers most notably stole the show here with up to half a dozen rare and endangered Red-cockaded Woodpeckers observed near their nesting colony. Also seen well in the park were Red-headed Woodpeckers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Downy Woodpeckers and at the end of the day a Pileated Woodpecker! Brown-headed Nuthatches, also a denizen of the south-eastern pine forests were seen quite well. While in Jones State Park we encountered a very fierce thunder and lightning storm so we retreated to find lunch, emerging after to find brilliant sunny skies. On our second morning, we visited Jesse Jones Nature Park near the hotel in Houston. We followed the Cypress Swamp Boardwalk and enjoyed Northern Parulas, Pine Warblers, Summer Tanagers, Carolina Chickadees, Little Blue Heron and loads of other goodies.

Using the quiet town of Winnie as our base we explored the Upper Texas Coast migrant traps for the next 6 days. We typically followed the traditional technique for optimizing your birding time in the region, exploring the marshes, and coastal areas during the morning and visiting migrant songbird traps like High Island and Sabine Woods in the afternoon. Birds that depart from the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico the night before typically don't arrive on the Texas Coast until mid afternoon. Morning visits were made to the Bolivar Peninsula, an area heavily damaged by Hurricane Ike. Birds remain however and at Bolivar Flats we enjoyed fantastic looks at Kentish, Piping, Wilson's and Semipalmated plovers, Sanderlings, Ruddy Turnstones and loads of Royal Terns and Laughing Gulls. We walked out part way on the Bolivar Jetty, and watched in awe as an estimated flock of 10,000 American Avocets waded in the shallows.

Another morning visit was made to the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge. This area was flooded with Hurricane Ike's storm surge, resulting in devastation of the freshwater marshes. Despite this, we were able to obtain excellent views of Least Bitterns and secretive Sora Rails in the marsh. A few shorebirds fed actively on mudflats and we saw Semipalmated and Least sandpipers, Lesser and Greater yellowlegs, Stilt Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers, Long-billed Dowitcher, Dunlin, Willet and Black-necked Stilt to name a few.

A morning visit to Texas Point was also very rewarding with coastal marshes producing noisy Clapper Rails and secretive Seaside and Nelson's Sharp-tailed sparrows. Bushes alongside the road at Texas Point always have surprises waiting to be discovered. We found an obliging Grasshopper Sparrow alongside a stunning Indigo Bunting that followed us for much of the morning. Orchard Orioles and Red-winged Blackbirds continued to amuse us as we strolled down the pot-holed road.

At Tyrell Park in Beaumont we easily found three target species during a morning's birding; Yellow-throated Warbler, Fish Crow and Yellow-crowned Night Heron.

Our afternoons were spent leisurely birding the deciduous forests of the two High Island woodlots; Boy Scout Woods and Smith Oaks, as well as the famous Sabine Woods in extreme eastern Texas. With frequent rain showers and strong winds, migrant numbers on the coast were quite impressive. Our warbler list bulged to over 30 species by the end of the tour including jaw-dropping stunners like Blackburnian, Cerulean, Bay-breasted, Chestnut-sided, Hooded, Kentucky, Prothonotary, Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Yellow and Black-and-white Warblers to name just a few. Woodlots were inundated with Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Summer and Scarlet tanagers. Yellow-billed Cuckoos made almost daily appearances. Thrushes put on a fantastic show, especially under one particular Mulberry tree at Boy Scout Woods that we deemed 'the thrush tree'. Throughout the tour we had Swainson's, Gray-cheeked, Wood and Veery under that tree as well as other goodies. Hours spent watching the drip at Purky's Pond at Boy Scout Woods offered excellent views of many of the migrants coming in to bath and drink. A couple of excellent fall outs occurred and we were lucky enough to catch the action. Most memorable fall out experiences occurred at Sabine Woods where the forest floor was absolutely covered with Indigo Buntings and Swainson's Thrushes, in addition to all sorts of other gems like Worm-eating Warbler, Blue Grosbeak and Ovenbirds. Another fall out fiesta was at Smith Oaks where we watched in awe as hundreds of birds zipped overhead, including orioles, tanagers, Eastern Kingbirds, warblers and Indigo Buntings. Very exciting stuff! We also managed excellent views of Nine-banded Armadillos at Smith Oaks.

All in all, a very successful Upper Texas Coast trip was had by everyone. Great numbers of birds, an excellent group (that gelled well together) and luck with the weather all combined to make this a memorable experience for all. Hope to see you all again on a future trip!

*Chris Charlesworth, April 2009.*

**Systematic List of Birds Recorded**  
(196 species recorded by group)

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis*

Seen at a few freshwater ponds including numerous birds at the High Island Heronry.

**Fulvous Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Flock of about a dozen seen just north of High Island near bridge over intracoastal waterway.

**Wood Duck** *Aix sponsa*

Pair flushed off swamp at Cypress Boardwalk Trail.

**Mottled Duck** *Anas fulvigula*

Seen in small numbers at freshwater swamps including at Anahuac NWR and marshes just north of High Island.

**Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors*

Quite common in variety of aquatic habitats, including freshwater marshes and flooded fields. Flock also seen on open ocean at Bolivar Peninsula.

**Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

Small numbers seen in marshes just north of High Island.

**Green-winged Teal** *Anas crecca*

A few seen here and there at freshwater ponds, including at High Island Heronry.

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

Two birds seen at Rollover Pass on the Bolivar Peninsula.

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps*

Seen on brackish ponds at Texas Point and Anahuac NWR and at the High Island Heronry.

**White Ibis** *Eudocimus albus*

Common in wetland areas throughout. Large numbers at High Island Heronry.

**White-faced Ibis** *Plegadis chihi*

Fairly common in wetland areas. Fairly numerous in marshes along Hwy 124, north of High Island and at the Anahuac NWR.

**Roseate Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja*

Common in wetland areas. Large numbers at High Island Heronry.

**Least Bittern** *Ixobrychus exilis*

Two seen well in marshes at Shoveler Pond at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

One immature seen in flight over High Island Heronry.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea*

One seen at Tyrell Park in Beaumont and a few seen flying over Hwy 124 just north of High Island.

**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens*

Fairly common in freshwater marshes.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*

Fairly common in open agricultural areas, especially around livestock.

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea Herodias*

Fairly common in wetland areas throughout.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

Common in wetland areas throughout.

**Reddish Egret** *Egretta rufescens*

Uncommon. One seen in flight over Bolivar Peninsula and two or three seen in Sabine Pass area.

**Tricolored Heron** *Egretta tricolor*

Common in marshes.

**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea*

Common in marshes and swamps. Seen exceptionally well along Cypress Boardwalk in Jesse Jones Nature Park in Houston.

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula*

Fairly common in wetland areas. Especially numerous in the Texas Point area.

**American White Pelican** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*

Small groups seen at Texas Point, the Bolivar Peninsula and overhead at High Island Heronry.

**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis*

Common near the coast. Numerous at Texas Point area and at the Bolivar Peninsula.

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

Common throughout tour and present in most areas with water, freshwater or brackish.

**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus*

Seen well just once from Bolivar Jetty.

**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga*

Seen just a couple of times. Best views at High Island Heronry.

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*

Numerous over all habitats. Especially common along roadsides where they seek roadkill.

**American Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus*

Fairly common, especially in the Houston and piney-woods areas. Fewer numbers seen around High Island.

**Crested Caracara** *Caracara cheriway*

Uncommon in Upper Coast area. Seen two or more times in field behind our hotel in Winnie.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Uncommon migrant through coastal woodlots and along open beaches where they pursue small migrant landbirds and waders.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

Uncommon migrant. Two seen; one overhead at Jones State Park and the other overhead at High Island.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

Small numbers seen along Bolivar Peninsula, at High Island and even right over small pond behind our hotel in Houston.

**Mississippi Kite** *Ictinia mississippiensis*

One seen with kettle of Broad-winged Hawks from our hotel parking lot in Houston.

**Northern Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

A few present at most extensive marshy areas including those at Anahuac NWR and along Hwy 124, north of High Island.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** *Accipiter striatus*

One seen overhead briefly and through the trees in Jones State Park.

**Cooper's Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii*

One seen well overhead at Jones State Park.

**Red-shouldered Hawk** *Buteo lineatus*

Uncommon in woodlands. Seen briefly at Jones State Park and at Sabine Woods.

**Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus*

Small to mid sized groups of migrants were seen at numerous locations, but less so around the High Island and Bolivar areas.

**Swainson's Hawk** *Buteo swainsoni*

Uncommon migrant. One seen well overhead at Jones State Park and at Tyrell Park in Beaumont.

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*

Fairly common resident of open fields. Seen most often along roadways in transit.

**Clapper Rail** *Rallus longirostris*

Fairly common in brackish wetlands. Seen exceptionally well at Texas Point.

**Sora** *Porzana Carolina*

Fairly common in wetlands. Seen very well at Texas Point and at Anahuac NWR.

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Fairly common on freshwater ponds. Seen well at High Island Heronry.

**American Coot** *Fulica americana*

Fairly common on freshwater ponds. Seen well at High Island Heronry.

**American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus*

Two seen in distance at Rollover Pass on Bolivar Peninsula.

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus*

Common in wetland areas throughout.

**American Avocet** *Recurvirostra americana*

Flock of approx. 10,000 seen from Bolivar Jetty.

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Fairly common on coastal beaches such as those along Bolivar Peninsula.

**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus*

Seen two times, once in flooded fields and wetlands along Hwy 124, north of High Island and again in flight over Texas Point.

**Wilson's Plover** *Charadrius wilsonia*

Two or three seen on first visit to Bolivar Flats on open sandy beach.

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus*

Common in wetland habitats and in open grassy fields throughout.

**Piping Plover** *Charadrius melodus*

A few seen on two visits to Bolivar Flats on open sandy beach.

**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*

One seen at Bolivar Flats on open sandy beach.

**Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus*

Uncommon migrant in coastal areas. Seen at Anahuac NWR and at High Island Heronry.

**Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

Fairly common migrant in marshy areas. Numerous at Anahuac NWR and flooded fields north of High Island on Hwy 124.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

Fairly common migrant in marshy areas along coast such as at Texas Point, Anahuac NWR and the Bolivar Peninsula.

**Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda*

Uncommon migrant in open grassy fields. Seen along access road to Anahuac NWR.

**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca*

Common migrant in marshy areas. Numbers seen at Anahuac NWR.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*

Uncommon migrant in marshy areas. Seen in numbers at Anahuac NWR.

**Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria*

Uncommon migrant in marshy areas with shallow pools and puddles. Seen at High Island Heronry and at Anahuac NWR.

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*

Uncommon along shore of ponds, streams and bayous. Seen well at pond at Smith Oaks at High Island, along Hwy 87 on Bolivar Peninsula and at Texas Point.

**Willet** *Tringa semipalmata*

Common in open, marshy fields throughout, especially along Bolivar Peninsula.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

Fairly common along open sandy beach at Bolivar Flats.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

Common along sandy beaches of Bolivar Peninsula.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla*

Fairly common migrant in wet areas such as Bolivar Flats and Anahuac NWR.

**Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri*

Uncommon migrant. Seen at Bolivar Flats and in flooded fields along Hwy 124 north of High Island.

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*

Common migrant. Many at Anahuac NWR.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

Uncommon migrant in flooded fields and marshy areas. Seen at Anahuac NWR and in marshy area north of High Island.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Uncommon migrant in coastal areas such as Bolivar Flats and Anahuac NWR.

**Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus*

Fairly common migrant in shallow pools where they often accompany dowitchers. Seen well at Anahuac NWR and in marshes north of High Island along Hwy 124.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis*

Uncommon migrant in grassy fields. Flock flew in front of van along roadway to Anahuac NWR.

**Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*

Fairly common along Bolivar Peninsula.

**American Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*

Uncommon in coastal areas. Seen near Sabine Pass and at Bolivar Peninsula.

**Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla*

Common throughout.

**Franklin's Gull** *Larus pipixcan*

Uncommon migrant on Upper Coast. Seen overhead twice, both times from Boy Scout Woods at High Island.

**Least Tern** *Sternula antillarum*

Common in coastal locations all along Bolivar Peninsula.

**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Uncommon over coastal marshes. Seen in marshes north of High Island along Hwy 124.

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*

Uncommon in coastal areas. Seen at Bolivar Peninsula.

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

Uncommon over coastal marshes. Seen over marshes along Hwy 124, north of High Island.

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Uncommon along coastal beaches. A few seen along Bolivar Peninsula.

**Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maxima*

Common in coastal areas, especially the Bolivar Peninsula and Texas Point.

**Forster's Tern** *Sterna forsteri*

Common over wetlands and open ocean. Numerous birds at Anahuac NWR and all along the Bolivar Peninsula.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

Uncommon over ponds and coastal marshes. One seen well at Rollover Pass on Bolivar Peninsula.

**Black Skimmer** *Rynchops niger*

Large numbers in the distance seen at Rollover Pass on Bolivar Peninsula.

**Feral Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

Common in urban areas throughout.

**Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common in urban areas throughout.

**American Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura*

Common throughout.

**White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica*

Uncommon on Upper Coast. Seen often at Boy Scout Woods and Sabine Woods.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus americanus*

Uncommon migrant in coastal woodlots. Seen in Smith Oaks at High Island and at Sabine Woods.

**Common Nighthawk** *Chordeiles minor*

Uncommon migrant. Two seen overhead at High Island.

**Chimney Swift** *Chaetura pelagica*

Fairly common migrant. Seen often coursing over trees at High Island sanctuaries and at Sabine Woods. Also seen at Jones State Park in piney-woods.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** *Archilochus colibri*

Common migrant. Seen often in both High Island sanctuaries as well as at Sabine Woods.

**Belted Kingfisher** *Ceryle alcyon*

Uncommon in marshy areas. Seen often along Hwy 124 north of High Island.

**Red-headed Woodpecker** *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*

Uncommon in pine forests. Seen well at Jones State Park as well as Jesse Jones Nature Park.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker** *Melanerpes carolinus*

Uncommon in pine forests. Seen well at Jones State Park and at Tyrell Park.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus varius*

Uncommon migrant. Seen at Sabine Woods and at Smith Oaks at High Island.

**Downy Woodpecker** *Picoides pubescens*

Uncommon in pine forests and in coastal migrant traps. Seen at Jones State Park as well as at Smith Oaks at High Island where we found a nest.

**Red-cockaded Woodpecker** *Picoides borealis*

Rare and local resident in pine forests. Seen exceptionally well at Jones State Park.

**Pileated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus pileatus*

Uncommon in pine forests. One seen from our hotel in Houston!

**Eastern Wood Pewee** *Contopus virens*

Uncommon migrant. Seen at both High Island sanctuaries as well as Sabine Woods.

**Western Kingbird** *Tyrannus verticalis*

Uncommon migrant along coast. Seen along Bolivar Peninsula and near Boy Scout Woods at High Island.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus forficatus*

Fairly common in open areas. Seen behind our motel in Houston. Also seen along road to Anahuac NWR.

**Eastern Kingbird** *Tyrannus tyrannus*

Common migrant at Sabine Woods and High Island areas.

**Great Crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus crinitus*

Uncommon migrant. Seen at Sabine Woods and at High Island.

**Loggerhead Shrike** *Lanius ludovicianus*

Common in open areas. Seen behind our motel in Houston, as well as along most highways.

**White-eyed Vireo** *Vireo griseus*

Fairly common migrant at coastal migrant traps and fairly common breeder in piney woods.

**Yellow-throated Vireo** *Vireo flavifrons*

Uncommon migrant in coastal migrant traps. Seen well at Sabine Woods and both High Island sanctuaries.

**Blue-headed Vireo** *Vireo solitarius*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps. Seen at both Smith Oaks at High Island and at Sabine Woods.

**Warbling Vireo** *Vireo gilvus*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps. Single birds seen at Sabine Woods and a Smith Oaks at High Island.

**Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus*

Common migrant in coastal migrant trap areas.

**Blue Jay** *Cyanocitta cristata*

Fairly common in piney-woods and uncommon in coastal migrant trap areas.

**American Crow** *Corvus brachyrhynchos*

Common around Houston area.

**Fish Crow** *Corvus ossifragus*

Uncommon in Beaumont and Sabine Pass area. Pair seen in Tyrell Park in Beaumont.

**Cedar Waxwing** *Bombycilla cedrorum*

Uncommon migrant. Small flocks of up to 30 birds seen at Jones State Park and Boy Scout Woods.

**Carolina Chickadee** *Poecile carolinensis*

Common in piney-woods region N. of Houston. Numbers seen in Jones State Park and at Jesse Jones Nature Park.

**Tufted Titmouse** *Baeolophus bicolor*

Fairly common resident in piney-woods region where we saw species at Jones State Park and at Jesse Jones Nature Park.

**Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor*

Common to abundant migrant all across coast of Texas. Seen at most locations.

**Purple Martin** *Progne subis*

Fairly common breeding resident of Upper Texas Coast area. Seen daily at High Island.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Fairly common migrant on Upper Texas Coast. Seen every day.

**Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

Common breeding resident on Upper Texas Coast. Most often seen in large flocks around bridges where they nest in colonies.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus calendula*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps. Seen at both High Island sanctuaries as well as at Sabine Woods.

**Sedge Wren** *Cistothorus platensis*

Uncommon in marshy areas. Seen N. of High Island in marshes near the Intracoastal Waterway bridge. Seen also at Texas Point.

**Marsh Wren** *Cistothorus palustris*

Uncommon in marshy areas. Seen N. of High Island in marshes along Hwy 124 near Intracoastal Waterway bridge.

**Carolina Wren** *Thryothorus ludovicianus*

Fairly common resident. Seen every day in variety of woodland habitats.

**Blue-grey Gnatcatcher** *Poliophtila caerulea*

Fairly common in wooded areas. Seen at Jones State Park, Jesse Jones Nature Park, both High Island sanctuaries and Sabine Woods.

**Brown-headed Nuthatch** *Sitta pusilla*

Uncommon resident of piney-woods region. Seen well at Jones State Park.

**Grey Catbird** *Dumetella carolinensis*

Common migrant at coastal migrant traps including both High Island sanctuaries as well as Sabine Woods.

**Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos*

Common resident throughout region. Most numerous in suburban and rural areas.

**Brown Thrasher** *Toxostoma rufum*

Uncommon migrant in region. Seen at Jones State Park as well as both High Island sanctuaries and Sabine Woods.

**European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common resident throughout. Seen every day.

**Eastern Bluebird** *Sialia sialis*

Uncommon breeder around clearings and forest edges. Seen at Jones State Park, and at Tyrell Park in Beaumont.

**Veery** *Catharus fuscescens*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps such as Smith Oaks and Boy Scout Woods at High Island and Sabine Woods.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush** *Catharus minimus*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps. Seen at Sabine Woods and at Boy Scout Woods, High Island.

**Swainson's Thrush** *Catharus ustulatus*

Fairly common migrant at coastal migrant traps. Seen at both High Island sanctuaries as well as at Sabine Woods.

**Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus*

Uncommon migrant. One seen well at Jesse Jones Nature Park.

**Wood Thrush** *Hylocichla mustelina*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps. Seen at both High Island sanctuaries as well as at Sabine Woods.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

Common resident in urban and rural areas. Often seen near hotels.

**American Goldfinch** *Carduelis tristis*

Noted in Houston.

**Golden-winged Warbler** *Vermivora chrysoptera*

Fairly rare migrant at coastal migrant traps. Male seen at Smith Oaks, High Island.

**Blue-winged Warbler** *Vermivora pinus*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps. Seen at both High Island sanctuaries as well as Sabine Woods.

**Tennessee Warbler** *Vermivora peregrina*

Abundant migrant at coastal migrant traps. Many seen each day at High Island sanctuaries and Sabine Woods.

**Orange-crowned Warbler** *Vermivora celata*

Fairly common migrant at coastal migrant traps including both High Island sanctuaries and at Sabine Woods.

**Nashville Warbler** *Vermivora ruficapilla*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps. Seen at Smith Oaks at High Island, and at Sabine Woods.

**Northern Parula** *Parula americana*

Uncommon migrant at migrant traps. Seen at Smith Oaks, High Island and at Sabine Woods. Also found in Jesse Jones Nature Park.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Dendroica pensylvanica*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps. Seen at both High Island sanctuaries as well as at Sabine Woods.

**Yellow Warbler** *Dendroica petechia*

Fairly common migrant at coastal migrant traps. Seen at Smith Oaks, High Island and at Sabine Woods.

**Blackpoll Warbler** *Dendroica striata*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps. Single males seen at both High Island sanctuaries.

**Bay-breasted Warbler** *Dendroica castanea*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps. Seen at Sabine Woods and at Smith Oaks, High Island.

**Blackburnian Warbler** *Dendroica fusca*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps. Seen at both High Island sanctuaries as well as at Sabine Woods.

**Magnolia Warbler** *Dendroica magnolia*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps. Single male seen at Sabine Woods and another seen briefly at Smith Oaks, High Island.

**Cerulean Warbler** *Dendroica cerulean*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps. Seen at Smith Oaks, High Island and at Sabine Woods.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Dendroica coronata*

Fairly common migrant throughout. Seen well at Tyrell Park in Beaumont.

**Black-throated Green Warbler** *Dendroica virens*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps. Seen at both High Island sanctuaries and at Sabine Woods.

**Yellow-throated Warbler** *Dendroica dominica*

Uncommon in open mixed woods. Pair seen at Tyrell Park in Beaumont.

**Prairie Warbler** *Dendroica discolor*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps. Two females seen, both at Smith Oaks, High Island.

**Pine Warbler** *Dendroica pinus*

Fairly common in pines. Many seen at Jones State Park and Jesse Jones Nature Park. One also present in Tyrell Park, in Beaumont.

**Palm Warbler** *Dendroica palmarum*

Fairly rare migrant in region. One seen at Tyrell Park in Beaumont.

**Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia*

Fairly common migrant throughout region. Seen at Jones State Park, both High Island sanctuaries and at Sabine Woods.

**American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla*

Fairly common migrant at coastal migrant traps. Seen at both High Island sanctuaries and at Sabine Woods.

**Prothonotary Warbler** *Protonotaria citrea*

Fairly common around cypress swamps. Seen quite well at both High Island sanctuaries as well as at Sabine Woods.

**Worm-eating Warbler** *Helmitheros vermivorum*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps. Seen numerous times at both High Island sanctuaries as well as at Sabine Woods.

**Ovenbird** *Seiurus aurocapilla*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps. Always on ground. Seen at Smith Oaks, High Island and at Sabine Woods.

**Northern Waterthrush** *Seiurus noveboracensis*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps, especially around edges of ponds and streams. Seen well at both High Island sanctuaries and Sabine Woods.

**Louisiana Waterthrush** *Seiurus motacilla*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps. Seen at Sabine Woods.

**Kentucky Warbler** *Oporornis formosus*

Fairly common migrant at coastal migrant traps. Usually near ground. Seen well at both High Island sanctuaries and at Sabine Woods.

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*

Fairly common in marshes and at coastal migrant traps. Seen well at both High Island sanctuaries and at Sabine Woods.

**Hooded Warbler** *Wilsonia citrina*

Fairly common migrant at coastal migrant traps. Seen at both High Island sanctuaries and at Sabine Woods and Jones State Park.

**Wilson's Warbler** *Wilsonia pusilla*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps. Seen at Sabine Woods.

**Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps. Seen at Boy Scout Woods at High Island and at Sabine Woods.

**Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius*

Abundant migrant at coastal migrant traps. Seen often at drip at Boy Scout Woods, High Island. Also very numerous at Smith Oaks, and at Sabine Woods.

**Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula*

Fairly common migrant at coastal migrant traps such as both High Island sanctuaries and at Sabine Woods.

**Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater*

Uncommon migrant in region. Seen at both High Island sanctuaries and at Sabine Woods.

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*

Common resident of marshes. Seen well at variety of wetland habitats.

**Common Grackle** *Quiscalus quiscula*

Fairly common at coastal migrant traps such as sanctuaries at High Island at Sabine Woods.

**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus*

Abundant resident throughout region. Replaced by Boat-tailed along immediate coast. Seen daily in variety of habitats.

**Boat-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus major*

Common along coast, especially in marshes where it replaces Great-tailed. Easily seen at Texas Point and Anahuac NWR.

**Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna*

Uncommon in open grassy areas. A couple seen in remnant grasslands along Bolivar Peninsula.

**Lincoln's Sparrow** *Melospiza lincolni*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps and in piney-woods region. Seen at Jones State Park, both High Island sanctuaries and at Sabine Woods.

**Swamp Sparrow** *Melospiza georgiana*

Uncommon migrant in wetland areas. Seen at Boy Scout Woods, and Texas Point.

**White-throated Sparrow** *Zonotrichia albicollis*

Uncommon migrant. Bulk of birds go through earlier than our trip however we did see this species with regularity at Sabine Woods and both High Island sanctuaries.

**Savannah Sparrow** *Passerculus sandwichensis*

Fairly common migrant in open areas throughout.

**Seaside Sparrow** *Ammodramus maritimus*

Uncommon in coastal wetlands. Seen well at Texas Point.

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** *Ammodramus nelson*

Uncommon wintering species in coastal marshes. A few lingering birds were seen at Texas Point.

**Grasshopper Sparrow** *Ammodramus savannarum*

Rare migrant. Seen at Texas Point.

**Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina*

Uncommon in piney-woods region. Seen at Jones State Park and Jesse Jones Nature Park.

**Clay-colored Sparrow** *Spizella pallid*

Rare migrant. One seen along Bolivar Peninsula.

**Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra*

Common migrant at coastal migrant traps such as both High Island sanctuaries and Sabine Woods.

**Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea*

Fairly common migrant at coastal migrant traps. Seen well at both High Island sanctuaries and at Sabine Woods.

**Western Tanager** *Piranga ludoviciana*

Rare migrant. Immature male seen at Smith Oaks, High Island.

**Dickcissel** *Spiza americana*

Uncommon in grasslands. A couple seen on entrance road to Anahuac NWR.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

Common migrant at coastal migrant traps such as both High Island sanctuaries and Sabine Woods.

**Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis*

Common in variety of forest types. Seen daily.

**Blue Grosbeak** *Passerina caerulea*

Fairly common migrant in coastal migrant traps such as both High Island sanctuaries and Sabine Woods.

**Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea*

Often abundant migrant in coastal migrant traps. Seen in good numbers at both High Island sanctuaries and at Sabine Woods.

**Painted Bunting** *Passerina ciris*

Uncommon migrant at coastal migrant traps. Seen at Boy Scout Woods, High Island and at Sabine Woods.



### Mammals

**Swamp Rabbit** *Sylvilagus aquaticus*

Fairly common at all migrant traps such as High Island and at Sabine Woods.

**Eastern Gray Squirrel** *Sciurus carolinensis*

Fairly common in piney-woods region and at migrant traps.

**Nine-banded Armadillo** *Dasypus novemcinctus*

Fairly common throughout Texas. We saw a couple in the High Island area.

### Reptiles

**Red-eared Slider** *Chrysemys scripta*

Common turtle at most ponds and wetlands in region.

**Alligator** *Alligator mississippiensis*

Noted at Smith Oaks Heronry.

### Butterflies

**Pipevine Swallowtail** *Battus philenor*

Seen in piney-woods region.

**Giant Swallowtail** *Papilio cresphontes*

Seen at Jesse Jones Nature Park

**Cabbage White** *Pieris rapae*

Common throughout.

**Cloudless Sulphur** *Phoebis sennae*

Seen a couple of times at migrant traps along coast.

**Gulf Fritillary** *Agraulis vanilla*

One visited flowers at Jesse Jones Nature Park.

**Painted Lady** *Vanessa cardui*

One seen in Jones State Park.

**Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta*

Uncommon this year. One or two seen at migrant traps.

**Monarch** *Danaus plexippus*

A few seen at migrant traps.

**Little Wood-Satyr** *Megisto cymela*

Seen at Jones State Park.

**White-striped Longtail** *Chioides catillus*

Quite uncommon in region. One seen in Jones State Park.