



Field Guides Tour Report

Texas Coast Migration Spectacle II 2014

Apr 19, 2014 to Apr 25, 2014

John Coons

For our tour description, itinerary, past triplists, dates, fees, and more, [please VISIT OUR TOUR PAGE.](#)

This was a great week with multitudes of migrants coming in to High Island each day and wonderful birding in the east Texas area, where we found many breeding specialties. Though the wind conditions didn't seem conducive to bring in birds, there was enough unsettled weather in the area to drop migrants and keep us busy. We started at Jones State Forest north of Houston, where we had wonderful views of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers near their nest holes before we started seeing our first breeding warblers. We soon had seen Northern Parula, Pine, Prothonotary, Hooded, Kentucky, and a few singing migrant Tennessee Warblers that put down that morning. One of the best birds of the week, a Swallow-tailed Kite, was spotted over the river. That afternoon we also encountered Prairie and Yellow-throated warblers, but the highlight had to be a very cooperative Swainson's Warbler that showed well. We finished the day with a great pair of calling Barred Owls.

The next day found us leaving early to get to prime habitat for Bachman's Sparrow. We were not disappointed as we watched this subtly marked specialty singing from its perch for several minutes. Heading back south toward the coast we detoured for Fish Crows, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, and a lone Upland Sandpiper before arriving at the migration mecca of High Island. Our first afternoon we found a good number of passerine migrants, and we were treated to Louisiana Waterthrush, Cerulean Warbler, fabulous Blackburnian Warblers, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, and American Redstart among others.



Orioles, grosbeaks, and Scarlet Tanagers like this fabulous male were all hitting the mulberries pretty hard in the woods at High Island. (Photo by participant Brooke Miller)

Over the next days we hit marshes, beaches and rice fields in the mornings and returned to High Island in the afternoon to see what had arrived or was just dropping in. At Anahuac NWR we had a distant view of a Ruff but great views of Least Bitterns, Sedge Wren, Seaside Sparrow, perched Common Nighthawks, and a strange relationship between a (presumed) male Clapper Rail that approached and mounted a (presumed) female King Rail. Seeing some distant birds in a rice field, we talked to the owner, who allowed us to get close to a plethora of shorebirds that included a couple of Hudsonian Godwits, White-rumped, Baird's, Stilt, and Pectoral sandpipers, and American Golden-Plovers.

On the Bolivar Peninsula we found gobs of water birds including nine species of terns and skimmer, close Wilson's and Piping plovers, more Upland Sandpipers, American Oystercatchers, dancing Reddish Egrets, a late Nelson's Sparrow, and a surprise Glaucous Gull on the beach. Driving to Sabine Woods we stopped at another rice field and found our only Buff-breasted Sandpiper hanging out with a large group of Whimbrels.

But it was the migration sites that stirred our passion each day. Over our time at High Island we saw heaps of Tennessee Warblers, Golden-winged and Blue-winged warblers, Yellows, more Hoodeds, more Chestnut-sideds, more of everything, and the arrival of the first Magnolia and Bay-breasted warblers of the year. Equally engaging were the myriad Orchard Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Summer Tanagers, Scarlet Tanagers, and an afternoon flight where several groups of 7-8 Baltimore Orioles were arriving as we watched. Also, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes, Veery, and Wood Thrush all appeared in the woods. It would have been great to stay another few days.

On our final day we had a close calling Black Rail that was in an impossible-to-see-it place, a Great Horned Owl, a great view of a singing male Painted Bunting and, continuing a theme that included our rails, a mating pair of Horned Larks and a couple of species of mating terns. We watched a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers enjoying each other's company on the side of a tree, too.

We observed American Alligators, green American Anoles, four young and very tame Armadillos, and enjoyed onion rings, Becky's desserts, and the cultural experience of life on the upper Texas Coast. I hope to see all of you again soon.

--John

KEYS FOR THIS LIST

BIRDS

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) – Our first were at the sewage treatment plant at the edge of Beaumont then we had a few more the next couple of days.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) – A few were seen at Anahuac NWR where they seem to be late coming in this year.

GADWALL (*Anas strepera*)

MOTTLED DUCK (*Anas fulvigula*) – We saw a few of these southeastern specialties in the coastal area but they are never high on the must see or favorite bird lists.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Anas discors*)

NORTHERN SHOVELER (*Anas clypeata*)

GREEN-WINGED TEAL (AMERICAN) (*Anas crecca carolinensis*)

Odontophoridae (New World Quail)

NORTHERN BOBWHITE (*Colinus virginianus*) – We heard a couple calling in the pastures at Anahuac NWR where they have been very scarce since Hurricane Ike. [*]

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

PIED-BILLED GREBE (*Podilymbus podiceps*)

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

Anhingidae (Anhingas)

ANHINGA (*Anhinga anhinga*) – We saw a couple of these strange birds in the Piney Woods and at the edge of a rice field.

Pelecanidae (Pelicans)

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) – A flock of eight was circling over Smith Woods as we were seeing migrants in the trees below them.

BROWN PELICAN (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

AMERICAN BITTERN (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) – Our only one flushed from the marsh at Anahuac.

LEAST BITTERN (*Ixobrychus exilis*) – We had great views of at least six individuals at Anahuac NWR. The breeding colors were exquisite.

GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias*)

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*) – The intense green color on the lores that we saw well is only present for a short time in the breeding season.

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*) – Also in high breeding plumage, the yellow feet and lores had been replaced by bright orange to red in those at the rookery.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*)

TRICOLORED HERON (*Egretta tricolor*)

REDDISH EGRET (*Egretta rufescens*) – We saw both reddish and white morphs feeding in the shallows of the Gulf of Mexico and in Galveston Bay.

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)

GREEN HERON (*Butorides virescens*)

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nyctanassa violacea*)

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

WHITE IBIS (*Eudocimus albus*)

WHITE-FACED IBIS (*Plegadis chihi*)

ROSEATE SPOONBILL (*Platalea ajaja*) – The colors were spectacular on those at the rookery.

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*)

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*)

Pandionidae (Osprey)

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*) – We had a good view of a male on a post near Port Bolivar.

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

WHITE-TAILED KITE (*Elanus leucurus*)

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (*Elanoides forficatus*) – Nice looks at a soaring bird over the Big Thicket on our first afternoon. This is a tough one in east Texas and one of the most beautiful raptors in the world.

NORTHERN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*)

BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platypterus*)

SWAINSON'S HAWK (*Buteo swainsoni*) – We had a few of these long distance migrants near the coast.

RED-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

BLACK RAIL (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) – We had one calling just a few yards away in the dense marsh on our last morning but it was impossible to see it. [*]

CLAPPER RAIL (*Rallus longirostris*) – We had a great show with a couple of birds including one that mated with a King Rail at Anahuac.

KING RAIL (*Rallus elegans*) – We saw about three individuals well but were surprised to watch a Clapper Rail hop on a King Rail for a quick mating.

This was the first time I have seen this though friends have told me they have experienced it.

SORA (*Porzana carolina*) – After hearing a few and getting a quick view we saw three along the edge of a roadside ditch on our last morning.

PURPLE GALLINULE (*Porphyrio martinicus*)

COMMON GALLINULE (*Gallinula galeata*)

AMERICAN COOT (*Fulica americana*)

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

AMERICAN AVOCET (*Recurvirostra americana*) – There were some nicely plumaged birds at Rollover Pass on our second visit.

Haematopodidae (Oystercatchers)

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus palliatus*) – We ended up seeing several pairs of these sharply marked birds on the Bolivar Peninsula.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*) – Several were pretty close to being in breeding plumage.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER (*Pluvialis dominica*) – We saw about six in Sam's flooded rice field.

WILSON'S PLOVER (*Charadrius wilsonia*) – Several were paired up on the beach at Bolivar Flats.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER (*Charadrius semipalmatus*)

PIPING PLOVER (*Charadrius melodus*) – Good numbers of these endangered birds were around this year.

KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*)

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularia*)

SOLITARY SANDPIPER (*Tringa solitaria*)

GREATER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa melanoleuca*) – These were far outnumbered by Lesser Yellowlegs.

WILLET (*Tringa semipalmata*)

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa flavipes*)

UPLAND SANDPIPER (*Bartramia longicauda*) – We ended up tallying this great shorebird three times but the first ones in the pasture in the Piney Woods took off just as we got the scopes on them. We had fine looks later in the week.

WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*)

LONG-BILLED CURLEW (*Numenius americanus*) – We had one late wintering bird on the Bolivar Peninsula.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*Limosa haemastica*) – Nice looks at two individuals in a flooded field that we were able to get close to. This is one of my favorite shorebirds.

MARbled GODWIT (*Limosa fedoa*) – We saw a fair number in the salt water of Galveston Bay and at Bolivar Flats.

RUDDY TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*)

RUFF (*Calidris pugnax*) – One female plumaged bird had been at Anahuac for 4-5 days. We got it in the scopes but it was tough through the vegetation and at that distance.

STILT SANDPIPER (*Calidris himantopus*)

SANDERLING (*Calidris alba*) – Hundreds were on the beach.

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*)

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (*Calidris bairdii*)

LEAST SANDPIPER (*Calidris minutilla*)

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (*Calidris fuscicollis*) – Nice looks at Sam's field. We had pretty close views of this specialty migrant.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (*Calidris subruficollis*) – We found one lone individual in a field on the morning we drove to Sabine Pass.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*Calidris melanotos*)

WESTERN SANDPIPER (*Calidris mauri*)

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER (*Limnodromus griseus*)

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) – We had a lot of these in the freshwater rice fields.

WILSON'S SNIPE (*Gallinago delicata*)

WILSON'S PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus tricolor*) – A few were in the field with the Ruff at Anahuac.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

BONAPARTE'S GULL (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*) – One winter plumaged individual was seen with a bunch of Laughing Gulls at the Beaumont Water Treatment plant.

LAUGHING GULL (*Leucophaeus atricilla*)

RING-BILLED GULL (*Larus delawarensis*)

HERRING GULL (AMERICAN) (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*)

GLAUCOUS GULL (*Larus hyperboreus*) – It was a surprise to be driving down the coast road and see an all white gull standing on the beach. It turned out to be a first year bird that is somewhat regular but still rare here.

LEAST TERN (*Sternula antillarum*) – Lots of these tiny terns were on the beaches and sandbars along the coast.

GULL-BILLED TERN (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*) – Only a few were seen.

BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias niger*) – A surprising number of these locally uncommon terns were seen at Rollover Pass. Some had acquired nearly the full breeding plumage.

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*)

FORSTER'S TERN (*Sterna forsteri*)

ROYAL TERN (*Thalasseus maximus*)

SANDWICH TERN (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*)

BLACK SKIMMER (*Rynchops niger*) – A quite unusual bird, we saw several lying flat on the sand as they sometimes do.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) [I]

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE (*Streptopelia decaocto*) [I]

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (*Zenaida asiatica*) – Just a couple here and there.

MOURNING DOVE (*Zenaida macroura*)

INCA DOVE (*Columbina inca*) – A couple of pairs were seen as we drove the streets of High Island.

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus americanus*) – Stuart spotted our first near Rollover Pass then we had a few more the next day.

Tytonidae (Barn-Owls)

BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*) – We saw one flying about after dinner on our last evening.

Strigidae (Owls)

GREAT HORNED OWL (*Bubo virginianus*) – It was somewhat of a surprise to find one perched out during the day on our final morning.

BARRED OWL (*Strix varia*) – We had a great experience with a pair that took quite a while to start vocalizing. We had wonderful looks at both of them in the Big Thicket. This is one of the best North American bird sounds.

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

COMMON NIGHTHAWK (*Chordeiles minor*) – We saw a couple perched on tree branches at Anahuac for close views then had a rufous morph on at limb at Sabine Woods.

Apodidae (Swifts)

CHIMNEY SWIFT (*Chaetura pelagica*)

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*Archilochus colubris*) – These were in good numbers during our week.

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

BELTED KINGFISHER (*Megasceryle alcyon*)

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) – One of the great woodpeckers of the world. We saw one then a pair at a hole, then the pair mating on our final morning.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes carolinus*)

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*) – There was an immature individual at Sabine Woods.

DOWNY WOODPECKER (*Picoides pubescens*)

HAIRY WOODPECKER (*Picoides villosus*) – Brooke spotted one near Lake Sam Rayburn in the Piney Woods.

RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER (*Picoides borealis*) – Great looks at a pair of these endangered birds at Jones State Forest on our first morning in the field. We watched them actively feeding and chipping off bark from the pines.

NORTHERN FLICKER (YELLOW-SHAFTED) (*Colaptes auratus auratus*)

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

CRESTED CARACARA (*Caracara cheriway*) – We saw a couple of these on the Bolivar Peninsula. They are just at the edge of their range here.

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*)

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE (*Contopus virens*)

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax virens*) – We saw a good number of these in the migrant traps. This is the first of the Empidonax flycatchers to return in the spring.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus crinitus*)

WESTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus verticalis*) – We saw two on our last day at High Island. These are uncommon but regular here on the coast.

EASTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) – Many seen well.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannus forficatus*) – We saw several pairs flying about in tandem over the pastures. Another favorite.

Laniidae (Shrikes)

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (*Lanius ludovicianus*) – Our first ones were at our motel in Silsbee then we had several more near the coast.

Vireonidae (Vireos)

WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*) – These were quite vocal in the Big Thicket.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (*Vireo flavifrons*)

WARBLING VIREO (*Vireo gilvus*)

PHILADELPHIA VIREO (*Vireo philadelphicus*) – We only saw one during the week, a migrant at Smith Woods.

RED-EYED VIREO (*Vireo olivaceus*)

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

BLUE JAY (*Cyanocitta cristata*) – I think this is the prettiest of all the North American jays.

AMERICAN CROW (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)

FISH CROW (*Corvus ossifragus*)

Alaudidae (Larks)

HORNED LARK (*Eremophila alpestris*) – We were watching one on the sand at Bolivar Flat when another approached, climbed aboard and they mated right in front of us. That seemed to be a theme of this week.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)

PURPLE MARTIN (*Progne subis*)

TREE SWALLOW (*Tachycineta bicolor*)

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*) – The twittering at the nests at High Island motel was usually the first bird we heard each morning.

CLIFF SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)

Paridae (Chickadees and Tits)

CAROLINA CHICKADEE (*Poecile carolinensis*)

TUFTED TITMOUSE (*Baeolophus bicolor*)

Sittidae (Nuthatches)

BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH (*Sitta pusilla*) – We saw a few pairs of these southeast US specialties.

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*) [*]

SEDGE WREN (*Cistothorus platensis*) – We had some great looks at a couple of different individuals.

MARSH WREN (*Cistothorus palustris*)

CAROLINA WREN (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) – There were a lot more heard than seen.

Poliophtidae (Gnatcatchers)

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (*Poliophtila caerulea*) – We watched one in the Big Thicket coming to a nicely formed cup nest.

Regulidae (Kinglets)

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus calendula*) [*]

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

EASTERN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia sialis*)

VEERY (*Catharus fuscescens*) – There was a nicely plumaged bird hopping about on the ground at Sabine Woods just after we saw the following.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH (*Catharus minimus*) – A couple were seen but most were yet to arrive this year.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH (*Catharus ustulatus*)

WOOD THRUSH (*Hylocichla mustelina*)

Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

GRAY CATBIRD (*Dumetella carolinensis*) – We had these in numbers each day.

BROWN THRASHER (*Toxostoma rufum*)

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus polyglottos*)

Sturnidae (Starlings)

EUROPEAN STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*) [I]

Bombycillidae (Waxwings)

CEDAR WAXWING (*Bombycilla cedrorum*)

Parulidae (New World Warblers)

OVENBIRD (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) – One was seen near the drip at High Island but we had another at Sabine Woods that was a bit more cooperative.

WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helmitheros vermivorum*) – The one that came to the water drip at Smith Woods was especially accommodating.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH (*Parkesia motacilla*) – Good views of one at Prothonotary Pond at Boy Scout Woods.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (*Parkesia noveboracensis*) – There were at least two, also at Prothonotary Pond, that offered a good comparison with the above.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora cyanoptera*) – We had a handful of sightings.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) – We had an oddly plumaged male at Smith Woods on one of our fallout afternoons.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (*Mniotilta varia*) – Our first one was at Jones State Forest which would be an inland migrant and is not seen that often at this location in mid-April.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (*Protonotaria citrea*) – Great looks at a brightly colored individual along the Trinity River on our first day.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER (*Limnithlypis swainsonii*) – We had one calling and softly singing from a thicket and we could not get a view of it so we tried further down the road and found a wonderfully cooperative individual that sat right out for us. This was one of the highlights of the trip. Yip! Yip! Yip!

TENNESSEE WARBLER (*Oreothlypis peregrina*) – We saw many during our week at High Island but more unusual was encountering a handful singing in the Big Thicket on our first morning. They must have put down in the early morning on their way north and felt good enough about the day to sing.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Oreothlypis celata*) – Not common at this time of year we saw only one. It is a more common species further west.

KENTUCKY WARBLER (*Geothlypis formosa*) – A singing bird showed well in the Big Thicket. We had a couple of encounters later in the week.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis trichas*)

HOODED WARBLER (*Setophaga citrina*) – We enjoyed nice looks on the breeding ground and several more as migrants at High Island.

AMERICAN REDSTART (*Setophaga ruticilla*) – Both fancy looking males and a few females were seen each day at High Island.

CERULEAN WARBLER (*Setophaga cerulea*) – We ended up seeing a few of these highly desirable warblers at High Island. Another beauty!

NORTHERN PARULA (*Setophaga americana*) – Great looks at a singing bird in a Spanish moss laden cypress in the Big Thicket, just like it is supposed to happen.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER (*Setophaga magnolia*) – These arrived mid-week, the first to be reported this year, and we ended up seeing several.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER (*Setophaga castanea*) – Good views of another later-in-the-spring migrant.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*Setophaga fusca*) – Great looks at this brilliantly colored warbler. These are higher canopy birds but we had them well.

YELLOW WARBLER (*Setophaga petechia*) – Most of those seen were males but we had a few dullish females as well.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (*Setophaga pensylvanica*) – These were seen each day at High Island.

PINE WARBLER (*Setophaga pinus*) – We had these on our first morning where they are one of the earliest warblers to start breeding.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (*Setophaga coronata*) – Usually well gone by the time of our trip, we had a "Myrtle" form singing at Jones State Forest on our first morning.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*Setophaga dominica*) – Great looks at a gorgeous male singing from a cypress in the Big Thicket. This is another of the early migrants.

PRAIRIE WARBLER (*Setophaga discolor*) – We found a very cooperative singer perched up in a short pine plantation in the Big Thicket area.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (*Setophaga virens*) – Several were seen on a couple of our days.

WILSON'S WARBLER (*Cardellina pusilla*)

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (*Icteria virens*) – There was one singing and perching up briefly in the piney woods where we were looking for our Bachman's Sparrow.

Emberizidae (Buntings and New World Sparrows)

BACHMAN'S SPARROW (*Peucaea aestivalis*) – Great views of this denizen of southeastern pine forests. It was well worth getting up early for the drive north to find this beautiful singer on its breeding grounds.

SAVANNAH SPARROW (*Passerculus sandwichensis*)

NELSON'S SPARROW (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) – This one took some looking but we had wonderful looks at a very late lingering individual on the Bolivar Peninsula. This is part of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow complex that was split some years back.

SEASIDE SPARROW (*Ammodramus maritimus*) – Good views of a few singing in the coastal marshes.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW (*Melospiza lincolnii*)

SWAMP SPARROW (*Melospiza georgiana*)

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia albicollis*)

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) – We saw two groups of three of these late lingering birds.

Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)

SUMMER TANAGER (*Piranga rubra*) – There were big numbers of these around on some days.

SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga olivacea*) – Many were seen and every fruiting mulberry seemed to have a few males and females.

NORTHERN CARDINAL (*Cardinalis cardinalis*)

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*)

BLUE GROSBEAK (*Passerina caerulea*) – Surprisingly, our only one was a male at Lake Sam Rayburn in the Piney Woods.

INDIGO BUNTING (*Passerina cyanea*) – A few to a handful were seen each day.

PAINTED BUNTING (*Passerina ciris*) – After seeing a greenish female at the water drip our first brightly colored male was singing at Boy Scout Woods. On our last morning we had a more leisurely view of another male at White Memorial Park.

DICKCISSEL (*Spiza americana*) – These late migrants were encountered a few times during the week.

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)

EASTERN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella magna*)

COMMON GRACKLE (*Quiscalus quiscula*)

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE (*Quiscalus major*) – These were all seen in the coastal prairies.

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)

BRONZED COWBIRD (*Molothrus aeneus*) – We saw one in the maintenance compound at Anahuac NWR. This is a quite uncommon bird in this part of Texas.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD (*Molothrus ater*)

ORCHARD ORIOLE (*Icterus spurius*) – Lots of these were seen coming into the woods each afternoon at High Island.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula*) – Many were seen and on our last afternoon we saw several groups of 5-7 individuals that were just arriving at the woods.

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH (*Spinus tristis*) [*****]

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*) [**I**]

MAMMALS

NINE-BANDED ARMADILLO (*Dasypus novemcinctus*) – It was a real surprise to look down and see four young armadillos digging in the soil right next to the trail near the rookery at High Island. They were pretty cute.

EASTERN COTTONTAIL (*Sylvilagus floridanus*)

SWAMP RABBIT (*Sylvilagus aquaticus*)

EASTERN GRAY SQUIRREL (*Sciurus carolinensis*)

FOX SQUIRREL (*Sciurus niger*) – We saw one at White Memorial Park on our last morning.

MUSKRAT (*Ondatra zibethica*)

BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN (*Tursiops truncatus*) – There were a good number, about ten, swimming and jumping near the mouth of Galveston Bay.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Totals for the tour: 210 bird taxa and 7 mammal taxa