



Texas

Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival - Pre-Trip

Tour Leader: Eric Ripma

November 4-8, 2022

The piney woods and marshes of northeastern Texas are home to a wide variety of birds not found in the Rio Grande Valley. We'll explore the pine forests north of Houston before heading to the coast to visit the prairies, marshes, beaches, and coastal woodland that make this region special. The restricted range of the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker is found here; this colonial nesting woodpecker is a piney woods specialty.

Itinerary Overview:

November 4: Arrival in Houston

November 5: Birding Sam Houston National Forest, transfer to Beaumont, and birding Cattail Marsh

November 6: Birding Anahuac NWR and Bolivar Peninsula

November 7: Birding Texas Point NWR, Sabine Woods, Pleasure Island, and Cattail Marsh

November 8: Transfer to and departure from Houston

Detailed Itinerary:

November 4: Arrival in Houston

Upon arrival at Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH), you will be met by your guide for this tour and transfer to a nearby hotel.

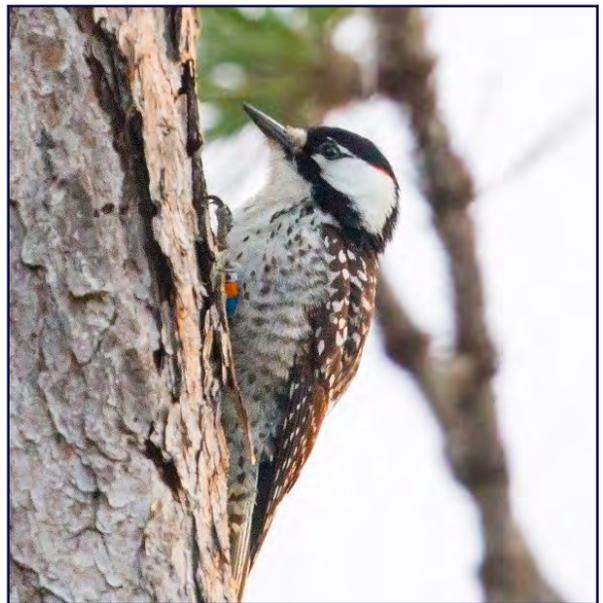
-Overnight: Houston, TX

November 5: Birding in Sam Houston National Forest, transfer to Beaumont, and birding Cattail Marsh

We will begin this morning early as we drive north to Sam Houston National Forest. This will be our one chance to bird the piney woods during this trip. We will be looking for specialties such as Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Bachman's Sparrow (difficult at this time of year). Other birds we will look for include Pileated and Red-headed Woodpecker, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Towhee, and a whole host of species that are not possible further south.

After lunch we will drive to Beaumont where we will be based for the rest of our time. In the evening we will visit Cattail Marsh where we will be able to enjoy an array of waterbirds as many are flying in to roost for the night!

-Overnight: Beaumont, TX



Red-cockaded Woodpecker

November 6: Birding Anahuac NWR and Bolivar Peninsula

Our first stop, Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge consists of 37,000 acres of coastal wetland supporting an unbelievable number of waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, and sparrows during the winter months. The flocks of ducks and geese, many hunting raptors, and swirling masses of shorebirds will make it difficult to leave this fabulous refuge. On our way to the Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary, we'll stop for lunch where we will have great views of the Intracoastal Waterway. The afternoon will be spent visiting a number of great coastal birding locations on the Bolivar Peninsula where some of the highlights could include Piping and Snowy Plovers, Red Knot, Clapper Rail, Seaside Sparrow and more.

-Overnight: Beaumont, TX



Long-billed Curlew



Seaside Sparrow

November 7: Birding Texas Point NWR, Sabine Woods, Pleasure Island, and Cattail Marsh

Our morning will start in the eastern corner of the state at Texas Point NWR. We'll be focusing on sparrows at this location and hope to see both Seaside and Nelson's Sparrow. Many other marsh birds and waterfowl are also to be expected. By mid-morning we will head over to Sabine Woods. While this isn't the peak time for songbird migration we should still see a number of warblers, sparrows, and other passerines on this stop. After lunch we will make a stop on Pleasure Island. This location gives us great views of Sabine Lake where many species of ducks will be seen and we may even luck into a Brown Booby.

-Overnight: Beaumont, TX

November 8: Transfer to and departure from Houston

After breakfast we will transfer back to Houston for your flights out of Houston.

Trip Details:

Cost:

Price per person (double occupancy), from Houston, TX: \$1,299

Single Supplement: \$300

Minimum Participants: 6

Maximum Participants: 8

Price Includes:

Expert Guides

Ground Transportation in Texas

All Lodging

All Meals

Park Entrance Fees

Price Does Not Include:

Airfare to and from Houston, TX (IAH)

Airport Taxes

Visa and Passport Fees (if applicable)

Alcoholic Beverages

Personal Items

Tips

Travel Insurance

Deposit:

A deposit of \$500 per person is required to hold your spot on this tour. The remaining balance is due no later than 1 month prior to the scheduled start date of the tour (October 4, 2022).

If you have any questions about this tour or would like to sign up for it, please contact Rob at info@sabrewingnaturetours.com, by phone at 317-324-8505, or register through our website at sabrewingnaturetours.com.

Responsibility/Disclaimer Statement:

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