



BIRDING ITINERARY

GALVESTON'S EAST END

Galveston Island has the best year-round birding! We encourage you to explore and enjoy discovering all that the island has to offer. This itinerary is designed to be enjoyed during any season of the year.

Need help with identification? Guided tours are available; visit www.birdingforfun.com or contact Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council (GINTC) at 409.789.8125.

Not sure where to start? Try this **self-guided birding tour** of some of the East End's hotspots – spend a few hours, or a full day, the choice is up to you!

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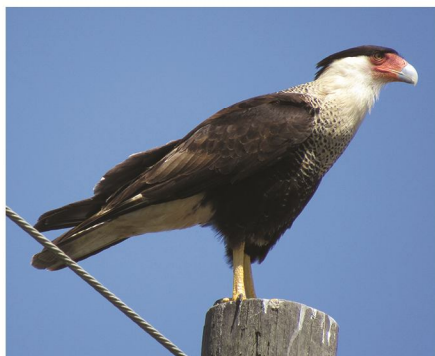
Corp Woods Nature Sanctuary **MAP** Ferry Road, Galveston (UTC 061)

Start your tour by visiting this small hidden gem, which can be found by taking TX 87 (Ferry Road) to TX 168. During spring, migrants including Indigo and Painted Bunting, House Finch, Baltimore Oriole, and various warblers are common. Check the small ponds year-round for Black- and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Little Blue and Green Heron, and other waders. Before you leave the parking lot, scan the power poles for Crested Caracara.



Indigo Bunting (photo by Kristine Rivers)

As you return to TX 87, watch the fence lines for Inca Dove, Great-tailed Grackle, and Savannah Sparrow. The small ponds and ditches along the road are often attractive to Roseate Spoonbill, White and White-faced Ibis, and Great and Snowy Egret.



Crested Caracara (photo by Kristine Rivers)

Apffel Park Road & East Beach **MAP**

Turn left on TX 87 (Ferry Road) and then left again on Seawall Boulevard for half a mile to Apffel Park Road. Turn right and scan the large ponds on both sides for Pied-billed Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Great Blue and Little Blue Heron, Roseate Spoonbill, and other waders. Red-tailed Hawk, Crested Caracara, and Osprey are common in the trees and scrub along the road; during winter, American Kestrel, Merlin, and Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawk are also possible.

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Follow this road until it ends in the free East Beach parking area. *(continued on other side)*

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Apffel Park Road & East Beach *continued* MAP

Note: only enter if the road is completely dry, as vehicles may get stuck when the access road is underwater. This area is good year-round for Sanderling, Willet, Least Sandpiper, and other shorebirds, as well as various gulls and terns.



Black-necked Stilt (photo by Kristine Rivers)

Return to Seawall Boulevard and turn right, staying in the right lane. Watch the lagoons on the right for Roseate Spoonbill, Great Blue and Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Black-necked Stilt, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet, and various other shorebirds and waders.

In winter, Blue- and Green-winged Teal, Mottled Duck, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, and other waterfowl are common. Check the power lines on the left for Loggerhead Shrike and Eurasian Collared-Dove.



Ruddy Turnstone (photo by Kristine Rivers)

Fort San Jacinto Historic Point MAP

Park at the end of Seawall Boulevard and scan the water. In winter Common Loons and Red-breasted Mergansers may be seen. Follow the small foot path to the left down toward the shoreline, checking for Ruddy Turnstone, Least Sandpiper, and other shorebirds along the rocks. There is also a small pond that is sometimes productive for herons and egrets. *Ready for lunch? If so, try Miller's Seawall Grill or another restaurant just up Seawall Boulevard before continuing. If not, continue to the next step.*

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Boddeker Road (UTC 062) MAP

Turn on Boddeker Road (UTC 062) and pull into the parking area on the right before reaching the bridge. The sand spit across the water is excellent any time of year for Black Skimmer, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Ruddy Turnstone, and various terns and gulls. In winter, check for Marbled Godwit, Black-bellied Plover, and Red-breasted Merganser.



Black Skimmers (photo by Kristine Rivers)

Continue on Boddeker, checking the sandy area on the left for Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone, Ring-billed Gull, and Neotropic Cormorant. During migration, watch for Painted and Indigo Bunting near the dunes. In winter, Belted Kingfisher is common on the high lines. Watch for the new parking area for East End Lagoon Nature Trail on the right. This short interpretive trail loops through the salt marsh bordering the lagoon. Savannah Sparrow, Marsh Wren, herons, egrets, and other waders are present year-round. In winter, watch for White-tailed Kite, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk and Peregrine Falcon. The road continues to East Beach; free parking is available to the left before entering Apffel Park. Walk along the beach and use a scope from the South Jetty to scan for seabirds.