



A Guide To Birding Sites In and Around Corpus Christi, Texas

Corpus Christi City Sites

Blucher Park (CTC 071)

Location: downtown, adjacent to the Public Library, off Carrizo St.

Description: about 4 densely-wooded acres surrounding a creek bottom, set in midst of urban sprawl

Amenities: ♥♥ includes some trails and benches

Best time(s) to visit: spring fallouts

Typical birds present: warblers, vireos, hummingbirds and other migratory birds in spring

Maintained by: City of Corpus Christi (361) 881-1888

Rose Hill Cemetery

Location: 2731 Comanche St., Corpus Christi 78408

Description: city's oldest, largest cemetery, heavily wooded

Amenities: ♥ none specifically for birders

Best time(s) to visit: spring fallouts

Typical birds present: warblers, vireos, hummingbirds and other migratory birds in spring

Maintained by: Rose Hill Memorial Park (361) 882-5947

South Texas Botanical Gardens (CTC 067)

Location: 8545 S. Staples, Corpus Christi 78413

Description: 180 acres of gardens, wetlands, grasslands and wooded areas

Amenities: ♥♥♥♥ gardens, butterfly habitat, greenhouses feeding stations, watering stations, enhanced and natural habitat, birding tower, Gator Lake, Oso Creek trail, gift shop

Best time(s) to visit: year-round

Typical birds present: ani, pyrrhuloxia, sparrows, migrants, wading birds

Maintained by: Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens (361) 852-2100

www.stxbot.org

modest fee required for entry.

Hours of operation: daily, 9 am to 6 pm, except major holidays

Hans A. Suter Wildlife Area (CTC 069)

Location: Ennis Joslin Rd., Corpus Christi 78412

Description: 72 partially wooded acres along the shores of Oso Bay

Amenities: ♥♥♥ 1 mile-long trail, 800 foot boardwalk with viewing platform, butterfly habitat and information signs, picnic tables

Best time(s) to visit: winter, migrations

Typical birds present: waterfowl in winter, migrants in spring, shorebirds and wading birds all year

Maintained by: City of Corpus Christi (361) 881-1888

Texas A&M Corpus Christi Nature Trail (070)

Location: 6300 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi

Description: trail at the edge of campus winds along the shoreline of Oso Bay, near wetlands and brushy areas

Amenities: ♥

Best time(s) to visit: winter, migrations

Typical birds present: waterfowl in winter, migrants in spring, shorebirds and wading birds all year

Maintained by: Texas A&M Corpus Christi (361) 825-5700

www.tamucc.edu/community/hike_bike/index.html

Rincon Channel Wetland (In Nueces Causeway Area portion of City Sites segment of DVD)

Location: West side of Hwy 181, off the access road south of the Nueces Causeway

Description: 36-acre wetland next to dredged channel

Amenities: ♥ viewing platform

Best time(s) to visit: year-round

Typical birds present: wading birds, shorebirds, waterfowl in winter

Maintained by: City of Corpus Christi (361) 881-1888



Calallen Area Sites

Hilltop Community Center (CTC 076)

Location: 11425 Leopard St., Corpus Christi 78410

Description: trail traversing native brush habitat

Amenities: ♥♥♥ asphalt trail, gazebos for viewing, picnic tables, bathrooms

Best time(s) to visit: year-round

Typical birds present: groove-billed Ani, Pyrrhuloxia, sparrows, kingbirds, doves, grackles and migrants

Maintained by: Nueces County Parks Department (361) 387-5445

Hours of Operation: daily 8 am to 9 pm

Hazel Bazemore Park (CTC 078)

Location: on Hazel Bazemore Rd. off Northwest Blvd. (FM 624) near HWY 77

Description: 77.6 acre, wooded hillside area overlooking a stretch of the Nueces River

Amenities: ♥♥♥♥ handicapped-accessible hawk watching platform, picnic tables, Lucas Kimmel Memorial Trail and other trails, viewing deck overlooking pond, swimming, kayaking bathroom facilities

Best time(s) to visit: early-autumn through spring migrations

Typical birds present: migrants in spring, waterfowl in winter, raptors in autumn

Maintained by: Nueces County Parks Department (361) 387-5445

Pollywog Pond (CTC 077)

Location: at the intersection of Sharpsburg and Up River Roads, near HWY 37

Description: trails through thick stands of trees next to several ponds, and along the shoreline of the Nueces River

Amenities: ♥ mowed trails, limited boardwalks

Best time(s) to visit: early-autumn through spring migrations

In summer, vegetation can become quite overgrown

Typical birds present: waterfowl, especially whistling ducks and grebes, groove-billed ani, migrants in spring

Maintained by: City of Corpus Christi Water Department (361) 826-1681



JFK Causeway/North Padre Island Area Sites

Redhead Pond Wildlife Management Area (CTC 066)

Location: about 2 miles south of SPID (358) on Laguna Shores Rd.

Description: freshwater pond west of road, tidal flat east of road

Amenities: ♥ viewing platform is dilapidated, unfit for use
parking limited, close to busy, narrow street

Best time(s) to visit: autumn and winter

Typical birds present: redheads, grebes, mergansers, other ducks, plentiful
wading birds

Maintained by: Texas Parks and Wildlife (979) 323-9553

JFK Causeway Wetlands (CTC 065)

Location: adjacent the JFK Causeway access roads

Description: shallow, grassy flats of the Upper Laguna Madre

Amenities: ♥ roadsides allow close access to the water

Best time(s) to visit: autumn through spring

Typical birds present: blue herons and other herons and egrets, pelicans, shorebirds,
numerous duck species in winter, especially redheads

Maintained by: N/A

Packery Channel Park (CTC 064)

Location: on the north side of SPID, between the JFK Causeway and HWY 361

Description: brushy areas and coastal prairies adjacent to Packery Channel

Amenities: ♥♥♥ platforms, boardwalks and decks for viewing enhanced landscape
note: Find the Audubon Area on Sand Dollar Ave.

Best time(s) to visit: spring fallouts during migration

Typical birds present: warblers, buntings, grosbeaks and other migrants

Maintained by: Nueces County Parks Department (361) 387-5445

Packery Channel and Packery Channel County Park (CTC 062)

Location: East of SH 361, which passes over the channel

Description: wetlands and tidal flats adjacent to coastal pass

Amenities: ♥ ample parking area, walkways alongside the channel, kayak launch

Best time(s) to visit: year-round

Typical birds present: gulls, pelicans, herons, shorebirds, wading birds

Maintained by: Nueces County Parks Department (361) 387-5445

Padre Island National Seashore (CTC 063)

Location: on Park Road 22 about 15 miles south of the JFK Causeway

Description: the longest undeveloped barrier island in N America

Amenities: ♥♥♥ camping, asphalt trails, restrooms, boat ramp

Best time(s) to visit: year-round

Typical birds present: numerous shorebirds and wading birds all year, migrating peregrine falcons in fall, other raptors in winter

Maintained by: National Park Service [Malaquite Visitor Center] (361) 949-8068
daily fee required for entry



Portland Area Sites

Indian Point Park and Pier/Sunset Lake (CTC 073)

Location: adjacent to Hwy 35 (Nueces Bay Causeway) in Portland

Description: coastal marshes/wetlands, bay shorelines

Amenities: ♥♥ restrooms, viewing platforms, parking

Best time(s) to visit: year-round

Typical birds present: numerous shorebirds and wading birds

Maintained by: Portland Chamber of Commerce (361) 643-2475

Fred Jones Wildlife Sanctuary (CTC 074)

Location: of CR 69E approximately 5 miles west of Portland, on the north shoreline of

Nueces Bay

Description: a tangle of native brush and trees growing along a creek-bottom in the midst of many square miles of open pastures and farm fields

Amenities: ♥ watering station for birds, trails through brush, covered seating area

Best time(s) to visit: fall-outs during spring migration

Typical birds present: warblers, vireos, hummingbirds and other migrants

Maintained by: Audubon Outdoor Club of Corpus Christi



Port Aransas Area Sites

Corpus Christi Pass (CTC 061) (In JFK Area segment of DVD)

Location: a couple of miles north of SPID on Hwy 361

Description: bay shoreline, coastal marsh/wetlands/tidal flats, dunes

Amenities: ♥ parking area

Best time(s) to visit: year-round

Typical birds present: shorebirds, wading birds

Maintained by: Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce (361) 749-5919

Mustang Island State Park (CTC 060) (In JFK Area segment of DVD)

Location: approximately 5 miles north of SPID on Hwy 361

Description: beach, bay shoreline, coastal marsh/wetlands/tidal flats, dunes

Amenities: ♥♥ camping, parking areas, restrooms

Best time(s) to visit: year-round

Typical birds present: shorebirds, wading birds at beach and along bay shore, wrens, larks and raptors in dunes and grasslands

Maintained by: Texas Parks and Wildlife (361) 749-5246
daily fee required for entry

Mustang Island Beaches (CTC 058)

Location: between Mustang Island State Park and Port Aransas South Jetty

Description: open beachfront

Amenities: ♥ limited parking

Best time(s) to visit: year-round (avoid spring break and major holidays)

Typical birds present: shorebirds, wading birds

Maintained by: Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce (361) 749-5919
beach parking permit required

Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center (CTC 057)

Location: south end of Ross Avenue in Port Aransas

Description: large pond with adjacent reeds and grasslands

Amenities: ♥♥♥♥ wheelchair accessible boardwalk, viewing platform, viewing scopes, free birding tours (Wednesdays, 9 a.m.)

Best time(s) to visit: year-round

Typical birds present: wading birds all year, ducks in fall and winter, alligators

Maintained by: Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce (361) 749-5919

Joan and Scott Holt Paradise Pond

Location: on the Cut-Off road behind the Shark Reef Resort in Port Aransas

Description: wooded area surrounding a seasonal freshwater pond

Amenities: ♥♥ boardwalk, observation decks

Best time(s) to visit: fall-outs during spring migration

Typical birds present: warblers, vireos and other migrants

Maintained by: Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce (361) 749-5919

Nature Preserve at Charlie's Pasture

Location: at the end of Port Street in Port Aransas

Description: 1,217 acres of algal flats, dunes and grasslands

Amenities: ♥♥♥♥ miles of hiking trails, boardwalks, observation towers, pavilion, picnic area, primitive camping area, ample parking

Best time(s) to visit: year-round

Typical birds present: shorebirds, wading birds, wrens, larks, raptors

Maintained by: Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce (361) 749-5919



Rockport-Fulton/Lamar Area Sites

Aransas Woods (CTC 047)

Location: 1.6 miles north of Hwy 188 on Bypass 35

Description: oak motte, wetland pond

Amenities: ♥♥ observation deck, maintained trails

Best time(s) to visit: fall-outs during spring migration

Typical birds present: wading birds and resident woodland birds year-round, warblers, vireos and other migrants in spring

Maintained by: Rockport-Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce (361) 729-6445

Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary (CTC 051)

Location: at the corner of E. 1st St. and S. Church St. in Rockport

Description: 6 acre site with open, grassy areas, dense brush and trees

Amenities: ♥♥♥ kiosk, platform, trails, benches, watering station for birds

Best time(s) to visit: fall-outs during spring migration

Typical birds present: warblers, vireos, dickcissel, buntings and other migrants

Maintained by: Friends of Connie Hagar, Inc. (Non-profit organization)

Rockport Demo Bird Garden and Wetlands Pond (CTC 050)

Location: 0.9 miles south of intersection of Hwy 35 and FM 3036

Description: hummingbird garden, willow grove, slough, wetland pond

Amenities: ♥♥ boardwalk, observation platform

Best time(s) to visit: fall migration

Typical birds present: hummingbirds during fall migration, resident coast birds and woodland birds year-round

Maintained by: joint effort of Texas Parks and Wildlife and City of Rockport

Aransas Pass Wetlands (Dale Miller Causeway) (CTC 056)

Location: stretch of Hwy 361 between Port Aransas and Aransas Pass

Description: road passes through wetlands, tidal flats, bay shorelines and sand spits

Amenities: ♥ picnic sites

Best time(s) to visit: year-round

Typical birds present: wading birds, shorebirds

Maintained by: NA

Little Bay

Location: along business 35 in Rockport

Description: small satellite bay off Aransas Bay, next to Rockport Beach Park

Amenities: ♥♥ picnic areas, viewing scope, boat ramps

Best time(s) to visit: year-round

Typical birds present: shorebirds, wading birds

Maintained by: Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce [Beach Park] (361) 729-6445

Goose Island State Park (CTC 048)

Location: at the end of Main St. in Lamar, on Park Road 13

Description: live oak forests set on bay shorelines with wetlands, tidal flats

Amenities: ♥♥♥♥ camping, restrooms, pavilion, picnic sites, trails, parking, viewing platforms, bird feeding and watering stations

Best time(s) to visit: year-round, but noted for fall-outs during spring migration

Typical birds present: wading birds, shorebirds, raptors year-round, migrants in spring

Maintained by: Texas Parks and Wildlife (361) 729-2858
daily fee required for entry

Big Tree

Location: at the end of 12th St. in Lamar

Description: the oldest known Live Oak tree in Texas (nearly 2,000 years old)

Amenities: ♥ parking area, asphalt path

Best time(s) to visit: year-round, but noted for fall-outs during spring

Typical birds present: resident woodland birds year-round, migrants in spring

Maintained by: Texas Parks and Wildlife (361) 729-2858

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (CTC 037)

Location: east of Austwell on Blackjack Peninsula

Description: over 100,000 acres of forest, coastal marshlands, wetlands and other diverse types of habitat

Amenities: ♥♥♥♥ ample parking, platforms, boardwalks, towers, restrooms, picnic areas, bookstore and information center

Best time(s) to visit: winter, migrations

Typical birds present: over 405 species documented, famous for whooping cranes, which usually arrive in autumn and winter here

Maintained by: National Park Service (361) 286-3559



Lakes and Other Sites West of Corpus Christi

Choke Canyon State Park (CTC 082)

Location: west of Three Rivers on Hwy 72

Description: Calliham unit is 1,100+ acres of woods, grasslands along the lakeshore, 385-acre South Shore Unit is set near the dam, part fronting the Frio River

Amenities: ♥♥♥♥ camping, picnic area, fishing piers, boat ramps, ample parking, viewing platforms, trails, restrooms, pavilions

Best time(s) to visit: year-round

Typical birds present: wild turkey, great kiskadee, hawks, vultures, egrets, and many other resident species

Maintained by: Texas Parks and Wildlife (361) 786-3538
daily fee required for entry

Lake Findley (formerly known as Lake Alice) (CTC 083)

Location: a half-mile north of Alice, on North Texas Blvd.

Description: 247-acre impoundment on Chiltipin Creek, brushy areas, wooded areas and grasslands surrounding lake

Amenities: ♥ parking area

Best time(s) to visit: summer, migrations

Typical birds present: residents include least grebe, scissor-tailed flycatcher, kingbirds, cowbirds, vultures, golden-fronted woodpecker, purple martin, groove-billed ani, great kiskadee, green jay

Maintained by: City of Alice (361) 668-7210

Lake Corpus Christi State Park

Location: on Park Road 25, off Hwy 359, west of Hwy 77

Description: dry chaparral and scrub brush surrounding large reservoir

Amenities: ♥♥♥♥ camping, picnic areas, pavilion, trails, restrooms, ample parking

Best time(s) to visit: winter, migrations

Typical birds present: green jay, curve-billed thrasher, roadrunner, black-bellied whistling ducks, other waterfowl in winter

Maintained by: Texas Parks and Wildlife (361) 547-2635

Wesley E. Seale Dam and The City of Corpus Christi Wildlife Sanctuary (CTC 079)

Location: 0.1 miles off Hwy 359 on Park Road 25

Description: elm/hackberry forest growing along the Nueces river near the dam

Amenities: ♥ maintained trails

Best time(s) to visit: year-round

Typical birds present: vultures, cormorants, osprey, waterfowl such as blue-winged teal, American wigeon and gadwall in winter, black phoebe in winter

Maintained by: City of Corpus Christi (361) 881-1888

Lafruta Park

Location: 3.8 miles west of Hwy 77 on CR 1039, 0.3 miles off Hwy 359
Description: scrubland, forest adjacent to Nueces River at site of defunct town
Amenities: ♥ parking areas, picnic areas, ramp leading down to river side
Best time(s) to visit: winter, migrations
Typical birds present: doves, flycatchers, thrashers, woodpeckers, kingbirds, crested caracara and other raptors
Maintained by: San Patricio County (361) 364-9300

John J. Sablatura Nature Park (CTC 084)

Location: on Hwy 44 between Agua Dulce and Banquette, along Agua Dulce Creek
Description: wooded area along the shores of the creek, some scrub brush remains
Amenities: ♥ picnic tables, parking areas
Best time(s) to visit: migrations
Typical birds present: warblers, vireos and other migrants
Maintained by: Nueces County Parks Department (361) 387-5445

Legend

Amenities: ♥=okay, but we don't love them
♥♥=good
♥♥♥=excellent
♥♥♥♥=we love 'em, love 'em, love 'em!

CTC numbers in parentheses correspond to those assigned as part of the Central Texas Coast Wildlife Trail by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Sites listed in black are not documented in our DVD, entitled *A Guide To Birding Sites In And Around Corpus Christi Texas*. Sites listed in green are documented therein.



