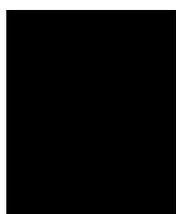


## Annual Birding Events

### Migration Celebration

 This annual birding event is the latter weeks of the spring migration when the most spectacular fallouts occur at one of the area wildlife refuges. Programs feature several free hands-on activities for children, as well as birding tours and activities geared for beginning, and advanced birders. Seminar and keynote speakers are top notch and topics include general migration information as well as appreciation of the natural world. 866-403-5829 [www.migrationcelebration.org](http://www.migrationcelebration.org)

### Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza

Watch thumb-sized hummers dart in and out of nectar producing flowers or feeders one weekend every September at the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory.  Enjoy hummer banding demonstrations, hummingbird migration information, identification, gardening, a kids fun and other nature activities. 979-480-0999 [www.gcbo.org](http://www.gcbo.org)

### Spring Fling

Every spring thousands of migratory birds arrive at stopover habitat along the Texas coast including the Brazosport Area. From April 1-30, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory staff and volunteers provide local birding information, bird checklists, lead tours, and help identify birds for visitors at the Quintana Bird Sanctuary.

[www.gcbo.org](http://www.gcbo.org) 979-480-0999

## PLACES TO STAY

### Hotels/Motels

America's Best Value Inn (979) 265-3301  
Baymont Inn & Suites (979) 388-0055  
Best Western Plus (979) 529-2025  
Breeze Motel (979) 233-5323  
Candlewood Suites (979) 297-0011  
Clarion Inn (979) 297-1161  
Comfort Suites (979) 297-5545  
Courtyard by Marriott (979) 297-7300  
Hampton Inn & Suites (979) 265-3200  
Holiday Inn Express Suites (979) 266-8746  
La Quinta Inn (979) 265-7461  
Staybridge Suites (979) 285-9775  
TownePlace by Marriott (979) 388-9300  
Ocean Village Hotel (979) 239-1073  
Quality Inn (979) 265-5252  
Super 8 (979) 297-3031  
Texas Inn & Suites (979) 266-7774  
Motel 6 Clute (979) 265-4764  
Surfside Motel (979) 233-4585  
Motel 6 Freeport  (979) 239-1602

### Beach House Rentals

Beach Front Properties (713) 995-6111  
Beach Resort Services (979) 233-4900  
Bluewater Resort Rentals (979) 233-1812  
Beach House Associates (979) 239-1073  
Coastal Sisters (713) 204-8054  
Corona Del Mar (979) 871-3058  
Windy Escape Rentals (979) 248-8257

### Our Climate is Superb for Birding!

The combination of location, relatively mild climate, and diverse habitat make the Brazosport Area home and haven to more than 300 bird species. Prairies, hardwood forests, rivers, bayous, marshes, lakes, bays and Gulf of Mexico shoreline characterize this coastal plain. Located in the central Flyway that includes a coastal and trans-oceanic bird migration path.



# FOWL WEATHER

CLUTE • LAKE JACKSON

FREEPORT • QUINTANA

SURFSIDE BEACH



  
**Brazosport**  
Convention & Visitors Council

**979-285-2501**

[www.visitbrazosport.com](http://www.visitbrazosport.com)



# Birding Hot Spots

## Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge

An extensive 43,000-acre refuge with a varied habitat of salt grass prairies, mud flats, fresh and salt-water marshes and lakes, potholes and salt cedars. An auto tour, boardwalks, and discovery center make this a favorite among birders. Great for kayaks. Open daily from sunrise to sunset. 979-964-4011 [www.fws.gov/refuge/brazoria](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/brazoria)

## Justin Hurst WMA

Nature trails provide visitors with the opportunity to explore an oak-hackberry motte and adjacent grasslands on this 11,000-acre area. Great for raptors, waterfowl, and spring migrants. 979-233-8729

## Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary

Salt cedars, beach dunes, gulf frontage and brackish marshes allow one to witness migration firsthand. On certain fallout days every bush is full of migrants. Trails open daily sunrise to sunset. Spring Fling is every April 1-30. 979-233-0848.

## Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

This research and education facility coordinates data on migrating and resident avifauna. The observatory sits on 34 acres of Columbia Bottomland forest on Highway 332 in Lake Jackson. Self-guided nature trails are open Monday – Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm and on weekends by appointment. 979-480-0999 [www.gcbo.org](http://www.gcbo.org)



## Freeport Wetlands

Hundreds of ducks and geese make this 50-acre fresh water marsh home during the winter. This site is ideal for wildlife viewing year-round. 979-233-3526 [www.freeport.tx.us](http://www.freeport.tx.us)



## San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge

This refuge is an excellent area to bird-on-your-own in small groups or alone. There is a unique blend of coastal marsh, prairies, potholes, fresh water lakes and oak forests that make this site special. Auto-tours, hiking trails and boardwalks are perfect for spotting migrating warblers, cinnamon teals, purple gallinules, and western rarities on this 27,000-acre site. This is a great place to bird by kayak. 979-964-4011 [www.fws.gov/refuge/san\\_bernard](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/san_bernard)

## Surfside Beach

Northern gannets may be seen in the winter from the jetties and mergansers drift into the calm waters to feed. Falcons can be seen along the beach during migration. Brown pelicans, gulls, terns and shorebirds congregate here along Bluewater Highway and the marsh along the Intracoastal shoreline. 979-233-1531 [www.surfsidetx.org](http://www.surfsidetx.org)

## Wilderness Park

A 477-acre riparian oak forest lying along the Brazos River and Buffalo Camp Bayou in Lake Jackson. These evergreen bottomlands remain lush throughout the winter and a number of neotropical migrants stay each winter. Four-mile hiking trail. 979-297-4533



## Sea Center Texas

A marine development, aquarium, and education center in Lake Jackson, Sea Center can produce 20 million fingerlings annually, primarily red drum and spotted sea trout, for release into Texas coastal waters. In addition to great aquariums, the complex also has a saltwater marsh demonstration boardwalk that is ideal for birding. Closed on Mondays. 979-292-0100



## Dow Centennial Bottomlands

A 198-acre riparian oak forest in Lake Jackson. Home to native woodland birds and migrants in spring and fall. The two-mile nature trail is behind MacLean Park. 979-297-4533

## Hudson Woods

Six miles of trails wind through the 1,000 acres of old growth forest, and willow swamps. Scoby Lake Trail is almost two miles long and people enjoy the natural beauty of an old bottomland forest. 979-964-4011



## Dow Woods

The 338-acre property is covered by virgin hardwood riparian forest and is dissected north to south by Bastrop Bayou. The north and west boundaries are contiguous with additional hardwood forest. 979-964-4011

## Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail

The Brazosport Area has 15 sites on the Upper Texas Coast portion of this trail. Each location has a brown GTCBT sign along with a site number that corresponds with the GTCBT map to aid birders. Maps available at the Brazosport Chamber of Commerce.

