

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

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

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 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



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

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



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

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

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

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.

