



TEXAS BIRD BINGO 2026

Central Texas Coast Region sponsored by *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine & Discover Victoria • Find more birds at TexasBirdBingo.com

Email a photo of your completed bird bingo card to centralcoast@texasbirdbingo.com and we'll send you a Texas Bird Bingo sticker. You'll also be entered to win a Hill Country Birding Excursion with Busy Birding.



American oystercatcher



Black-bellied whistling-duck



Black-necked stilt



Brown pelican



Common gallinule



Common ground dove



Crested caracara



Eastern bluebird



Golden-fronted woodpecker



Great horned owl



Great kiskadee



Great-tailed grackle



FREE



Killdeer



Northern cardinal



Northern shoveler



Osprey



Pied-billed grebe



Reddish egret



Royal tern



Ruby-throated hummingbird



Snowy egret



Turkey vulture



Willet



Yellow-billed cuckoo



HOW TO PLAY: Mark the bird(s) on the card as you see them. Cover a row of birds in any of three directions (horizontally, vertically or diagonally) and you've got a bird bingo! For complete rules and information, visit texasbirdbingo.com. **Looking for more places to see birds? Scan the QR code to explore area wildlife trails.**



TEXAS BIRD BINGO IDENTIFICATION GUIDE



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AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER 17-21" (43-53 cm). Bold pattern with black head and neck, dark back, white belly; oversized red bill is best mark. Shows broad white wing stripe in flight. Juvenile has brown scaling on back, dark tip on bill.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK 20-22" (51-56 cm). Adults unmistakable: long-necked and long-legged, patterned in chestnut, gray, and black, with bright pink bill. White wing patch striking in flight. Young bird has gray bill, muted colors; shows hint of adult pattern.

BLACK-NECKED STILT 13-16" (33-41 cm). Slender, with very long thin legs, thin straight bill. Sharp black-and-white pattern, coral-pink legs. In flight, wings solid black above. Female browner than male on center of back; juvenile has pale scaling above.

BROWN PELICAN 45-54" (1.1-1.4 m). W. 7'6" (2.3 m). Very large, with distinctive shape. Adult gray-brown with pale head (back of neck turns chestnut in breeding season). Juvenile all brown at first, changing gradually to adult plumage.

COMMON GALLINULE 13" (33 cm). Adult slaty with browner back, white stripe along side. Thick bill and frontal shield usually red and yellow, sometimes all yellow or brownish. Legs greenish. Immature paler gray with dull bill and legs, but shows white stripe on side.

COMMON GROUND DOVE 6 1/2" (17 cm). Small and short-tailed, with a scaly pattern on chest and head. Base of bill pink. In flight, the wings show bright rusty red and the short black tail shows pale corners. Wings make a soft rattling sound on takeoff.

CRESTED CARACARA 20-22" (51-56 cm). W. 4' (1.2 m). Colorful face, black crest, black belly. In flight, dark body and wings contrast with pattern of four pale areas: chest, base of tail, and patches near each wingtip.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD 7" (17 cm). Bright blue above, reddish brown on throat and chest, belly white. Female paler, duller than male. Juvenile is heavily spotted, has telltale traces of blue above.

GOLDEN-FRONTED WOODPECKER 9 1/2" (24 cm). Black and white bars on back. Chest and head buffy brown, with orange-yellow nape, yellow over bill; male has red cap. In flight, white patches flash in wings and on rump.

GREAT HORNED OWL 25" (64 cm). W. 4' 7" (1.4 m). Large; conspicuous "ear" tufts, white throat, horizontal bars on belly. Downy young are whitish at first.

GREAT KISKADEE 10 1/2" (27 cm). Large, with bright rusty wings and tail, yellow belly, black and white striped head.

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE Male, 16-18" (41-46 cm); female, 12-15 (30-38 cm). Very long tail, yellow eyes. Male glossy black, more evenly colored than Common Grackle and much larger. Female buff below and on eyebrow, smaller than male.

KILLDEER 9-11" (23-28 cm). Two black chest bands; white collar. Rather

long tail is mostly orange. Downy young may have only a single black band; compare to small plovers.

NORTHERN CARDINAL 8-9" (20-23 cm). Male is unmistakable, our only red bird with a crest. Female is duller, but shares crest, massive pink bill, rather long tail. Juvenile has black bill at first.

NORTHERN SHOVELER 17-20" (43-51 cm). Male has green head, white chest, rusty sides; female mottled brown, with big gray and orange bill. Blue wing patch obvious in flight. Molting male may show pale face crescent.

OSPREY 21-24" (53-61 cm). W. 4' 6"-6' (1.4-1.8 m). In flight, the long wings are held above horizontal, with a distinct bend at wrist. Soaring at a distance, suggests a large gull more than a hawk. Sharp pattern below (with black wrist patches), dark back, black face stripe. Juvenile has pale scaling on back. Adult female may show more streaks on chest.

PIED-BILLED GREBE 12-15" (30-38 cm). Compact and short-necked, with thick bill. In breeding season, bill is white with black ring ("pied"); at other seasons, bill is dull and pale. Brownish overall, with rusty tinge in winter, black throat in summer.

REDDISH EGRET 30" (76 cm). W. 3'10" (1.2 m). Long-legged, with long, straight, heavy bill and usually with shaggy neck feathers. Two color morphs: dark morph (all slaty and reddish brown) and scarcer white morph. Base of bill bright pink on breeding adults, dusky at other seasons and on immatures (immatures also lack shaggy neck feathers).

ROYAL TERN 18-21" (46-53 cm). Wispy crest, fairly thick carrot orange bill. Underside of wingtips much paler. Forehead is white most of year (becomes black for part of breeding season).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD 3 1/2" (9 cm). Adult male has iridescent ruby throat, looking black in most lights. White chest contrasts with dark throat, green sides; tail all black, forked. Female green above, whitish below, with white tips on outer tail feathers.

SNOWY EGRET 20-27" (51-69 cm). W. 3'2" (97 cm). Legs mostly black, with bright yellow feet ("golden slippers"). Bill black, with yellow on lores (in front of eye).

TURKEY VULTURE 25-32" (64-81 cm). W. 6' (1.8 m). Very large with long wings, long tail, small head. Soars with wings held in shallow V; when flapping on takeoff, wingbeats are deep, ponderous. Two-toned look to underwing, black wing-linings against gray flight feathers. Juvenile has gray head, not red.

WILLET 15" (38 cm). When standing, known by bulky body; long, straight, heavy bill; thick gray legs. Mottled and barred in breeding plumage, plain grayish in winter plumage. In flight, wing pattern diagnostic.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO 10 1/2-12 1/2" (27-32 cm). From below, long tail looks black, with big white spots. Rusty red in wing is obvious in flight. Yellow on lower mandible shows at close range. Juveniles in fall may have paler, duller tail pattern, less yellow on bill.

Victoria is a haven for outdoor recreation—and especially for birding enthusiasts. Nestled along the Guadalupe River, the city's expansive Riverside Park offers some of the best birdwatching opportunities in the region, with more than 200 bird species spotted throughout the year. From colorful songbirds to majestic raptors, experienced birders can simply arrive and begin exploring the park's trails, riverbanks, and wooded areas for unforgettable sightings.

New to birding? The Athey Nature Sanctuary Birding Deck provides the perfect place to start. Tucked behind the historic Hiller House, this peaceful deck overlooks feeding stations that attract a vibrant mix of local and migratory birds throughout the year. Interpretive displays help identify notable species, while maps highlight additional birding locations throughout Riverside Park and the Texas Coastal Bend. With shaded seating and a relaxed atmosphere, the deck invites visitors to bring binoculars, pack a lunch, and enjoy a quiet connection with nature. Best of all, it's free and open to the public during daylight hours, making it ideal for families, beginner birders, and nature lovers alike.

Beyond birding, Victoria offers a rich blend of history, culture, and outdoor adventure. Founded in 1824 by Spanish empresario Martín De León, the city is one of the oldest in Texas. You can stroll through Historic Downtown Victoria, centered around De Leon Plaza, where historic architecture, dining, shopping, and community events create a lively atmosphere year-round.

Victoria also boasts a thriving arts scene, with performances by Theatre Victoria, Victoria Ballet Theatre, and the Victoria Symphony Orchestra. Museums such as the Museum of the Coastal Bend, Five Points Museum of Contemporary Art, and The Nave Museum showcase the region's diverse heritage and creativity.

After spotting birds along scenic trails, keep exploring Victoria's vibrant culture and discover even more things to see and do at DiscoverVictoriaTexas.com.



One lucky birder will win a Hill Country Birding Excursion with Busy Birding! For complete information and contest rules, visit TexasBirdBingo.com

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WANT EVEN MORE BIRDS? Sign up for *Flight Path*, a seasonal birding newsletter from Texas Highways

