Texas
The Grand Tour: The Coast, Valley, and Hills

Tour Special Features

Breathtaking Scenery
Fabulous Birds
Fine Food
Unique Parks
Wild Landscapes
Comfortable Hotels

Small Groups!
Great Leaders!
Interesting People!

ctaudubon.org

April 27 - May 6, 2020
Meet Your Guides

Andrew Griswold, Director of EcoTravel for Connecticut Audubon Society since 1996, graduated as an honor student in biology from Hartwick College, where he worked at their biological research station in the Bahamas studying avian ecology. He is the original concept creator and scientific consultant for a cable television series on bird watching called All Bird TV that aired on Discovery’s Animal Planet. Andy is the original concept creator of the award winning Connecticut River Eagle Festival (at the time the largest birding festival in the Americas). He leads trips for Connecticut Audubon to Canada, Texas, Colorado, Nova Scotia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, and many other unique destinations. Andy is a licensed USCG 100-Ton Master boat captain and lives in Essex, Connecticut with his wife and their son.

Jay Hand is a veteran of the Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) travel program, garnering rave reviews for the CAS tours he has led to Texas, Chincoteague, Block Island, Cape May, South Florida, East Africa, Costa Rica, and Arizona, to name just a few! A former Connecticut native, he now lives in Tucson, Arizona, where he has been the voice of the Southeast Arizona Rare Bird Alert. Jay is a graduate of Yale University with a degree in Geology and is known for his excellent birding skills, great ear, energy, and commitment to your having a memorable trip.

Jay and Andy are longtime friends and leaders for many tours. You will delight in the lighthearted banter between these two experienced Texas tour leaders.

Texas

“...a splendid trip from start to finish. No detail was left unplanned and the leaders were unfailingly thoughtful, enthusiastic and superb birders.”

“...the best birding trip that I ever took. You were correct in your promise that we would actually SEE the birds, instead of just a flitting shadow.”

“It exceeded my expectations and was an incredible experience.”

Sheer numbers and incredible variety, that’s why! Most of the neotropic migrants that nest in the eastern half of North America pass through Texas on their way north in Spring. Add to them a dazzling variety of shorebirds, waders, gulls, and terns, plus an assemblage unique to the lower Rio Grande Valley, and you have an amazing collection of species, unparalleled anywhere in North America at that time of year. With such an abundance of birds and largely unobstructed viewing, you will easily see more than 225 species; 250 species or more is certainly possible.

Our trip is planned to maximize the birding experience. Covering 1,600 miles in ten days, you will move from the humid eastern deciduous forest, down the flat coastal plain, and into subtropical South Texas. Following the Rio Grande upstream will take you westward into the Chihuahuan desert, leading right up to the edge of the rugged and lush Texas Hill Country, a crossroads of eastern and western species and the only place in the world where the Golden-cheeked Warbler nests. Not only is the birding incredible, but the scenery is fabulous, boasting vast open spaces and colorful roadside carpets of wildflowers.

General Information


Prices are based upon a minimum number of six paying participants traveling together.

For a Detailed Itinerary and More Information:

Connecticut Audubon Society EcoTravel
PO Box 903 (30 Plains Road)
Essex, CT 06426
860-767-0660
ecotravel@ctaudubon.org