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

April 26 - May 5, 2021

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

Small Groups!
Great Leaders!
Interesting People!

ctaudubon.org

2021
The Connecticut Audubon Society EcoTravel Program
For Reservations and Detailed Information: 860-767-0660

Tour Leaders

Meet Your Guides

Andy Griswold has been the director of EcoTravel for Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) since 1996. He graduated as an honor student in biology from Hartwick College, where he worked at their biological research station in the Bahamas studying avian ecology. Andy 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. He is the original concept creator of the award winning Connecticut River Eagle Festival (during its time the largest birding festival in the world). Andy has conducted bird surveys for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and been participating as a Christmas Bird Count captain for over 35 years. He’s been a consultant to the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism concerning development of birding tourism in its more remote islands. Andy leads trips for CAS to Canada, Texas, South Florida, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Iceland, and many other unique destinations. Andy is a former licensed USCG 100-Ton Master boat captain and lives in Essex, Connecticut, with his wife and their son. He is known for his attentiveness to traveler’s needs, fine birding skills, and infectious sense of humor.

Jay Hand is a veteran of the Connecticut Audubon Society travel program. He has led many tours, each one with rave reviews. Jay has led tours to Texas, Chincotegua, 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 competent birding skills, great ear, energy, and commitment to your having a memorable trip.

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

Tour Cost: $3,898.
With Member Discount: $3,498.
Single Room Supplement: $600.

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