

# Texas Bird BINGO

GULF COAST REGION



**HOW TO PLAY:** As you see the bird(s) identified on the card, tag them with an "X" or some other mark. Cover a row of birds in any of three directions (horizontally, vertically or diagonally) and you've got a Bird Bingo! Email your completed Bird Bingo card to [gulfcoast@texasbirdbingo.com](mailto:gulfcoast@texasbirdbingo.com) for a chance to win a birding excursion with a Texas Audubon master birder. For complete rules and information, visit [texasbirdbingo.com](http://texasbirdbingo.com)

Audubon | TEXAS



BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK



TRI-COLORED HERON



BLACK-NECKED STILT



AMERICAN AVOCET



KILLDEER



WILLET



SCARLET TANAGER



BELTED KINGFISHER



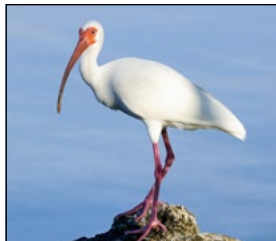
CERULEAN WARBLER



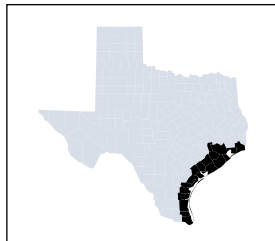
NEOTROPIC CORMORANT



WILSON'S PLOVER



WHITE IBIS



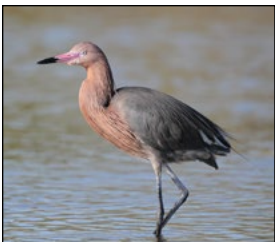
GULF COAST REGION



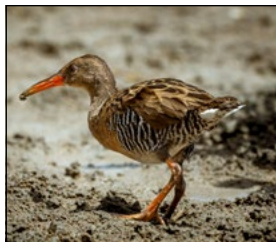
LAUGHING GULL



RUDDY TURNSTONE



REDDISH EGRET



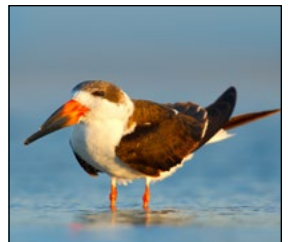
CLAPPER RAIL



BROWN PELICAN



OSPREY



BLACK SKIMMER



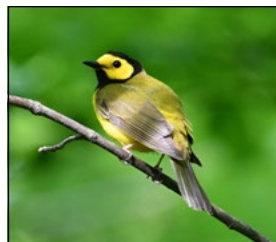
ROYAL TERN



WHITE-TAILED KITE



ROSEATE SPOONBILL



HOODED WARBLER



GREAT EGRET

Visit *Port Arthur* TEXAS

22nd Annual FeatherFest  
 Birding & Nature Photography Festival  
 Galveston Island, TX April 18-21, 2024  
[www.galvestonfeatherfest.com](http://www.galvestonfeatherfest.com)

# BIRD BINGO IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Courtesy of Audubon Texas

## AMERICAN AVOCET

18" (46 cm). Slender and graceful with long, blue-gray legs, upcurved bill (more strongly curved in female). Bold black-and-white pattern on back and wings. Head and neck pale cinnamon in summer, gray in winter.

## BELTED KINGFISHER

13" (33 cm). Unmistakable in most areas; near Mexican border, see Ringed Kingfisher and Belted Kingfisher. Female has two chest bands, blue-gray and rusty; the latter is lacking on males.

## BLACK SKIMMER

18" (46 cm). Black above, white below, with lower mandible much longer than upper. Long wings make resting bird look like long, low, black triangle. Juveniles browner above but still unmistakable.

## 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, but 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.

## CERULEAN WARBLER

4 1/2" (11 cm). Adult male is only tiny bird with blue back, white throat, black necklace. Female and young duller; have sharp white wing-bars, pale eyebrow, hint of blue on back.

## CLAPPER RAIL

14-15" (36-38 cm). Chicken-sized, with long narrow bill, barring on flanks. Underparts vary from buffy gray on Atlantic Coast to dull cinnamon on Gulf Coast. Juvenile is darker and duller. Almost never seen away from salt marshes.

## GREAT EGRET

35-41" (89-104 cm). W. 4'7" (1.4 m). Large, long-necked, and white, with yellow bill, black legs. Cattle Egret is much smaller, with much shorter bill and legs.

## HOODED WARBLER

5 1/2" (14 cm). Black hood surrounding yellow face of male is diagnostic. Many females show a shadow of this hood, but others are plainer. Note their white outer tail feathers, often flashed conspicuously.

## 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.

## LAUGHING GULL

15-17" (38-43 cm). Adult has dark gray back fading into mostly black wingtips. Bill and legs dark (often with strong red tinge). Immatures with scaly brown pattern at first, gray-backed by first winter; note bill shape, dark legs.

## NEOTROPIC CORMORANT

25" (64 cm). Smaller than Double-crested Cormorant (hard to judge except when they're together), with distinctly longer tail. Bare throat pouch is duller, yellowish instead of orange, and back edge of this bare skin is pointed (looks more rounded on

Double-crested). In breeding plumage, adult has sharp white border setting off yellow throat pouch.

## OSPREY

21-24" (53-61 cm). W. 4' 6" - 6' (1.4-1.8 m). Very large. 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.

## 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). Compare dark morph to Little Blue Heron. White morph in non-breeding plumage (especially immatures) can suggest Snowy Egret, but they lack yellow on feet and before eye.

## ROSEATE SPOONBILL

30-32" (76-81 cm). W. 4'5" (1.3 m). Adult is recognized by big spatulate bill, bright pink plumage tones, naked greenish head. Young birds are much paler, with feathered white heads.

## ROYAL TERN

18-21" (46-53 cm). A bit slimmer than Caspian Tern, with 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).

## RUDDY TURNSTONE

8-10" (20-25 cm). Chunky, with short orange legs, short bill. Unmistakable pattern in breeding plumage, with bright reddish back, black chest patches, black and white face. In fall and winter, dull dark brown above, with dark chest pattern.

## SCARLET Tanager

7 1/2" (19 cm). Spring/summer male is our only brilliant red bird with black wings and tail (see crossbills). In late summer he molts into winter plumage, greenish with black wings. Female dull yellow-green, wings darker; note sluggish behavior, thick bill.

## TRI-COLORED HERON

25-30" (64-76 cm). W. 3'2" (97 cm). Dark blue upperparts contrast with white belly and white stripe up foreneck. Base of bill and bare face skin are yellowish at most seasons, bright blue in breeding season. Slender shape makes this species look even longer-billed and longer-necked than most herons. Immature has reddish brown replacing blue on neck and has reddish brown markings on wings.

## WHITE IBIS

23-27" (58-69 cm). W. 3'2" (97 cm). Adult unmistakable, white with curved red bill, red face and legs, black wingtips. Young bird mostly brown with white belly at first, recognized by pink curved bill; becomes patchy as it matures.

## WHITE-TAILED KITE

15-16" (38-41 cm). W. 3' 4" (1 m). Gray and white, with black on shoulders and under bend of wing. May suggest a gull more than another hawk. Juvenile has brown markings on chest and back, but basic pattern is recognizable.

## 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. Western birds are slightly larger and paler. In flight, wing pattern diagnostic.

## WILSON'S PLOVER

7-8" (18-20 cm). Large black bill is best mark; longer and heavier than on other small plovers. Also note dull legs, dark brown back, rather wide chest band (brown on female and winter male, black on breeding male).



Flycatchers, Thrushes, Tanagers and Orioles visit March through May. Sabine Woods features paths under a canopy of trees, a pond, drips and a mulberry patch that Cedar Waxwings love.

Sea Rim State Park, along our upper Texas Gulf Coast, invites shore birds such as the American Avocet, Ruddy Turnstone, White Ibis and Brown Pelican. You may spot a heron while secluded at Pleasure Island's new bird blind, or look for Pelicans along the jetties of Sabine Lake. Nearby hotspots include Texas Point National Wildlife Refuge, full of trees for an easy "quick look" for Orchard Orioles and wrens. McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge offers a driving trail with fishing piers and observation platforms. Clam Lake draws waterfowl in winter. Kingbirds, Orchard Orioles and Crested Caracara are some regulars.

Our spring migration peak is April 19 through early May and our fall migration peak is Sept. 5-Oct. 29. #birdportarthur and have some fun in the Cajun Capital of Texas. [Learn more at www.visitportarthurtx.com](http://www.visitportarthurtx.com)

FOR MORE BIRDING AND OUTDOOR CONTENT, SUBSCRIBE TO TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE MAGAZINE FOR ONLY \$2/MONTH! SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO SUBSCRIBE.

