

# WHAT'S YOUR SPARK\* BIRD?



\*The bird that inspired you to become a birder.





A Five Star Birding State





# TEXAS BIG BEND & THE DAVIS MOUNTAINS

Naturalist Journeys to a  
Seldom Seen but *Amazing* Area

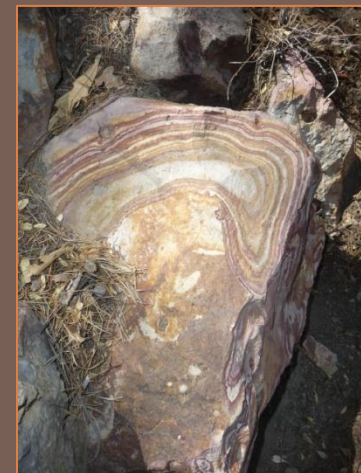
# Why Go There?

Big Bend is #1 U.S. NP in:

- ▣ Bird Species (452)
- ▣ Cacti (65)
- ▣ Acreage of Chihuahaun Desert (708,000)



...And it is the 16<sup>th</sup> least-visited National Park in the U.S.  
with only 239,000 visitors per year!



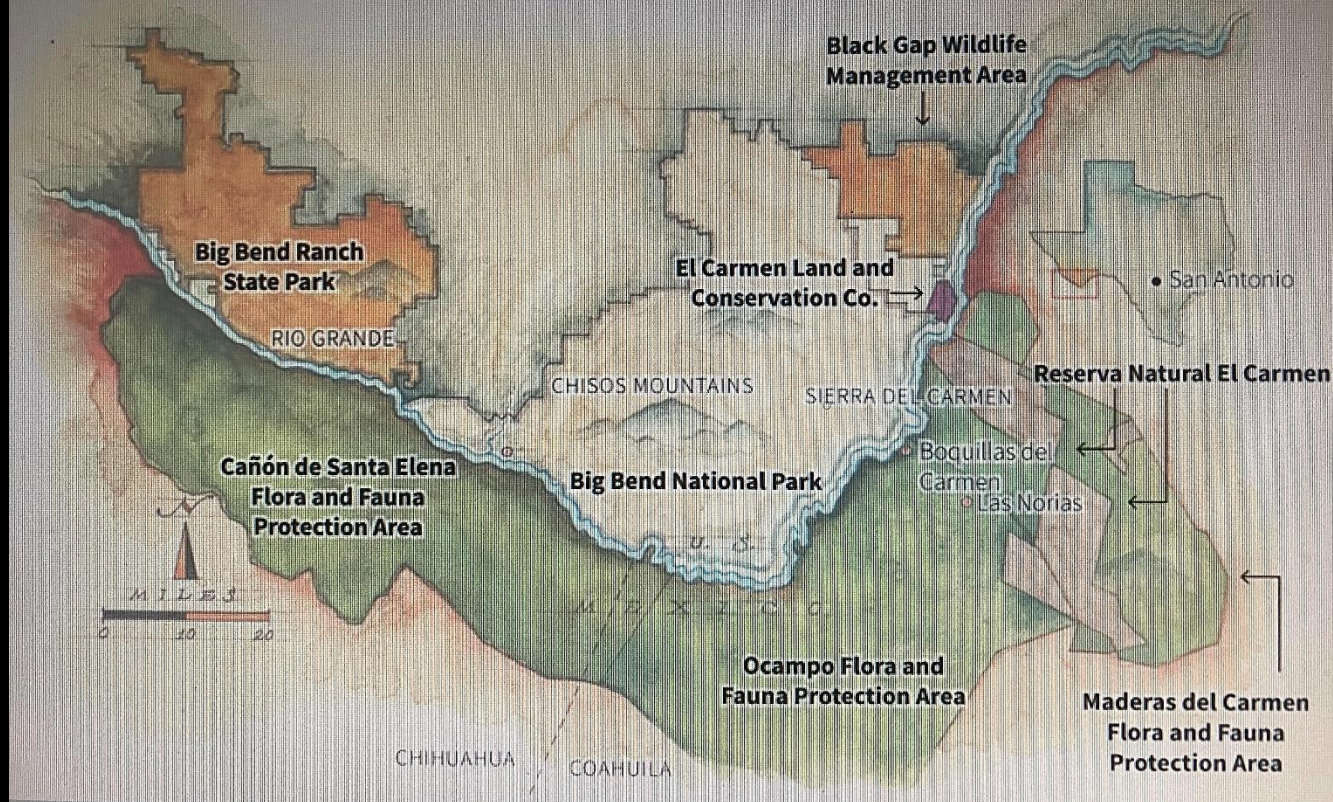


# Big Bend Part of 3 Million Acre Ecoregion

## Conserving the Borderlands

Five distinct entities oversee more than 3 million contiguous acres of Chihuahuan ecosystems along the Rio Grande.

- National Park Service
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- CONANP
- CEMEX Mexico
- CEMEX USA



# Texas Mountain Majesty

- Big Bend's Chisos Mountains southernmost U.S. range, linking Rockies with Sierra Madre
- Davis Mountains: 20 peaks > 8,000 feet high



*Chisos Mountains*



# Lechuguilla in bloom



# Prickly Pear





# Texas Rainbow Cactus



# Yellow-rumped Warbler in Ocotillo





# Black-throated Sparrow



# Looking for Birds in all the ~~Wrong~~ Right Places





# Cave Swallows, Freeway Underpass



# Great-horned Owl, Baltmorhea State Park





# White-faced Ibis



# Limpia Hotel, Fort Davis, Texas

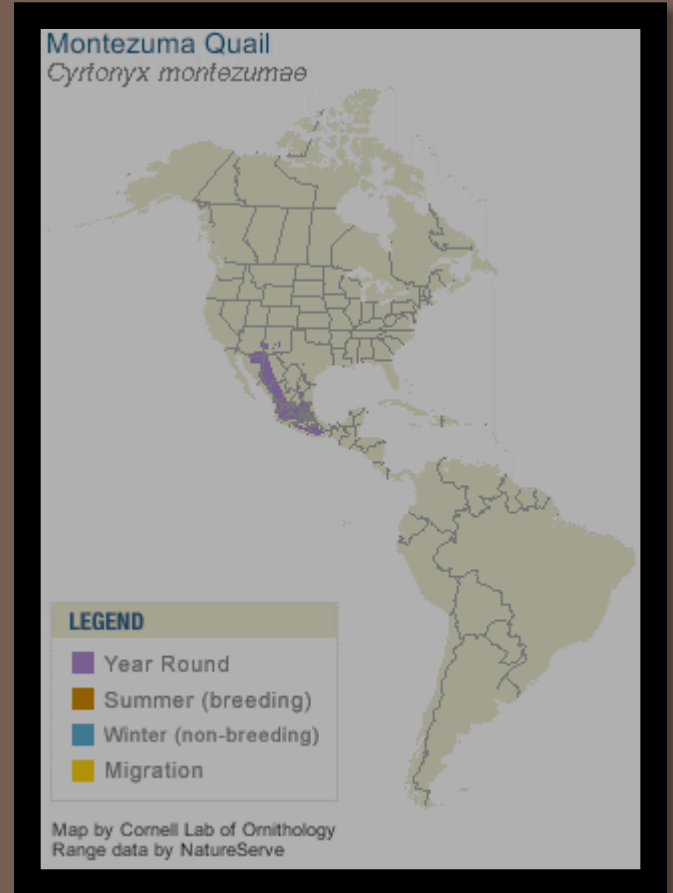




# Summer Tanager



# Montezuma Quail





# Golden Eagle - Marathon, Texas



# Big Bend National Park



Chisos Basin



# Mexican Black Bear



# Greater Roadrunner





# Southwest Earless Lizard



# Curve-billed Thrasher





# Golden-fronted Woodpecker





# Yellow-breasted Chat





# Verdin



# Owling in Davis Mountains





# Elf Owls

- Smallest owl in North America
- Range: SW USA to Mexico
- Feed on moths, crickets, scorpions, centipedes and beetles.
- **Predators:** owls, snakes, coyotes, bobcats and ringtail.

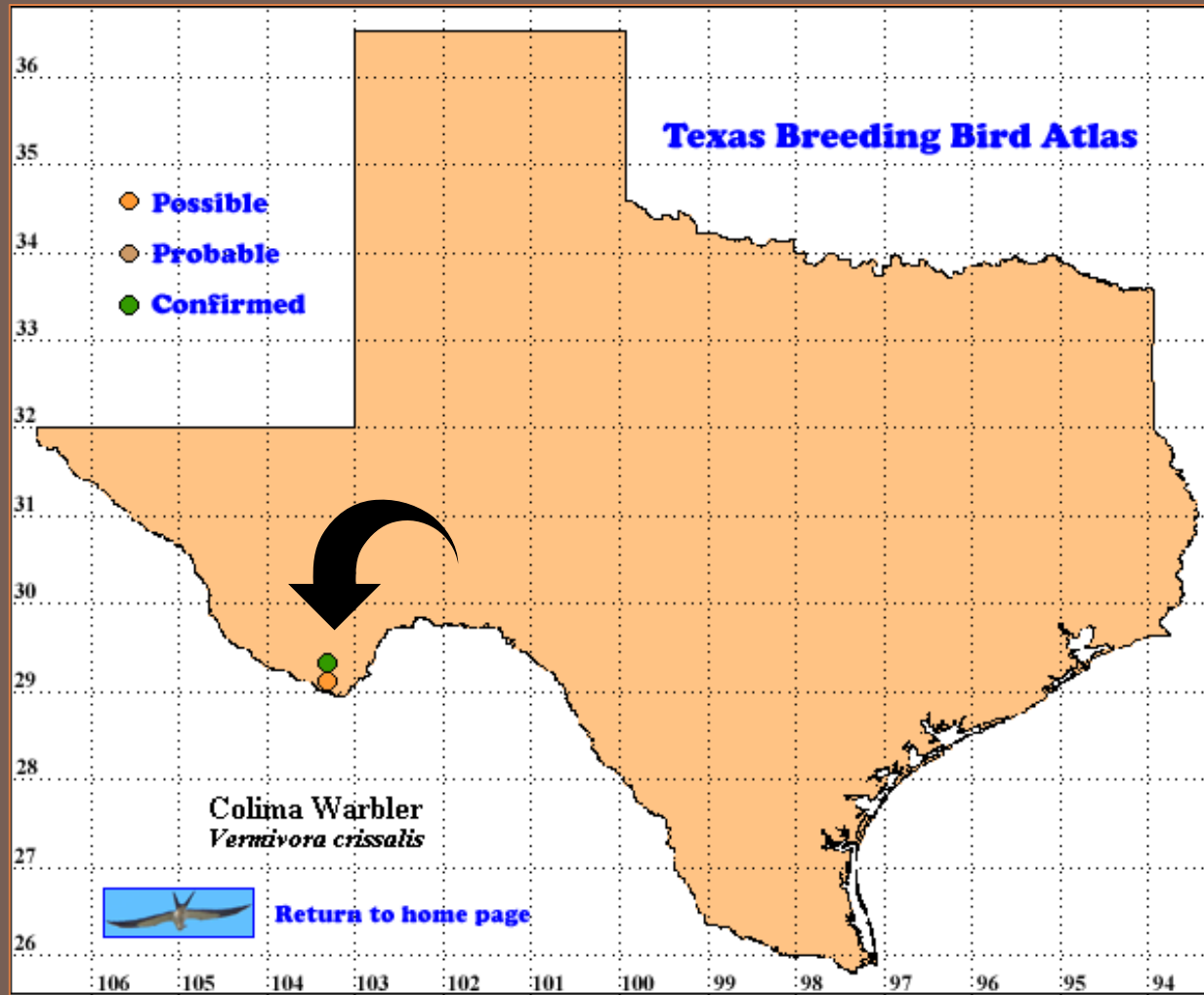


# In Search of the Colima Warbler





# Northernmost range of Colima Warbler



# Trail to Boot Canyon





# Desert plants along the way



Cedar Sage



Claret Cup Cactus

# Vermilion Flycatcher





# Mexican Jay





# Colima Warbler!





# More Colimas!



# Painted Redstart





# Blue-throated Mountain Gem



# Blue-throated Mountain Gem in Action





# Orioles



# Common Black Hawk





# Gray Hawk



# Rio Grande at Santa Elena Canyon









# Christmas Mountains Refuge





# Touring Earth-sheltered Abode



Carol Ohl-Johnson,  
refuge steward, artist,  
landscaper, photographer,  
birder.

# Varied Bunting





# Lucifer Hummingbird



# A Truly Unique Place: Terlingua, Texas





# Special Birthday Performance

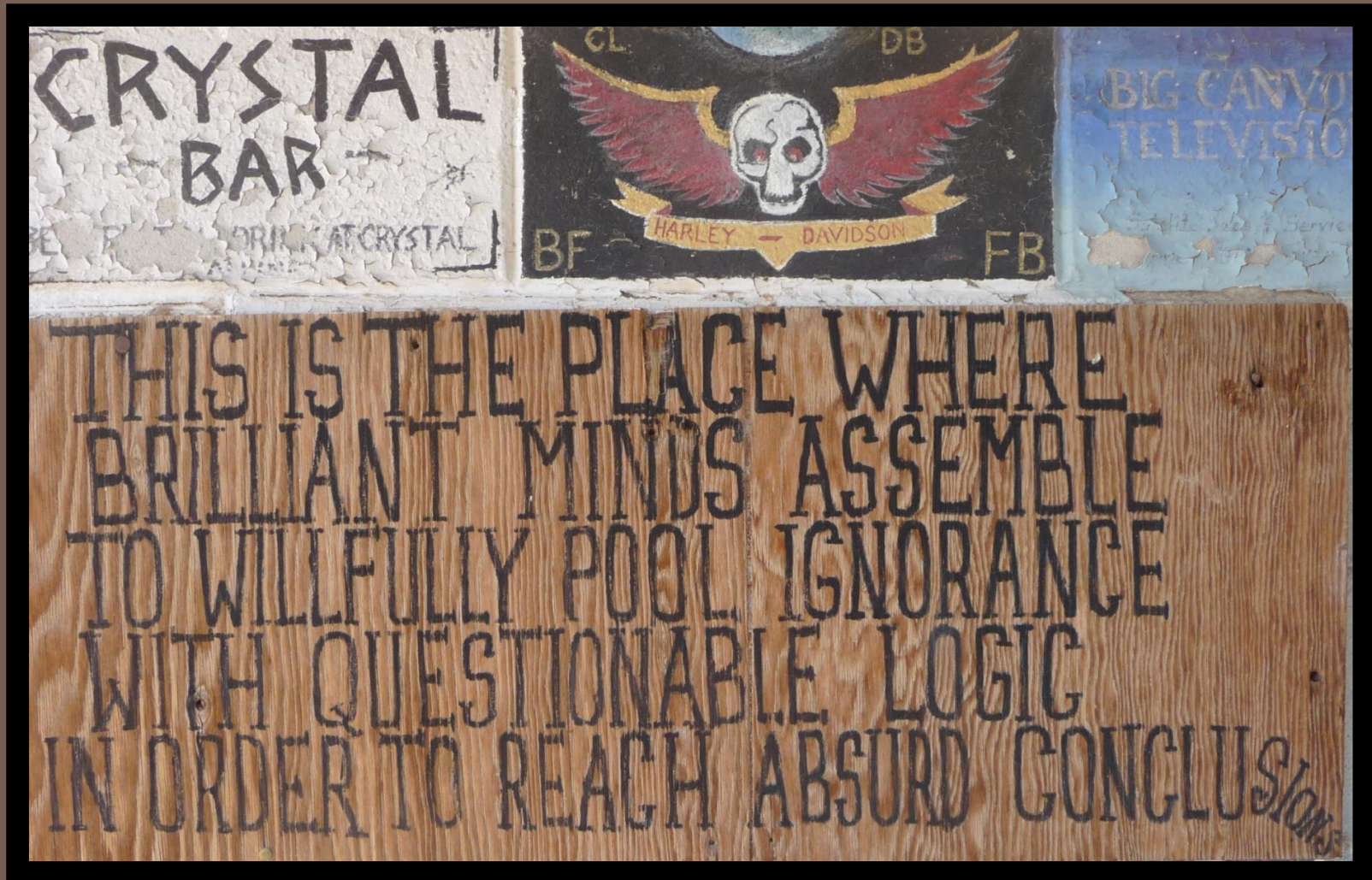


# Wacko, Texas





# Wacko, Texas (continued)





# Wacko, Texas (continued)

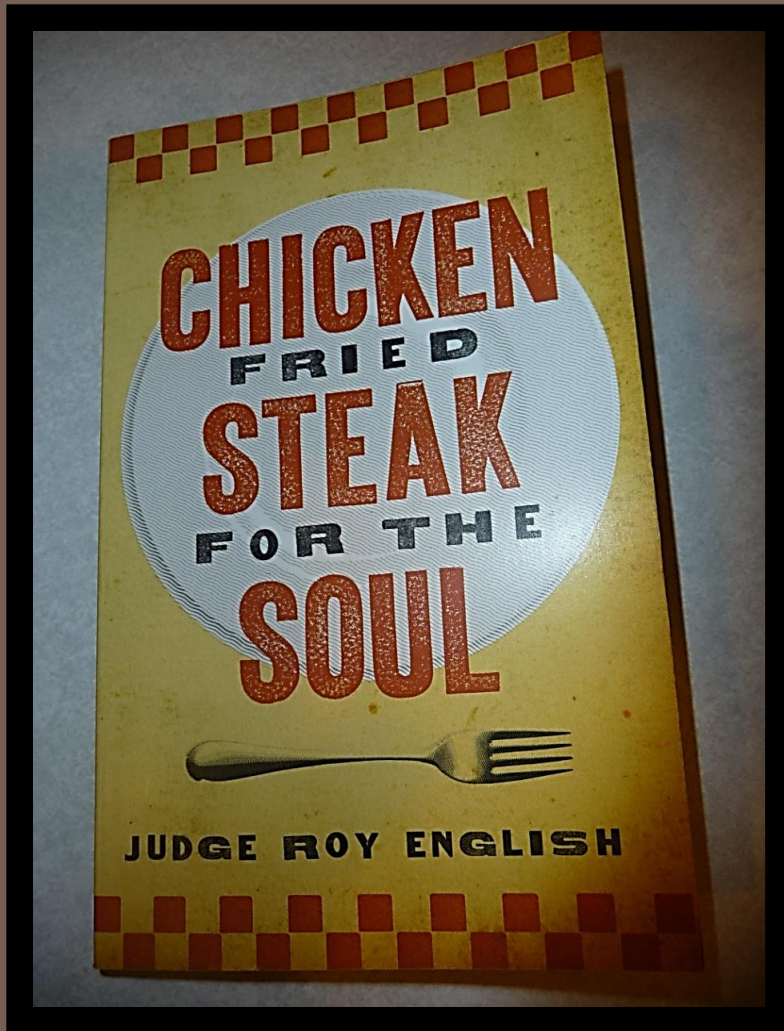




# Wacko, Texas



# Wacko, Texas required reading





# Toast to a Fine Journey!

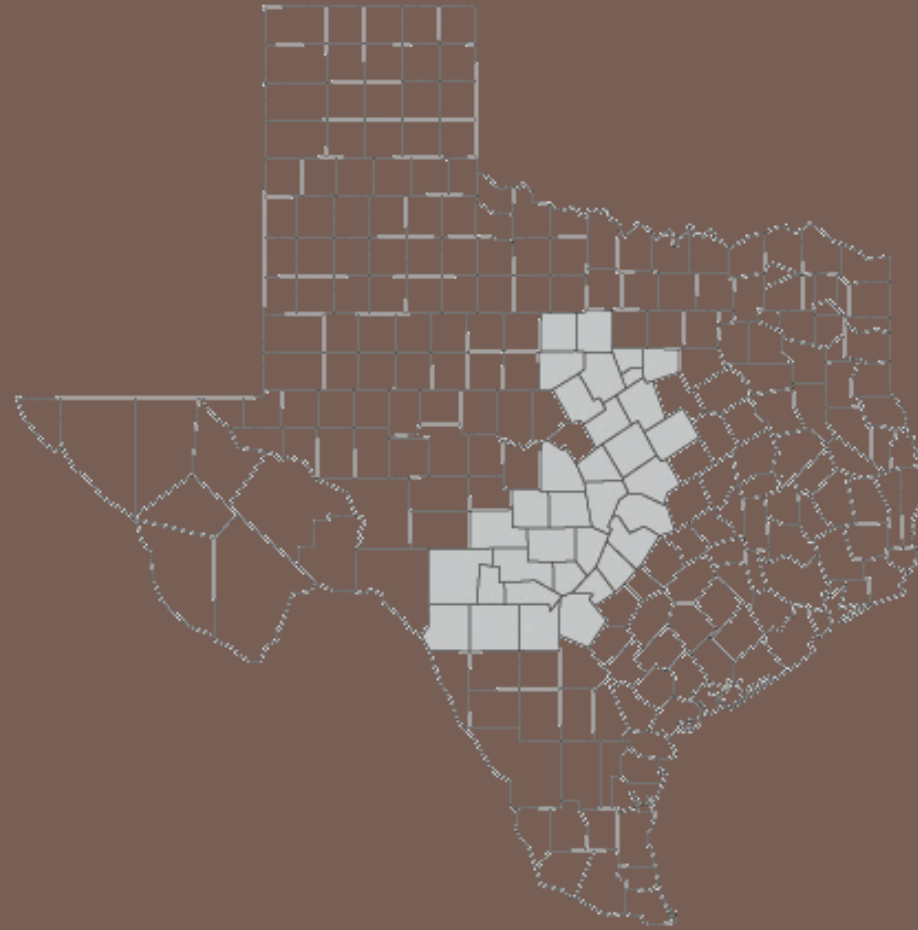


# Big Bend & Davis Mountains Summary



- 165 species of birds
- 14 species of mammals
- 3 species of reptiles
- 2 species of amphibians





# TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

Between San Antonio and Austin

# San Antonio





# Boat Tour of The River Walk



# Female Cardinal, Eisenhower Park, San Antonio





# Lark Sparrow

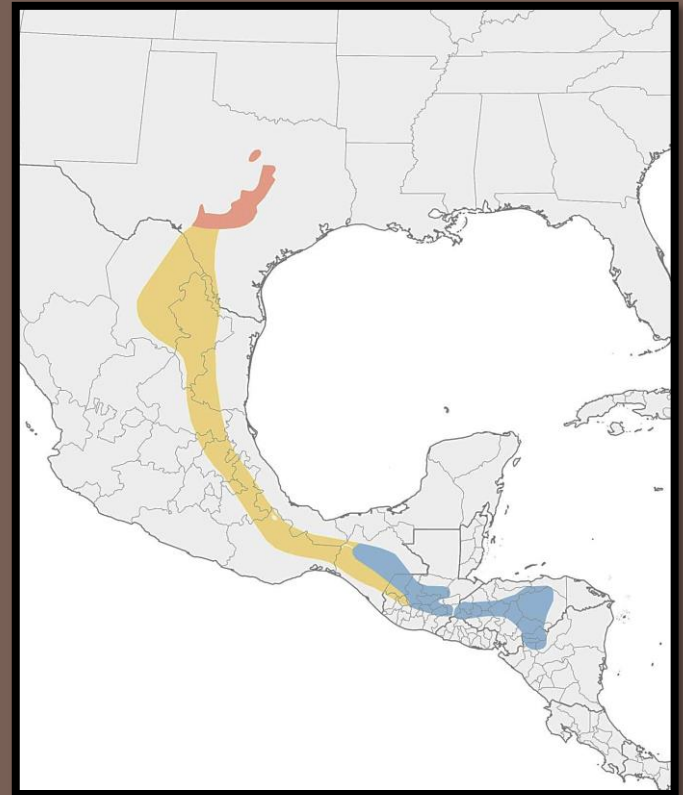


# Black-capped Titmouse





# Golden-cheeked Warbler - Texas Endemic



Golden-cheeked Warbler Range  
Map – [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org)

# A Federally Endangered Species



## WHY?

“...the loss and fragmentation of its breeding habitat... which consists of old-growth and mature second-growth juniper-oak woodlands. These climax communities take decades to recover from disturbance.”  
[allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org)



# A Memorable Song



*La Cucaracha!*



# GULF COAST

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge



# Captain Tommy's Aransas NWR Tour



# Gull-billed Tern





# Whooping Cranes



# A Manhattan of Bird Life





# Colorful, Chaotic Nesting Community



# Great Blue Heron Encounter





# Reddish Egret





# Roseate Spoonbill





# Northern Parula Warbler





# Louisiana Waterthrush





# Clapper Rail





# Little Blue Herons





# Indigo Bunting



# Least Grebe





# Crested Caracara





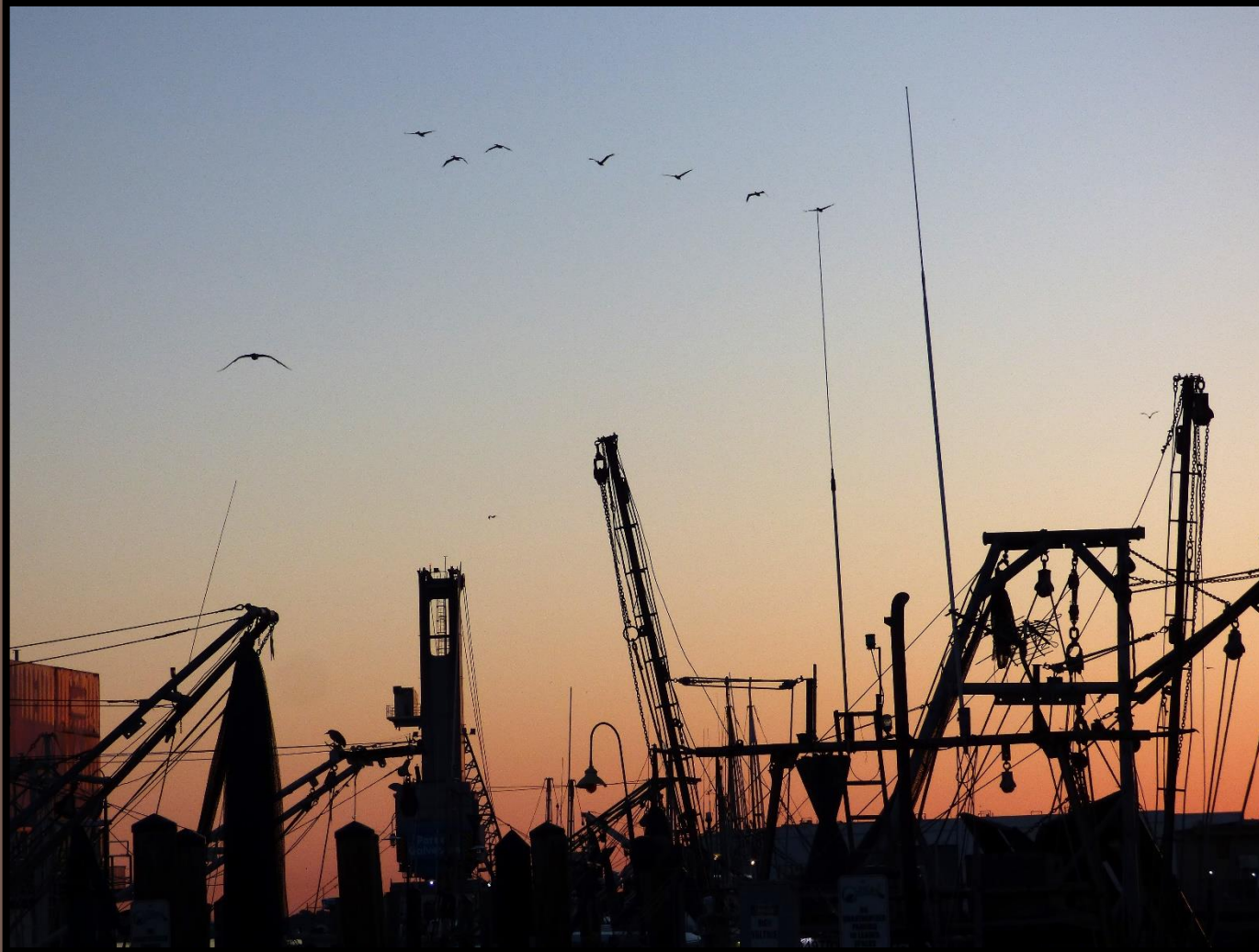
Enroute to High Island



# Historic Galveston



# Galveston Waterfront





# Even Here, There Were Birding Opportunities!



# Kempner Park, Galveston TX



Hooded, Blackburnian and Nashville Warbler



# Red-shouldered Hawk









# Painted Bunting



# Yellow-billed Cuckoo





# Rose-breasted Grosbeak





# Blackburnian Warbler





# Cerulean Warbler





# Scarlet Tanager





# Nesting Roseate Spoonbill





# Purple Gallinule





# Great Egret Family





# Yellow-crowned Heron





# Royal Terns





# American Oystercatcher





# Texas Birding Spots

- Aransas NWR
- Balmorhea State Park
- Big Bend National Park
- Choke Canyon State Park
- Christmas Mountains Refuge
- Davis Mountains State Park
- Eisenhower Park, San Antonio
- Galveston Island State Park
- Goose Island State Park
- Guadalupe River State Park
- Hazel Bazemore Park
- High Island Refuge
- Holt Paradise Pond
- Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center
- Kempner Park, Galveston
- Madera Canyon Trail, Davis Mountain Preserve
- Marathon Post Park
- Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, San Antonio
- Rockport Bird Garden and Wetlands Pond