

Migration throughout the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV), Tuesday, 4/15/2025 – Saturday, 4/19/2025

Tom Haase and other members of FWAS have come up with what we believe to be an exciting itinerary to catch the height of Spring bird migration in the eastern half of the LRGV, including the very tip of Texas and lowest Texas coastal areas. **For 5 days and 4 nights** we'll make a thorough run at such places as Santa Anna Wildlife Refuge, Estero Llano Grande World Birding Center, Edinburgh Scenic Wetlands, South Padre Island Convention center and the nearby migrant trap Sheepshead Lots to name but a few. While we have an itinerary, all bets will be off if a rarity shows up somewhere in the area, and this happens more than once a season.

Target birds: LRVG specialties that can be expected are Green Jay, Altamira Oriole, Tropical Kingbird, Couch's Kingbird, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Olive Sparrow, Great Kiskadee, Green Parakeet, Red-crowned Parrot, White-tipped Dove, Common Ground Dove, Bronzed Cowbird, Long-billed Thrasher, Curve-billed Thrasher, Gray Hawk, Green Kingfisher, Ringed Kingfisher, Least Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, White-tailed Hawk, White-tailed Kite, Plain Chachalaca, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Clay-colored Thrush, Common Pauraque, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet. Not so common but possible LRGV species include Groove-billed Ani, Aplomado Falcon, Hook-billed Kite, Tropical Parula, and others we can only hope for.



We can also expect just about every migrant that passes through the Texas coastal corridor, such as Hooded Oriole and Baltimore Orioles, Scarlet and Summer Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 4 to 5 types of thrushes, etc. In addition, almost every eastern U.S. warbler species including Worm Eating, Cerulean, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Blue-winged, and Cape May (among others) can be seen. These species will be in high-definition technicolor mode as they will have shed their drab, winter feathers and exchanged them for their finest breeding plumage. You haven't lived until you get several of these stunning creatures in one binocular view after another.

Lodging: We've booked a suite of rooms at the famous Alamo Inn B&B, Gear, and Tours. Proprietor Keith Hackland has personally selected rooms for us and is giving us a rate of \$75.00 double-occupancy. Incredibly, he is throwing in a cooked breakfast every morning, snacks (fruit, snack bars, cookies, etc.) we can take with us every day, and fixings for sandwiches we can make and take with us as well. As this area has yet to catch onto the culinary craze, and we like to maximize our time in the field, these are especially nice amenities to have. However, there is a relaxing place to dine across the parking area from the Inn, and it serves burgers and other American fare along with pretty decent Tex Mex from early in the morning till fairly late in the evening. In other words, we won't go hungry.

Transportation: You will be expected to get yourself to the LRGV starting location listed in the itinerary. You can fly to convenient regional airports in McAllen, Brownsville, and Harlingen. To maximize your birding potential, we recommend you drive with others as we have a list of great places to stop and bird along the way. Without stopping it would take approximately 7 hours or so to the Inn, but the potential of these birding rest stops will make it worth your while to take your time.

Participation limits: This field trip is being limited to the first 12 people who reserve their spot (Tom Haase and one other leader will make 14 total participants), but please understand that priority will be given to FWAS members who have paid their dues for this year. If you wish to go and have not yet paid your dues, we urge you to pay online or send us a check right away so you can get ahead of the line.

RSVP: Email tom.haase@sbcglobal.net or text/call him at 817-229-4987 for full itinerary and to find out how to reserve your room. Just remember rooms are being held for a limited time, so let's get yours all confirmed, ya' hear?