About the cover artist:
Our thanks to artist Mimi Hoppe Wolf of Nacogdoches for permitting the use of the artwork on the cover. A native of Houston, Mimi is married to well-known birder David Wolf, tour guide and director of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours.

When she is not painting and drawing, Mimi co-leads birding tours with David and works part-time as a field biologist for the U.S. Forest Service.

Her line drawings have appeared in a number of bird books, as well as V.E.N.T. catalogs for the past 25 years.

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The Pineywoods Foundation
Deep East Texas Foundation
Chambers of Commerce and Convention and Visitor Bureaus

Deep East Texas Development Association
PO Box 1647 • Lufkin, Texas 75902
936-634-7444 • FAX 936-634-7750
Welcome to Deep East Texas... A Birder’s Paradise

Tyler County

Dogwood Trail
Directions: From Woodville, east on US 190 3 miles to Dogwood Trail.
Description: Beautiful woodland trail where dogwoods bloom from mid to late March.
Owner: Louisiana Pacific Corporation.
Notable species: Red-cockaded woodpecker.
Season: Spring, summer.
Special notes: Well-marked trail, easy and comfortable. Demonstration forest.

Big Thicket National Preserve
Directions: From Woodville, south on US 69 to FM 420, south of Village Mills. East on FM 420 to Big Thicket Visitors Station.
Description: The Big Thicket is made up of series of widely-separated units; maps are available at the Visitors Station.
Owner: U.S. National Park Service.
Notable species: The Big Thicket, often called the biological crossroads of the south and west, is the home of hundreds of species, including some rare and endangered species such as the Red-cockaded woodpecker.
Season: All.
Special notes: Preferred birding areas include Cook’s Lake, Hickory Creek Savannah, Kirby Nature Trail, and Village Creek.

B.A. Steinhagen Lake
Directions: From Woodville, travel east on US 190 to lake, then FM 92 north to Magnolia Ridge Park. Then south on FM 92 to CR 4130 to Camper’s Cove Park.
Description: Lake one of the earliest man-made lakes in Deep East Texas.
Owner: Lower Neches Valley Authority, U.S. Corps of Engineers.
Season: All.
Special notes: Camping facilities around lake.

NOTE: Numbers beside each birding site correspond with those on the map on pages 10-11.


**SHELBY COUNTY**

**Swede Johnson Recreational Area**

*Directions:* From Center, go east on TX 7, then right on FM 139 about five miles, then left on FM 2572 to end of road. Runs into Toledo Bend Lake.

*Description:* Mixed pine and hardwood forest with open water and sloughs.

*Owner:* Sabine River Authority, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

*Notable species:* White Ibis, Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers, migrating Warblers, Pileated Woodpecker.

*Season:* All.

*Special notes:* Picnic area, boat ramps at site.

**Mill Creek**

*Directions:* From Center, south on US 96, left on County Road 1006, then two miles on right.

*Description:* Pine forest, wildflowers, lake.

*Owner:* City of Center.

*Notable species:* Great Blue Heron, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker

*Season:* All.

**TRINITY COUNTY**

**Alabama Creek Wildlife Management Area**

*Directions:* From Groveton, TX 94 to Apple Springs, then south on FM 2262 to Management, 1.5 miles south of Nigton community.

*Description:* Special management area for wildlife.

*Owner:* U.S. Forest Service.

*Notable species:* Red-cockaded woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Cardinals, Yellow-breasted Chats, Carolina Wren, Blue Jays, Forest Raptors, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk. Possible sighting of Bald Eagles along river.

*Season:* All.

*Special notes:* Lake Livingston, with camping areas, is near.

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**For additional information:**

As you travel the Deep East Texas Birding Trail and need information about lodging, restaurants, and other businesses, please contact these sources:

- **Center Chamber of Commerce**
  936-598-3682

- **Coldspring Chamber of Commerce**
  409-653-2184

- **Crockett Chamber of Commerce**
  936-544-2359

- **Hemphill Chamber of Commerce**
  936-787-2732

- **Jasper Chamber of Commerce**
  409-384-2762

- **Livingston Chamber of Commerce**
  409-327-4929

- **Lufkin Convention and Visitor Bureau**
  936-634-6305

- **Newton Chamber of Commerce**
  409-379-5527

- **Nacogdoches Convention and Visitor Bureau**
  936-564-7351

- **San Augustine Chamber of Commerce**
  936-275-3610

- **Shepherd Merchants Association**
  409-628-6167

- **Trinity Chamber of Commerce**
  936-594-3856

- **Groveton Chamber of Commerce**
  936-642-1715

- **Woodville, Chamber of Commerce**
  409-283-2632
ANGELINA COUNTY

Azalea Trail

Directions: In Lufkin, enter at Grace Dunn Richardson Park, off Loop 287 in south Lufkin, or from Kiwanis Park on Timberland Drive.
Description: Hiking trail 1.5 miles one way. Riparian area supporting abundance of forest species.
Owner: City of Lufkin.
Season: All.
Special notes: Excellent urban hiking area.

Angelina College Forest Fitness Trail

Directions: Located on northwest corner of campus of Angelina College, east of US 59 in south Lufkin.
Description: One mile trail meanders through a 20-acre mixed pine-hardwood forest.
Owner: Angelina College
Season: All.
Special notes: Bird checklists available at trail head.

Ellen Trout Zoo & Lake

Directions: In north Lufkin, beside Loop 287 near Angelina County Exposition Center.
Description: Walking trail loops around the 31-acre lake and through a mixed pine-hardwood forest.
Owner: City of Lufkin.
Notable species: Great area for Spring & Fall Migrants, Winter Ducks including: Hooded Mergansers, Gadwall, Notable species: Red-cockaded woodpecker.
Season: Spring, summer.
Special notes: Sam Rayburn Lake is near.

SAN JACINTO COUNTY

Wolf Creek Park

Directions: From Cleveland, go north on US 59. Exit on FM 2025 and go 17 miles on FM 2025 to a stop sign. Turn right on TX 150, then two miles to FM 156, and turn left. Go one-half mile to FM 224 and turn right. Follow FM 224 to Wolf Creek Park, on right.
Description: Family-oriented park on Lake Livingston.
Owner: Trinity River Authority.
Season: All.
Special notes: Camping and other amenities.

Double Lake

Directions: From Coldspring, go west on TX 150 and FM 2050 17 miles to Double Lake. Sign on right.
Description: Surrounding woodlands are representative of the Big Thicket.
Owner: U.S. Forest Service.
Notable species: Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Bald Eagle, Wild Turkey, song birds.
Season: All.
Special notes: Camping areas. Part of Sam Houston National Forest.

Big Creek Scenic Area & Lone Star Hiking Trail

Directions: From Shepherd, west on TX 150 six miles to FS 217. Follow FS 217 two miles to a parking area near Big Creek.
Description: The 128-mile Lone Star Hiking Trail passes within a few yards of the parking lot, and there are four shorter loops, each less than a mile in length that tie into the Lone Star Trail.
Owner: U.S. Forest Service.
Notable species: Includes many species normally found only in the Big Thicket, including the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Bald Eagle, and Wild Turkey.
Season: All.
A BIRDER’S PARADISE

Trail Between the Lakes

Directions: From Pineland, travel south on US 96 four miles to the trail head.
Description: 28-mile hiking trail between Sam Rayburn Lake and Toledo Bend Lake in the Sabine Forest. The other trail head is at Lakeview Campground on Toledo Bend Lake.
Owner: U.S. Forest Service.
Notable species: A variety of birds found in this area of East Texas, including many normally found around water bodies.
Season: All.
Special notes: Camping on the lakes. Trail is designated for hiking only.

SAN AUGUSTINE COUNTY

Ayish Bayou

Directions: From intersection of TX 21 and U.S. 96, go east four blocks on TX 21 to San Augustine Civic and Tourism Center. Ayish Bayou is behind center.
Description: Diversity of trees.
Owner: City of San Augustine.
Notable species: Painted and Indigo Buntings, Rose-breasted Grosbeck, Dark-eyed Junco, Tufted Titmouse.
Season: Spring, summer.
Special notes: Historic downtown area is two blocks east.

Mission Dolores Walking Trail

Directions: In San Augustine, from intersection of US 96 and TX 147, go one mile to Mission Dolores Visitors Center.
Description: Mixed pine and hardwood forest.
Owner: City of San Augustine.
Notable species: Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Cedarwax Wing, Jay, Red Bird, Cardinal.
Season: Spring, summer.
Special notes: Mission Dolores is an excellent museum dealing with an early Spanish mission site.

Bannister Area

Directions: From San Augustine, take TX 147 south to the intersection of TX 103 and TX 147, then go south on TX 147 to Forest Service Road 300, then right on FS 301.
Description: Red-cockaded colony; woodpecker trees are marked with turquoise paint.
Owner: U.S. Forest Service.
Notable species: Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Wood Duck, American Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck and Ruddy Ducks.
Season: Winter, spring, fall.
Special notes: Area includes one of Texas’ best small-city zoos. Picnic areas.

Kurth Lake

Directions: From Lufkin, north on US 59, turn onto Rivercrest Road north of Redland community, then north on private road just across railroad.
Description: 800-acre lake which serves as a migratory wintering area.
Owner: Abitibi-Consolidated.
Notable species: Includes some of the most diverse collections of birds in East Texas, especially migratory ducks in winter: Bald Eagle, Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Greater Roadrunner, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Sparrow species.
Season: Winter
Special notes: Call ahead to determine when lake is open to public. Modest day fee for fishing. No overnight camping. Barrier-free portion of trail is 0.12 miles.

Urban Wildscape Trail, Lufkin

Directions: From Loop 287 north, turn east on TX 103 (Atkinson Drive) and follow to the Texas Forestry Museum.
Description: Trail is adjacent to the Museum. One-third mile loop through a pine-hardwood mixed forest.
Owner: Texas Forestry Museum.
Notable species: Variety of birds usually found in East Texas forests, including Brown-headed Nuthatch.
Season: Spring, summer.
Special notes: Barrier-free portion of trail is .12 miles.

Upland Island Wilderness & Bouton Lake

Directions: From Zavalla, south on TX 63 to Angelina CR 348. South on CR 348 (also FR 303) to Upland Island Wilderness and Bouton Lake.
Description: Offers a variety of hardwoods and mixed pine/hardwood forests.
Owner: U.S. Forest Service.
Notable species: Louisiana Water Thrushes.
Season: Spring, summer.
A BIRDER’S PARADISE

Special notes: Sawmill Trail connects Bouton Lake and Boykin Springs, allowing birding between the two areas.

HOUSTON COUNTY

Ratcliff Lake
Directions: From Crockett, east on TX 7 through Kennard, turn into Ratcliff Lake Recreational Area.
Description: Excellent woodland recreational area built around a former sawmill pond.
Owner: U.S. Forest Service.
Notable species: Normal compliment of woodland birds.
Season: Spring, summer.
Special notes: Camping areas. Ruins of an old sawmill, the Four C Mill, are located within the area. The Four C Hiking Trail, an excellent birding trail, connects Ratcliff Lake and the Neches Bluff Overlook.

Mission Tejas State Park
Directions: From Crockett, east on TX 21 through Weches to the park entrance.
Description: State park commemorating the establishment of the first Spanish mission in East Texas.
Owner: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.
Notable species: Normal compliment of woodland birds.
Season: Spring, summer.
Special notes: Camping area. Historical site with buildings.

JASPER COUNTY

Sam Rayburn Reservoir
Directions: From Jasper, north on US 96, then west on R255 to the lake. Lake can also be reached from Lufkin, Jasper and Nacogdoches.
Description: One of Texas’ largest inland lakes. Several recreational and birding sites are located around the lake, including Twin Dikes Park, Overlook Park, Ebenezer Park, Marion’s Ferry, Hanks Creek, Monterey Park, Sandy Creek Park, Cassell-Boykin Park.
Operator: U.S. Corps of Engineers.
Notable species: In addition to the normal compliment of woodland birds, the lake attracts impressive flocks of

Six Mile Creek
Directions: From Hemphill, go south on TX 87 5.6 miles to Six Mile Bridge over arm of Toledo Bend Lake.
Description: Excellent area for wintering species.
Owner: U.S. Forest Service. Sabine River Authority.
Notable species: Osprey, freshwater wading birds, Belted Kingfisher, Bald Eagle.
Season: Spring, summer.
Special notes: Boat ramp.

Carrice Creek
Directions: From Hemphill, go north on TX 87 6.9 miles, then right on TX 21 6.0 miles to Carrice Creek Bridge.
Description: Excellent site to view water species. Heron rookeries and Bald Eagle nest.
Owner: Sabine River Authority.
Notable species: Bald Eagle, Osprey, Great Blue Heron, Green Herons, Cattle Egret, Kingfisher and other wading birds.
Season: All
Special notes: Nearby is historic Pendleton Crossing on the Sabine River. Boat ramps, restaurants, camping areas.

Foxhunters Hill
Directions: From Hemphill, go south on TX 87 10.6 miles, then left on Forest Road 113.
Description: Natural stand of longleaf pines. Rolling sand hills.
Owner: U.S. Forest Service.
Notable species: Bachman’s Sparrow, Pine Warbler, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Summer Tanager, Pileated Woodpecker.
Season: All
Special notes: Habitat for Pitcher Plant bogs, Wild Azaleas.

Longleaf Pines Park
Directions: From Hemphill, go west on TX 184 4.7 miles to park.
Description: Roadside picnic area with a stand of some of the oldest longleaf pines in Texas.
Owner: Texas Department of Transportation.
Notable species: Red-cockaded woodpecker, other woodland species.
Season: Spring, summer.
Special notes: Good area for upland wildflowers. Longleaf pines here are up to 150 years old. Historic Hemphill courthouse square in downtown Hemphill.
Description: A large man-made reservoir on the Trinity River. It is bounded by Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity and Walker counties. It is the centerpiece that of the fabled wild land known as the Big Thicket.

Owner: Maintained by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Notable species: brown-headed nuthatch, pine warbler, yellow-throated warbler and the red-cockaded woodpecker, pileated woodpecker, barred own, Acadian flycatcher, Louisiana water thrush, Swainson’s warbler, prairie warbler and Bachman’s sparrow.

Season: All.

Special notes: Much of the reservoir is north of the coastal birding trail. Camping facilities plentiful.

Sandy Creek, Downtown Jasper. Directions: From US 190, go east to downtown Jasper, turn right on Main Street.

Description: Beautiful city park along banks of Sandy Creek.

Owner: City of Jasper.

Notable species: Typical varieties found along riparian area.

Season: All.

Special notes: Park includes walking trail and other park facilities.

SABINE COUNTY

Red Hills Lake 26

Directions: From Hemphill, TX 87 North through Milam to Red Hill Lake.

Description: Excellent forest recreational area.

Owner: U.S. Forest Service.

Notable species: Species typical of East Texas pineywoods.

Season: Spring, summer

Special notes: Camping facilities.

Moore Plantation 27

Directions: From Hemphill, go south on TX 87 5.6 miles, then right on FM 2426 5.6 miles to intersection of Forest Road 114.

Description: Includes Red-cockaded woodpecker colony.

Owner: U.S. Forest Service.

Notable species: Red-cockaded woodpecker, Bachman’s Sparrow, Pine Warbler, Summer Tanagers.

Season: Spring, summer.

Special notes: At intersection of FM 2426 and Forest Road 114 is a spike tree used from 1935-1955 as a fire lookout tower.

Boykin Springs 11

Directions: From Jasper, north on TX 63 to Angelina National Forest and Boykin Springs. Enter the area on Forest Service 313.

Description: One of the best birding areas in Deep East Texas. Includes rare longleaf pine forest.

Owner: U.S. Forest Service.

Notable species: Bachman’s Sparrows, Henslow’s Sparrows, Brown-headed Nuthatches, Kentucky Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chats, Painted Buntings, Chipping Sparrows, Pine Warblers, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers.

Season: All.

Special notes: Look for special birding areas as you enter along FR 313. Sawmill Trail connects Boykin Springs with Boyton Lake. Camping areas.

Martin Dies, Jr., State Park 12

Directions: From Jasper, travel west on US 190 then on Park Road 48 into the park.

Description: Park lies on Steinhagen Lake and is divided into three different units: Hen House Ridge, Walnut Ridge, and Cherokee Unit, located north and south of U.S. 190.

Owner: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Notable species: Pileated and other woodpeckers, Brown Creepers, Anhingas. Heron and Egret rookeries. Listen for Yellow-throated Warblers and Indigo Buntings around waterfowl in migration and winter, including Loons, Grebes, White Pelicans, Gulls and Terns.

Season: All.

Special notes: Much of the reservoir is north of the coastal birding trail. Camping facilities plentiful.
Cherokee Unit in summer.
Season: All.
Special notes: Camping facilities. A two-mile loop passes through the Hen House Ridge unit and follows old terraces of the Neches River through three general forest communities, American Beech-Southern Magnolia, Water Oak-Willow Oak, and Bald Cypress-Water Tupelo.

Jasper Fish Hatchery
Directions: Out of Jasper, take Hwy 63 north toward Lufkin 3 to 5 miles and turn left on FM 2799. There will be Fish Hatchery signs on Hwy 63. Take FM 2799 to the Bevilport Community and County Road 99 and follow the signs. Note: FM 2799 is a loop that leads back to Hwy 63.
Description: State hatchery with an assortment of aquatic habitats that would otherwise not be found here.
Owner: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.
Notable species: Various ponds attract water birds; forests bordering the hatchery are good for woodland birding. Look for Eastern Bluebirds on power lines and fence posts.
Season: All.

NACOGDOCHES COUNTY

Ralph McAllister Park
Directions: Located on Sam Rayburn Lake, 20 miles south of Nacogdoches on TX 103, then 2.3 miles west on FM 1277.
Description: Northeast arm of Sam Rayburn Lake.
Owner: Texas Parks and Wildlife Service.
Notable species: Bald Eagle, Common Loon, Eared and Horned Grebes, ducks and cormorants, as well as spring and fall migrants.
Season: Winter, spring, fall.
Special notes: See listing for Sam Rayburn Lake for additional information.

Alazan Bayou Wildlife Management Area
Directions: From Nacogdoches, travel eight miles south on US 59, then CR 628 west 2.5 miles.
Description: Mixed pine-hardwood stands, along with pine stands, and river-bottom hardwoods.
Owner: Texas Forest Service.

Special notes: If you continue north on TX 87, you will eventually intersect a Red-cockaded Woodpecker group straddling the highway near the Newton-Sabine county line.

POLK COUNTY

Longleaf Pines Trail
Directions: From Corrigan, east on US 287 to Longleaf Pines Trail, just off US 287 on FM 62.
Description: A unique forest of old longleaf pines; drops into a impressive lowland hardwood forest.
Owner: International Paper Company (formerly Champion).
Notable species: Red-cockaded Woodpecker, other woodland species. Bluebirds plentiful.
Season: Spring, summer.
Special notes: Longleaf pines here are among the oldest in Texas, some in excess of 250 years old.

Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation
Directions: From Livingston, east on US 190 to reservation entrance.
Description: East Texas’ only Indian reservation.
Owner: Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Council.
Notable species: Includes many woodland species, including rare Red-cockaded woodpecker.
Season: Spring, summer.
Special notes: Train and vehicle tours are available. Museum. Camping areas.

Bull Creek Trail
Directions: From Corrigan, west on US 287 to Bull Creek Trail.
Description: Woodland trail through a mixed hardwood-pine forest; follows a flowing woodland stream.
Owner: International Paper Company (formerly Champion).
Notable species: Normal compliment of woodland birds.
Season: Spring, summer.

Lake Livingston
Directions: On US 59, four miles west on FM 1988 to FM 3126. Go a half-mile on FM 3126 to Park Road 65.
Notable species: Warblers, Orioles, Canagus.
Season: Spring.
Special notes: Rainy mornings and days with north winds produce large numbers of birds.

NEWTON COUNTY

Wild Azaleas Canyon
Directions: From Newton, north on TX 87, then east on FM 1414 to Wild Azaleas Canyons and Temple-Inland Wilderness Park.
Description: Noted for pine forests, rock canyons and thickets of wild azaleas (which bloom from mid to late March)
Owner: Temple-Inland Forest Products Corp.
Season: Spring, summer.
Special notes: In Newton, visit Caney Creek Nature Park (one block east of courthouse square).

Toledo Bend Reservoir, Dam Area
Directions: From Burkeville, travel north on FM 692 to Toledo Bend Dam
Description: One of the South's largest lakes.
Owner: Sabine River Authority.
Notable species: Various species typical of pineywoods and water areas.
Season: Spring, summer.
Special notes: Forests below dam are typical of riparian woodlands in Deep East Texas and may be accessed by walking along sand road on west side of river.

Canyon Rim Trail
Directions: From Newton, travel north on TX 87 to Canyon Rim Trail
Description: Scenic woodland trail around a forest canyon.
Owner: International Paper Company (formerly Champion).
Notable species: Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow-throated Vireos, Black-and-white Warblers.
Season: Spring, summer.

SFA University Experimental Forest
Directions: From Nacogdoches, travel eight miles south on US 59, then CR 628 west to the forest.
Description: 2,560-acre area with 1,800 acres of mature bottomland hardwood with remaining in southern pine and mixed pine-hardwood forests.
Owner: Stephen F. Austin State University.
Season: All.
Special notes: Walk-in area, open 24 hours a day. Motorized vehicles not permitted past gate. Interpretive trail is handicapped accessible.

Saint's Rest Road
Directions: From Nacogdoches, take Loop 224 south, drive south on FM 1275 6.6 miles, then right on paved road marked “Saint's Rest Baptist Church.” Then 0.4 mile and turn left on good gravel road following Dorr's Creek three miles to dead end at Angelina River.
Description: Almost all pineywoods forest birds can be found along this road.
Notable species: Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow-throated, Kentucky, Prothonotary, and Swainson’s Warblers; Solitary Vireo, Rusty Blackbird, Purple Finch, and spring migrants.
Season: Winter, spring.

Pecan Park & Lanana Creek Trail
Directions: Nacogdoches, south of Stephen F. Austin State University.
Description: Excellent area for migrating songbirds from March through May.
Owner: City of Nacogdoches.