

## Spring Break Vacation to San Antonio, Texas

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When it comes to bird species diversity in the United States, you can't get much better than Arizona. In fact, Arizona is listed as 4<sup>th</sup> in the United States for bird species (564 species to be exact – [Source Ebird](#)). However, a neighbor to the east has us beat by 110 species. The Lone Star State, Texas ranks in at 2<sup>nd</sup> for most bird species in the United States (674 species). For my daughter's spring break vacation, our family loaded up the car and set our GPS for San Antonio, Texas. Below are photos and captions of some of the bird species I observed in the San Antonio, Texas area. You can visit my [iNaturalist](#) webpage for a full list of all species seen or [eBird for checklists](#). Enjoy! (All photographs by Jon Orona)



Image 1: [White-eyed Vireo](#) seen at the beautiful [Guadalupe River State Park](#) north of San Antonio, Texas. This was a new species to my life list or “lifer” and this individual was nice enough to pose for a few photos along a trail near the Guadalupe River.



Image 2: Singing [Yellow-throated Warbler](#) seen at Guadalupe River State Park.

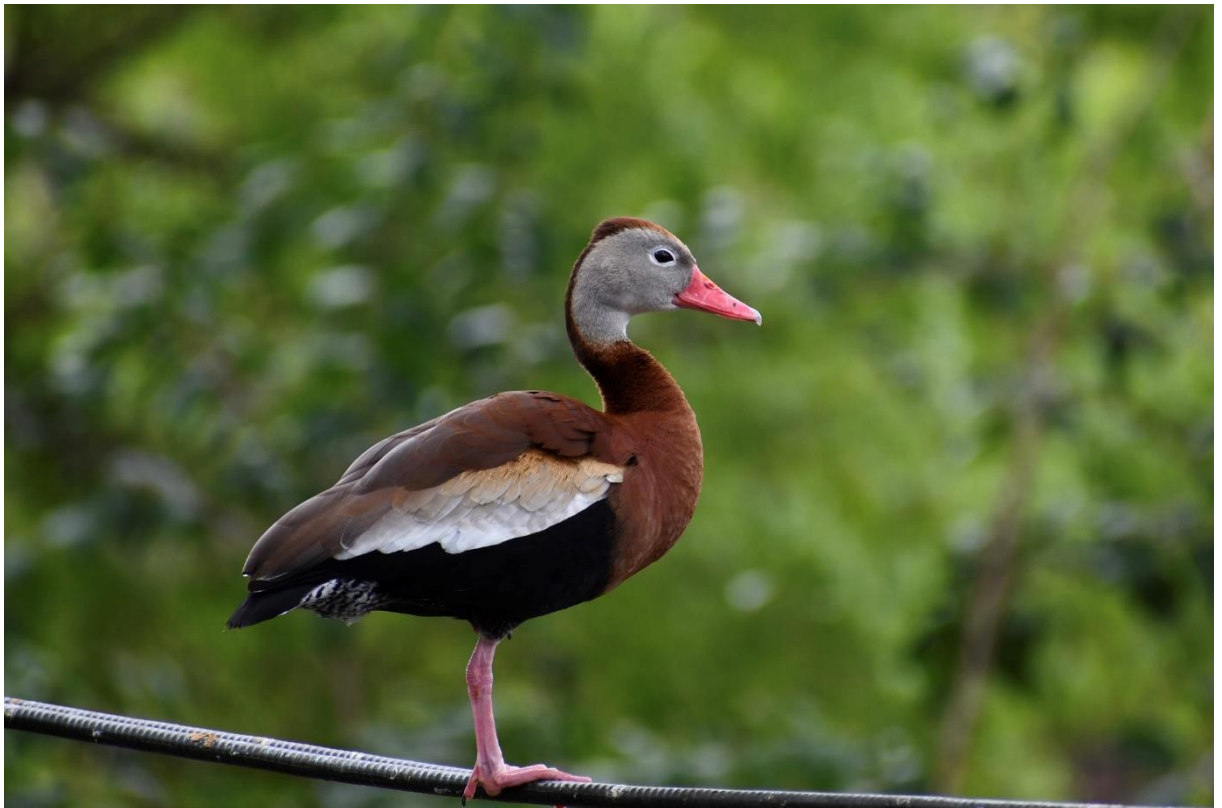


Image 3: [Black-bellied Whistling-Duck](#) observed at the San Antonio Zoo. This species can also be found in far southern Arizona but in Texas they are prolific once you get near rivers or other waterbodies.



Image 4: [Carolina Chickadee](#) seen near the scenic community of Fredericksburg, Texas. Be sure if you visit this community to stop by the [The Auslander](#) for some delicious food and walk through the charming town.



Image 5: Turkey Vulture sunbathing or sometimes called [“sun worshipping”](#) in the morning sun.



Image 6: A male Northern Cardinal singing in an oak tree. There was no shortage of Northern Cardinals throughout the San Antonio, Texas area. This was particularly exciting for my 3-year-old son Teddy whose favorite bird is the Northern Cardinal. On a WMAS bird walk to Hidden Cove Golf Course, Teddy joined the group where he proudly identified birds as either Cardinals or Not Cardinals. In Texas, Northern Cardinal density was so high Teddy was right about 60% of the time with his unique bird identification technique.

Lastly, one bird species of particular interest that I wanted to see while visiting the San Antonio, Texas area was the [Golden-cheeked Warbler](#). This species only breeds in a small area of Texas and is listed as endangered on the Endangered Species List. The primary threat to this warbler is habitat loss. One of the primary areas to see this species is at Guadalupe River State Park; however, I was unsuccessful in finding one while there. Thanks to eBird, I was able to find a few other locations in San Antonio where other birders had seen the Golden-cheeked Warbler. On the last day of our trip with a few hours of daylight left, I took a short drive over to [Eisenhower Park eBird Hotspot](#). After walking a few miles, I began to give up hope but as I approached the end of the trail, I heard the distant buzzy song of the Golden-cheeked Warbler through the dense juniper-oak woodland. I was unable to record or photograph this individual but regardless, it was an excellent way to conclude a vacation full of new adventures, time with family, and the beautiful birds of Texas.