

Let Me tell You about FeatherFest!

My name is Jim Stevenson & I love birding! I'm the Executive Director of the Galveston Ornithological Society, a Nonprofit I founded twenty-two years ago. We began here since Galveston is the epicenter of birding on the Upper Texas Coast and the best birding in the United States! That's why we began FeatherFest, a birding festival designed to share our avian wealth with visitors from Houston to Europe.

Please allow me to share some of my pictures with you of our Galveston birds. The first is our Official Island Bird, the Reddish Egret. You should see them dance! And in spring they will be dancing, nesting on islands we visit and feeding everywhere along the Coast.



FeatherFest runs full time from 19-22 April with a few activities just outside those dates. My thesis in graduate school was on bird migration, so I can tell you that this is exactly the middle of the spring bird migration. Many birds like warblers will be here!



This male Blackburnian Warbler is one of several that peak right at the 21st of April.

Other songbirds are beautiful as well. FeatherFest is famous for the color red!



This is a special individual because it's a teenager, just becoming an adult, RED male!

Just as tanagers are red; orioles are orange. You'll see these Baltimores, plus Orchards!



FeatherFest has water drips where these orioles get together, bathe and chatter.

Many of our field trips go to forests for songbird migrants!

One bird that peaks right when we're having [FeatherFest](#) is the amazing Painted Bunting!



This is a bird you definitely should see at this [FeatherFest](#)!

We have many more birds at [FeatherFest](#) than just songbirds! Many raptors live on the Upper Texas Coast, and Galveston has its own breeding pairs of Crested Caracaras. They have colonized the Island, nesting in several places. Osprey are also common, so we are used to seeing large raptors in the skies. You'll love our White-tailed Kites and harriers.



Shorebirds are also an incredibly amazing group of birds at [FeatherFest](#). Virtually all the North American plovers and sandpipers will be seen, plus flocks of American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts and American Oystercatchers. They're so tame, photography is easy!



These avocets in breeding plumage are sifting plankton out of the water.

You should see the herons and egrets at **FeatherFest!** These Tricolored Herons are joined by great blues, little blues and greens, and the Reddish Egrets have friends like Great and Snowy Egrets, plus Cattle Egrets in the fields. All this, plus night-herons, ibis and...



Tri-colored Herons eat small surface-feeding fish like this young mullet.

Jim's Morning Trip: We always count on an amazing assortment of waterbirds at FeatherFest. So you may want to try Jim's West Isle Marsh & Shorebird field trip.

The Spoonbill Rookery at High Island is just an amazing place! It has exquisite **Roseate Spoonbills***, & this year will be late enough to see baby spoonbills! *and herons&egrets!



Don't forget the other fantastic spots on High Island, Smith Oaks and Boy Scout Woods!

Wanna see loads of nesting waterbirds? Try North Deer Island Rookery by Boat!

Everyone loves **Ruby**-throated Hummingbirds, and you'll see them on most **FeatherFest** field trips around the woods. They migrate straight across the Gulf of Mexico and right to our flowers. You also might see other species, so keep your eyes peeled for rarities!



This young male is just finalizing his red gorget, and hopes to gain some female fans.

A terrific field trip still open is the Anahuac NWR. Birding there is just great!

Flycatchers are often an overlooked group, but the Upper Texas Coast will load your list with kingbirds, empids, pewees and these amazing Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. The later the better for spring flycatchers and this is our latest **FeatherFest** ever. It'll be perfect!



Like all kinds of birds? Try the Galveston Complete Birding Sampler!

Black Skimmers are over the Coast during FeatherFest and their antics are wonderful!



Look at the second bird body surfing over the Bay!

[Try the Coastal Birding Workshop and Field Trip Combo. Learn and watch!](#)



An event with fantastic experts like Sue, Martin and Robin at GCBO is their bird banding experience, where mist nests are used to gently catch birds for banding and research.

It's all found at Galveston FeatherFest!