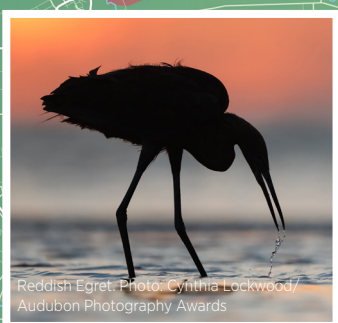




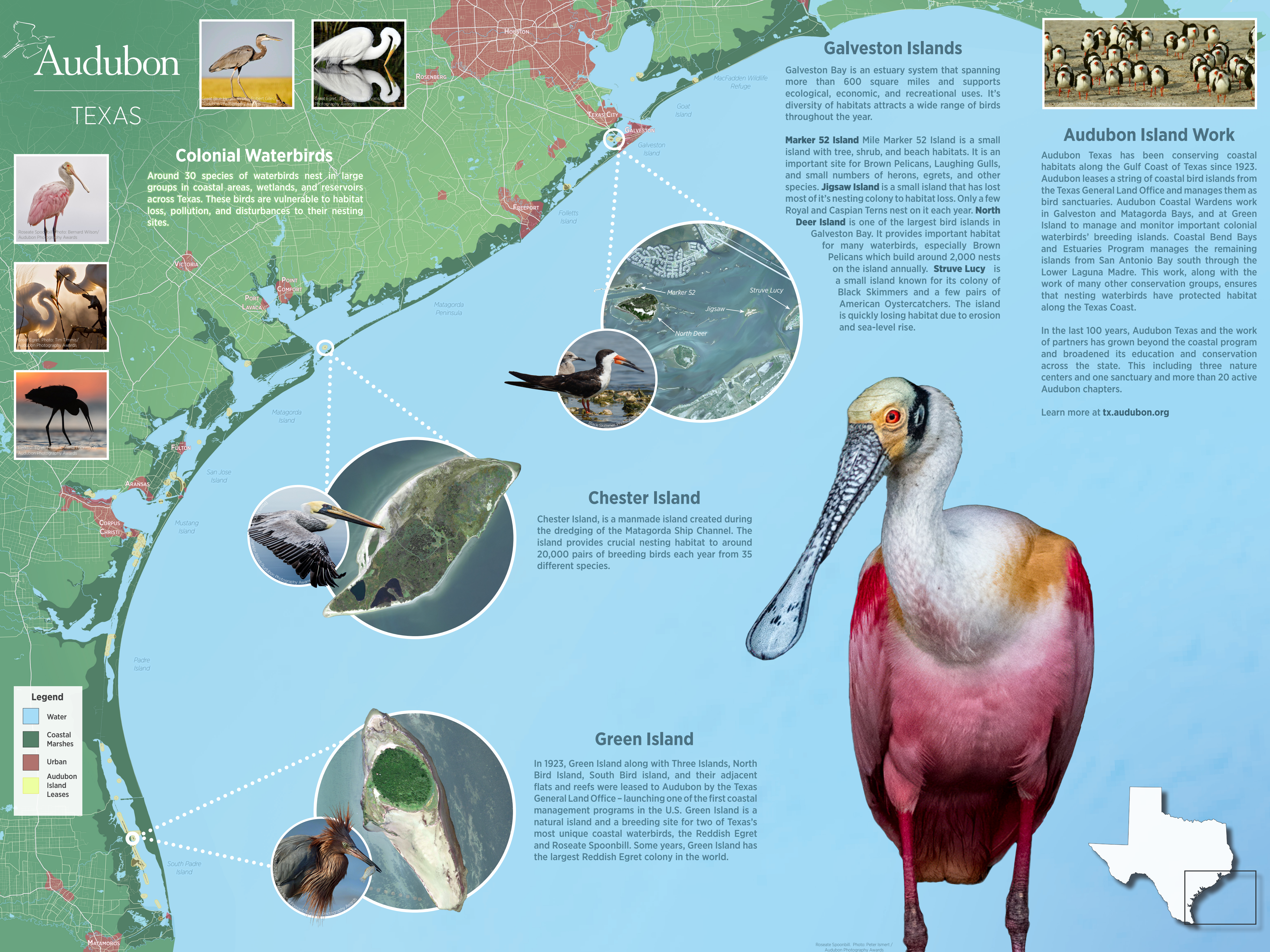
Colonial Waterbirds

Around 30 species of waterbirds nest in large groups in coastal areas, wetlands, and reservoirs across Texas. These birds are vulnerable to habitat loss, pollution, and disturbances to their nesting sites.



Legend

- Water
- Coastal Marshes
- Urban
- Audubon Island Leases



Galveston Islands

Galveston Bay is an estuary system that spanning more than 600 square miles and supports ecological, economic, and recreational uses. It's diversity of habitats attracts a wide range of birds throughout the year.

Marker 52 Island Mile Marker 52 Island is a small island with tree, shrub, and beach habitats. It is an important site for Brown Pelicans, Laughing Gulls, and small numbers of herons, egrets, and other species. **Jigsaw Island** is a small island that has lost most of it's nesting colony to habitat loss. Only a few Royal and Caspian Terns nest on it each year. **North Deer Island** is one of the largest bird islands in Galveston Bay. It provides important habitat for many waterbirds, especially Brown Pelicans which build around 2,000 nests on the island annually. **Struve Lucy** is a small island known for its colony of Black Skimmers and a few pairs of American Oystercatchers. The island is quickly losing habitat due to erosion and sea-level rise.



Audubon Island Work

Audubon Texas has been conserving coastal habitats along the Gulf Coast of Texas since 1923. Audubon leases a string of coastal bird islands from the Texas General Land Office and manages them as bird sanctuaries. Audubon Coastal Wardens work in Galveston and Matagorda Bays, and at Green Island to manage and monitor important colonial waterbirds' breeding islands. Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program manages the remaining islands from San Antonio Bay south through the Lower Laguna Madre. This work, along with the work of many other conservation groups, ensures that nesting waterbirds have protected habitat along the Texas Coast.

In the last 100 years, Audubon Texas and the work of partners has grown beyond the coastal program and broadened its education and conservation across the state. This including three nature centers and one sanctuary and more than 20 active Audubon chapters.

Learn more at tx.audubon.org

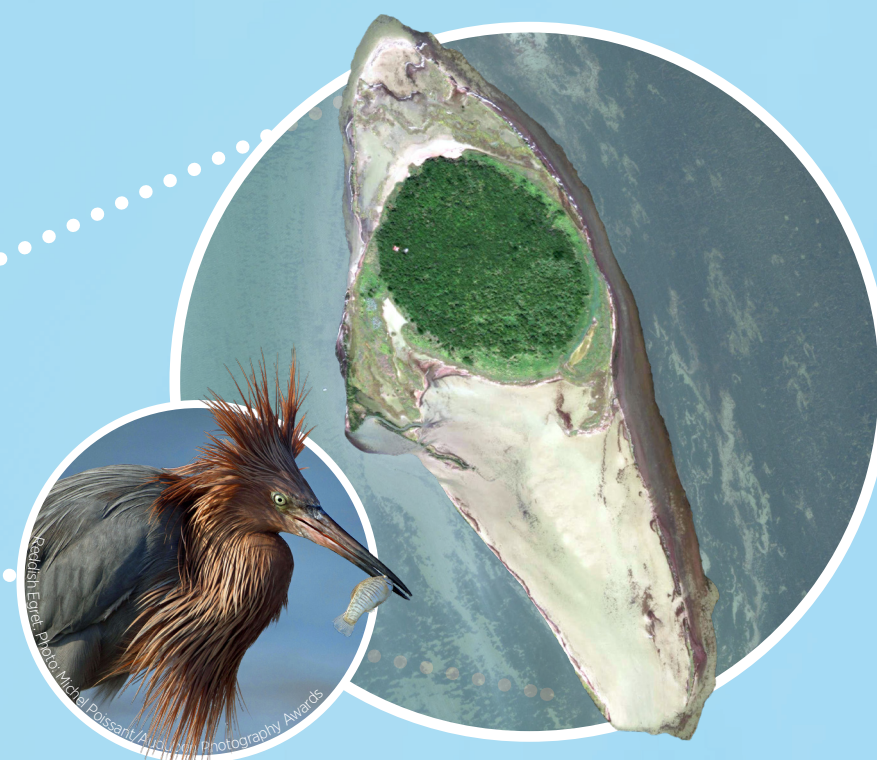
Chester Island

Chester Island, is a manmade island created during the dredging of the Matagorda Ship Channel. The island provides crucial nesting habitat to around 20,000 pairs of breeding birds each year from 35 different species.



Green Island

In 1923, Green Island along with Three Islands, North Bird Island, South Bird island, and their adjacent flats and reefs were leased to Audubon by the Texas General Land Office - launching one of the first coastal management programs in the U.S. Green Island is a natural island and a breeding site for two of Texas's most unique coastal waterbirds, the Reddish Egret and Roseate Spoonbill. Some years, Green Island has the largest Reddish Egret colony in the world.



Roseate Spoonbill. Photo: Peter Ismert / Audubon Photography Awards