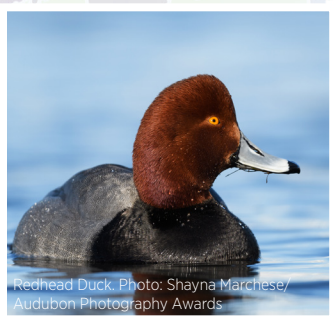


### Water Connectivity

Water connects Texas. From the playa lakes in the Texas high plains to the salt marshes of the coastal zone, water sustains our ecosystems and creates habitat for birds and other wildlife. Our rivers and streams travel from Northwest Texas and converge at the Gulf of Mexico, creating estuary and bay systems. This connectivity links Texas habitats, birds, other wildlife, and communities.



### Connect With Us

Birds Tell Us we are all connected to conservation! Audubon Texas utilizes the strength of its members, chapters, Audubon centers, and dedicated professional staff to connect people with nature and the power to protect it.

**Trinity River Audubon Center:** Located just ten miles south of downtown Dallas, is a gateway to explore the amazing resources of the 6,000-acre Great Trinity Forest, the largest urban hardwood forest in the U.S.

**Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center:** Located 16 miles south of Dallas in Cedar Hill, Audubon owns or manages over 200 acres of nearly pristine wildlife habitat. Plants and animals from east, west and central Texas converge here, making the canyon a unique place to find the Black-chinned Hummingbird of west Texas nesting in the Dogwood tree of east Texas.

**Mitchell Lake Audubon Center:** From its inception in 2004, our center in San Antonio preserves open space not just to protect wildlife and native habitat from people, but to actively engage people in its conservation through learning and exploration.

**Sabal Palm Sanctuary:** Cradled in the Rio Grande River, it protects the last remaining tract of Sabal Palm forest in the country. It is home to many native species of plants and animals that do not occur anywhere else in the U.S.



### Birds Across Texas

Texas is home to a diverse array of birds with approximately 640 species recorded in the state. Texas is located in the Central and Mississippi Flyways, and many major bird migration routes pass through the state.

The combination of geographic location, habitat diversity, resident species, and rare bird sightings make the state a unique and fascinating place for bird enthusiasts.

### Major River Basins

Texas's rivers play an important role in connecting and supporting bird populations throughout the state. The major rivers in Texas also connect Audubon's work from inland areas and centers to the coast, from rural areas to urban, and from one natural resource user to the next. Some of Texas's largest rivers connecting the state are pictured here and include the Canadian River, Red River, Sulphur River, Cypress River, Sabine River, Trinity River, Neches River, Nueces River, San Jacinto River, Brazos River, Pecos River, Rio Grande, Colorado River, Guadalupe River, San Antonio River, and Lavaca River.

Located on the Southside of San Antonio, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center is connected to coastal basins and habitats by the San Antonio River. This river drains into San Antonio Bay mixing with salty Gulf waters and creating estuarine habitat.

At more than 800 miles long, the Texas Colorado River is the longest river to start and end in one state. It flows through five different ecoregions, the Austin metropolitan area, and ultimately empties into Matagorda Bay.

Further north, after collecting waters from Fort Worth and Dallas, the Trinity River connects both the Dogwood Canyon and Trinity River Audubon Centers to Galveston Bay. The Trinity River Watershed is home to half of the state's human population. Throughout its journey the river creates important stopover habitat of migratory birds traveling along the Central Flyway.

All of coastal river basins in Texas drain into estuaries and bays where birds nest, stopover during migrations, and find safe haven to overwinter. Audubon holds bird island leases in all of the coastal basins. What starts inland affects what happens on the coast.



American White Pelican, Photo: Kenton Gomez/Audubon Photography Awards

Sabal Palm Sanctuary

White-faced Ibis, Photo: Craig Goettsch/Audubon Photography Awards