

BIRDING IN MCALLEN

Quinta Mazatlan, McAllen Wing of the World Birding Center

Quinta Mazatlan is minutes from the airport and the mall. An historic adobe hacienda is the centerpiece of this 15 acre urban sanctuary. The half-mile of nature trails has 5 water features, bird feeding stations and native gardens representing a remnant of the Tamaulipan Thorn Scrub country. Great site to view the valley specialty birds like the Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Great Kiskadee, Couch's Kingbird, Green Jay, Clay-colored Robin, Long-billed and Curve-billed Thrashers, Olive Sparrow, Chachalacas and many more. Plus it is a great place to view over wintering warblers! You'll enjoy the Green Parakeets and Red-crowned Parrots nesting in the palm trees.

Open Tuesday to Saturday, 8 am to 5 pm.

Thursday Evening Speaker Series till 8:30 p.m. www.quintamazatlan.com 956-688-3370

Jardin Escondido

Admission is \$10.00/ per person donation, includes a complimentary happy hour refreshment. Preferable group reservations, which are set for what we call, "The Birds - Happy Hour Buffet". An enjoyable afternoon / eve, of a Birders Live Show...We have a seating capacity of 40 at our front veranda.. The best time to make a reservation is from 6pm - 8pm, since we feed all the wildlife at this time and they start to mingle and eat at this time. Prior to the sit down show, guests can walk the trails and enjoy other parts of Jardin Escondido's gardens and wildscapes. Our gardens are a combination landscape of tropical and Native Plants. View local birds such as chachalacas, green jays, kiskadees, buff belied hummingbirds and several waterfowl. To get to this home, get on Trenton it will become 5 mile line and Bentsen, take a left on Bentsen (south) at 5 mile. 5 houses, on east side, 7600 N Bentsen Road with a black top private drive, iron gate.

Contact: Cecilia Mumford

Hours: Sunrise to sunset

Telephone: 956-686-6648

Red-Crowned Parrots and Green Parakeets

Flocks of Red-Crowned Parrots and Green Parakeets are frequently seen and heard throughout McAllen. Debate ensues over whether the birds are escapees or have been pushed to the northern reaches of their habitat. Beyond debate is that they are thriving in McAllen. Best time to find them is at dusk. (Parrots and parakeets can also be spotted in Harlingen, Brownsville, and other valley towns.)

Directions: Red-crowned Parrot: Check Dallas St. between 2nd St. and McColl in McAllen. Green Parakeet: Try Violet St. between 10th & 6th in McAllen.

Anzalduas Park & Dam

\$4.00/car on
weekends, free on weekdays

Anzalduas is a diversion dam built in the 50's to divert water from the Rio Grande to a large irrigation canal on the Mexican side. This county park has many large shade trees, picnic tables, boating facilities, and a pavilion overlooking the Rio Grande. Clay-colored Robin, Vermilion Flycatcher, Couch's Kingbird, Ladder-backed and Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Altamira Oriole, Green Jay, Gray Hawk, Tropical Parula and Rose-throated Becard are species that can be found at the park.

Directions: Take Expressway 83 west, turn left onto FM 1016, and again left at FM494. Watch for signs.

Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge

\$3.00/car

Santa Ana's riparian thorn forest is famous for the number of species which calls it home. Over 2,000 acres of excellent birding habitats includes resacas and Spanish Moss-laden woods. A visitor's center includes hands-on exhibits and bookstore. Tram rides around the refuge's 7 mile loop are available as well as hiking trails for pedestrians. Plain Chachalaca, Green Jay, Golden-fronted and Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Altamira Oriole, Olive Sparrow, Orange-crowned Warbler, Long-billed Thrasher, Vermilion Flycatcher, Green-ringed, and Belted Kingfisher, Great Kiskadee, Buff-bellied Hummingbird and Hook-billed Kite.

Directions Take Expressway 83 east to Alamo Rd./FM 907 Exit. Go south until it ends at the Old Military Highway. Turn left, go 1/2 mile and turn right into refuge lot. RR2Box202A • Alamo, TX 78516 • (956) 787-3079

Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park

\$3.00/pp,
children 12 & under FREE

With over 550 acres of original sub-tropical thorn forest, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park is a birder's gem. As an added bonus, campers in the park keep feeders and fruit stations active all winter for excellent views of Plain Chachalaca, Green Jay and Golden-fronted Woodpecker. Chief attraction at Bentsen-Rio is the night birds: Common Pauraque, Common Night-hawk, Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl and Elf Owl. Similar species to Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge.

Directions: Take Expwy 83 through Mission and FM2062 south. This road dead ends into the State Park.