

BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES

Brewer's Blackbird

Euphagus cyanocephalus

Status:	Winter resident
Abundance:	Fairly common
When found:	November–February
Habitat:	Roosts on power lines or in pine trees
Best locations:	Bayou Heron Boat Launch

Notes: On most winter nights, 200-500 Brewer's Blackbirds roost on the wires at the boat launch or in the trees nearby.



Photo courtesy of Michael Gray, GCBO ©

Boat-tailed Grackle

Quiscalus major

Status:	Permanent resident, nests elsewhere
Abundance:	Uncommon
When found:	Year round, but absent in June
Habitat:	Salt marsh
Best locations:	Point aux Chenes

Notes: One flock of 50-100 female and immature Boat-tailed Grackles can usually be found in the Point aux Chenes marshes. We do not know where they breed.

female

Photos courtesy of Olivia Graves ©



male





Photo courtesy of Dave Hawkins Photography ©

Orchard Oriole

Icterus spurius

- Status: Summer resident, nests at Grand Bay
- Abundance: Fairly common
- When found: April–August
- Habitat: Oak hammock, maritime forest during spring and fall; pine savanna during summer
- Best locations: Bayou Heron Road, Bayou Heron Boat Launch, Kenny’s Island, Oak Grove Birding Trail

Notes: Orchard Orioles usually nest in the shrubs around the Bayou Heron boat launch.

“Observing and documenting the diversity of birdlife at the Grand Bay NERR, from Clapper Rails and Seaside Sparrows breeding in the marshes to wintering Henslow’s Sparrows found in wet pine savannas, are some of my most relaxing and pleasurable day-to-day activities.”

Mark S. Woodrey, Ph.D.
Senior Research Associate/Research Coordinator
Mississippi State University/Grand Bay NERR



Mark Woodrey with Clapper Rail – Photo courtesy of Jake Walker ©