



Workshop Leader:  
Alan Murphy  
alan@alanmurphyphotography.com  
832-491-8344

Workshop Leader:  
Brian Small  
bsmallfoto@aol.com  
310-849-0306

# Songbird Migration

Galveston, TX

April 11-14, 2024

---

## Arrival

April 10, 2024

We will meet at our hotel at 8:00 PM on April 10, 2024 in the lobby for a pre-workshop get-together. Please allow enough time to eat dinner before the orientation meeting. Workshop starts April 11.

## Departure

April 15, 2024

The workshop will end after the evening session on April 14, 2024. We will try to have a dinner together on that last evening.

## Outerwear

Weather should be warm but be prepared for the odd cold front that can bring a chill. Please wear camo or darker neutral colors in the blind. No bright clothes please. Rubber waterproof boot could come in handy when walking in marshes. (some people buy cheap ones once they arrive in Galveston)

## Hotel

Our workshop base and headquarters is the Courtyard by Marriott Galveston Island, Texas. Galveston is about 1 & 1/2 hours from Bush International Airport on the north side of Houston, and 45 minutes from Hobby Airport on the south side of Houston.

Courtyard by Marriott Galveston Island  
9550 Seawall Boulevard  
Galveston, Texas 77554

PH: 409-497-2850

Please let them know if you want to add or extend those dates.

## Itinerary

The workshop property is about a 15-minute drive from the hotel. We will carpool to the location and back. We will spend every afternoon in the blind photographing migrants coming down for water. The mornings sessions will usually start in the blind, but if the action is slow, we'll then head out in the field where we'll have other great photo opportunities staked out around the Island that we can work on instead.

Bird migration and the landing of the birds on the coast is totally dependent on the weather. If for some reason the weather is not grounding birds, we will have many other things to do. Some of our favorite subjects over the years have included Seaside Sparrows, Orchard Orioles and Common Yellowthroats singing on territory. Clapper Rails, Eastern Meadowlarks, nesting Killdeer, Eastern Kingbirds, Loggerhead Shrikes, Bronzed Cowbirds and nesting White-tailed Kites can often be found. Every year the mix of these photo opportunities is a bit different but there is always a variety of subjects to try for. Beyond these land birds, the mix of waterbirds (gulls, terns, shorebirds, etc.) is never ending and provides us with many more great photo ops. In the event we have a rainy day, then we'll do a group session in our hotel to practice Photoshop processing and editing or discuss other photo related subjects.

Every day we will all have lunch together during our mid-day break. Lunches are on us. Typically, the day ends around 7 p.m. and we'll be cutting you loose then so we can rest up for the next day. Dinners are on you. We will try to have a group dinner together on the last evening of your workshop. The workshop is four full days.

## Packing & Gear

- A long lens of 600mm or 500mm is required for the workshop. A 400mm with a 1.4TC will also work.
- Bring your teleconverter with you.
- Bring any hand holdable flight lens that you have.
- Also bring a shutter release cable for your camera.
- Flash is not used on this workshop.
- A ground pod or Skimmer for low level shooting can also come in handy if you have one.

## Final Payments

Please remember that all workshop balance fees are due by February 11, 2024. Please contact me if you need to know your balance.

Final payments can be made by credit card at the following link:

<https://www.alanmurphyphotography.com/payment>