

South Texas Birding & Nature | Species List

Jan. 26 – Feb. 3, 2024 | with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guides James Petersen and Michael Marsden. Our clients included Lesley, Garry, Maryann, Lorna, Marshall, Shannon, Mary and Bill.

This group of 8 participants along with guides James and Michael met in Corpus Christi for 9 days of enjoying the animals that call South Texas home. The weather cooperated as did the birds. Starting with a successful boat trip to see wintering Whooping cranes, we worked our way south identifying the birds and some butterflies of coastal Texas. Some of the highlights here were the many Whooping cranes and the brightly colored Roseate Spoonbills, which drew oohs and aahs and a pair of Aplomado Falcons. Working our way down to the Rio Grande Valley, temperature increased and so did the birds, mammals and Butterflies. Our birding in the valley was very successful with some highlights of two roosting Common Pauraque, Green Jays and Gray Hawks. The butterflies in the valley also put on a show, with great views of Fatal Metalmark, White Peacock on the last full day of the trip. This led to a total of 172 species of birds, species of mammal, 4 species of reptiles, 1 species of Jellyfish and 17 species of insect (16 butterflies and 1 species of ant) seen over the course of the trip.

[South Texas Birding & Wildlife | January 26 – February 3, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Family or Species Common Name Scientific Name: — (172)

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae — (18)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* — A common bird seen at many of the wetlands that we visited in the Rio Grande Valley.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* — A small group was seen while birding the live oak country club wetlands on day one. They were in the far back of the field.

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors* — Seen most days; the group had good looks at both females and the males at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge.

Cinnamon Teal *Spatula cyanoptera* — This bird was only seen at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, but everyone was amazed by the reddish colored males.

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata* — This bird was seen most of the days of the trip. They were often seen loafing on the banks of wetlands.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera* — Also seen most of the days, both males and females seen.

American Wigeon *Mareca americana* — Seen 4/8 days of the trip, common bird on most wetlands we visited.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* — This species was only seen on the first day of the trip at the Rockport beach park.

Mexican Duck *Anas diazi* — Seen briefly and far away while birding Salineno, some participants saw the white flash of the underwings as they flew in but were soon lost in a flock of ducks.

Mottled Duck *Anas fulvigula* — Very common duck for most of the trip, these plain faced, yellow billed ducks were seen at most of the wetlands we visited.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* — Almost seen every day of the trip. These ducks gave great views every time they

were seen.

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca* — A decently common duck seen 3 out of the 9 days. The small size and white stripe usually gave this duck away.

Canvasback *Aythya valisineria* — Only seen once on the trip. But good views of a few females in the scope at the Osprey lookout at Laguna Atacosta Wildlife Refuge.

Redhead *Aythya americana* — A common duck in the Corpus Christi area where 90 percent of the population winters. On some wetlands we visited we had over 300 + birds on the water.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* — Only seen on at Laguna Atascosa and halfway out in the bay. Very distant scope views.

Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola* — Both male and female of these black and white diving ducks were seen. With a high count of 7 birds at Santa Ana NWR, where those numbers are unusual.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* — Seen extremely distant at South Padre Island.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* — These stiff tailed ducks were in nonbreeding plumage and a pretty common bird at Santa Ana NWR.

GUANS AND CHACHALACAS: Cracidae — (1)

Plain Chachalaca *Ortalis vetula* — These large chicken-like birds were only seen at Bentson State Park.

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae — (2)

Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus* — A group of 5 of these quail were seen at the feeders at Falcon State Park

Scaled Quail *Callipepla squamata* — A group of 5-6 of these gray, scaly quail were seen at quit close range after being called in by the owner.

PARTRIDGES AND PHEASANTS: Phasianidae — (1)

Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo* — 3 of these birds were seen at the entrance to Bentson State Park. The rufous tips to the tail identifies these as the “Rio Grande” race of Wild Turkey.

GREBES: Podicipedidae — (3)

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus* — A very common bird down in the valley with great views at most wetlands we visited. One view that stood out was when we had one right next to a Pied-billed Grebe, showing off how tiny these grebes truly are.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* — Very common bird, seen most days of the trip.

Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* — One continuing bird seen at Santa Ana on one of the ponds, winter plumaged bird with some white in the face.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae — (7)

Rock Pigeon (I) *Columba livia* — Seen every day of the trip, mostly seen perched on telephone wires.

Red-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas flavirostris* — This bird was spotted flying down the river at Salineno. It thankfully banked and perched in the top of a dead snag, affording everyone great views of this uncommon reddish pigeon.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (I) *Streptopelia decaocto* — This pale, introduced doves were seen perched on the telephone wires at the Leonabelle Turnbull birding center.

Inca Dove *Columbina inca* — Seen on multiple days, these scaly doves had a memorable call of saying “no hope, no hope”.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* — A valley specialty, seen most days feeding at most feeders we visited.

A few of us got views of the actual white tips on the tail as they flew away.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* — Common dove in spots, a high count of 35 of them were seen crammed on the feeders at Quinta Mazatlan.

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura* — Common dove seen most of the time perched up on telephone wires.

CUCKOOS: Cuculidae — (1)

Greater Roadrunner *Geococcyx californianus* — Seen briefly while driving on Buena Vista Boulevard. They were more common on the edges of the road as we were driving to Laguna Atacosa NWR.

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae — (1)

Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* — Two of these camouflaged birds were observed at the very end of birding Estero Llano Grande State Park.

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae — (3)

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris* — Multiple birds observed, coming into feeders at the butterfly center and Quinta Mazatlan. All birds in wintering plumage, so we had to go by the wing shape to identify them.

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus* — This bird was observed twice, once briefly at Hazel Bazemore Park and also at the Butterfly center (gave better looks).

Buff-bellied Hummingbird *Amazilia yucatanensis* — This bird was only seen by a few people coming to feeders at Sabal Palm Preserve.

RAILS AND ALLIES: Rallidae — (4)

Clapper Rail *Rallus crepitans* — We only heard once, while at the overlook at Goose Island State Park.

Sora *Porzana carolina* — Another rail that was only seen once. This small, yellow-billed rail was out in the open a few times by the Alligators at SPI birding center.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* — These birds were less common than the coots. The best looks we got of this species was while we were birding at the South Padre Island birding center.

American Coot *Fulica americana* — This species was a common bird throughout the trip.

CRANES: Gruidae — (2)

Sandhill Crane *Antigone canadensis* — Lots of these “smaller” crane species seen birding around the Goose Island area. Was impressive when one stood near some Whooping cranes, giving a sense at how small the sandhills are.

Whooping Crane *Grus americana* — Seen a few days, with the best being birding the Aransas area. An amazing 32 birds seen between the boat tour and birding near Goose Island. We also had good looks at an adult and young bird the next day at the Leonabelle Turnbull birding center.

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae — (2)

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* — These pink legged black and white stilts were seen at a few of the coastal wetland sites; with multiple birds seen at the Leonabelle Turnbull birding center, South Padre Island and inland at Estero Llano Grande State Park.

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana* — These curved beaked birds were seen at multiple sights, mainly on the coast, but also in the interior at Estero Llano Grande State Park.

OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae — (1)

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* — These red, long beaked birds were only seen while on the crane boat tour in the Rockport area.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae — (2)

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* — This species was only seen while birding South Padre Island. They were mixed in with a few other shorebirds, including ruddy turnstones and dowitchers.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* — Seen the first two days only, there were many on the grass at Goose Island State Park.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae — (15)

Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus* — Seen briefly the first two days, but better looks on the fourth day where these long billed waders were seen while birding South Padre Island.

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa* — This straight-billed, medium sized sandpiper were only observed while we were at the SPI birding center.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* — Seen in two places, a few of them were walking along the jetty as we left and came back from the whooping crane boat tour. We also observed a few at the SPI birding center foraging on the mudflats.

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus* — A handful of this species was observed in the canal while at Estero Llano Grande SP foraging with groups of dowitchers.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* — Another species that was only observed running around on the mudflats while on San Padre Island.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* — These squat, curved billed sandpipers were seen on the coast with good views at sunset while at South Padre Island.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* — A small flock of these small, yellow-legged peeps were seen while birding Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. Also seen other days, but best views were at Santa Ana.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* — One bird seen flying into a wet flooded field as we were looking at both Whooping and Sandhill Cranes near Goose Island State Park.

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* — Only seen on the first day, a group of dowitchers that called the “tu-tu- tu” call/ foraged near the car at the Cape Velaro drive.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* — The most common dowitcher seen this trip, seen multiple days but best looks were at the Turnbull biridng center where we had them both foraging and calling (“tu-tu”) right next to the boardwalk.

Wilson’s Snipe *Gallinago delicata* — Very briefly seen, and only a few times flying away and dropping into the tall grass at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. Always lost once on the ground and only seen in flight.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* — Multiple of these tail wagging shorebirds were seen on the crane boat trip. Also seen on day four at South Padre Island.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* — Seen days 1, 5, and 7. We had the best looks at these long-billed waders were at South Padre Island.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata* — These bold gray birds with black and white wings were mainly seen along the coast, especially at Goose Island, the Crane boat trip and at South Padre Island. All the Willets seen belonged to the western race of birds (western breeders).

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* — The less common of the two yellowlegs, these smaller billed yellowlegs were seen only seen at South Padre Island, where the two yellowleg species could be easily compared.

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae — (10)

Bonaparte’s Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* — A small flock of these dainty gulls was observed standing on

the mudflats while at the SPI birding center.

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla* — A common gull, seen most days on the trip that we were close to the coast.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* — We saw this species on first two days and then also on the fourth day while birding South Padre Island.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* — Only seen on the Crane Boat Trip.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* — A few of these birds (mostly young birds, but one adult) were seen both on the Crane tour and the next day while at the Leonabelle Turnbull birding center.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* — One of these terns was seen flying away while birding Laguna Atascosa, the stubby black bill and pale plumage being distinctive.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* — These large, red billed Terns were only seen while on the Crane Boat trip, mainly perched on land mixed in with other shorebird species.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* — This common tern was seen at most of the coastal areas we visited in the Corpus Christi area, with good views of these dainty terns while on the Crane boat trip.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* — Another common tern and seen on most of the coastal areas. Good views at South Padre Island where they were mixed in with some Black Skimmers.

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* — These large billed black terns were seen well only at South Padre Island. We had decent views of both resting birds and some skimming the water looking for food.

LOONS: Gaviidae — (1)

Common Loon *Gavia immer* — Only one bird seen on the way back from the crane boat trip. Bird was in winter plumage but gave good looks.

ANHINGA: Anhingidae — (1)

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* — This bird was seen a few times, with the best looks coming while birding on the UTRGV campus. They were both feeding and resting along the waterways.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae — (2)

Double-crested Cormorant *Nannopterum auritum* — These cormorants were more commonly seen on the second half of the trip, in the Rio Grande Valley. A few flocks of this species were seen flying over the waterway at Bentson-Rio Grande State Park.

Neotropic Cormorant *Nannopterum brasilianum* — The most common cormorant, seen multiple days of the trip.

PELICANS: Pelecanidae — (2)

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* — Common bird on the first half of the trip with large flocks (50+) seen soaring from the Crane boat trip.

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* — Coastal bird and very common; seen on the first half of trip in the corpus area. These birds disappeared after birding South Padre Island.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae — (10)

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* — A very common heron, one of the few birds seen every day of the trip.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* — This large white wading heron was seen most days of the trip as well.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* — This smaller heron with “golden slippers” was also seen most days of the trip.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* — This smaller heron was seen, with amazingly close views of this slatey gray, blue heron while birding South Padre Island.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* — This medium sized heron with a white throat was common at most stops in the Corpus area. After leaving South Padre Island, these birds dropped off in number.

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens* — Both white and reddish morphs seen. A few were observed doing their stumbling, dancing feeding method.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* — Seen briefly by only one car, couldn't stop for this small yellow billed egret on the 6th day.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* — Amazing views of this bird in the pond opposite of the big alligator who was on a "diet". Was sitting quietly on the edge of some reeds.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* — A common bird in the valley, seen multiple places with multiple birds seen at both South Padre Island and Estero Llano Grande State Park—where both immature and adult birds were seen.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* — Seen only at South Padre Island and at Estero Llano State Park. The best views were at South Padre Island, where one was observed quietly sitting in the mangroves by the board walk, giving everyone great view of his yellow crown.

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae — (3)

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* — A common bird for most of the trip.

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi* — Only seen twice, with the first one being a super far away bird. We all got much better and closer looks at these white-faced birds while birding at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* — Fantastic views of this bird on the first day in the wetlands. Everyone was oohing and ahing over this bright pink wading bird. Seen on 2nd and 3rd days as well, but not as close.

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae — (2)

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* — Common bird throughout the trip, would commonly mix in with the kettles of Turkey Vultures. Easily told from those vultures by snappier wingbeats and white restricted to the outer primaries.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* — Common bird throughout the trip, seen most days mixed in with Black Vultures.

OSPREY: Pandionidae — (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* — A common bird, seen most days soaring or perched on telephone poles as we drove by.

HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae — (8)

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus* — Great looks at a few perched birds that allowed us to get binoculars on them. Also seen a few times from the car in flight kiting over the habitat.

Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus* — Seen in only three locations, with 2 birds at Rockport Crane Trip and 1 at both Laguna Atascosa and one at Sable Palm Sanctuary.

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii* — Seen multiple times with one sighting being at Oliveria Park, where we assumed caused the parrots to come into a different area.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus* — Seen well at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, with an adult in a tree. Also seen multiple times in the valley perched on telephone poles.

White-tailed Hawk *Geranoaetus albicaudatus* — Only seen a few times from the car while driving around.

Gray Hawk *Buteo plagiatus* — Great views of a perched adult at Bentsen Rio-Grande State Park. Everyone enjoyed the clean gray plumage, yellow feet and yellow cere of the perched bird. Also happened to be the last bird of the trip as we were walking out of Quinta Mazatlan.

Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus* — Seen a few times, mostly perched on wires as we drove by. We did have two close encounters with them, one while birding a small park before the Whooping Crane boat trip and the other was perched on a 25-mph speed sign at Bentson State Park in the morning surrounded by fog.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* — Seen mostly perched on wires while driving between stops.

OWLS: Strigidae — (2)

Eastern Screech-Owl *Megascops asio* — Seen twice, once at Estero Llano Grande SP and once at Salineno. Both were the “McCull’s” race.

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus* — Heard and seen (Spotted by Shannon) perched in a palm tree outside of Quinta Mazatlan.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae — (3)

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata* — Great looks at two of these large billed huge Kingfishers chasing each other while driving FM 36192.

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon* — Seen while in the marshes on the Whooping Crane boat trip, flying up and down the border of the marsh.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* — Good looks at both male and female in separate locations, one at Santa Ana NWR and the other bird was seen at Bentson State Park. We additionally had brief views of one while at Salineno.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae — (2)

Golden-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes aurifrons* — Seen multiple times, with them becoming more common as we continued to the Rio Grande Valley.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Dryobates scalaris* — Seen a few times, heard more often than seen, but we had views of one coming into the feeders at Goose Island State Park.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae — (4)

Crested Caracara *Caracara plancus* — Another bird that became more common the further south we went. Great views while birding in the valley of birds perched on telephone poles while heading to Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* — Common bird seen most days on the power lines while driving.

Merlin *Falco columbarius* — Seen briefly perched up high while birding Santa Ana NWR.

Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis* — Two birds (most likely a pair) were perched on a nesting platform on the side of the road while driving down Mustang Island.

PARROTS: Psittacidae — (4)

Monk Parakeet (1) *Myiopsitta monachus* — Seen at the pump house after searching for them for a little bit. They eventually came in and were calling and feeding on the ground in front of us.

Red-crowned Parrot *Amazona viridigenalis* — Large flocks amazed everyone at Oliveria Park, a coop scared them from their usual roosting site. They ended up perching on the power lines, we all watched a few hang upside down on the lines.

White-fronted Parrot *Amazon albifrons* — A few birds mixed in with the Red-crowned Parrots, everyone got good scope views of these similar looking parrots but with white above their bills.

Green Parakeet *Psittacara holochlorus* — While waiting for the Red-crowned Parrots, we had a small flock of these small green parakeets fly by, heading to their separate roost spot.

BECARDS AND TITYRAS: Tityridae — (1)

Rose-throated Becard *Pachyramphus aglaiae* — Extremely brief views of the becard retreating into dense brush.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae — (7)

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* — Only seen twice, with good looks at a bird perched in some vegetation at the UTRGV and seen at Estero Llano Grande State Park.

Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe* — Seen only twice, with great views of a bird perched in the understory while birding at Sabal Palm Sanctuary.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* — Only seen once, but was a bright male perched across the lake while we were eating lunch at Lola's Bistro.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer* — Only seen at the Resaca de la Palma, everyone got great looks at this myiarchus flycatcher calling its mournful call note.

Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosa* — This yellow chested rare bird that was seen in Corpus Christi by everyone.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* — Very common large flycatcher seen most days in the valley. Great views at multiple feeders and the raucous call was a common sound.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* — Common kingbird of the Rio Grande Valley. We had the best views of a calling bird at the UTRGV campus.

Couch's Kingbird *Tyrannus couchii* — This kingbird was only heard at Salineno, did a few quick beer calls and then stopped calling.

VIREOS: Vireonidae — (2)

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus* — Heard most days but only came out in the open once. At that time everyone got great views of this yellowish vireo with white eyes while sitting at the feeders at Quinta Mazatlán.

Blue-headed Vireo *Vireo solitarius* — Only seen once but gave good views of its blue head and white spectacles while birding on the UTRGV campus.

SHRIKES: Laniidae — (1)

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus* — Seen the first four days of the trip, with great views of a perched individual perched on a telephone wire at Rockport.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae — (1)

Green Jay *Cyanocorax yncas* — This bright green jay with blue and black head was a common sight with great views at many of the feeders.

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae — (1)

Black-crested Titmouse *Baeolophus atricristatus* — Another common bird once we entered the valley, this gray bird was a common feeder bird.

KINGLETS: Regulidae — (1)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula* — Common bird, this bouncing ball of a bird was seen and heard most days. One bird was showing off its ruby crested which wowed those who saw it.

GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae — (1)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea* — Common bird that was heard only.

WRENS: Troglodytidae — (5)

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* — Heard these birds chatter a few times, one being at Ester Llano Grande, the other being at Quinta Mazatlán. We were never able to get eyes on this bird.

Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris* — Only briefly seen while birding at Salineno.

Carolina Wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus* — Heard a few times, but we finally caught up with this light brown wren with a white eyeline in Quinta Mazatlán. Here we were able to get one in the scope and watch it sing its heart out.

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii* — Heard only at Laguguna Atacosta and Rancho Loma.

Cactus Wren *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus* — This wren was heard only at Rancho Lomitas.

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae — (1)

European Starling (I) *Sturnus vulgaris* — Common bird, seen most days perched on the wires.

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae — (3)

Curve-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma curvirostre* — Seen 2 times, once coming into feeders at Rancho Lomitas and the 2nd time at the Butterfly center where everyone got to compare them to a nearby Long-billed Thrasher.

Long-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma longirostre* — Heard more often than seen, but had a bird come out in the open to drink water at the Butterfly center.

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos* — Common bird, seen most days.

THRUSHES: Turdidae — (1)

Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi* — Had a quick glimpse of this thrush at the Sabal Palm Sanctuary. Better looks at a few birds at Santa Ana NWR and had one individual come right out in the open for even better views while at Quinta Mazatlán.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae — (1)

House Sparrow (I) *Passer domesticus* — Seen or heard most days.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Emberizidae — (8)

Cassin's Sparrow *Peucaea cassinii* — Only seen by one van, perched on a fence post after visiting Ranch Lomitas.

Olive Sparrow *Arremonops rufivirgatus* — Another bird that was more often heard than seen, everyone finally got good looks at this secretive sparrow while birding Quinta Mazatlán.

Clay-colored Sparrow *Spizella pallida* — Only seen briefly coming to the feeders at Falcon State Park.

Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla* — This tannish sparrow with a pink beak and white eye ring was only seen at some feeders at Goose Island state park.

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* — This beautifully patterned sparrow was seen perched on some telephone wires while looking at some Crested Caracaras.

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys* — This white crowned sparrow was only seen once, at the feeders at Falcon State Park.

Swamp Sparrow *Melospiza georgiana* — This rusty sparrow with a white throat was only seen at the Leonabelle Turnbull birding center. The sparrows kept popping up, then dropping into vegetation and not giving everyone great looks.

Green-tailed Towhee *Pipilo chlorurus* — This rusty capped towhee with a greenish tail was only seen scratching the ground at Falcon State Park.

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae — (10)

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna* — These chunky birds were only seen on the wildlife drive at Laguna Atascosa NWR.

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus* — An uncommon bird, everyone got to see an immature hooded oriole coming to feeders at both Salineno and Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park.

Altamira Oriole *Icterus gularis* — This oriole was the most common Oriole in the valley, with great views of these bright birds coming into the feeders at the National Butterfly Center.

Audubon's Oriole *Icterus graduacauda* — This bird was seen very briefly sneaking into the feeders at Rancho Lomitas to the marshmallows.

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* — Common bird, seen every day of the trip.

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus* — This red-eyed, flat headed bird was only seen on the last day coming into the feeders at Quinta Mazatlán.

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater* — Seen in a few spots, including coming into the feeders at Quinta Mazatlán.

Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus* — A few of these yellow eyed, dark blackbirds were present at the rest stop halfway between Corpus Christi and Brownsville.

Boat-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus major* — Only seen on the marshes while on the Whooping Crane Boat trip.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus* — The most common bird of the trip, seen almost every day, everywhere. One memorable sighting was driving early to Salineno and seeing hundreds stream off of their roosts for the day.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae — (7)

Orange-crowned Warbler *Leiothlypis celata* — Our 2nd most common warbler of the trip, the one that lacked all field marks and was essentially a dingy yellow bird.

Nashville Warbler *Oreothlypis ruficapilla* — Only seen twice, once at Sabal Palm and once at the butterfly center.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* — Seen and heard a few times, darting in and around reeds when it was present.

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia* — We only saw this bird while birding San Padre Island. This one was unique as the race we saw was the "Mangrove" race that has a reddish face.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata* — Common warbler, seen or heard most days.

Yellow-throated Warbler *Setophaga dominica* — This yellow-throated warbler was only seen once while birding the UTRGV campus. It was mixed in a flock that held a bunch of yellow-rumped warblers and some Orange-crowned Warblers.

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla* — This small warbler with a black cap was seen a few times, with everyone getting the best look at one that was bouncing around the edge of a wetland while birding the UTRGV area.

CARDINALS AND GROSBEAKS: Cardinalidae — (1)

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis* — Common bird, seen or heard most days.

MAMMALS: — (8)

Desert Cottontail *Sylvilagus audubonii* — Cotton tail with obvious red neck seen well at Rancho Lomitas.

Eastern Fox Squirrel *Sciurus niger* — Seen multiple times, this large brown squirrel with a long tail was mainly seen at feeders.

Hispid Cotton Rat *Sigmodon hispidus* — Best views were of a few of these rodents foraging underneath the feeders at Falcon State Park.

Collared Peccary *Tayassu tajacu* — Only seen once, one that was walking away from everyone while birding Sabal Palm Preserve.

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus* — A few of these deer were seen in the corpus Christi area.

Nilgai *Boselaphus tragocamelus* — This introduced species was seen well while on the wildlife drive at Laguna Atascosa NWR.

Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* — Seen well while on the crane boat trip.

Coyote *Canis latrans* — Only seen once, on the way to Laguna Atascosa NWR.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: — (4)

American Alligator *Alligator mississippiensis* — Seen twice, once while birding the Leonabelle Turnbull birding center and a few seen at South Padre Island.

Spiny Softshell *Apalone spinifera* — These turtles were seen sunning themselves while we were eating lunch at Lola's Bistro.

Pond Slider *Trachemys scripta* — A stunning 72 of these turtles were seen sunning themselves in the Rio Grande River while birding Salineno.

Blue Spiny Lizard *Sceloporus cyanogenys* — Seen on the outside of the bathrooms at Bentsen-Rio Grande State Park.

Jellyfish: — (1)

Cabbagehead Jellyfish *Stomolophus meleagris* — Many of these jellyfish were observed both washed up and in the shallow water of the Gulf at Goose State Park.

Insects/Butterflies: — (17)

Texas Leafcutter Ant *Atta texana* — These ants were only seen at the giant live oak on day 2.

Pheon Crescent *Phyciodes phaon* — Seen at both Sabal Palm Preserve and visiting the flowers at the National Butterfly Center.

Teleus Longtail *Urbanus teleus*-- This long tailed brownish butterfly was only seen on the side of the trail at Sabal Palm Sanctuary.

Pipevine Swallowtail *Battus philenor* — This black and yellow swallowtail was observed only once while in the parking lot at the Leonabelle Turnbull birding area.

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui* — A common butterfly for this trip, these butterflies were observed randomly on days 2,3,4 and 6.

Cabbage White *Pieris rapae* — This butterfly was only observed once outside Snoopies on our way down to the Rio Grande Valley.

Queen *Danaus gilippus* — This monarch mimic was seen a few times, with the best looks being while birding the UTRGV campus and at the National Butterfly Center.

American Snout *Libytheana carinenta* — Very common butterfly in the valley, observed most days.

White Peacock *Anartia jatrophae* — This butterfly was found dead at Bentsen-Rio Grande State Park and then observed at the National Butterfly Center.

Little Yellow *Eurema lisa* — This butterfly was only observed on the last full day while birding the National Butterfly Center.

Southern dogface *Colias cesonia* — This butterfly was also only observed while birding the National Butterfly center on the last day.

Laviana White Skipper *Heliopetes laviana* — This butterfly was also only observed while birding the National Butterfly center on the last day.

Fatal Metalmark *Calephelis nemesis* — This butterfly was also only observed while birding the National Butterfly

center on the last day.

Gulf Fritillary *Agraulis vanillae* — This butterfly was also only observed while birding the National Butterfly center on the last day.

Lyside Sulphur *Kricogonia lyside* — This butterfly was also only observed while birding the National Butterfly center on the last day.

Western Pygmy Blue *Brephidium exilis* — This tiny butterfly was observed on the last two days while birding both Bentson Rio Grande State Park and the National Butterfly center on the last day.

Red Admiral *Vanessa Atalanta* — This butterfly was observed on the last two days while birding both Bentson Rio Grande State Park and the National Butterfly center on the last day.

LOCATIONS AND NOTES:

Day 1: Corpus Christi, Rockport (Moore's Pond, Cape Valero Drive, Live Oak Country Club Wetlands, Bee Road Reservoir, Rockport Beach State Park.

Day 2: Rockport demo Bird Garden, Goose Island State Park.

Day 3: Holt Pond, Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, Mage Beach Park, Mustang Island, Tyrant Stakeout, Hazel Bazemore Park, Sarita Rest Area.

Day 4: Resaca de la Palma State Park, Ted Hunt Rd., Laguna Atascosa NWR (HQ/Kiskadee trail, Osprey Point, Wildlife Drive), South Padre Island Birding and Nature center.

Day 5: Sabal Palm Preserve, UTRGV campus, Oliveria Park.

Day 6: Santa Ana NWR, Estero Llano Grande State Park.

Day 7: Salineno, Falcon State Park, Ranch.

Day 8: Bensen-Rio State Park, North American Butterfly Center, Monk Parrot nests.

Day 9: Quinta Mazatlán.