

Texas Big Bend: Birding & Wildlife Species List | April 27 – May 5, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Dave Mehlman with guide Michael Good. Our clients included Barbara, Elizabeth, John, Julia, Kathleen, Kathy, Laura, Mark, Mike, Norma, and Roy.

Trip Summary: Our group of intrepid travelers all met in El Paso at the Wyndham by the airport and proceeded to have a great adventure in West Texas, visiting the Davis and Chisos Mountains. We also were able to begin the tour at a wonderful wetland spot outside El Paso right next to the border fence, helping us add birds to the tour and get glimpses of Chihuahua, Mexico—so close, yet so far. There were many highlights to this tour, starting with the landscapes, particularly of Big Bend, which has large quantities of desert, canyons, and sheer rock faces. Some of the avian highlights included incredibly good views of Montezuma Quail at Davis Mountains State Park, lengthy views of male and female Lucifer Hummingbirds at the Christmas Mountains Oasis (one of only 2 places in the U.S. where this species can be reliably found), a Colima Warbler high in the Chisos at Boot Spring (for those opting for the long hike), and large numbers of migrating warblers and sparrows. Some of the latter provided some unique observations for the tour. For example, an apparent Hermit x Townsend's Warbler hybrid that perched high in a mesquite for excellent views and photographs at Rio Bosque was a fascinating bird. A well-out-of-range Tennessee Warbler was extremely well seen at close range in the Rio Grande Village campground. Finally, an unexpected Northern Waterthrush provided a welcome sighting (and new species for the list) at Johnson Ponds.

The eBird link details the birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list by each species to expand the report and reveal where and when each bird was seen and how many.

[Texas Big Bend: Birding & Wildlife | April 27 – May 5, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

(G) = Guides only

(I) = Introduced

BIRDS (170 species recorded plus 1 hybrid, of which 3 were seen by guides only, 3 were heard only):

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae (8)

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*—Unusual for the date, one flew by at Rio Bosque on the first day

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*—Several at Rio Bosque and the Terlingua WTP

Cinnamon Teal *Spatula cyanoptera*—Rio Bosque

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*—Seen at Rio Bosque and on all 3 visits to Terlingua WTP

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*—Seen at Rio Bosque and on all 3 visits to Terlingua WTP

Mexican Duck *Anas diazi*—Found at Rio Bosque, 2 visits to Terlingua WTP, and Johnson Ponds

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca*—Seen at Rio Bosque and on all 3 visits to Terlingua WTP

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*—Rio Bosque

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae (3)

Scaled Quail *Callipepla squamata*—Seen on 4 days, probably best at Christmas Mountains Oasis, where they came to the feeders

Gambel's Quail *Callipepla gambeli*—Rio Bosque

Montezuma Quail *Cyrtonyx montezumae*—One of the outstanding birds of the tour, these were well seen at the Davis Mountains State Park blinds

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS, AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (1)

Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo*—Seen on the road in the Davis Mountains

GREBES: Podicipedidae (1)

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*—Found on the first visit to Study Butte WTP

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (7)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*—(I) Seen near towns on the first 3 days of the tour

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*—Chisos Mountains hike

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*—(I) Regularly encountered in many places; found on 7 days of the tour

Inca Dove *Columbina inca*—Several seen foraging along the road at Johnson Ponds

Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerina*—(H) Heard in the Rio Grande Village campground

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*—Regularly encountered in many places; found on 7 days of the tour

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*—Regularly encountered in many places; found on 7 days of the tour

CUCKOOS: Cuculidae (1)

Greater Roadrunner *Geococcyx californianus*—We had great luck with this most famous of southwestern bird species, recording them on 6 days at many sites, including an overly friendly (hungry?) one at Cottonwood Campground

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (1)

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis*—Glimpsed by some in the group flying by at Dugout Wells and Christmas Mountains Oasis

SWIFTS: Apodidae (1)

White-throated Swift *Aeronautes saxatalis*—Found in the high Chisos and at Santa Elena Canyon

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (4)

Blue-throated Mountain-Gem *Lampornis clemenciae*—Found by the Colima hikers in the Chisos

Lucifer Hummingbird *Calothorax lucifer*—Christmas Mountains Oasis

Black-chinned Hummingbird *Archilochus alexandri*—The most frequently encountered hummingbird; seen throughout the tour at many sites, especially ones with feeders

Broad-tailed Hummingbird *Selasphorus platycercus*—Found in the high Chisos by the hikers

RAILS, COOTS, AND ALLIES: Rallidae (2)

Common Gallinule—(G) Seen by Dave with the scope at Rio Bosque

American Coot *Fulica americana*—Seen at Rio Bosque and on all 3 visits to Terlingua WTP

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (2)

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*—Found at Rio Bosque and along TX118 at Muzquiz Creek

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana*—Seen at Rio Bosque and on the first visit to the Terlingua WTP

LAPWINGS AND PLOVERS: Charadriidae (1)

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*—Seen on 4 days at Rio Bosque, TX118 at Muzquiz Creek, and 2 of the visits to the Terlingua WTP

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (6)

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*—Rio Bosque

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*—Rio Bosque

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata*—Rio Bosque

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*—Small flocks at Rio Bosque

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*—Seen on 2 of the visits to the Terlingua WTP

Willet *Tringa semipalmata*—A large flock seen by a few in the group on the first visit to the Terlingua WTP

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (1)

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*—Rio Bosque

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (4)

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*—One flew by when we were along TX118 at Muzquiz Creek

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*—A rarity in the Big Bend region, one flew over the Rio Grande as we watched from the Rio Grande Village Nature Trail

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*—Seen at Rio Bosque and Johnson Ponds

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*—Rio Bosque

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (1)

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*—Rio Bosque

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (2)

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*—Found twice, first at Rio Grande Village and again at Santa Elena Canyon

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*—One of the most frequently encountered species of the tour, found every day at many sites

OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*—One was at Daniel's Ranch

HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (8)

Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus*—Found at Rio Bosque and one day while driving

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*—Found once in the Davis Mountains

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii*—Seen at Rio Bosque

Common Black Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus*—Seen at Rio Grande Village, where they have nested for many years

Gray Hawk *Buteo plagiatus*—This elegant hawk of riparian areas was seen and heard at Daniel's Ranch and Cottonwood Campground, where they nest

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni*—Individuals at Rio Bosque and on road to The Post; a large kettle of 10 birds apparently foraging for insects in Big Bend as we drove to Terlingua

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus*—Seen at Davis Mountains State Park

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*—Found on 5 days of the tour at many sites

OWLS: Strigidae (3)

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus*—(H) Heard by Kathy early one morning from the Limpia in Fort Davis

Elf Owl *Micrathene whitneyi*—Seen in its hole in a telephone pole at Davis Mountains State Park and heard on 4 nights or mornings in Big Bend

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*—Seen at Rio Bosque where they use constructed nest holes

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*—Rio Bosque and Johnson Ponds

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (4)

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus*—Found on 4 days in both the Davis and Chisos Mountains

Golden-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes aurifrons*—The common woodpecker in cottonwood riparian areas, these were at The Post and in various places in Big Bend

Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Dryobates scalaris*—The common “desert woodpecker,” we found these on every day of the tour at many sites

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*—Found once in Big Bend National Park

PARROTS: Psittacidae (1)

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*—(1) Several flocks seen at Rio Bosque

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (1)

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*—Recorded on 3 days while driving to Fort Davis, at Chateau Wright, and in Santa Elena Canyon

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (13)

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi*—Found at The Post and again at Cottonwood Campground

Western Wood-Pewee *Contopus sordidulus*—Seen on 5 days of the tour in most sites visited in or near the Davis and Chisos Mountains

Gray Flycatcher *Empidonax wrightii*—Great views of several at the Lawrence Wood picnic area, Davis Mountains

Dusky Flycatcher *Empidonax oberholseri*—Found at Rio Bosque and Davis Mountains State Park

Western Flycatcher *Empidonax occidentalis*—Seen by the Colima hikers in the high Chisos and again at Chisos Mountains Oasis; was until recent split from Pacific-slope Flycatcher and known as Cordilleran Flycatcher

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*—This flycatcher, almost always found near water, was seen at Muzquiz Creek, in Santa Elena Canyon, and at the Study Butte WTP

Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya*—Found on 7 days of the tour at many sites

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*—This tour is the tour to see this species! Found in Davis Mountains, Big Bend, and many other sites visited

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens*—Recorded on 7 days of the tour at almost all sites visited

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*—One seen and heard at Rio Grande Village

Cassin's Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans*—Seen in Fort Davis, at Fort Davis National Historic Site, Chateau Wright, in the Davis Mountains State Park while waiting for the owl, and at Johnson Ponds

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis*—Recorded on 6 days of the tour at many sites visited

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*—Well seen on the road to The Post

VIREOS: Vireonidae (5)

Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii*—A ubiquitous bird more often heard than seen, we found these on four days in Big Bend, The Post, Gage Gardens, and Christmas Mountains Oasis

Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni*—Seen in the high Chisos Mountains

Plumbeous Vireo *Vireo plumbeus*—Seen in Davis Mountains State Park and again at Boot Springs in the Chisos

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*—Encountered at Cottonwood Campground and the following day at Christmas Mountains Oasis

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*—One found at The Post

SHRIKES: Laniidae (1)

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*—Perched birds nicely seen at Rio Bosque, on the Post road, and in Chisos Basin; also seen on other days while driving

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (4)

Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay *Aphelocoma woodhouseii*—Davis Mountains

Mexican Jay *Aphelocoma wollweberi*—Chisos Mountains

Chihuahuan Raven *Corvus cryptoleucus*—Recorded on 2 days of the tour, we had the best views ever of this desert raven at the truck stop in Van Horn, when several perched on a telephone pole, allowing the white neck feathers to be easily observed

Common Raven *Corvus corax*—Found on 6 days of the tour, the widespread raven species in this part of Texas outside of desert areas

CHICKADEES AND TITS: Paridae (2)

Mountain Chickadee *Poecile gambeli*—Seen on the Chisos Mountains hike

Black-crested Titmouse *Baeolophus atricristatus*—Found at most sites visited in the Davis and Chisos Mountains

PENDULINE TITS: Remizidae (1)

Verdin *Auriparus flaviceps*—Recorded 5 days of the tour, though more often heard than actually seen; at Rio Bosque, sites near the Rio Grande in Big Bend, and at Christmas Mountains Oasis

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (6)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*—Seen at Rio Bosque, on all visits to the Study Butte WTP, and in Santa Elena Canyon

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina*—Flying over Rio Bosque

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*—Small numbers flying over Rio Bosque

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*—Encountered throughout the tour except in the Chisos; recorded on 4 days

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*—Numerous flying over Rio Bosque

Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva*—Quite common over and near Gage Gardens; a few seen foraging over the Study Butte WTP

LONG-TAILED TITS: Aegithalidae (1)

Bushtit *Psaltriparus minimus*—Seen on two days, first in the Davis Mountains and again on the Pinnacles Trail, Big Bend

KINGLETS: Regulidae (1)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula*—Found on 3 days at Rio Bravo, Daniel's Ranch, at Christmas Mountains Oasis

GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae (2)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea*—Found by the Colima hikers on the Chisos trails

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher *Polioptila melanura*—Found at Cottonwood Campground

WRENS: Troglodytidae (5)

Rock Wren *Salpinctes obsoletus*—Seen at Fort Davis National Historic Site and in Santa Elena Canyon

Canyon Wren *Catherpes mexicanus*—Seen at the Chisos Basin WTP and, appropriately enough, in Santa Elena Canyon (which could not be a more perfect place for this species!)

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*—(G) Seen by Dave at Christmas Mountains Oasis

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii*—Seen or heard in the Davis Mountains, on the Post road, along the Chisos trails, and at Christmas Mountains Oasis

Cactus Wren *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*—Seen on 6 days of the tour in the Davis Mountains, Big Bend National Park, The Post, and at Christmas Mountains Oasis

STARLINGS: Sturnidae (1)

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (I)—Recorded on 3 days, mostly when in or passing through towns

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHER: Mimidae (2)

Curve-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma curvirostre*—Seen at many sites on 6 days of the tour

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*—Recorded on all 7 days

THRUSHES: Turdidae (4)

Western Bluebird *Sialia mexicana*—Only found at the Lawrence Wood Picnic area and on the adjacent Madera Canyon trail

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*—Recorded on 3 days at Davis Mountains State Park, several times on the Colima hike, and by Michael at Johnson Ponds

Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus*—Seen at Rio Bosque, Davis Mountains State Park, and, several times on the Colima hike

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*—Only seen at Boot Spring in the high Chisos

WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae (1)

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*—Numerous at Gage Gardens where enjoying the mulberries; also seen in the high Chisos and at Johnson Ponds

SILKY-FLYCATCHERS: Ptiliognatidae (1)

Phainopepla *Phainopepla nitens*—This elegant fruit-eater was found at Sam Nail Ranch, Big Bend

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (I)—Encountered on days of the tour when in or near towns

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae (1)

American Pipit *Anthus rubescens*—The “pipit army” put in an appearance several times at The Post and Daniel's Ranch; we also saw them at Ri Bosque

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (4)

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus*—Common and widespread; recorded on 7 days of the tour

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*—Seemingly out of place, a few of these were eating grass seeds at Daniel's Ranch

Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus*—Recorded on 4 days in Davis Mountains State Park, on the Pinnacles Trail in the Chisos, Christmas Mountains Oasis, and Johnson Ponds

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria*—Found at Gage Gardens, Terlingua WTP (on one visit), Christmas Mountains Oasis, and Johnson Ponds

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (13)

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*—A widespread and numerous species, these were recorded on 7 days at most sites visited

Clay-colored Sparrow *Spizella pallida*—Usually found mixed in among the more numerous Chipping and Brewer's Sparrows, we recorded these on 3 days in Big Bend National Park at the Terlingua WTP

Black-chinned Sparrow *Spizella atrogularis*—These were found twice during the tour, first at Lawrence Wood Picnic Area and again on the Chisos Mountains trails

Brewer's Sparrow *Spizella breweri*—Widely encountered, sometimes in good numbers, at sites throughout the tour

Black-throated Sparrow *Amphispiza bilineata*—Seen on 5 days of the tour at Davis Mountains State Park, The Post road, in Big Bend National Park, and at Christmas Mountains Oasis

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus*—This large and elegant sparrow was seen on 4 days at Rio Bosque, Lawrence Wood Picnic Area, The Post, and Cottonwood Campground

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*—Seen at Rio Bosque, Boot Spring, and Sam Nail Ranch; the end of the migration season for this species

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*—Regularly encountered throughout the tour, particular at places with feeders and/or fruiting trees like Davis Mountains State Park and Gage Gardens

Vesper Sparrow *Pooecetes gramineus*—Seen at Dugout Wells and Rio Grande Village on the same day

Canyon Towhee *Melospiza fusca*—Encountered at almost all sites in the Davis Mountains, Big Bend, and The Post

Rufous-crowned Sparrow *Aimophila ruficeps*—Seen at Davis Mountains State Park (where they are very easy to see at the feeders), Chisos Mountains, Sam Nail Ranch, and Christmas Mountains Oasis

Green-tailed Towhee *Pipilo chlorurus*—Very frequently seen during the tour from the first day at Rio Bosque to the last day at Christmas Mountains Oasis, where quite a few were coming to the feeders

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*—Seen by the Colima hikers on the Chisos trails

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Icteriidae (1)

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens*—Always a fun bird to see, we recorded these on 5 days from the start (Rio Bosque) to the end (Christmas Mountains Oasis); perhaps the best “show” was at Sam Nail Ranch

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (11)

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*—Seen on 3 days at Gage Gardens, Dugout Wells, Rio Grande Village, and the Study Butte WTP

Chihuahuan Meadowlark *Sturnella lilianae*—Found by part of the group in the grasslands around Chateau Wright

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius*—Found at The Post, Gage Gardens, and Johnson Ponds

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus*—(G) One seen by Michael at Johnson Ponds, but it could not be relocated for the group

Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii*—Seen at The Post and on Daniel's Ranch

Scott's Oriole *Icterus parisorum*—Always a treat to see and hear, we recorded these on 6 days of the tour at sites throughout, including every day in Big Bend

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*—Rio Bosque

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus*—Single males found at The Post and Gage Gardens on the same day

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*—This nest parasite was found many times throughout the tour, unfortunately at most sites visited; it does like feeders!

Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus*—Found on 5 days of the tour at various sites, including in Fort Davis, at The Post, and at Christmas Mountains Oasis

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*—Frequently encountered throughout the tour, often in or near towns

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (12 + 1 hybrid)

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*—One well observed around the small pond at Johnson Ponds

Tennessee Warbler *Leiothlypis peregrina*—A genuine rarity in the Big Bend region, the group found this bird (previously reported) in the Rio Grande Village campground and had very good, close looks

Orange-crowned Warbler *Leiothlypis celata*—

Colima Warbler *Leiothlypis crissalis*—After a long hike, 1 individual of this most sought-after species was found at Boot Spring in the high Chisos

Nashville Warbler *Leiothlypis ruficapilla*—One visited the water drip at Christmas Mountains Oasis

MacGillivray's Warbler *Geothlypis tolmiei*—Found at Sam Nail Ranch and Christmas Mountains Oasis

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*—Hard or seen at Rio Bosque, The Post, Rio Grande Village Nature Trail, and Johnson Ponds

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*—A female-plumaged bird found at Gage Gardens

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia*—Encountered at Cottonwood Campground and Johnson Ponds

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata*—Found on every day of the tour; all seen well were of the western or Audubon's form

Townsend's Warbler *Setophaga townsendi*—Great views of many of these at Rio Bosque on the first day; another one turned up at Sam Nail Ranch

Hermit x Townsend's Warbler *Setophaga occidentalis*—We had a super view of this bird perched in a tree; although at first thought to be a Hermit Warbler, photographs clearly show Townsend's traits on this individual

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*—A very common migrant on the tour and seen on every day at many sites

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (12)

Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava*—First found at the Lawrence Wood picnic area in the Davis Mountains, there was also a very visible pair hanging out in the mesquites near our room buildings in the Chisos Basin

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*—Encountered at all areas we visited where there was appropriate cottonwood canopy habitat

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*—Found on 5 days of the tour at many sites, apparently during the peak of their migration, they were especially fond of fruiting mulberries

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*—Found throughout the tour at most sites visited; the southwestern ones appear much redder than their eastern relatives

Pyrhuloxia *Cardinalis sinuatus*—The elegant “desert cardinal” was found on 6 days of the tour at many sites

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*—A nice surprise, a male was very well seen on the ground at Rio Grande Village

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus*—Found at Davis Mountains State Park, Gage Gardens, and on the Chisos hike

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*—Found on 5 days of the tour at The Post, many places in Big Bend, Christmas Mountains Oasis, and Johnson Ponds

Lazuli Bunting *Passerina amoena*—Female or young birds were at Gage Gardens

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*—A lovely male was at Daniel's Ranch

Varied Bunting *Passerina versicolor*—A sought after species by many on the tour, we had decent luck this year, seeing them at Chisos Basin WTP, Sam Nail Ranch, and Christmas Mountains Oasis

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*—This, one of the most spectacular birds on the tour, was found on 3 days at Gage Gardens (in the mulberry tree), in the Rio Grande Village area, and at Santa Elena Canyon; they were vocalizing in most places

MAMMALS (8 species recorded):

Desert Cottontail *Sylvilagus auduboni*—Recorded on 4 days

Rock Squirrel *Spermophilus variegatus*—Recorded on 2 days

Collared Peccary (Javelina) *Tayassu tajacu*—Seen on 1 day in Big Bend National Park

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*—Seen every day in the Chisos Basin where they feed near the room buildings

Mule Deer *Odocoileus hemionus*—Recorded on 2 days

Pronghorn *Antilocarpa americana*—Seen on the first 2 days of the tour from the road

Aoudad (Barbary Sheep) *Ammotragus lervia (1)*—Found in the Davis Mountains

Coyote *Canis latrans*—Heard or seen on 3 days

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (5 species recorded):

Greater Earless Lizard *Cophosaurus texanus*—(G) One seen by Dave

Western Coachwhip Snake *Masticophis flagellum*—This lovely snake was seen at Christmas Mountains Oasis

Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnake *Crotalus atrox*—In the most memorable herp sightings of the tour, we found 2 of these, one during lunch on the Colima hike and again at Sotol Vista

Rio Grande Leopard Frog *Lithobates berlandieri*—Many inhabit the pond at Christmas Mountains Oasis

American Bullfrog *Lithobates catesbeianus*—(H) Heard at Rio Grande Village Nature Trail and Chisos Basin WTP on 2 days

INSECTS (16 species recorded):

American Lady *Vanessa virginiensis*

Black Swallowtail *Papilio polyxenes*
Checkered White *Pontia protodice*
Common Checkered Skipper *Burnsius communis*
Dainty Sulphur *Nathalis iole*
Empress Leilia *Asterocampa leilia*
Lyside Sulphur *Kricogonia lyside*
Marine Blue *Leptotes marina*
Palmer's Metalmark *Apodemia palmerii*
Pipevine Swallowtail *Cophosaurus texanus*
Reakirt's Blue *Echinargus isola*
Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*
Texan Crescent *Athanassa texana*
Giant Agave Bug *Acanthocephala thomasi*
Twice-struck Lady Beetle *Axion plagiatum*
Seven-spotted Lady Beetle *Coccinella septempunctata*

LOCATIONS AND NOTES:

Day 1: Sunday, April 28, 2024; El Paso, Rio Bosque Park, Van Horn, Fort Davis

Day 2: Monday, April 29, 2024; Fort Davis, Davis Mountains State Park, Lawrence E. Wood Picnic Area, Madera Canyon Trail, Fort Davis National Historic Site, Chateau Wright

Day 3 Tuesday, April 30, 2024; Fort Davis, Muzquiz Creek; Alpine; Fort Peña Colorado Park (The Post) and entry road; Gage Gardens; Big Bend National Park

Day 4: Wednesday, May 1, 2024; Big Bend National Park: Dugout Wells, Rio Grande Village + Nature Trail and Campground; Daniel's Ranch; Fossil Discovery Exhibit

Day 5: Thursday, May 2, 2024; Big Bend National Park: Chisos Basin WTP, Laguna Meadows→Colima→Boot Spring→Boot Canyon→Pinnacles trail hike; Study Butte WTP

Day 6: Friday, May 3, 2024; Big Bend National Park: Sam Nail Ranch, Sotol Vista, Santa Elena Canyon, Cottonwood Campground, Chisos Basin

Day 7: Saturday, May 4, 2024; Chisos Basin, Study Butte WTP, Christmas Mountains Oasis, Johnson Ponds (Alpine)

Day 8: Sunday, May 5, 2024; Alpine→El Paso