

South Texas Birding & Nature March 11 – 19, 2026 | Trip Report by Dave Mehlman



“In Search of the Wild Pierogi”

**Guides: Dave Mehlman and Sharon Goldwasser; with participants:
Carol, David, Genice, Jeanette, Jen, Kathleen, Marcia, Paul, and Tiffany**



Wed., Mar. 11 Arrivals in Corpus Christi | Indian Point | Bee Road Reservoir | Fulton

Our entire group traveled to Corpus Christi, some arriving the day before and others today, and Dave and Sharon picked everyone up at either the airport or a local hotel. The group then convened in Corpus Christi harbor, across from the USS Lexington, for our kick-off birding stop. In this case, we were after a locally reported rarity, a Red-footed Booby that was being reported near the Lexington and on the adjacent breakwaters. However, luck was not with us and despite an intensive search by all with binoculars and scopes, the booby did not show. Our consolation prizes, however, were Royal and Sandwich Terns, Brown Pelicans, a Great Blue Heron looking for handouts, and the only Bonaparte’s Gull of the tour. We then drove to the nearby Water Street Oyster Bar to look for the well-known, local celebrity Cattle Tyrant which had been frequenting the area and its blue dumpster for literally years. Again, the bird gods frowned on us and the tyrant did not show, though we poked around the neighborhood pretty thoroughly.



Eventually, Sharon and Dave decided that we had to move on, so we headed north for our first “real” birding stop of the tour at Indian Point on the north side of the bridge spanning Nueces Bay. Parking here, we started off our tour with a bang, quickly spotting a Reddish Egret (dancing away, as is its wont), Tricolored Heron, Wilson’s Plover, Double-crested and Neotropic Cormorants, and a plethora of shorebirds, including Willet, Sanderling, Dunlin, Black-necked Stilt, Greater Yellowlegs, and the always spectacular Long-billed Curlew. Having had our fill here, we decided we still had time for one more stop on the way to our hotel in Fulton, so we continued north to the Bee Road Reservoir to conclude our birding day. Although views of many of the birds were pretty distant from the road, this site produced some real goodies including Eastern Meadowlark, Loggerhead Shrike, American White Pelican, a Belted Kingfisher, and a wide variety of waterfowl such as Canvasback, Redhead, Northern Shoveler, Mottled Duck, Blue- and Green-winged Teal, and a few Northern Pintails. With this delightful conclusion to our first field day, we went to the lovely Inn at Fulton Harbor and checked in to our comfortable rooms. Meeting again in the late afternoon, we did a round of introductions, went over some trip logistics, completed our first bird list of the tour, and then went to the nearby Old Fulton Seafood Café for a super dinner of local seafood.

Thur., Mar. 12 Goose Island SP | Whooping Crane Boat Tour

We started the day with breakfast at the Inn and also pre-ordered our lunches from a local restaurant. During the night, a strong wind had come up so our morning boat trip was rescheduled to the afternoon. Therefore, we loaded up in our vehicles and set off for the Lamar Peninsula to the north, across the Copano Bay bridge. Our first stop was the legendary Big Tree, an enormous Live Oak that is perhaps 1,000 to 2,000 years old (but, who’s counting?). We spent a bit of time there, admiring the huge limbs and looking for birds in the tree and surrounding areas, finding some White-tailed Deer, Carolina Wren, Crested Caracara, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, and learning the distinctive call of the White-eyed Vireo. We then cruised the Lamar Beach Road where, to everyone’s great excitement, a majestic Whooping Crane was parading in a field with a small group of Sandhill Cranes—one major target of this tour achieved on our first morning! Also present here were Black and Turkey Vulture, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Blue-winged Teal, a surprising Merlin, and a few shorebirds along the beach, including Ruddy Turnstone, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, and Lesser Yellowlegs. All this despite a strong breeze!

The group then went to the nearby Goose Island State Park, the first of many excellent Texas State Parks to be visited on the tour. Despite the wind, the birding there along the beach and near the fishing pier was productive, producing a Roseate Spoonbill (always a crowd-pleaser), Double-crested Cormorant, several Common Loons offshore, Northern Harrier, an unexpected female Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, and a singing Cactus Wren in its perch in a tree behind one of the bathroom buildings. We finished our day at the park with a short hike to the bird feeding area, where we found Red-winged Blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Northern Cardinal, Long-billed Thrasher, a few Inca Doves, and an inquisitive Orange-crowned Warbler. At this point, our morning was nearly over, so we headed back to the Inn, picked up the pre-ordered lunches, and then had lunch in the dining area.



After lunch, we walked across the street for our highly anticipated boat trip through Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on the Skimmer with famed Captain Tommy. Despite the still windy conditions, many in the group climbed up to the top deck to admire the view and watch for birds, greatly helped by Captain Tommy's insightful narration. This trip proved to be one of the most memorable parts of the tour for many, with highlight after highlight; the wind even died down a bit toward the end to cap off a superlative day. Some of the great sightings included multiple Bottlenose Dolphins swimming by the boat, at least 21 Whooping Cranes along the route (many were adult pairs with a colt, the latter still having the buff colored head), almost all of the herons and egrets, a Northern Harrier, four species of gulls including Lesser Black-backed, and numerous species of shorebirds, especially some Long-billed Curlews. This great experience is hard to summarize in words!

Returning to the dock at the end of the afternoon, we thanked Captain Tommy and his crew and some headed over to the nearby shop for some souvenirs. At that point, some in the group called it a day but a few more, showing their true colors, headed off with Sharon and Dave to the Linda Castro Nature Sanctuary for a bit of final birding in the afternoon. This lovely small sanctuary in Rockport provided some entertaining wrap-up birding, including Eastern Phoebe, Orange-crowned Warbler, a few Lesser Goldfinches, Red-shouldered Hawk, and a Black-chinned Hummingbird at the feeder, one of only two seen on the tour. Upon our return, we took a short break, met again to do the daily checklist, and then walked across the street for a nice dinner at Charlotte Plummer's.

Fri., Mar. 13 Leonabelle Turner | Mustang Island | Port Aransas | Oliveira Park, Brownsville

Today marked a travel day, so after breakfast at the Inn, we loaded up the vehicles with our gear and began our long trip south to the Rio Grande Valley, though not without plenty of stops in between! Driving south from Fulton, we took a very short ferry ride at the end of the peninsula to Port Aransas where our first stop was the Leonabelle Turner Birding Center, an excellent facility run by the City of Port Aransas. Our timing in the morning resulted in excellent morning light with the sun at our backs as we walked around the boardwalk. We were joined today by Justin Quintanilla, Natural Resource Specialist from the City of Port Aransas, who provided a summary of the history and development of the center, and kindly helped point out many birds for us. This was one of the most productive birding stops on the tour, providing incredible views and photo opportunities of Northern Shovelers, Mottled Ducks, Blue-winged Teal at very close range, nice sightings (from above!) of Clapper Rail, Common Gallinule, numerous shorebirds including Long-billed Dowitcher, American Avocet, Dunlin, and a pair of Stilt Sandpipers, Marsh Wren, Swamp Sparrow, and the major local celebrity, an American Flamingo. This latter bird was a favorite of many on the tour and its pink plumage positively glowed in the morning sun! The morning here was so fun that Sharon and Dave had to tear everyone away from this spot due to our need to keep traveling south.



Headed south from Port Aransas, our first stop was the Port Aransas jetty where we found a large mass of terns, mostly Royal and Sandwich, with a few Forster's mixed in. After this, we passed through the lovely coastal prairie grasslands of Mustang Island State Park, an area that has been used as an Aplomado Falcon reintroduction site. However, despite several stops at the various hack towers, we could not find an Aplomado, though a soaring White-tailed Hawk partly made up for this dip. Arriving at the north end of Padre Island, we searched for lunch among the collection of restaurants there. Our first attempt was denied due to the Spring Break crowds, but we were accommodated at Doc's Seafood, where we ordered from the window and then had a pleasant lunch on the lower tables right by the water. After lunch, we literally hit the road and drove directly to Brownsville, with a stop at the Sarita Rest Area on highway 77 for bathrooms and to stretch our legs. Fortuitously, while wandering around the rest area, we noticed a Brewer's Blackbird mixed in with the Great-tailed Grackles, which proved to be the only one of the tour.

We finally arrived at the Courtyard Marriott in Brownsville, where we quickly checked in and then headed over to Gazpacho's for an early dinner. Finishing dinner early was an essential element of our mission to catch the legendary parrot roost at Brownsville's Oliviera Park before sunset. Arriving just in the nick of time, we soon found the parrot roost (by listening for their deafening calls!) and walked over to admire the chaos of about a hundred Red-crowned Amazons coming in to roost and discussing their amazing day. Along the way, we heard a Tropical Kingbird call, allowing us to confirm this species for our tour bird list. As dusk fell, we called it a day, returned to the hotel, did our daily checklist and review of plans for the following day, and tucked in for a well-earned rest.

Sat., Mar. 14 Laguna Atascosa NWR | South Padre Island

Our day started with a nice breakfast at the Courtyard and we then headed north of town to our first stop: the Aplomado Falcon Viewing Area off highway 100. Various observers had been reporting Aplomados at this site regularly and we had high hopes for finding this iconic species of the coastal grasslands. Unfortunately, today was not to be our day for Aplomado Falcon, despite quite a while spent watching and waiting. However, we were rewarded with a White-tailed Hawk, a pair of White-tailed Kites, a Chihuahuan Raven, Eastern Meadowlark, and an enormous, but distant flock of Snow Geese headed north. We then continued north to the headquarters of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge for a rest stop and our first shot at South Texas bird feeders. The parking lot was very active and around there and the HQ feeders we found Green Jays, Altamira Oriole, Olive Sparrow, Plain Chachalaca, Long-billed Thrasher, and Black-crested Titmouse, aka the south Texas regulars. On our way in, we passed a few Harris's Hawks perched on telephone poles. Finishing up our short walk at HQ, we then drove across the entrance road to the Wildlife Drive, where we slowly drove along the impoundments and coastline of the Laguna looking for "stuff" as the wind picked up a bit. One highlight was a Nilgai, a non-native Asian antelope, which can be found on the refuge. Bird-wise, we found Cooper's Hawk, Crested Caracara, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Harrier, and a large arrange of waders and shorebirds, particularly from the observation deck.



As our morning ran out, we reluctantly got back in our vehicles and headed to nearby South Padre Island for lunch, navigating hordes of spring breakers with their vehicles and golf carts along the way. After lunch at Yummie's, we visited the South Padre Island Birding & Nature Center to take a stroll around their spectacular boardwalk. This walk was a great highlight for the day, though technically we could not add Big Padre (the captive alligator) to our reptile list! Birds abounded, including Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Roseate Spoonbill, Common Gallinule, White Ibis, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Western Cattle Egret, and Least Sandpipers at incredibly close range. After finishing here, we fought through the party traffic to get to the Convention Center mudflats. Unfortunately, the tide was still out and there were numerous vehicles on the flats, though we did find a huge flock of Black Skimmers along with some Sanderlings and Black-bellied Plovers. This concluded our day, so we drove back into Brownsville for a brief break before dinner. While unpacking their vehicles, Dave and Sharon had a small flock of Green Parakeets fly over, giving us hope of finding them for the entire group the next day. We met for our checklist review and then enjoyed a delightful dinner at nearby Toscafino.

Sun., Mar. 15 Resaca de la Palma SP | University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Resacas

We started the day with another Courtyard breakfast and, while loading up the vans, had a lovely fly-in of Green Parakeets right in the parking lot and on the adjacent phone lines. We then went to Resaca de la Palma State Park, another of the numerous World Birding Center sites in the lower Rio Grande Valley. Our first item of business was, of course, the park gift shop, followed by the incredible feeder and water set up in the back. Couch's Kingbirds sounded off constantly and the feeder traffic included Plain Chachalacas, Green Jays, Olive Sparrow, Long-billed Thrasher, Altamira Oriole, White-tipped Dove, and a bathing Orange-crowned Warbler. We then hopped aboard the tram for a drive around the back parts of the park, guided by park volunteer Cecil. We made periodic stops along the route, finding Least Grebe and Blue-winged Teal in the small part of the resaca with water, and White-eyed Vireo, Golden-fronted and Ladder-backed Woodpecker, and more Couch's Kingbirds in the upland areas. It was here that we also learned about the mysterious "pierogi" bird for the first time. After the tram returned to the visitor center, we still had a bit of time left in the morning, so we headed to the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site, where an Aplomado Falcon had been reported recently. As we drove into the parking lot, a Texas Tortoise decided to wander across the road, allowing us a great opportunity to see this rare herp species at very close range. Although we could not find the Aplomado, we did see a Harris's Hawk and numerous Turkey Vultures, so at least we had a few raptors.



We then concluded our morning with a very lovely lunch at Lola's Bistro followed by a short walk to the nearby resaca. Among the birds present around the resaca were more Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Neotropic Cormorant, White Ibis, and the usual horde of Great-tailed Grackles, Laughing Gulls, and House Sparrow. Our final stop of the afternoon were the resacas on the campus of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Finding plenty of parking on a Sunday afternoon, we took a long loop walk around the resacas, although a strong wind continued to blow, making finding birds difficult. As a few Brown Anoles skittered about, we viewed Tropical Kingbird (identity confirmed by hearing it call), Carolina Wren, Common Yellowthroat, Orange-crowned Warbler, Green Heron, Black Phoebe, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Great Kiskadee, Northern Shoveler, and a pair of Redhead. We then returned to the hotel for a short break, did our daily checklist, and then had dinner at Dirty Al's Seafood Market, before calling it a day.



Mon., Mar. 16 Santa Ana NWR | Estero Llano Grande SP

The day greeted us with windy conditions yet again, but we enjoyed the breakfast at the Courtyard, packed up all our gear in the vehicles, and headed out for another day in the Valley. Our morning stop was the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, a legendary birding site adjacent to the Rio Grande. Despite the windy conditions, we had one of our best birding mornings of the tour as we walked around the roads, trails, and wetlands at the refuge. Among the highlights was a pretty sizeable flight of northbound Broad-winged Hawks, some of which came over quite low, perhaps because of the wind. Among the many other memorable highlights of the morning were Ringed and Belted Kingfisher, Clay-colored Thrush, several Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Northern Rough-winged, Barn, and Cave Swallows, a lone male Cinnamon Teal (the only one of the tour), excellent views at close range of Least and Pectoral Sandpipers, Least Grebe, a Bufflehead, Gray Catbird, Hooded Oriole, Vermilion Flycatcher, and a superbly posing Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. This short list does not do this excellent morning of birding justice!

After finishing here, we drove up the road for a tasty lunch at the comfortable Blue Onion in Weslaco and then headed to our afternoon destination: the amazing Estero Llano Grande State Park. After checking in and getting our obligatory wristbands, the birding action commenced right away at the visitor center with a Buff-bellied Hummingbird visiting the feeders, a Wilson's Snipe spotted lurking in the marsh, and a Lincoln's Sparrow foraging on the ground—what a great start! We then set off for a moderate walk to Alligator Lake in search of the stakeout Common Pauraque which many observers had been reporting. Along the way, we noted a flock of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks in a pond, along with White and White-faced Ibis foraging in the wetlands. Continued search by our capable crew turned up Yellow-crowned and Black-crowned Night-Heron, Northern Rough-winged Swallow,



Anhinga, Green Heron, and Roseate Spoonbill in or over the wetlands, and White-eyed Vireo, Verdin, Carolina and Bewick's Wren, and Northern Cardinal in the brush. Alas, despite rigorous searching of the ground by numerous birders, the Pauraque (now nicknamed Pierogi by the group), was not to be found, much to our great dismay. We then closed out our time at Estero by briefly watching the water drip on the Green Jay trail (not much action except for Black-crested Titmouse) and then a walk to the observing blind at the south end of the tropical area. The latter site produced some nice viewing, including Green Jay, Altamira Oriole, Long-billed Thrasher, Clay-colored Thrush, and an Orange-crowned Warbler. The afternoon almost over, we then returned to the vehicles and drove to our lodging for the next few days, the Alamo Inn B&B, where we checked in (the group was spread across two different buildings), met for our daily checklist, and then drove to dinner at the La Costa Grill in McAllen.

Tues., Mar. 17 Salineño Wildlife Preserve | Falcon SP | Rancho Lomitas

Today marked one of the longer days of the tour since we were determined to explore the western parts of the Lower Rio Grande Valley and had planned a trip as far west as Falcon Reservoir. Therefore, the group was up early for breakfast and to make our picnic lunches at the Inn, before loading the vehicles and heading out. Our first destination of the day was the Salineño Wildlife Preserve along the Rio Grande, a couple miles west of the small town of Roma. We started our birding by parking at the Preserve and walking down to the Rio Grande to experience a lovely morning on this great river, still unaffected by border walls or barriers. On the river itself and along the adjacent trails, we found many birds, including Vermilion Flycatcher, Hooded Oriole, Pied-billed Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Western Cattle Egret, Osprey, and American White Pelican. As we wandered the trails a bit further from the river, we saw an ominous sign of what was in store for the area: a section of newly-constructed border wall on an adjacent property. Pondering the wisdom of all this, we then walked back up to the vehicles where we found the Preserve caretakers hard at work. Though the official bird feeding season had ended a few days ago, the caretakers were still putting out food and they invited us in to watch the action.

Indeed, action there was, with Green Jays, Northern Cardinals, White-tipped Doves, Altamira and Audubon's Orioles, and Clay-colored Thrushes coming and going. We were duly impressed, especially so when caretaker Bob said that the action had diminished considerably from what it had been a few weeks ago! Bob also showed us the resident Eastern Screech-Owl in its box to add to our bird list. While watching the feeders, an urgent alert came through from a few in the group who had stayed by the river: Green Kingfisher! Everyone at the feeders then promptly hustled down to the river, we set up the scopes, and eventually got onto the kingfisher perched in branches on the other side. We were very happy to at last have found this very sought-after species of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Returning to the feeders, we added a few more species to the list, including Lincoln's and White-crowned Sparrow, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, and a subadult Baltimore Oriole, the latter unusual for the area. Finishing here, we then drove to the nearby Falcon State Park, paid our entrance dues, and then drove to the picnic area for a lovely lunch by the reservoir on the Osprey Loop, though not before Sharon had spotted a Bronzed Cowbird on the entrance road in.



During lunch, we spotted a few birds, including Crested Caracara, Osprey, Black and Turkey Vulture, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and a Pyrrhuloxia to add to our daily list. After lunch, we went to the butterfly garden for a short walk around the garden and a visit to the nearby feeding station. The garden was lovely and we found a few birds, including Lincoln's and Olive Sparrow, Brown-headed Cowbird, and a briefly glimpsed Green-tailed Towhee. The feeding station had some fun things, including several Northern Bobwhite (the only ones of the tour), Curve-billed and Long-billed Thrasher, some Black-throated Sparrows (one of the more elegant species of the desert, IMHO), Inca Doves, and a Rio Grande Ground Squirrel. Finishing here, we headed to our next destination, stopping at the entrance road cattle feeder to look over the blackbirds. After a bit of watching, we were able to find the lone Bronzed Cowbird coming and going among the many Great-tailed Grackles, thus allowing everyone in the group to see it. As we continued driving, Sharon suggested we swing through the Starr County Park in Falcon Heights since she had seen Greater Roadrunner there before. Though Dave's van was skeptical, we all drove around the Park and, much to our great pleasure, spotted a roadrunner next to a campsite!

That species ticked off our list, we headed to our final birding site of the day, Rancho Lomitas, a lovely spot out in the desert north of Rio Grande City. As we arrived, our hostess Anna and another roadrunner welcomed us, and we enjoyed a comfortable site on the shaded patio as she put out seed and called her birds in. While we don't know if the calling worked or not, there were plenty of birds to admire, most especially a large flock of Scaled Quail, the only ones we found on the entire tour. Also present at the feeders and bird baths were Audubon's Oriole, Green Jay, Inca Dove, Pyrrhuloxia, Cactus Wren, Black-crested Titmouse, and a calling Verdin. As our afternoon drew to a close, we say goodbye to Anna and her lovely courtyard feeding area and then had dinner in Rio Grande City before making the trek back to the Alamo Inn and calling it a day.

Wed., Mar. 18 Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP | National Butterfly Center | Edinburg Scenic Wetlands

We began our final full day of the tour with a cooked breakfast at the Inn and then prepared our own lunches for another picnic. We then headed over to yet another of the legendary World Birding Center sites nearby, the Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park. We parked our vehicles in the parking lot, went to the visitor center to check in, and then commenced a lovely morning of birding at this great site. Fortunately, we arrived just as the visitor center feeders were being filled, so the fun started right away with the herd of apparently starving Plain Chachalacas descending on the helpless bird seed. Also coming and going were Eastern Fox Squirrels, Northern Cardinals, Green Jays, Great Kiskadees, and a few Clay-colored Thrushes. Starting our walk into the park across the levee (still no border fence here!), we encountered a large herd of Wild Turkeys with some males in full display. We also noted a few Cave Swallows flying overhead while multiple Couch's Kingbirds called from the treetops. At the nature center feeders, the local volunteer guides pointed out a "smudgie," a hybrid Audubon's/Altamira Oriole known to frequent the area. We also noted a Buff-bellied Hummingbird visiting the feeders.



Continuing our walk into the park, we noticed a Collared Peccary around another feeding station. The lovely viewing platform over the resaca at the edge of the park had quite a few birds, including a Roseate Spoonbill, Black-necked Stilt, Greater Yellowlegs, Blue-winged Teal, and a far-off White-tailed Kite. Adding birds as we went, we slowly made our way to the hawk tower, where we met the hawk watchers about to conclude their day. Unfortunately, it was a slow day at the tower, with only Black and Turkey Vultures to be spotted. At this point, the morning was about over and it was becoming hot, so most of the group decided to wait for the tram at the stop by the tower and, eventually, everyone made it back between walking or one of two trams. Returning to the vehicles, we loaded up and drove a very short distance to the National Butterfly Center where, after paying our entrance fee, we went straight to the back picnic area for a nice lunch under their covered pavilion. After lunch, Sharon led us on a short walk around the grounds where we found many things, though nothing new for our list.

We then concluded our day by driving to the Edinburg Scenic Wetlands, a lovely birding stop on our tour featuring several lakes with wooded habitat between them. Right after parking, we noted some Purple Martins flying overhead, allowing everyone in the group to get this species (some had missed it a few prior times). After checking in and getting our wristbands, we first scoped out the large lake, which had a few Least Grebes, Ruddy Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, Cattle and Snowy Egret, and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron hanging out. After examining the water, we turned our attention to the wooded area in search of the “mega tick” that had been reported continuously here: a Crimson-collared Grosbeak. We carefully walked around, chatting with other birders and paying attention to the potato trees, which it was known to eat. As we stood around, all of a sudden the grosbeak flew up into a tree in full view! We all then got to chase it around a little bit as it really put on a show, allowing everyone around to get incredible views and photos of this female Crimson-collared Grosbeak—a lifer for most in the group. Stunned with our good luck, some in the group continued walking around the grounds, finding Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Blue-headed Vireo, and several Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in the process. Still buzzing from our success, we drove back to the Inn before meeting again for our final checklist and then heading out for our farewell dinner at the elegant Patio on Guerra in McAllen. We then returned to the Inn for some final packing and a last night in the Valley.

Thur., Mar. 19 Quinta Mazatlan | Departures from McAllen

Much to our regret, today was our final day together, but we still started with a great cooked breakfast at the Inn. We then said goodbye to Kathleen and David, who had an earlier flight than the rest of the group, then assembled to load all our gear into the vehicles. The remaining group, who had later flights, then went for a final round of birding to Quinta Mazatlan, a lovely nature education center in McAllen very close to the airport. After a stop at the great gift shop here, we walked around the grounds, getting final looks at many by now old friends, including Plain Chachalaca, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Blue-headed Vireo, Curve-billed and Long-billed Thrasher, Carolina Wren, and Blue Jay. Much to our delight, however, a Louisiana Waterthrush appeared at the small constructed pond in the back, adding one more species to our great bird list. In late morning, we reluctantly decided it was time to go, so we loaded up and headed over to the McAllen airport for a final round of good-byes.

With that, the tour ended, everyone leaving with great new friends and fond memories of our adventures in southern Texas.

Photo Credits: Group by Sharon Goldwasser, Tricolored Heron by Paul Pilch, Group on Boat by Dave Mehlman, Whooping Crane by Paul Pilch, American Flamingo by Sharon Goldwasser, American White Pelicans by Dave Mehlman, Group by Kathleen Cromley, Crested Caracara by Paul Pilch, Green Jay by Paul Pilch, Group by Dave Mehlman, Group by Kathleen Cromley, Altamira Oriole by Paul Pilch, Texas Tortoise by Dave Mehlman, Group by Kathleen Cromley, Eastern Screech-Owl by Sharon Goldwasser, Santa Ana Canopy Walk by Dave Mehlman, Mexican Ground Squirrel by Sharon Goldwasser, Hooded and Altamira Orioles by Sharon Goldwasser, Scaled Quail by Sharon Goldwasser, Group on Golfcart by Sharon Goldwasser, Group Hiking by Sharon Goldwasser, Group on Platform by Dave Mehlman, Group by Dave Mehlman, Plain Chachalaca by Dave Mehlman, Crimson-collared Grosbeak by Sharon Goldwasser, Group by Sharon Goldwasser, Group by Sharon Goldwasser.

