

South Texas Rio Grande Valley with Whooping Crane Extension

February 2012

Leader: Bob Behrstock, with 8 participants: Mary, Robert, Bev, Susan, Robin, Kay, Johanne, and Chase.

(E) = encountered during Whooping Crane extension only (18 birds)

Birds:

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (E)
Greater White-fronted Goose (distant in flight and mainly a voice id.)
Snow Goose
Ross's Goose (E)
Wood Duck (rather uncommon in South Texas)
Gadwall
American Wigeon
Mottled Duck
Blue-winged Teal
Cinnamon Teal
Northern Shoveler
Northern Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Canvasback (unusual at inland locations)
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck
Lesser Scaup
Bufflehead
Common Goldeneye (E)
Red-breasted Merganser
Ruddy Duck
Plain Chachalaca
Wild Turkey (E)
Common Loon (E)
Least Grebe
Pied-billed Grebe
American White Pelican
Brown Pelican
Neotropic Cormorant
Double-crested Cormorant
Anhinga
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Snowy Egret
Little Blue Heron
Tricolored Heron
Reddish Egret (both dark and white morphs)
Cattle Egret
Green Heron

Black-crowned Night-Heron
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
White Ibis
White-faced Ibis
Roseate Spoonbill
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Hook-billed Kite (local and rare in the U.S.)
White-tailed Kite
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Harris's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Gray Hawk
White-tailed Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Ferruginous Hawk (E) (a tough find at the SE margin of its range)
Crested Caracara
American Kestrel
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Common Gallinule
American Coot
Sandhill Crane (E)
Whooping Crane (E) (approximately 61 individuals-a significant portion of the wild population)
Black-bellied Plover
Snowy Plover (E)
Semipalmated Plover
Piping Plover (E)
Killdeer
American Oystercatcher
Black-necked Stilt
American Avocet (E)
Spotted Sandpiper
Solitary Sandpiper
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Willet (the western race winters on the Texas coast)
Long-billed Curlew
Marbled Godwit
Ruddy Turnstone
Sanderling
Least Sandpiper
Dunlin (E)
Stilt Sandpiper
Short-billed Dowitcher
Long-billed Dowitcher
Wilson's Snipe
Laughing Gull
Ring-billed Gull

Herring Gull
Gull-billed Tern
Caspian Tern
Forster's Tern
Royal Tern
Black Skimmer
Rock Pigeon (introduced)
Eurasian Collared-Dove (naturalized population)
White-winged Dove
Mourning Dove
Inca Dove
Common Ground-Dove
White-tipped Dove
Green Parakeet (introduced? naturalized population)
Red-crowned Parrot (introduced? naturalized population)
Greater Roadrunner
Eastern Screech-Owl (nest box at Salineño)
Common Pauraque
Buff-bellied Hummingbird
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Rufous Hummingbird (unusually common in South Texas this winter)
Ringed Kingfisher
Belted Kingfisher
Green Kingfisher (all three kingfishers were seen at Pintail Lake at Santa Ana NWR)
Golden-fronted Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Ladder-backed Woodpecker
Black Phoebe
Eastern Phoebe
Vermilion Flycatcher
Dusky-capped Flycatcher (rare in South Texas)
Great Kiskadee
Tropical Kingbird
Couch's Kingbird
Loggerhead Shrike
White-eyed Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo
Green Jay
Brown Jay (apparently the only one in the U.S.)
Chihuahuan Raven
Purple Martin
Tree Swallow
Barn Swallow
Black-crested Titmouse
Verdin
Brown Creeper (quite rare in South Texas)
Cactus Wren (heard only)
Carolina Wren
Bewick's Wren
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird

Hermit Thrush (E)
Clay-colored Thrush (becoming rather common in extreme South Texas)
Northern Mockingbird
Long-billed Thrasher
Curve-billed Thrasher
European Starling (introduced)
American Pipit
Sprague's Pipit (E)
Cedar Waxwing
Orange-crowned Warbler
Yellow-rumped ("Myrtle") Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler (missed by most of us)
Common Yellowthroat
Wilson's Warbler
Olive Sparrow
Spotted Towhee (E) (heard only)
Cassin's Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow (E)
Field Sparrow (an unusually good winter for them in South Texas)
Vesper Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Summer Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Pyrrhuloxia
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird (E)
Boat-tailed Grackle (E)
Great-tailed Grackle
Bronzed Cowbird
Brown-headed Cowbird
Hooded Oriole
Altamira Oriole
Audubon's Oriole (all three of these orioles were feeding on the same perch)
Lesser Goldfinch
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow (introduced)

Mammals:

Coyote
Raccoon (several traffic fatalities)
Striped Skunk (many road fatalities)
Collared Peccary (Javelina) (E)
White-tailed Deer
Impala (E) (introduced at the King Ranch)
Nilgai (E) (introduced at the King Ranch)
Black-tailed Jackrabbit (E)
Desert Cottontail
Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin

Reptiles:

American Alligator
Diamondback Water Snake
Red-eared Slider
Texas Spiny Soft-shell Turtle

Butterflies:

Pipevine Swallowtail
Giant Swallowtail
Great Southern White
Southern Dogface
Lyside Sulphur
Sleepy Orange
Dainty Sulphur
Western Pygmy-Blue
Red-bordered Metalmark
American Snout
Gulf Fritillary
Variegated Fritillary
Texan Crescent
Phaon Crescent
Pearl Crescent
American Lady
Red Admiral
Tropical Buckeye
White Peacock
Empress Lilia
Monarch
Queen
Brown Longtail
Tropical Checkered-Skipper
Laviana White-Skipper
Fiery Skipper

Dragonflies and Damselflies:

Dusky Dancer
Common Green Darner
Striped Saddlebags
Red Saddlebags