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**Big Bend & Davis Mountains
 April 19-26, 2014**

**Guide: Woody Wheeler with six participants:
 Susie, Camille, Kathy, Trina, Les, and Mike**

SPECIES LIST

Birds

- Gadwall** *Anas strepera*— At McNary Reservoir
“Mexican Duck” (Mallard) *A. platyrhynchos*—pair seen well at small pond on Nature Conservancy preserve in Davis Mountains
Blue-winged Teal *A. discors*— 2 seen in same pond at TNC preserve, Davis Mountains
Northern Shoveler *A. clypeata*—at McNary Reservoir
Green-winged Teal *A. crecca*— In roadside ponds between Ft. Davis and Alpine
Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*— In breeding plumage at McNary Reservoir
Scaled Quail *Callipepla squamata*— Coveys en route to and from Big Bend, Dugout Wells, Rio Grande Village and at Christmas Mountains Oasis
Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*— Several at McNary Reservoir
Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*— One at McNary Reservoir, frequently diving
Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis*—at least 2 at McNary Reservoir
Clark’s Grebe *A. clarkii*— One well lit in sunshine at McNary Reservoir
Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* – One spotted in flight at Rio Grande Village
Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus* – Several over McNary Reservoir
American White Pelican *Pelicanus erythrorhynchos* – Ten flew overhead in formation above McNary Reservoir
Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*— Several on Rio Grande River
Great Egret *Ardea alba*— Several at McNary Reservoir
Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*— A half-dozen perched conspicuously at McNary Reservoir
Green Heron *Butorides virescens*— Beautiful look at one perched on snag along Nature Trail board walk at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend N.P.
Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*— Many – especially in Big Bend National Park
Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*—Multiple daily sightings
Osprey *Pandion haliaetis* – Soaring above roadside ponds between Ft. Davis and Alpine
Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus*— Several roadside sightings near Marathon
Cooper’s Hawk *A. cooperii*— One in the El Paso area
Common Black-Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus*—2 nesting hawks at Rio Grande Village
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Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* – Soaring low above Rio Grande Village; photographed clearly by Mike

Gray Hawk *Buteo nitidus*— A nestling in Cottonwood Campground with adult perched nearby; another adult seen perching and soaring at Daniel's Ranch

Swainson's Hawk *B. swainsoni*—One on drive from El Paso to Ft. Davis

Zone-tailed Hawk *B. albonotatus*—One above Rio Grande Village, Daniel's Ranch area; another over Cottonwood Campground

Red-tailed Hawk *B. jamaicensis*—seen throughout trip in small numbers. Great eye-level view of one from McDonald Observatory atop Mt. Locke, Davis Mountains

American Coot *Fulica americana*—Several in McNary Reservoir and along Rio Grande River

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*— Several at McNary Reservoir

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*— Several at McNary Reservoir and along Rio Grande River

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan* – A few in McNary Reservoir

Ring-billed Gull *Larus Delawareensis* – McNary Reservoir

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*—In towns including El Paso, Ft. Davis, Alpine and Marathon

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*—seen in El Paso and Marathon

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*—common everywhere, except in the high Chisos

Mourning Dove *Z. macroura*—seen most days except on the hike to Boot Springs

Inca Dove *Columbina inca* – More than a dozen at Cottonwood Campground, Big Bend N.P.

Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo*— One strutted toward us at Davis Mountains State Park

Greater Roadrunner *Geococcyx californianus*—these engaging characters were seen often. One approached us, frequently cocking its tail up and staring, at Limpia Creek natural area

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus* – Great looks near McNary Reservoir and in Cottonwood campground, Big Bend N.P.

Elf Owl *Micrathene whitneyi*— One seen very well at dusk at Davis Mountains State Park

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*— At least three seen at Prairie Dog town NE of Marathon

Common Poorwill *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii* – One heard clearly and repeatedly at Davis Mountains State Park at dusk

White-throated Swift *Aeronautes saxatalis*— Many at Pinnacles Pass and Santa Elena Canyon

Blue-throated Hummingbird *Lampornis clemenciae* – Watched one bathing in a shallow pool at Boot Springs – spectacular!

Lucifer Hummingbird *Calothorax Lucifer* – One seen at Christmas Mountains Oasis

Black-chinned Hummingbird *Archilochus alexandri*— Most common hummingbird of journey

Broad-tailed Hummingbird *Selasphorus platycercus* – Two at Boot Springs; two on return hike

Belted Kingfisher *Ceryle alcyon* – Heard rattle call by Rio Grande River, Rio Grande Village

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus*—abundant in Davis and Chisos Mountains

Golden-fronted Woodpecker *M. aurifrons*—the common, conspicuous woodpecker at Rio Grande Village, Cottonwood Campground and the Marathon Post County Park

Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Picoides scalaris*— Common in parks and campgrounds visited

Hairy Woodpecker *Picoides villosus* – Boot Springs, Chisos Mountains

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*— Several in the Davis Mountains

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*— One perched at Christmas Mountains Oasis

Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus* – One perched in clear sight at Rio Grande Village

Cordilleran Flycatcher *E. occidentalis*— One in Boot Springs, Chisos Mountains

Buff-breasted Flycatcher *Empidonax fulvifrons* – One calling and seen well at TNC Davis Mountains preserve

- Say's Phoebe** *Sayornis saya*—seen every day except the first, including nesting on eaves at Chisos Basin Lodge
- Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus*—a favorite, these exquisite flycatchers were common in the Davis Mountains, Cottonwood Campground & at the Post
- Ash-throated Flycatcher** *Myiarchus cinerascens*—several at Davis and the Chisos Mountains
- Brown-crested Flycatcher** *M. tyrannulus*—the large, showy flycatcher in Rio Grande Village
- Cassin's Kingbird** *T. vociferans*—common in Davis Mountains
- Western Kingbird** *T. verticalis*—common and widespread, seen most days
- Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus* – One perched at Cottonwood Campground
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** *T. forficatus* – Good looks along the road from Big Bend to Marathon, and even better ones near the Prairie Dog Colony NE of Marathon.
- Bell's Vireo** *Vireo bellii*— First called in by Woody at the Post; then at least a dozen more at Rio Grande Village (where we were eventually rewarded with good views) and many elsewhere, where shrubs were dense. Its song was a constant in Big Bend riparian zones
- Plumbeous Vireo** *V. plumbeus*— One in the Davis Mountains
- Cassin's Vireo** *vireo cassinii* – One seen and heard clearly below Chisos Basin Campground
- Hutton's Vireo** *vireo huttoni* – One in Boot Springs campground
- Western Scrub-Jay** *Aphelocoma californica*— Common in the Davis Mountains
- Mexican Jay** *A. ultramarina*— Seen close-up and often, food-begging in the Chisos Mountains
- American Crow** *Corvus brachyrhynchos* – Common in El Paso
- Chihuahuan Raven** *Corvus cryptoleucus*—Frequent along Highways 20, 90, and I-10 as we drove from and to El Paso and through driest portions of Chihuahuan Desert
- Common Raven** *C. corax*—In the Davis and Chisos Mountains, with a few in the lower regions
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*— At least 12 flying over Rio Grande River at Santa Elena Canyon
- Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor* – 12 or so at McNary Reservoir
- Violet-green Swallow** *Tachycineta thalassina*— At McNary Reservoir and at the Marathon Post
- Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*—Seen first three days of trip and at Christmas Mountains Oasis
- Cave Swallow** *P. fulva*—A small colony at McNary Reservoir underpass on I-10
- Black-crested Titmouse** *Baeolophus atricristatus*—In the Davis Mountains at the TNC preserve and the state park; also in the Chisos Mountains
- Verdin** *Auriparus flaviceps*— Rio Grande Village, Cottonwood Campground, Big Bend N.P.
- Bushtit** *Psaltriparus minimus* – A few in the Davis Mountains, several on hike to Boot Springs
- White-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta carolinensis*—One in the Davis Mountains
- Pygmy Nuthatch** *Sitta pygmaea* – One also seen in the Davis Mountains
- Brown Creeper** *Certhia americana* – One creeping up a tree in the Davis Mountains
- Rock Wren** *Salpinctes obsoletus*— About 15 total encountered at Ft. Davis and in the Chisos Basin parking lot and Campground, and in Santa Elena Canyon
- Canyon Wren** *Catherpes mexicanus*—Heard and seen in the Davis Mountains and on most days in Big Bend National Park, especially in Santa Elena Canyon
- House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon* – Found in Davis Mountains, including at Limpia Hotel
- Bewick's Wren** *Thryomanes bewickii*—common in the Davis and Chisos Mountains
- Cactus Wren** *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*—Seen in Davis Mountains; also frequently heard and seen in Big Bend N.P., including family in Chisos Basin Lodge parking lot
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Poliophtila caerulea*—Many along the trail to Boot Spring

- Ruby-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus calendula*—Several in the Davis Mountains and along the trail to Boot Spring, Chisos Mountains
- Western Bluebird** *Sialia mexicana*— Several seen well at Madera Canyon in Davis Mountains
- Townsend's Solitaire** *Myadestes townsendi* – One perched conspicuously on small snag on summit of Pinnacle Pass, Chisos Mountains, Big Bend N.P.
- American Robin** *Turdus migratorius*— Seen on two days at Rio Grande Village and on Boot Springs hike
- Curve-billed Thrasher** *T. curvirostre*—First seen well in Davis Mountains, then again at entrance to Big Bend N.P. (Panther Junction), at Christmas Mountains Oasis and on the return trip from Big Bend N.P. to Marathon.
- Brown Thrasher** *Toxostoma rufum* – One seen near Rio Grande Village
- Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos*—A conspicuous species, seen every day except one
- European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*— Small groups in El Paso & Fort Davis
- American Pipit** *Anthus rubescens*— On shore of pond in TNC preserve, Davis Mountains, and on shore of roadside ponds between Ft. Davis and Alpine
- Phainopepla** *Phainopepla nitens*— Saw this elegant silky-flycatcher at Ft. Davis in brilliant lighting
- Colima Warbler** *Vermivora crissalis*— Saw a total of nine, including several below (west) of Pinnacle Pass and the rest in Boot Springs campground
- Orange-crowned Warbler** *V. celata*— One at Sam Nail Ranch
- Nashville Warbler** *V. ruficapilla*—One at Sam Nail Ranch
- Virginia's Warbler** *Vermivora virginiae* – One mixed in with other warblers on flowering Maple tree in Boot Springs
- Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*—Heard at Rio Grande Village's wetlands
- Yellow-rumped Warbler** Audubon's race *Dendroica coronata*—common in the Davis Mountains, Rio Grande Village, along the Pinnacles Trail, and at Chisos Basin Campground
- Townsend's Warbler** *D. townsendi*— One on the Pinnacles Trail near pass
- Wilson's Warbler** *Wilsonia pusilla*—Seen in Davis Mountains and at Big Bend N.P. in multiple locations
- Painted Redstart** *Myioborus pictus* – Several at Boot Springs passed close by while we were eating lunch
- Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens*—Several at Rio Grande Village in exuberant display, plus others at Sam Nail Ranch
- Green-tailed Towhee** *Pipilo chlorurus*— One on edge of Cottonwood Campground
- Spotted Towhee** *P. maculatus*—3 in the Chisos Mountains on Boot Springs hike
- Canyon Towhee** *P. fuscus*—Small groups seen almost daily
- Rufous-crowned Sparrow** *Aimophila ruficeps* – Spotted by Mike and Kathy at Limpia Creek natural area, Davis Mountains
- Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina*—Very common throughout
- Clay-colored Sparrow** *S. pallida*— One seen on ground at Prairie Dog town NE of Marathon
- Brewer's Sparrow** *S. breweri*—Seen and heard at Christmas Mountains Oasis
- Vesper Sparrow** *Aimophila carpalis* - Two seen at Prairie Dog town NE of Marathon
- Lark Sparrow** *Chondestes grammacus*—A striking species, seen very well at Ft. Davis
- Black-throated Sparrow** *Amphispiza bilineata*—A desert specialist, this dapper sparrow was seen in the Davis Mountains, on our last day in Big Bend N.P. and in the Marathon area
- Savannah Sparrow** *Passerculus sandwichensis* – Sizeable flock at Davis Mountains State Park
- Lincoln's Sparrow** *Melospiza lincolni*— One at Davis Mountains State Park
- Swamp Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia* – One just a few feet away from us at Marathon Post Park
- White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys*—Small groups still lingered at most sites
- Dark-eyed Junco** *Junco hyemalis* – A handful in the Davis Mountains

- Hepatic Tanager** *Piranga flava*—Several in Davis Mountains; one at Boot Springs
- Summer Tanager** *P. rubra*—Several in Davis Mountains State Park, and close-up views at Rio Grande Village and at Cottonwood Campground
- Western Tanager** *P. ludoviciana*— One at Cottonwood Campground
- Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis*— Common in the Davis Mountains, and in riparian areas throughout Big Bend’s lower elevations
- Pyrrhuloxia** *C. sinuatus*—Beautiful relative of the cardinal, seen well in Davis Mountains, at Rio Grande Village and elsewhere in Big Bend’s Chihuahuan Desert habitats
- Black-headed Grosbeak** *Pheucticus melanocephalus*—Heard and seen well in Davis Mountains
- Blue Grosbeak** *Passerina caerulea*— 4 seen well in grass at the Post; several more at Christmas Mountains Oasis
- Varied Bunting** *P. versicolor*—A gem, seen first at Sam Nail Ranch by several of us; and later by all us well at Christmas Mountains Oasis
- Painted Bunting** *P. ciris*—This stunning bird made a brief appearance at Rio Grande Village
- Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*—Many seen at McNary Reservoir and along Rio Grande River
- Yellow-headed Blackbird** *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* – Big flock at McNary Reservoir
- Western Meadowlark** *Sturnella neglecta* – Seen and heard in Davis Mountains
- Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus*—Abundant in El Paso and in Marathon
- Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater*—In Davis Mountains and at Dugout Wells, Big Bend N.P.
- Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius*—At Rio Grande Village and along Boot Springs hike
- Bullock’s Oriole** *I. bullockii*—Several at Marathon Post Park and at Rio Grande Village
- Scott’s Oriole** *I. parisorum*—Seen well at Chisos Basin Lodge and at Chisos Basin campground
- Hooded Oriole** *I. cucullatus*– Great view at lunch time above picnic table at Dugout Wells, Big Bend N.P.
- House Finch** *Carpodacus mexicanus*—Seen throughout
- Pine Siskin** *Carduelis pinus*—Numerous at Davis and Christmas Mountains feeders;
- Lesser Goldfinch** *C. psaltria*— At the Post, Davis Mountains and at Christmas Mountains Oasis
- House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*—Common in towns throughout

Mammals

- Bobcat** *Lynx rufus* – Seen clearly by several of us as it hunted rabbits at Rio Grande Village
- Desert Cottontail** *Sylvilagus auduboni*—Common in lower elevation desert habitat
- Black-tailed Jack Rabbit** *Lepus californicus*— One seen from highway entering Big Bend N.P.; and many more seen at night on drive back to Chisos Basin from dinner in Terlingua
- Rock Squirrel** *S. variegatus*—Two in Chisos Basin, including a dark-phase one at Boot Springs
- Black-tailed Prairie Dog** *Cynomys ludovicianus*— Dozens seen in dog colonies near Marathon
- Collared Peccary (Javelina)** *Tayassu tajacu*— Half a dozen at Davis Mountains State Park
- White-tailed Deer** *O. virginianus*—Common in the Davis Mountains
- Mule Deer** *Odocoileus hemionus* – Several in the Davis Mountains
- Pronghorn** *Antilocapra americana*— 7 NE of Marathon in Prairie Dog town and one west of Marfa trying to cross fence
- Coyote** *Canis latrans* – One in Big Bend Park, Chisos Mountains, in silvery gray tones

Reptiles

- Eastern Collared Lizard** *Crotaphytus collaris* – Photographed near Chisos Basin Lodge

Chihuahuan Spotted Whiptail *Aspidoscelis exsanguis* – Several seen and photographed on Boot Springs hike

Southwestern Fence Lizard *Sceloporus cowlesi* – Two at Davis Mountains TNC preserve

Big Bend Slider *Trachemys gaigeae* – Two basking on nature trail ponds, Rio Grande Village

Racer *Coluber constrictor* – Found on road in Madera Canyon picnic area

Amphibians

American Bull Frog *Rana catesbeiana* – Heard too well at Rio Grande Village wetlands