



August 2016 Big Bend/Davis Mountains Bird Checklist

Family/Species Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Ducks, Geese, and Swans	Anatidae	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	On the Rio Grande at Rio Grande Village
New World Quail	Odontophoridae	
Scaled Quail	<i>Callipepla squamata</i>	The most common quail in the area
Gambel's Quail	<i>Callipepla gambelii</i>	Heard calling at Fort Davis National Historic Park
Grebes	Podicipedidae	
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Seen at Balmorhea Lake State Park
Clark's Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>	
Bitterns, Herons, and Allies	Ardeidae	
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	A few seen throughout the trip, with the closest look at Balmorhea Lake
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nytanassa violacea</i>	An immature was close to shore at Balmorhea Lake
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	
New World Vultures	Cathartidae	
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	Not common, but seen over Santa Elena's canyon walls
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Everywhere
Hawks, Kites, Eagle & Allies	Accipitridae	
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	A very confident immature perched for us at Lawrence Wood Picnic Area
Common Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>	Great looks at one of the nesting pair at Rio Grande Village
Gray Hawk	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>	Great looks at soaring birds over Rio Grande Village
Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	The most common hawk on our trip
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Seen in the grasslands around the Fort Davis area
Rails, Gallinules & Coots	Rallidae	
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	A single individual at The Post (Fort Peña Colorado)
Stilts and Avocets	Recurvirostridae	



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American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	Two different birds at Balmorhea Lake
Lapwings and Plovers	Charadriidae	
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Seen at the water's edge at Balmorhea Lake
Sandpipers, Phalaropes & Allies	Scolopacidae	
Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	Two individuals flying and calling overhead at the Fossil Bed display in BBNP
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	Three different birds at Balmorhea Lake
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius Phaeopus</i>	Unusual, but a single bird gave us lengthy views at Balmorhea Lake
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	With a mixed flock on Balmorhea Lake
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	In a mixed flock at Balmorhea Lake
Gulls, Terns & Skimmers	Laridae	
Black Tern	<i>Chilidonias nigra</i>	A single individual hawking insects over the water at Balmorhea Lake
Pigeons & Doves	Columbidae	
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Every large town/city were sporting flocks
Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Any group of ranch buildings or town had these birds
Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>	Best looks were at the campground in Rio Grande Village
Common Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	Seen sporadically along roads and usually as pairs
White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	The most common dove on the trip
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Lots of large flocks along roads and fence lines
Cuckoo, Roadrunner & Anis	Cuculidae	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	One bird was seen at Balmorhea Lake State Park
Greater Roadrunner	<i>Geococcyx californianus</i>	Very common in this part of Texas
Typical Owls	Strigidae	
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	This was unusual, a bird perched on top of an oak at Fort Davis NHP
Goatsuckers	Caprimulgidae	
Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>	Seen in the morning on cloudy days



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Hummingbirds	Trochilidae	
Black-chinned Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>	The common hummingbird in this part of Texas
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>	Seen at the Chiricahua Desert Nature Center
Rufous Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	Seen at the McDonald Observatory
Woodpeckers & Allies	Picidae	
Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	Family groups were very active at Davis Mountains State Park
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes aurifrons</i>	The most common of the woodpeckers in this part of Texas
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides scalaris</i>	Seen almost every day
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Heard on our hike up into the Chisos Basin
Caracaras & Falcons	Falconidae	
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	Sporadic but regular on poles and telephone lines
Tyrant Flycatchers	Tyrannidae	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	A migrant seen wherever there were tall trees
Western Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	Found in Rio Grande Village and a few other areas
Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Best look was at a bird next to the dirt road at Balmorhea Lake
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Rio Grande Village gave us our best look at this dapper flycatcher
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	The most common flycatcher on the trip
Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	Sporadic but regular, all ages and both genders
Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	Seen and heard at Sam Nail Ranch
Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>	Seen and heard at Sam Nail Ranch
Couch's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus couchii</i>	Along the Rio Grande at both Boquillas and Santa Elena
Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	Common near homes in grasslands
Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	Seen away from buildings in grasslands
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	A family group foraging off of telephone wires just west of Marathon
Shrikes	Laniidae	
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Seen about six times during our trip



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Vireos	Vireonidae	
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	Best looks were at Sam Nail Ranch
Gray Vireo	<i>Vireo vicinior</i>	A solitary foraging bird at Rio Grande Village
Plumbeous Vireo	<i>Vireo plumbeus</i>	Heard and glimpsed at Lawrence Wood Picnic Area
Hutton's Vireo	<i>Vireo huttoni</i>	Davis Mountains State Park gave us very good looks
Jays and Crows	Corvidae	
Mexican Jay	<i>Aphelocoma wollweberi</i>	Common and everywhere there was appropriate habitat
Chihuahuan Raven	<i>Corvus cryptoleucus</i>	With a mixed raven flock south of Marfa giving us looks to compare the two
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Seen everywhere
Swallows	Hirundinidae	
N. Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	Flying over the pond/lake at Lajitas
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Sporadic but usually an individual or two within any group of swallows
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Certainly the most common swallow on the trip
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	A few individuals were foraging over the lake at Lajitas
Chickadees & Titmice	Paridae	
Black-crested Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus atricristatus</i>	Best looks were at the feeders in Davis Mountains State Park
Verdin	Remizidae	
Verdin	<i>Auriparus flaviceps</i>	Right next to the vehicle at Balmorhea Lake
Nuthatches	Sittidae	
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	At Davis Mountains State Park and Lawrence Wood Picnic Area
Wrens	Troglodytidae	
Rock Wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>	Best look was at a banded individual at Fort Davis NHP
Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>	Most canyon walls had a calling bird that gave us looks
Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	Very good views of a singing bird in Davis Mountains State Park
Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>	Cactus = this wren
Gnatcatchers	Poliophtilidae	



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Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	Seen sporadically on our trip
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila melanura</i>	Seen in the xeric sites of Laguna Meadows trail
Mockingbirds & Thrashers	Mimidae	
Curve-billed Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>	Seen in a yard near the Fort Davis cemetery
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Common everywhere
Silky-flycatcher	Ptilonotidae	
Phainopepla	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>	A distant look, but a lengthy look at Chiricahua Desert Nature Center
Wood-Warblers	Parulidae	
Lucy's Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis luciae</i>	Right next to our vehicle at Balmorhea Lake
Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	Mostly down at Rio Grande Village
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	Heard but not seen at Sam Nail Ranch
Emberizids	Emberizidae	
Black-chinned Sparrow	<i>Spizella atrogularis</i>	Seen well on our hike up into the Chisos Basin
Black-throated Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>	The most common of the sparrows we saw
Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	Usually on the edge of the road in grasslands
Lark Bunting	<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i>	A few small flocks that were early migrants
Canyon Towhee	<i>Melospiza fusca</i>	Common everywhere
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	<i>Aimophila ruficeps</i>	Common in appropriate scrubby habitat
Cardinals, Piranga Tanagers & Allies	Cardinalidae	
Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	Very good looks at a number of individuals at Davis Mountains State Park
Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	Best looks were on our Chisos Basin hike
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Scattered in desert washes
Pyrrhuloxia	<i>Cardinalis sinuatus</i>	Our best look was at a stunning male atop a branch at Panther Junction
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	A first year male at one of the Davis Mountain State Park feeders
Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	Common at the Davis Mountain State Park feeders
Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	Nesting & singing in appropriate habitat. Lots of migrants along Rio Grand



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Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	Wonderful looks at both genders near the Fort Davis cemetery
Varied Bunting	<i>Passerina versicolor</i>	Two birds flew into a shrub right next to us at Blue Creek. One stayed put
Painted Bunting	<i>Passerina ciris</i>	Best look was in the Common Black Hawk nesting site at Rio Grande Village
Blackbirds	Icteridae	
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Scattered where there was standing water
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	Small groups were along fence lines in the grasslands
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	Seen twice, once in Terlingua and once in van Horn
Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	Usually around lakes like Balmorhea
Bronzed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>	Two different birds were seen with BHC0 flocks
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Different flocks were scattered throughout the trip
Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>	An adult male at Rio Grande Village gave us great looks
Bullock's Oriole	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>	Rio Grande Village seemed to have the most of this nesting/migrant species
Scott's Oriole	<i>Icterus parisorum</i>	Best looks were of the nesting pair at Chisos Mountain Lodge
Finches & Allies	Fringillidae	
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	The common finch on the trip
Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	Not common but found feeding on liquid amber seeds
Old World Sparrows	Passeridae	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Unfortunately common in all towns/cities
Mammals:		
Mexican Black Bear		Everyone got to see the sow and three young cubs in the Basin
Gray Fox		Seen crossing the road at Davis Mountains State Park
Carmen Mts White-tail Deer		The deer of the Chisos Basin
Aoudad		A small group on a ridgeline between Balmorhea and Fort Davis
Pronghorn		A few were scattered throughout the high elevation grasslands
Javelina		Small groups were seen in different areas
Black-tailed Jackrabbit		Common in Big bend National Park



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Desert Cottontail		The more mesic areas of the trip seemed to have a few of these around
Black-tailed Prairie Dog		A colony northeast of Marathon were still active on 100+ degree day
Spotted Ground Squirrel		Not common, with best looks at Balmorhea Lake State Park
Rock Squirrel		Common in the Chisos Basin
Bats		Seen flying around the Chisos Lodge Restaurant
Herps & Other Vertebrates:		
Checkered Whiptail Lizard		Down in the Sam Nail Ranch area
Greater Earless Lizard		Blue Creek gave us great looks at a very colorful adult
Desert Spiny Lizard		Usually under desert shrubs in various locations
W Diamondback Rattlesnake		Hanging out on the road down to Rio grnade Village
Red-eared Slider		At a pond in Balmorhea Lake State Park
Invertebrates:		
Whiptail Scorpion		We fond a single individual crossing the campground at Davis Mountains SP
Desert Millipede		Common on desert roadways
Tarantula Hawk		Seen patrolling the Chiricahua Desert Nature Center