

South Texas Birding & Nature | Species List

February 28 – March 7, 2019 | Compiled by Michael Marsden



With Guide Michael Marsden and participants:
Jean, Randy & Sandra, Barry, Jim & Susanna and Rebecca

Outline Itinerary:

- **28th:** Hazel Bazemore County Park - Indian Point County Park - Live Oak Country Club - Cape Valero - Rockport Beach Park
- **1st:** Tule Wetlands, Rockport - *Skimmer* boat trip - Corpus Christi Airport - Mustang Island - Port Aransas (Wetlands, Birding Center, Jetty, Paradise Pond) - Fulton
- **2nd:** Big Tree & Eighth Street Pond, Lamar - Goose Island State Park- Rockport Beach Park –Labat Park, Corpus Christi - King Ranch Visitors' Center - Inn at Chachalaca Bend
- **3rd:** Inn at Chachalaca Bend - Bayview resacas - Laguna Atascosa NWR - Port Isabel Reservoir - Laguna Vista Country Club - South Padre Convention Center flats - South Padre Birding & Nature Center - Zapata Memorial Boat Ramp - Old Port Isabel Road - Oliveira Park
- **4th:** Inn at Chachalaca Bend - Santa Ana NWR - Progreso grain silos - Estero Llano Grande State Park
- **5th:** Bentsen Rio Grande State Park - Anzalduas County Park - Granjeno - Hidalgo - Edinburg Wetlands
- **6th:** Salineño - Falcon State Park - Rancho Lomitas
- **7th am:** Quinta Mazatlan - Piedad Cemetery

Species List

(HO)= Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only

(SP)= Special species of note which is rare, local or endemic

(#) = Number of days encountered in parenthesis

BIRDS (181 species recorded, of which 1 was heard only):

Anatidae: Ducks and Geese (21)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* (5) - seen at several freshwater wetlands in both the Coastal Bend and the Rio Grande Valley, with a particularly memorable flock of over 100 of these spectacular ducks on the fields of Live Oak Country Club in Rockport.

Snow Goose *Chen caerulescens* (1) - a flock of 6 at Live Oak Country Club.

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Gadwall *Mareca strepera* (4) - seen in small numbers in a variety of freshwater habitats throughout.

American Wigeon *Mareca americana* (3) - seen in small numbers primarily in coastal habitats.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (1) - we came across a pair of seemingly wild birds at the Tules in Rockport but saw none in the Valley, where they are, to the surprise of many visitors, something of a rarity.

Mexican Duck *Anas diazi* (1) - a pair showing their white-edged speculums flew by us over the river at Salineño.

Mottled Duck *Anas fulvigula* (4) - the common resident dabbling duck of South Texas, present at most wetland sites.

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors* (7) - present at nearly all freshwater wetland sites.

Cinnamon Teal *Spatula cyanoptera* (2) - we enjoyed close views of these handsome ducks on a pond at Old Port Isabel Road and on Willow Lake at Santa Ana.

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata* (5) - common and widespread in freshwater wetlands.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* (4) - still large numbers of these elegant ducks in the bays of the Coastal Bend.

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca* (6) - common and widespread at all freshwater wetland sites.

Redhead *Aythya americana* (3) - over 80% of the world's Redheads winter on the hypersaline waters of the South Texas and Tamaulipas bays, and we were fortunate that many were still in the area during our *Skimmer* boat trip.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* (1) - on Willow Lake at Santa Ana.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* (4) - many 100s seen in Mesquite & San Antonio Bays from the *Skimmer*, but we only came across small numbers in the Valley.

Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola* (2) - dozens of these delightful ducks seen on our *Skimmer* boat trip and just a further flock of 10 at Goose Island.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* (1) - our only sighting was of one at Indian Point.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* (2) - small numbers at Cape Valero and Laguna Atascosa.

Cracidae: Guans and Chachalacas (1)

Plain Chachalaca *Ortalis vetula* (6) (SP) - we enjoyed close views of many of these birds (and experienced their not-so-enjoyable cacophonous calls!) at just about all the Valley refuges, including Bentsen, Quinta Mazatlan, and, of course, at the Inn at Chachalaca Bend.

Odontophoridae: New World Quails (1)

Scaled Quail *Callipepla squamata* (1) (SP) - Jim Seeden's feeders at Rancho Lomitas are always a highlight of our tour and attracted a feeding flock of 15 quail while we were there.

Gaviidae: Loons (1)

Common Loon *Gavia immer* (2) - just 3 seen on our *Skimmer* tour, with a further 2 at Goose Island.

Podicipedidae: Grebes (3)

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus* (2) (SP) - 3 on a pond on Old Port Isabel Road; 3 on Willow Lake at Santa Ana.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* (6) - a common and widespread wetland species seen on both freshwater and, perhaps more unexpectedly, on the hypersaline waters of Laguna Madre.

Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants (2)

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Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (6) - common and widespread, mostly in freshwater.

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus* (6) - lots along the coast, with smaller numbers in some freshwater habitats, including the Rio Grande at Salineño .

Anhingidae: Anhingas (1)

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* (5) - ones and twos in Rockport, and at resacas in the Valley at the Inn at Chachalaca Bend, Bayview, Estero Llano Grande, Santa Ana, and Bentsen.

Pelecanidae: Pelicans (2)

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* (6) - we came across large numbers of these impressive birds on their wintering grounds throughout our tour, with particularly close views at Estero Llano Grande.

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* (4) - common whenever we were near the coast (an especially welcome sight as Texas populations crashed in the 1950s and local nesting didn't resume until the late 1990s).

Ardeidae: Herons and Egrets (10)

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* (7) - small numbers at just about all wetlands on our route.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* (8) - seen at seemingly all the wetland sites we visited.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* (6) - the most numerous of the herons wherever we were.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (3) - ones and twos at Port Aransas Wetlands, Santa Ana, and Estero Llano Grande.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* (6) - small numbers seen in both fresh and saltwater habitats.

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens* (3) - we came across several in the Coastal Bend, but the most memorable was one at the South Padre Birding Center in full nuptial plumage with a blazingly pink bill.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (5) - small numbers on pastures and at freshwater wetlands throughout.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* (3) - singletons at freshwater ponds in Lamar, South Padre, and at Quinta Mazatlan.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (4) - singletons seen at several sites, with both adults and juveniles together at roosts at the Inn at Chachalaca Bend and Estero Llano Grande.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* (1) - scattered singletons, with several together sharing the two Black-crowned Night-Heron roosts we came across.

Threskiornithidae: Ibis and Spoonbills (3)

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* (6) - widespread, mostly in small numbers but about 50 in a frenzied feeding flock at Tule Wetlands in Rockport.

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi* (3) - only seen at freshwater habitats in the Coastal Bend, with about 20 at Live Oak Country Club and smaller numbers in Port Aransas and Lamar.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* (5) - flocks of these outrageously gaudy birds seen on the Skimmer boat tour, on the Lamar Peninsula, South Padre and on the Arroyo Colorado at Estero Llano Grande.

Cathartidae: New World Vultures (2)

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* (6) - widespread, with over 20 high above the Rio Grande at Salineño.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* (7) - everywhere, with particularly large numbers migrating north in flocks over Santa Ana and Bentsen.

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Pandionidae: Osprey (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (6) - several seen along the coast and at larger inland wetlands, including the Rio Grande at Salineño .

Accipitridae: Hawks, Kites, and Eagles (8)

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus* (1) - our only sighting was of one on the coastal prairies just west of Laguna Atascosa.

Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonius* (6) - singletons, mainly juveniles, seen hunting at several places on our route.

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii* (4) - singletons seen on most of our days in the Valley.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus* (4) **(SP)** - we observed several of these handsome raptors throughout the Valley.

White-tailed Hawk *Geranoaetus albicaudatus* (2) **(SP)** - we had wonderful views of two on our first afternoon just west of Aransas Pass and of two others later on Old Port Isabel Road.

Gray Hawk *Buteo plagiatus* (2) **(SP)** - we heard calling birds at Salineño, but our only sightings were of two at Bentsen State Park.

Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus* (2) - memorable views of display and aggressive behavior by three birds in Rockport.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* (7) - several seen, including typical western and eastern birds and some with almost unmarked underparts characteristic of the local resident race *fuertesii*.

Rallidae: Rails, Crakes, and Coots (3)

Sora *Porzana carolina* (2) – close views of a feeding bird on South Padre; others at Santa Ana were heard only.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata* (3) - seen at just about all reed-fringed freshwater wetlands throughout the tour; at the Port Aransas Birding Center we came across a very pale, creamy leucistic oddity.

American Coot *Fulica americana* (6) - seemingly ubiquitous in both fresh and coastal habitats, but the most extraordinary sight was of 1000s of coots strung out in long lines on the Laguna Atascosa Lake.

Gruidae: Cranes (2)

Sandhill Crane *Antigone canadensis* (3) - lingering family groups at Live Oak Country Club, Lamar, and Laguna Atascosa .

Whooping Crane *Grus americana* (2) **(SP)** - one of the unforgettable highlights of the tour was our sighting of some 27 Whooping Cranes, mostly in pairs and family groups, during the *Skimmer* boat tour (part of a wild population now estimated at some 440 individuals, all of which winter in the Aransas NWR area - up from just 15 in 1941!). The next day we saw a small group on the grasslands at Lamar.

Recurvirostridae: Stilts and Avocets (2)

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* (4) - frequent at both fresh and coastal wetlands, including Hazel Bazemore, South Padre, Estero Llano Grande, and Santa Ana.

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana* (4) - flocks of these elegant shorebirds were seen at Port Aransas Wetlands, from the *Skimmer*, and on the Arroyo Colorado at Estero Llano Grande.

Haematopodidae: Oystercatchers (1)

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* (2) - pairs at Indian Point and on the Zapata saltflats.

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Charadriidae: Plovers and Lapwings (4)

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* (3) - small numbers at all coastal mudflats.

American Golden-Plover *Pluvialis dominica* (1) – a flock of about 20 over coastal grasslands just west of Laguna Atascosa.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius melodus* (1) – at least 8 at Goose Island State Park.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* (4) - common and widespread.

Scolopacidae: Sandpipers and Allies (15)

Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus* (3) - singletons seen at several Coastal Bend wetlands and during the *Skimmer* boat tour, and at least a dozen in the Valley on the grasslands at Old Port Isabel Road.

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa* (1) – our only sighting was of a flock of about 40 on the Zapata saltflats.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* (4) - several at coastal habitats throughout.

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus* (2) – 2 at the South Padre Birding Center, with larger flocks at Santa Ana and Estero Llano Grande.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* (3) - numerous on the beaches at Mustang Island and the flats at South Padre.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* (1) - our only sightings were on the flats by the South Padre Island Convention Center.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* (2) - common on both inland and coastal wetlands, allowing us particularly close views at Estero Llano Grande.

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* (1) – our only definite sighting was of a flock at the South Padre Convention Center flats.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* (1) – small groups seen at rest and in flight at Santa Ana and Estero Llano Grande.

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata* (1) - singleton seen from the boardwalk at South Padre Birding Center.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* (4) - several sightings, primarily in freshwater habitats.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* (1) - seen from the boardwalk at South Padre Birding Center.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* (4) - fairly common at both inland and coastal wetlands throughout our tour.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata* (4) - large numbers on Mustang Island, on the flats at the South Padre Island Convention Center, and on the Zapata saltflats.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (3) - seen just about wherever we came across Greater Yellowlegs, and often side-by-side for instant comparisons!

Laridae: Gulls and Terns (9)

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla* (4) - everywhere along the coast.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* (4) - still fairly common in all coastal areas.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* (2) - small numbers seen at all coastal sites.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* (1) - our only sighting was at Hazel Bazemore.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* (3) - fairly common along the coast.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* (4) - numerous at just about all coastal localities we visited.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* (3) - very common on sandy beaches along the coast, with large concentrations at Port Aransas and the South Padre Convention Center flats.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus maximus* (2) - 2 on the beach at Port Aransas; one on the South Padre flats.

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* (3) - large flocks lolling at Rockport Beach Park, on the South Padre Convention Center flats, and on the Zapata saltflats.

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Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves (7)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* (8) - common in most urban areas.

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (4) - small numbers now just about throughout South Texas (the first Valley sighting was as recently as 1998).

Inca Dove *Columbina inca* (5) - locally common in the Valley, where we came across small numbers at Hazel Bazemore, Estero Llano Grande, Santa Ana, Rancho Lomitas, and Quinta Mazatlan.

Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerina* (3) - pairs at Estero Llano, Bentsen, Salineño, and Rancho Lomitas.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* (7) (SP) - fairly common in most wooded areas in the Valley, but our best views were at the feeders at the Inn at Chachalaca Bend and Laguna Atascosa.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* (8) - common throughout, with an especially large flock at Salineño.

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura* (8) - ubiquitous in South Texas away from riparian woodland.

Cuculidae: Cuckoos and Allies (1)

Greater Roadrunner *Geococcyx californianus* (1) - wonderful views of two very cooperative birds at Rancho Lomitas.

Strigidae: Owls (2)

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus* (2) – one at Lamar; one heard calling at Rancho Lomitas.

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia* (1) - memorable views of one on wintering territory in Granjeno.

Caprimulgidae: Nighthawks and Nightjars (1)

Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* (1) (SP) - close views of a roosting bird in the underbrush at Estero Llano Grande were one of the highlights of our tour.

Trochilidae: Hummingbirds (3)

Black-chinned Hummingbird *Archilochus alexandri* (2) - adult male at the feeders at Estero Llano Grande and Bentsen.

Calliope Hummingbird *Selasphorus calliope* (1) - we were lucky enough to get good views of this long-staying rarity, a young male, at the feeders at Bentsen.

Buff-bellied Hummingbird *Amazilia yucateensis* (4)-seen at the feeders at Santa Ana, Estero Llano Grande, Bentsen, Rancho Lomitas, and Quinta Mazatlan.

Alcedinidae: Kingfishers (3)

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata* (1) (SP) – our only sighting was of one flying along the Rio Grande at Salineño.

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon* (5) - seen just about every day at both inland and coastal wetlands.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* (1) (SP) - 2 on the resaca at Edinburg Wetlands.

Picidae: Woodpeckers (3)

Golden-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes aurifrons* (7) (SP) – encountered in just about all woodland and suburban areas.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius* (1) - wintering juvenile at Bentsen.

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Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Picoides scalaris* (4) - encountered less frequently than Golden-fronteds but in a wider range of habitats, including mesquite scrub.

Falconidae: Falcons and Caracaras (3)

Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway* (5) - frequent throughout the Coastal Bend and the Valley.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* (6) - we came across several individuals of this wintering raptor on our travels in the Valley.

Merlin *Falco columbarius* (1) - one flew over the *Skimmer* and attacked a Spotted Sandpiper, which only escaped with its life by landing momentarily on the water.

Parrots: Psittacidae (3)

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus* (1) - several seen in and around their nests in Hidalgo.

Red-crowned Parrot *Amazona viridigenalis* (1) (SP) - another memorable experience on our tour was the sight (and sound!) of some 200 parrots, almost all Red-crowns, coming in at dusk to roost in the trees at Oliveira Park in Brownsville.

[We also saw small numbers of Red-lore Parrots [*Amazona autumnalis*] and White-fronted Parrots [*Amazona albifrons*] at Oliveira Park but, in the absence of evidence that they have viable self-sustaining wild populations in the U.S., none are considered 'countable' by the ABA]

Green Parakeet *Psittacara holochlorus* (1) (SP) - we came across several groups of Green Parakeets coming in to roost in downtown Brownsville in the late afternoon.

Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers (7)

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* (1) - individuals of this western species were seen at both Bentsen State Park and at Hidalgo Pumphouse.

Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe* (4) - fairly common in open wooded and brushy habitats throughout.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (5) - wonderful views of this striking flycatcher at Hazel Bazemore and several places in the Valley, including Old Port Isabel Road and Bentsen State Park.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* (7) (SP) - first seen at Hazel Bazemore and then just about everywhere in the Valley.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* (1) (SP) - we came across kingbirds in most of the places we visited in the Valley with Tropicals confirmed by call at Santa Ana.

Couch's Kingbird *Tyrannus couchii* (2) (SP) - definite sighting at Hazel Bazemore and Salineño.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* (1) – early migrants seen from our van as we drove south through Kleberg and Kenedy Counties.

Laniidae: Shrikes (1)

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus* (6) - fairly common throughout.

Vireonidae: Vireos (1)

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus* (6) - often heard but just two sightings of unusually co-operative birds.

Corvidae: Jays and Crows (1)

Green Jay *Cyanocorax yncas* (6) (SP) - memorably close views at the King Ranch Visitors' Center, and at feeding stations at Estero Llano Grande, Santa Ana, Bentsen and Salineño.

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Hirundinidae: Swallows and Martins (4)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* (5) - the most frequently encountered swallow on our tour.

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* (5) - many over the wetlands at Santa Ana and Estero Llano Grande.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (5) - small numbers with other swallows over Santa Ana and Estero Llano Grande.

Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva* (1) - small numbers over the Rio Grande at Anzalduas.

Paridae: Tits and Chickadees (1)

Black-crested Titmouse *Baeolophus atricristatus* (7) (SP) - in all wooded habitats throughout South Texas.

Remizidae: Penduline Tits

Verdin *Auriparus flaviceps* (1) - our only sighting was at Santa Ana.

Troglodytidae: Wrens (4)

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* (2) - singletons at Bentsen State Park and Salineño.

Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis* (1) - in the grasslands at Hazel Bazemore.

Carolina Wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus* (4) - classic views of a singing bird at the Tules in Rockport, but others heard later proved elusive.

Cactus Wren *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus* (1) - great views at the feeders at Rancho Lomitas.

Poliptilidae: Gnatcatchers (1)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Poliptila caerulea* (5) - widespread but particularly numerous during our visit to Santa Ana.

Regulidae: Kinglets (1)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa* (6) - ones and twos in just about every wooded area.

Turdidae: Thrushes (2)

Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi* (2) (SP) - the first U.S. nest of this species was found in the Valley in 1986, but numbers have increased dramatically since then and they are particularly common at Quinta Mazatlan, where we had our best views.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius* (1) - a small flock seen in the Live Oak woodlands of the Lamar Peninsula were particularly welcome as this is generally a very uncommon species in the Valley.

Mimidae: Mockingbirds (4)

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis* (1) (H) - Randy heard a calling bird at the Tules in Rockport.

Curve-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma curvirostre* (3) - seen at Bentsen State Park, Quinta Mazatlan, and Rancho Lomitas.

Long-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma longirostre* (3) (SP) - seen at Santa Ana, Bentsen State Park, and Salineño.

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos* (8) - common and widespread throughout South Texas.

Sturnidae: Starlings (1)

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (7) - small numbers throughout.

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Parulidae: Wood-Warblers (7)

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* (1) - at Quinta Mazatlan.

Orange-crowned Warbler *Oreothlypis celata* (7) - the second most frequent warbler we came across in the Valley.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* (1) - at the Tules in Rockport..

Northern Parula *Setophaga americana* (1) - one at the Tules in Rockport.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata* (8) - by far the most frequently encountered of the wintering warblers.

Yellow-throated Warbler *Setophaga dominica* (1) - one in the gardens at Bentsen State Park

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla* (2) - one seen in the gardens at Bentsen and at Salineño.

Emberizidae: Sparrows (9)

Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum* (1) - memorable views at Twelfth Street in Lamar.

Olive Sparrow *Arremonops rufivirgatus* (4) **(SP)** - a common bird in the Valley, allowing us particularly good views at Laguna Atascosa and Rancho Lomitas.

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina* (1) - small flock at Goose Island State Park.

Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla* (1) - this is a rather rare bird in the Valley, so we were particularly happy to see 3 at one of the feeding stations at Goose Island.

Black-throated Sparrow *Amphispiza bilineata* (1) - several seen at Rancho Lomitas.

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* (3) - small number on roadsides by the Inn at Chachalaca Bend, at Bentsen State Park, and at Falcon.

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* (1) - one at Goose Island State Park.

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandvicensis* (2) - in grasslands at Hazel Bazemore and Estero Llano Grande.

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolni* (5) – our most frequently encountered sparrow, with particularly good views at the feeders at Salineño.

Cardinalidae: Grosbeaks and Buntings (3)

Crimson-collared Grosbeak *Rhodothraupis celaeno* (1) – we were fortunate to get good views of a long-staying but often frustratingly elusive female/young male at the feeders at Quinta Mazatlan.

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis* (8) - common and widespread throughout South Texas.

Pyrrhuloxia *Cardinalis sinuatus* (1) - great views at the feeders at Rancho Lomitas.

Icteridae: Blackbirds and Orioles (11)

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* (8) - abundant in South Texas, especially at feeders and grain silos.

Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta* (1) - we came across a flock of these wintering birds at Falcon.

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna* (2) - several seen and heard singing along Old Port Isabel Road and at Anzalduas and Granjeno.

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* (1) - small numbers with hundreds of other blackbirds and cowbirds at the Progreso grain silos.

Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus* (1) - a small flock of these western birds seen from the van as we drove south through Kenedy County.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus* (8) - everywhere!

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Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus ater* (3) - several seen, but our best views were of 4 at Hazel Bazemore on our first day.

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater* (1) - lots with the blackbirds at the Progreso grain silos.

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus* (1) - two adult males at Santa Ana.

Altamira Oriole *Icterus gularis* (3) (SP) - memorable views at Santa Ana, Bentsen State Park, and especially at the feeders at Salineño.

Audubon's Oriole *Icterus graduacauda* (1) (HO) (SP) - one at the feeders at Rancho Lomitas.

Fringillidae: Finches (3)

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus* (1) - at the Old Hidalgo Pumphouse.

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria* (1) - our only sightings were at Piedad Cemetery on our last morning.

American Goldfinch *Spinus tristis* (3) - this has been a good year for American Goldfinches wintering in South Texas, and we saw several flocks at Goose Island, Hazel Bazemore, and Bentsen.

Passeridae: Old World Sparrows (1)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (7) - common in urban areas and around feeders.

MAMMALS (8 species recorded):

Eastern Cottontail *Sylvilagus floridanus* (4) - the common rabbit in South Texas, seen on most visits to woodland habitats.

Black-tailed Jackrabbit *Lepus californicus* (1) - on Mustang Island on our first afternoon.

Eastern Fox Squirrel *Sciurus niger* (3) - seen in the Valley just about whenever we came across feeders!

Coyote *Canis latrans* (1) – a loner hunting at Granjeno.

Hispid Cotton Rat *Sigmodon hispidus* (1) - taking advantage of fallen seed at the feeders at Laguna Atascosa.

Collared Peccary *Tayassu tajacu* (1) (SP) – singleton at Bentsen State Park.

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus* (1) - at Goose Island State Park.

Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* (1) - several following in the wake of the *Skimmer* during our boat trip.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (3 species recorded):

American Alligator *Alligator mississippiensis* (1) - seen from Osprey Overlook at Laguna Atascosa.

Red-eared Slider *Trachemys scripta* (1) - at Estero Llano Grande..

Indigo Snake *Drymarchon melanurus* (1) - at Laguna Atascosa.