

# Texas' Big Bend Nat'l Park | Species List

## May 3 – 10, 2019 | Compiled by Dave Mehlman



With Guide Dave Mehlman, and 6 participants:  
Barbara, Jan, Connie, Gary, Lois, and Mark

### BIRDS

- Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors* —Pair seen on the pond at Gage Gardens and one female along the Rio Grande Village Nature Trail.
- Scaled Quail** *Callipepla squamata* —seen several days during the tour at various points.
- Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* —Only seen on day 1 leaving El Paso.
- Eurasian Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* --seen several days during the tour at various points.
- Inca Dove** *Columbina inca* —several seen at Gage Gardens.
- White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica* —seen every day of the tour except for during the Chisos Mountains hike and the final day.
- Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura* —seen every day of the tour except for during the Chisos Mountains hike and the final day.
- Greater Roadrunner** *Geococcyx californianus* —seen several times, including great views of multiple individuals at Rio Grande Village.
- White-throated Swift** *Aeronautes saxatalis* —seen only on the Chisos Mountains hike, flying high along the cliff faces.
- Lucifer Hummingbird** *Calothorax lucifer* —Christmas Mountains Oasis, perched and at the feeders.
- Black-chinned Hummingbird** *Archilochus alexandri* —seen several times during the trip, perhaps the best at Gage Gardens.
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird** *Selasphorus platycercus* --seen during the Chisos Mountains hike.
- American Coot** *Fulica americana* —one bird at The Post.
- Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* —one bird seeing flying over at The Post.
- Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* —one individual observed in the Chisos Basin near the buildings on day 3.
- Green Heron** *Butorides virescens* —one individual along the Rio Grande Village Nature Trail.
- Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus* —seen at Rio Grande Village and at Santa Elena Canyon.
- Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* —seen every day of the trip, usually soaring.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk** *Accipiter striatus* —one seen at the Daniel's Ranch picnic area.
- Common Black Hawk** *Buteogallus anthracinus* —One seen sitting on the nest at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend National Park.
- Swainson's Hawk** *Buteo swainsoni* —seen several days, mostly while driving through grasslands; also at the Marathon prairie-dog town.
- Zone-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albonotatus* —seen on three days, most notably during the Chisos Mountains hike and over the McDonald Observatory parking lot!
- Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis* —seen on two days, including the *fuertesi* subspecies during the Chisos Mountains hike.
- Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* —One roosting in a pine tree at Gage Gardens.
- Elf Owl** *Micrathene whitneyi* —Two owls at the known nest/roost site in a telephone pole in the Davis Mountains State Park campground.

**Burrowing Owl** *Athene cunicularia* —Two birds found at the Marathon prairie-dog town.

**Acorn Woodpecker** *Melanerpes formicivorus* —seen multiple times in Chisos Basin and Davis Mountains.

**Golden-fronted Woodpecker** *Melanerpes aurifrons* —many individuals at The Post, Rio Grande Village, and Cottonwood Campground.

**Ladder-backed Woodpecker** *Picoides scalaris* —seen every day of the trip when in the Chisos and Davis Mountains.

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* —seen twice, once at Rio Grande Village and again at the Christmas Mountains Oasis.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** *Contopus cooperi* —One seen at Lawrence Wood Picnic Area, Davis Mountains.

**Western Wood-Pewee** *Contopus sordidulus* —seen on three days: at Gage Gardens, Daniel's Ranch picnic area, and in the Davis Mountains.

**Gray Flycatcher** *Empidonax wrightii* —one on TNC's Madera Canyon trail.

**Dusky Flycatcher** *Empidonax oberholseri* —one seen during the Chisos Mountains hike.

**Cordilleran Flycatcher** *Empidonax occidentalis* —several in upper Boot Canyon during the Chisos Mountains hike.

**Black Phoebe** *Sayornis nigricans* —Rio Grande Village Nature Trail.

**Say's Phoebe** *Sayornis saya* —seen pretty much every day of the trip.

**Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus* —a ubiquitous bird in the riparian areas visited, including The Post and near the Rio Grande in Big Bend.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher** *Myiarchus cinerascens* —seen virtually every day of the trip when in wooded areas.

**Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus* —found once at Cottonwood Campground, Big Bend National Park.

**Cassin's Kingbird** *Tyrannus vociferans* —seen at Gage Gardens and in the Davis Mountains.

**Western Kingbird** *Tyrannus verticalis* —seen several days at a variety of sites.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus forficatus* —The Post and Gage Gardens.

**Loggerhead Shrike** *Lanius ludovicianus* —seen 3 days while driving, perched on wires or yucca stalks.

**Bell's Vireo** *Vireo bellii* —regularly seen in lower elevation areas during the trip, including The Post and along the Rio Grande.

**Gray Vireo** *Vireo vicinior* —One singing bird at Lower Burro Mesa Pour-off, Big Bend.

**Hutton's Vireo** *Vireo huttoni* —seen in Chisos and Davis Mountains.

**Plumbeous Vireo** *Vireo plumbeus* —seen both days in the Davis Mountains.

**Yellow-green Vireo** *Vireo flavoviridis* —One singing bird seen at The Post; very unusual for this location.

**Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay** *Aphelocoma woodhouseii* —Davis Mountains.

**Mexican Jay** *Aphelocoma wollweberi* —Seen all 3 days when in the Chisos Basin and Chisos Mountains.

**Common Raven** *Corvus corax* —Seen every day while in Big Bend.

**Chihuahuan Raven** *Corvus cryptoleucus* —seen while driving through Marfa-Alpine-Fort Davis grasslands and at the pit stop in Van Horn.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* —at Santa Elena Canyon.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* —seen often at The Post, Gage Gardens, and in Fort Davis and the Davis Mountains.

**Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* —several mixed in with Cave Swallow colony at the US-90 underpass.

**Cave Swallow** *Petrochelidon fulva* —Groups seen at US-90 underpass between Marfa and Alpine and at Gage Gardens.

**Black-crested Titmouse** *Baeolophus atricristatus* —seen in the Chisos Mountains during the hike and both days in the Davis Mountains.

**Verdin** *Auriparus flaviceps* —Seen every day in the low elevations in and near Big Bend.

**Bushtit** *Psaltriparus minimus* —Seen during the Chisos Mountains hike and in the Davis Mountains.

**White-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta carolinensis* --Seen during the Chisos Mountains hike and in the Davis Mountains.

**Rock Wren** *Salpinctes obsoletus* —seen foraging in the foundation ruins at Fort Davis National Historic Site.

**Canyon Wren** *Catherpes mexicanus* —seen or more often heard every day in Big Bend and in the Davis Mountains.

**Bewick's Wren** *Thryomanes bewickii* —found on the Chisos Mountains hike and in the Davis Mountains.

**Cactus Wren** *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus* —seen every day of the trip when in lower elevation habitats.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Poliophtila caerulea* —found on the Chisos Mountains hike and in the Davis Mountains.

**Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus* —observed during the Chisos Mountains hike.

**Curve-billed Thrasher** *Toxostoma curvirostre* —only seen twice: at Panther Junction Visitor Center and again at the Christmas Mountains Oasis.

**Crissal Thrasher** *Toxostoma crissale* —one bird very well seen at Sam Nail Ranch.

**Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos* --seen every day of the trip when in lower elevation habitats.

**European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* —seen in Alpine and Fort Davis.

**American Pipit** *Anthus rubescens* —one flyover bird at Gage Gardens.

**Cedar Waxwing** *Bombicilla cedrorum* —Gage Gardens.

**House Finch** *Haemorhous mexicanus* —seen at various places, including Gage Gardens and in Big Bend.

**Pine Siskin** *Spinus pinus* —seen at Gage Gardens and on the Chisos Mountains hike.

**Lesser Goldfinch** *Spinus psaltria* —found all three days while in Big Bend.

**American Goldfinch** *Spinus tristis* —Gage Gardens.

**Cassin's Sparrow** *Peucaea cassinii* —heard singing at the Marathon prairie-dog town.

**Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina* —Davis Mountains.

**Black-chinned Sparrow** *Spizella atrogularis* —heard singing in both the Chisos and Davis Mountains, but a good view eluded us.

**Black-throated Sparrow** *Amphispiza bilineata* —seen almost every day when in lower elevation habitats.

**Lark Sparrow** *Chondestes grammacus* —seen at Rio Grande Village and on Madera Canyon Trail, Davis Mountains.

**Lark Bunting** *Calamospiza melanocorys* —only seen once, a male at The Post.

**White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys* —seen at Gage Gardens and Christmas Mountains Oasis.

**Savannah Sparrow** *Passerculus sandwichensis* —2 birds seen at Gage Gardens.

**Canyon Towhee** *Melospiza fusca* —seen on four days at several sites.

**Rufous-crowned Sparrow** *Aimophila ruficeps* —seen or heard almost all days of the trip.

**Spotted Towhee** *Pipilo maculatus* —only found on the Chisos Mountains hike.

**Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens* —easily found several days in riparian habitats visited at The Post and in Big Bend.

**Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna* --heard singing at the Marathon prairie-dog town.

**Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius* —well seen putting on a show at The Post and also at Cottonwood Campground.

**Bullock's Oriole** *Icterus bullockii* —seen only on one day, but both at The Post and Gage Gardens.

**Scott's Oriole** *Icterus parisorum* —seen or heard every day when in Big Bend and again at Davis Mountains State Park.

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus* —The Post.

**Bronzed Cowbird** *Molothrus aeneus* —seen only on one day, but both at The Post and Gage Gardens.

**Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater* —seen on 4 days at multiple sites during the trip.

**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus* —Alpine.

**Colima Warbler** *Oreothlypis crissalis* —A total of six individuals found by sight, song, or call on the hike into the Chisos high country.

**Lucy's Warbler** *Oreothlypis luciae* —Several birds, including an adult feeding a fledgling, at Cottonwood Campground, Big Bend.

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas* —seen or heard near the Rio Grande at Rio Grande Village and Cottonwood Campground.

**Tropical Parula** *Setophaga pitaiayumi* —One, a long-running stakeout singing male, at Daniel's Ranch picnic ground, Cottonwood Village, Big Bend.

**Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia* —The Post.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata* —seen four days during the trip at various sites, all of the Audubon's race.

**Townsend's Warbler** *Setophaga townsendi* —one found during the Chisos Mountains hike.

**Wilson's Warbler** *Cardellina pusilla* —one at Gage Gardens.

**Painted Redstart** *Myioborus pictus* —seen in upper Boot Canyon on the Chisos Mountain hike, part of the time doing a fascinating display (either territorial or courtship) with the Slate-throated Redstart.

**Slate-throated Redstart** *Myioborus miniatus* —one very conspicuously singing male, a long-running bird in upper Boot Canyon that was also seen on the April trip.

**Hepatic Tanager** *Piranga flava* —seen on 6 days during the trip, most notably a pair who were consistently at the Chisos Mountain Lodge dining room windows.

**Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra* —regularly seen in riparian areas and similar habitats, including The Post, Gage Gardens, and along the Rio Grande in Big Bend.

**Western Tanager** *Piranga ludoviciana* —seen several days in the Chisos and Davis Mountains.

**Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis* —seen on all days when in low elevation habitats, particularly in Big Bend.

**Pyrrhuloxia** *Cardinalis sinuatus* —seen at The Post, in Big Bend, and at the Christmas Mountains Oasis.

**Black-headed Grosbeak** *Pheucticus melanocephalus* —found on the Chisos Mountains hike and in the Davis Mountains.

**Blue Grosbeak** *Passerina caerulea* —seen on 6 days whenever in low elevation habitats.

**Lazuli Bunting** *Passerina amoena* —seen at Gage Gardens.

**Varied Bunting** *Passerina versicolor* —excellent views of a perched male at Sam Nail Ranch and a pair observed at close range at the feeder at Christmas Mountains Oasis.

**Painted Bunting** *Passerina ciris* —frequently heard and often seen in riparian habitats at The Post and along the Rio Grande in Big Bend.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* —observed in Alpine and Fort Davis.

## MAMMALS

**Black-tailed Jackrabbit** *Lepus californicus*—seen on the drive into The Post.

**Rock Squirrel** *Spermophilus variegatus*—seen on the Chisos Mountains hike and at Davis Mountains State Park.

**Black-tailed Prairie Dog** *Cynomys ludovicianus*—numerous individuals in the Marathon prairie-dog town.

**Collared Peccary** *Pecari tajacu*—wonderful sighting of one at Rio Grande Village.

**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus carminis*—Chisos Basin only, including during the hike; the subspecies that is found in Big Bend and the adjacent Sierra del Carmen.

**Mule Deer** *Odocoileus hemionus*—Big Bend.

**Pronghorn** *Antilocapra americana*—mostly seen while driving through grasslands around and on the way to Marfa, Alpine, and Fort Davis.

**Gray Fox** *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*—one seen well at the Chisos Basin trailhead.

**Barbary Sheep** *Ammotragus lervia*—a large flock grazing the hillsides at the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute while on the way to Fort Davis.

## REPTILES

**Sagebrush Lizard** *Sceloporus graciosus*—Davis Mountains State Park.

**Greater Earless Lizard** *Cophosaurus texanus*—a spectacularly colored lizard seen several times in Big Bend.

**Trans-Pecos Blind Snake** *Rena humilis*—One seen on the ground on the hike to Lower Burro Mesa Pour-off.

**Checkered Whiptail** *Aspidoscelis tessellatus*—One digging a hole at the start of the Santa Elena Canyon overlook trail.

## AMPHIBIANS

**Canyon Treefrog** *Hyla arenicolor*—one individual along the artificial stream at the Davis Mountains State Park feeders.