

# South Texas Fall Migration Birding with Naturalist Journeys



## TOUR SPECIES LIST

September 19 – 26, 2021

With guides Michael Marsden & Rick Weiman and 10 participants: Joyce, Karen, Bruce, Nancy, Susan, James, Anita, Scott, Diane and Deirdre

Compiled by Rick Weiman

### SEPTEMBER 2021 SITES VISITED:

- 19th: Arrival day in McAllen, TX but time in the afternoon to visit the Edinburg Scenic Wetlands
- 20th: Bentsen Rio Grande State Park, National Butterfly Center, La Lomita, Hidalgo Pumphouse
- 21st: Santa Ana NWR, Estero Llano Grande State Park
- 22nd: Old Port Isabel Road, Laguna Atascosa NWR, South Padre Island, Oliveira Park in Brownsville
- 23rd: Blucher Park, Packery, South Padre Island Birding & Nature Center, South Padre Convention Center flats, Port Aransas (Wetlands, Birding Center, Jetty, Paradise Pond)
- 24th: Rockport, Mustang Island, Goose Island State Park, Big Tree, *Skimmer* boat trip in Aransas Bay
- 25th: Indian Point Pond, Hazel Bazemore Park & Hawk Watch
- 26<sup>th</sup>: Departures from Corpus Christi, TX

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

(I)= Introduced

### BIRDS (167 species recorded, of which 2 were heard only):

#### DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae (6)

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis*— observed in several wetland habitats and flocks in flight

**Blue-winged Teal** *Spatula discors*— observed in several spots: Hazel Bazemore Park, Aransas Bay, SPI

**Cinnamon Teal** *Spatula cyanoptera*— Lone duck at Port Aransas wetlands

**Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*— Several in non-breeding plumage at Port Aransas wetlands

**Mottled Duck** *Anas fulvigula*— common resident dabbling duck of South Texas, observed at most wetlands

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*— a few were feeding in the pond at Hazel Bazemore Park in Corpus Christi

#### GUANS AND CHACHALACAS: Cracidae (1)

**Plain Chachalaca** *Ortalis vetula*— several family groups were observed at the Edinburg Scenic Wetlands and Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park

#### PARTRIDGES AND PHEASANTS: Phasianidae (1)

**Wild Turkey** *Meleagris gallopavo* - a family of 5 were observed at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park

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## **GREBES: Podicipedidae (2)**

**Least Grebe** *Tachybaptus dominicus* – 3 individuals observed at Estero Llano Grande WBC

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* – observed at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park and Santa Ana NWR

## **PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (6)**

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* (1) – common city bird

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* (1) – introduced and fairly common

**Inca Dove** *Columbina inca* – a pair was seen in 5 different locations; scaled feathers are a good field mark

**White-tipped Dove** *Leptotila verreauxi* – fleeting looks were had at the Edinburg Scenic Wetlands and Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park

**White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica* – very common and easy to identify with the bold white stripe on wing

**Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura* – quite common also

## **CUCKOOS: Cuculidae (3)**

**Groove-billed Ani** *Crotophaga sulcirostris* – Excellent looks at several locations, including the feeders at the National Butterfly Center

**Greater Roadrunner** *Geococcyx californianus* – Wow! We had a pair on the road (where else) at the Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park and watched them climb up a tree before disappearing into the woods

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus americanus* – two quick in flight looks (rusty patches on wings helped)

## **NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (3)**

**Common Nighthawk** *Chordeiles minor* – HO – heard calling overhead as we dined outdoors at our farewell dinner in Corpus Christi – last bird of the trip!

**Common Pauraque** *Nyctidromus albicollis* – Lead guide Michael Marsden located one roosting on the ground near the trail at Estero Llano Grande SP WBC; amazingly camouflaged!

**Chuck-will's-widow** *Antrastomus carolinensis* – another surprise, we unintentionally flushed at least 2 ground roosting birds as we walked the trails at Blucher Park in Corpus Christi

## **SWIFTS: Apodidae (1)**

**Chimney Swift** *Chaetura pelagica* – Observed in at least 5 locations but one of the most spectacular sights of the trip was the flock of over 700 birds funneling into an old smokestack to roost at Oliveira Park in Brownsville.

## **HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (2)**

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** *Archilochus colubris* – observed at most feeders (sometimes 20+ birds) throughout the trip as they were migrating through in large numbers

**Buff-bellied Hummingbird** *Amazilia yucatanensis* – Large local hummingbird observed in at least 5 locations

## **RAILS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (4)**

**Clapper Rail** *Rallus crepitans* – observed and heard on South Padre island lagoons and mudflats

**Sora** *Porzana carolina* – a few of us quite a quick look from the blind at Santa Ana NWR

**Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata* – observed at multiple wetland locations

**American Coot** *Fulica americana* – only observed at the Port Aransas Nature Preserve but very close looks

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## **STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (2)**

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus*— lots of Stilts on this trip; seen multiple times at various wetlands  
**American Avocet** *Recurvirostra americana*— several very close at the Port Aransas Nature Preserve birding center

## **OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae (1)**

**American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus*— several observed on our *Skimmer* boat tour in Aransas Bay and also on South Padre Island.

## **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (4)**

**Black-bellied Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*— multiple birds in fall plumage observed on our *Skimmer* boat tour in Aransas Bay and also on South Padre Island.  
**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus*— several observed on our *Skimmer* boat tour in Aransas Bay  
**Piping Plover** *Charadrius melodus*— a few birds seen through the scope at the South Padre Island mudflats  
**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus*— feeding and calling birds observed at Estero Llano Grande SP and Santa Ana NWR

## **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (15)**

**Long-billed Curlew** *Numenius americanus*— Great looks of several birds in beautiful warm sunlight in the Valley on the grasslands at Old Port Isabel Road. Also several observed off the *Skimmer* in Aransas Bay tour.  
**Marbled Godwit** *Limosa fedoa*— another amazing shorebird seen at least 3x on the trip on South Padre Island.  
**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*— Several were on the Port Aransas jetty and docks near Aransas Bay.  
**Red Knot** *Calidris canutus*— a few birds seen through the scope at the South Padre Island mudflats  
**Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus*— a lone feeding bird at the Estero Llano Grande SP WBC wetlands by the visitor center  
**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*— Several were on the Port Aransas jetty beach  
**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*— feeding flocks observed at several wetland stops  
**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*— a lone feeding bird at the Estero Llano Grande SP WBC wetlands by the visitor center  
**Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri*— several at the Estero Llano Grande SP WBC wetlands by the visitor center  
**Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus*— several observed on our *Skimmer* boat tour in Aransas Bay and also on the South Padre Island mudflats  
**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*— several observed on our *Skimmer* boat tour in Aransas Bay  
**Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria*— observed at multiple locations near water  
**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca*— close looks at Estero Llano Grande and the pond at Hazel Bazemore Park (good side-by-side comparison next to a Lesser Yellowlegs)  
**Willet** *Tringa semipalmata*— the western race was seen multiple times: Aransas Bay, Goose Island & SPI  
**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*— see Greater Yellowlegs note :)

## **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (10)**

**Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla*— very common in large numbers near saltwater wetlands and beaches  
**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*— saw a few in the Aransas Bay area  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*— one individual on the *Skimmer* boat tour in Aransas Bay  
**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*— a flock was fielding over a field at the Laguna Atascosa NWR  
**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*— seen in Aransas Bay and South Padre Island; often with Royal Terns

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**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*—lone bird flying very close to the *Skimmer* boat in Aransas Bay

**Forster's Tern** *Sterna forsteri*—very common near saltwater wetlands and beaches

**Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maximus*— seen in Aransas Bay and South Padre Island; often with Caspian Terns

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*— 8 individuals on the beach near the Port Aransas jetty

**Black Skimmer** *Rynchops niger*—several flocks seen in Aransas Bay and the South Padre Island mudflats

## **STORKS: Ciconiidae (1)**

**Wood Stork** *Mycteria americana*— a lone bird circling over the Hazel Bazemore Hawk Watch

## **FRIGATEBIRDS: Fregatidae (1)**

**Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens*— an immature bird was perched on a channel marker on the *Skimmer* Aransas Bay tour

## **GANNETS AND BOOBIES: Sulidae (1)**

**Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster*— a single bird was seen on an oyster reef on the *Skimmer* Aransas Bay tour

## **ANHINGA: Anhingidae (1)**

**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga*— seen multiple times including a large kettle of over 40 migrating birds at the Hazel Bazemore Hawk Watch

## **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (2)**

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*— counted multiple times in wetland lagoons and ponds

**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus*— observed on the *Skimmer* boat tour in Aransas Bay

## **PELICANS: Pelecanidae (2)**

**American White Pelican** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*— large flock of over 50 birds at the Port Aransas Nature Preserve birding center; also seen at Hazel Bazemore Park and in Aransas Bay

**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis*— many observed in Aransas Bay and South Padre Island areas

## **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (12)**

**American Bittern** *Botaurus lentiginosus*—Joyce the bittern whisperer spotted this beauty right off the boardwalk at the Port Aransas Nature Preserve. Most of us got a good look without binoculars before it disappeared.

**Least Bittern** *Ixobrychus exilis*—Joyce also spotted this bird from the blind at the Santa Ana NWR.

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*— many sightings

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*— many sightings

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula*— many sightings

**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea*— both all white immatures and adults in multiple locations

**Tricolored Heron** *Egretta tricolor*—quite a few at Goose Island, South Padre Island and Aransas Bay.

**Reddish Egret** *Egretta rufescens*— at least 7 birds at various spots including an all white immature bird.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*— small numbers on pastures and at freshwater wetlands throughout the trip

**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens*—single birds seen at 5 different locations near water

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*— spotted at Edinburgh Scenic Wetlands and Santa Ana NWR

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea*— also seen at Edinburgh Scenic Wetlands and Santa Ana NWR

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## **IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (3)**

**White Ibis** *Eudocimus albus*— lots of birds at multiple locations

**White-faced Ibis** *Plegadis chihi*—not great looks but a flock flew by while stopped near Old Port Isabel Road

**Roseate Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja*—several very visible birds at the SPI Birding & Nature Center and Aransas Bay

## **NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (2)**

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus*— several seen multiple times

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*— quite common

## **OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*—if there were fish in the bodies of water near the coast, then we saw Ospreys

## **HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (11)**

**Mississippi Kite** *Ictinia mississippiensis*—a pair flew overhead at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park and we also saw at least 8 at the Hazel Bazemore Hawk Watch

**Northern Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*—we watched a hunting female near the pond in Hazel Bazemore Park and saw several others there later in the day

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** *Accipiter striatus*—migrating overhead at the Hawk Watch

**Cooper's Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii*— migrating overhead at the Hawk Watch

**Harris's Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus*—multiple sightings of perched and soaring birds. Beautiful hawk!

**White-tailed Hawk** *Geranoaetus albicaudatus*—also saw several soaring and perched. Great looks! Lifer for most of us.

**Red-shouldered Hawk** *Buteo lineatus*— migrating overhead at the Hawk Watch

**Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus*—Early in the trip we had 400 migrating by us at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP but that was nothing compared to the 12,000+ we witnessed kettling and streaming by at the Hazel Bazemore Hawk Watch in just a few hours.

**Swainson's Hawk** *Buteo swainsoni*—several in flight both at Santa Ana NWR and the National Butterfly Center

**Zone-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albonotatus* — a lone bird migrating by the Hawk Watch

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*— several seen in the Hazel Bazemore Park area; one nicely perched

## **KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (3)**

**Ringed Kingfisher** *Megaceryle torquata*— this bird completed the Kingfisher tri-fecta; observed hovering at Santa Ana NWR

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon*—observed multiple times; many calling their rattle-like trill

**Green Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle americana*—we had at least 4 different birds including a perched pair at the pond in Hazel Bazemore Park.

## **WOODPECKERS: Picidae (2)**

**Golden-fronted Woodpecker** *Melanerpes aurifrons*—most common woodpecker in South Texas, we saw many

**Ladder-backed Woodpecker** *Dryobates scalaris*— observed at Big Tree in a Live Oak tree. Life bird for many.

## **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (4)**

**Crested Caracara** *Caracara cheriway*— multiple individuals observed including 6 in a field off Old Port Isabel Rd.

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*— we had 3 kestrels migrating by the hawk watch

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**Aplomado Falcon** *Falco femoralis*— a streaking look at one on Old Port Isabel Road in the Valley  
**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*— one falcon was chasing shore birds (no luck) on the *Skimmer* boat tour in Aransas Bay. We also had one migrating through at the Hawk Watch.

## PARROTS: Psittacidae (5)

**Monk Parakeet** *Myiopsitta monachus* (1)— several Monk Parakeets and their nearby multi-family stick nests were seen at the 1909 Old Hidalgo Pumphouse, now a World Birding Center.

**Red-crowned Parrot** *Amazona viridigenalis*— several hundred flew in near dusk to roost at Oliveira Park in Brownsville, an amazing (and loud) spectacle.

**Red-lored Parrot** *Amazona autumnalis* (1) – quite a few were mixed in with the Red-crowned Parrots

**Yellow-headed Parrot** *Amazona cratrix* (1) – one lone bird with the other parrots roosting in the park  
[For Red-lored Parrots and Yellow-headed parrots 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*—A pair flew by on the golf course as we unloaded the luggage at Rancho Viejo resort.

## TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (9)

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** *Contopus virens*— single birds seen several places: SPI Convention Center woods, Goose Island SP, and Hazel Bazemore Park

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** *Empidonax flaviventris*— single birds seen several places: SPI and Blucher Park

**Least Flycatcher** *Empidonax minimus*— one single bird at SPI Convention center woods

**Great Crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus crinitus*— a few birds observed at Santa Ana NWR, SPI Convention Center woods, and Blucher Park.

**Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus*—The calls of the kiskadee were heard in many locations and many perched birds were seen by all.

**Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus*— we came across kingbirds in most of the places we visited in the Valley with Tropicals confirmed by call at Oliveira Park in Brownsville.

**Couch's Kingbird** *Tyrannus couchii*— more common than the Tropicals it seemed.

**Eastern Kingbird** *Tyrannus tyrannus*— at least 3 observed on South Padre Island

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus forficatus*—nice looks at multiple birds perched on wires at the National Butterfly Center and Hazel Bazemore Park.

## VIREOS: Vireonidae (2)

**White-eyed Vireo** *Vireo griseus*— we had quick looks at a family of 3 birds at the Edinburg Scenic Wetlands.

**Warbling Vireo** *Vireo gilvus*— single bird was spotted at the SPI convention center wooded area

## SHRIKES: Laniidae (1)

**Loggerhead Shrike** *Lanius ludovicianus*— perched on wire on Old Port Isabel Road and in Oliveira Park

## CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (1)

**Green Jay** *Cyanocorax yncas*— one of the classic and most beautiful South Texas birds. We saw several multiple times at the feeders in Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, National Butterfly Center, and Santa Ana NWR.

## TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (1)

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**Black-crested Titmouse** *Baeolophus atricristatus*— observed at feeders at Santa Ana NWR, Goose Island SP, and Hazel Bazemore State Park near the Hawk Watch.

## **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (3)**

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*— small flocks flying through the marsh at SPI Birding and Nature Center.

**Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor*— flocks also seen at SPI Birding and Nature Center and Santa Ana NWR

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*—most common swallow we observed at 6 different locations during the trip

## **KINGLETS: Regulidae (1)**

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus calendula*—observed at Blucher Park in Corpus Christi

## **GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae (1)**

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila caerulea*—several seen flitting about at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP and the National Butterfly Center

## **WRENS: Troglodytidae (1)**

**Carolina Wren** *Thryothorus ludovicianus*—calling and quick looks at Goose Island State Park

## **STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (1)**

**European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* (1)—several small flocks seen in urban areas

## **MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (4)**

**Gray Catbird** *Dumetella carolinensis*—HO – one was heard at Edinburgh Scenic Wetlands

**Curve-billed Thrasher** *Toxostoma curvirostre*—several calling birds at Edinburgh Scenic Wetlands and then a great look at a perched bird on a fence near the parking lot.

**Long-billed Thrasher** *Toxostoma longirostre*—observed at the feeders at the National Butterfly Center by some of the group

**Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos*—fairly common and observed multiple times

## **THRUSHES: Turdidae (1)**

**Swainson's Thrush** *Catharus ustulatus*— one was spotted at Blucher Park in Corpus Christi

## **OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* (1)— also known as the Burger Kinglet by some for their frequency to be found near dumpsters in Burger King parking lots. Common in urban areas.

## **FINCHES: Fringillidae (1)**

**Lesser Goldfinch** *Spinus psaltria*—several were feeding on the sunflowers on the Alamo Inn property in Alamo, TX.

## **NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Emberizidae (2)**

**Olive Sparrow** *Arremonops rufivirgatus*—observed below the feeders at the National Butterfly Center

**Lark Sparrow** *Chondestes grammacus*—two birds perched in a tree at the Bentsen-RioGrande Valley SP; our only sighting of the trip

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## **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Icteriidae (1)**

**Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens*— a lone bird observed skulking in a bush at Packery Channel Park

## **NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (8)**

**Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna*—several observed in various fields throughout the trip

**Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius*— one bird observed in a community park in Port Aransas

**Hooded Oriole** *Icterus cucullatus*—several observed on hummingbird feeders at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP and near the Hazel Bazemore Hawk Watch

**Altamira Oriole** *Icterus gularis*—one of the stars of the trip. Beautiful large orange and black oriole observed around the feeders at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP

**Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula*—several seen in the Port Aransas area and at Hazel Bazemore Park

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*— flocks observed at Estero Llano Grande SP and also in Port Aransas

**Bronzed Cowbird** *Molothrus aeneus*—flocks seen while driving in Alamo, TX and a nice look at a perched male in Hazel Bazemore Park.

**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus*—the most common bird seen on our trip just about everywhere

## **NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (12)**

**Ovenbird** *Seiurus aurocapilla*—we had a nice mix of warblers at the small, wooded area near the South Padre Island Convention Center including this Ovenbird

**Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia*—also seen there

**Nashville Warbler** *Leiothlypis ruficapilla*—besides Yellow and Wilson's Warblers this was the most common warbler observed

**Kentucky Warbler** *Geothlypis formosa*—wonderful look at a male on the ground at Blucher Park in Corpus Christi

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*—fleeting looks and a calling bird at Packery Channel Park

**Hooded Warbler** *Setophaga citrina*—amazing looks along the wood edges at both a male and female at the South Padre Island Convention Center

**American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla*—a female bird was also seen there

**Northern Parula** *Setophaga americana*— one was spotted at the National Butterfly Center

**Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia*—single birds observed at multiple locations

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Setophaga pensylvanica*—Joyce got a nice picture of a male molting into fall plumage at the Edinburgh Scenic Wetlands

**Orange-crowned Warbler** *Leiothlypis celata*—one single bird observed at South Padre Island Convention Center

**Wilson's Warbler** *Cardellina pusilla*—nice looks of single birds at multiple locations on the trip

## **CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (4)**

**Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra*— a few folks got a quick glimpse of one at the Edinburgh Scenic Wetlands

**Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis*—observed and singing at multiple locations

**Blue Grosbeak** *Passerina caerulea*—a nice spot of a perched male by Diane at the Port Aransas Nature Preserve

**Painted Bunting** *Passerina ciris*—Joyce snapped a fantastic picture of a beautiful male at the Edinburgh Scenic Wetlands WBC before it flew off before the group could spot it

## **MAMMALS (6 species recorded):**

**Eastern Cottontail** *Sylvilagus floridanus*— the common rabbit in South Texas, seen multiple times



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**Eastern Fox Squirrel** *Sciurus niger*—observed at close range at the feeders at the National Butterfly Center and several stops early in the trip as well

**Northern Raccoon** *Procyon lotor*—a family of 4 (mom and her youngsters) were observed in the marsh while on the *Skimmer* boat tour in Aransas Bay

**Hispid Cotton Rat** *Sigmodon hispidus*—in the rafters of the gazebo while eating lunch at the National Butterfly Center

**Collared Peccary** *Tayassu tajacu*—a family of 5 was observed at the watering station near the Hazel Bazemore Hawk Watch

**Bottlenose Dolphin** *Tursiops truncatus*—several observed from the *Skimmer* boat tour in Aransas Bay

## REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (6 species recorded):

**American Alligator** *Alligator mississippiensis*— a 5-footer was spotted in a canal at the Estero Llano Grande SP WBC. We also had a very large male (10-12 feet) off the boardwalk at the SPI Birding and Nature Center

**Red-eared Slider** *Trachemys scripta*—seen in the pond at Hazel Bazemore Park

**Blue Spiny Lizard** *Sceloporus cyanogenys*—basking in the sun at the Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP

**Texas Whiptail Lizard** (unidentified species, Family: *Teiidae*, Genus: *Aspidoscelis*)— at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park

**Texas Tortoise** *Gopherus berlandieri*— observed crossing a path at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP

**Green Sea Turtle** *Chelonia mydas* — two were observed surfacing for air while we were standing on Port Aransas jetty

*Several toads were observed also but were not easily identified as they quickly hopped into the bushes.*