

# South Texas Birding & Nature | Species List January 20 – 28, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



With guide Bryan Calk and participants Terry, Holly, Dennis, Jeff, and Tracy

Compiled by Bryan Calk



**Summary:** A lovely group of nature enthusiasts came together to share a spectacular week of birding the coastal prairies, complex wetlands, brush country and subtropical thornscrub of south Texas. While the weather kept us guessing at times, the wildlife, botany, and natural history of the region consistently amazed us. Highlights of the tour included a rare Broad-tailed Hummingbird, exceptional views of some uncommon specialties like Audubon's Oriole and Whooping Cranes, and all of the region's rainbow of iconic residents.

<https://ebird.org/tripreport/147628>

(I)= Introduced

Green Jay by Bryan Calk

## BIRDS (182 species recorded):

### DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis*— Many seen during the tour, but most notably seen in very large numbers at Estero Llano Grande State Park

**Fulvous Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor*— Two together in a smaller pond at Estero Llano Grande State Park on our way back towards the visitor center

**Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens*— A couple dozen were at the Live Oak Country Club, mostly seen in flight at a distance

**Blue-winged Teal** *Spatula discors*— Seen daily on all but the last two days of the tour. Best observed at the Port Aransas (Port A.) Birding Center and the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center

**Cinnamon Teal** *Spatula cyanoptera*— Two seen through the scope at Santa Ana NWR on the furthest of Willow Lakes

**Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*— Seen daily for the first six days of the tour in mostly smaller numbers, most abundant at the Port A. Birding Center

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*— Present at a variety of places, surprisingly abundant at Salineño along the Rio Grande, but present in expected numbers at places like Santa Ana and Port A.

**American Wigeon** *Mareca americana*— Small groups found in Port A., South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center, and elsewhere

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*— About eight were seen in a freshwater pond in Rockport, an uncommon bird in this region

**Mottled Duck** *Anas fulvigula*— Seen commonly at many locations near the coast, very tame at the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*— Good numbers at Suter Wildlife Refuge and from The Skimmer boat trip in Rockport, but also at several other locations

**Green-winged Teal** *Anas crecca*— Hundreds present at the Port A. Birding Center, and smaller numbers also at Estero Llano Grande State Park and others

**Canvasback** *Aythya valisineria*— One flew downstream at Salineño while we were standing on the banks of the river

**Redhead** *Aythya americana*— Great numbers at Suter and in the bay along the JFK Causeway wetlands, also at the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center

**Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris*— Around thirty were present on the river at Salineño when we arrived and scanned

**Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis*— A few at Suter Wildlife Refuge, and over a dozen at both the JFK Causeway Wetlands and Salineño

**Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola*— Decent but distant views, at Suter, Indian Point, and Salineño

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*— Best seen at the JFK Causeway Wetlands and at Indian Point, but some also seen in the bay at the South Padre Island flats

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*— A few in an irrigation canal along Old Port Isable Road were oddly the only ones we saw

#### **GUANS AND CHACHALACAS: Cracidae**

**Plain Chachalaca** *Ortalis vetula*— Seen first at Salineño and at feeders at Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park and the National Butterfly Center

#### **NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae**

**Northern Bobwhite** *Colinus virginianus*— A small covey seen coming to the camp host feeders at Falcon State Park

**Scaled Quail** *Callipepla squamata*— About two dozen were coming to the feeders at Rancho Lomitas while we sat on the porch of the casitas

#### **PARTRIDGES AND PHEASANTS: Phasianidae**

**Wild Turkey** *Meleagris gallopavo*— Several wandering around Bentsen

#### **GREBES: Podicipedidae**

**Least Grebe** *Tachybaptus dominicus*— Seen well at Estero Llano Grande State Park and Santa Ana, with a nice comparison with a Pied-billed at Anzalduas

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps*— Seen at several locations throughout the tour, usually in ones or twos

#### **PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae**

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* (**I**)— Commonly seen when traversing urban areas

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* (**I**)— Scattered sightings throughout the week, with good looks at spots like Salineño and the Sarita Rest Area

**Inca Dove** *Columbina inca*— Seen well at a few locations like Hazel Bazemore, Rancho Lomitas, and Falcon State Park

**Common Ground-Dove** *Columbina passerina*— A couple coming to the camp host feeders at Falcon State Park

**White-tipped Dove** *Leptotila verreauxi*— Seen well at feeder stations at Bentsen, Rancho Lomitas, and others

**White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica*— Seen abundantly throughout the tour

**Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura*— Seen commonly in small numbers throughout the tour

#### **CUCKOOS: Cuculidae**

**Greater Roadrunner** *Geococcyx californianus*— Many seen sunning along the entrance road to Laguna Atascosa NWR, and one that came in for mealworm treats at Rancho Lomitas

### **NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae**

**Common Pauraque** *Nyctidromus albigollis*— One roosting near Alligator Lake at Estero Llano Grande State Park, and a pair of them seen roosted together at Quinta Mazatlan under a eucalyptus

### **HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae**

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** *Archilochus colubris*— One confirmed at the Laguna Vista Nature Trail and one at Estero Llano Grande State Park

**Black-chinned Hummingbird** *Archilochus alexandri*— One at the Nature Center feeders at Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park

**Rufous Hummingbird** *Selasphorus rufus*— One continuing stakeout bird at the Laguna Vista Nature Trail

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird** *Selasphorus platycercus*— One discovered at the feeders at Estero Llano Grande State Park, a very rare bird for this area

**Buff-bellied Hummingbird** *Amazilia yucatanensis*— One at Estero Llano Grande State Park and a few at the visitor center area of Bentsen RGVSP

### **RAILS AND ALLIES: Rallidae**

**Clapper Rail** *Rallus crepitans*— One gave us a very brief view from the boardwalk at the Port A. Birding Center

**Sora** *Porzana carolina*— Very nice and prolonged views of these birds walking around below the boardwalk at the Port A. Birding Center

**Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata*— Seen well at the Port A. Birding Center and South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center

**American Coot** *Fulica americana*— Commonly seen throughout the tour at many locations

### **CRANES: Gruidae**

**Sandhill Crane** *Antigone canadensis*— A few small groups and individuals seen during our outings in the Rockport area

**Whooping Crane** *Grus americana*— Over two dozen seen in Aransas NWR from the Skimmer out of Fulton, plus several seen on land on the Lamar Peninsula near Big Tree, and a family group seen in the distance at the Port A. Birding Center

### **STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae**

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus*— Seen in several coastal spots like the Port A. Birding Center and the Zapata Memorial Boat Ramp

**American Avocet** *Recurvirostra americana*— Over 200 birds seen at the Port A. Birding Center, and encountered in smaller numbers at several other spots

### **OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae**

**American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus*— Several seen from The Skimmer and a pair at the Zapata Memorial Boat Ramp, plus one at the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center

### **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae**

**Black-bellied Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*— Most abundant on the flats behind the SPI convention center, but also at Indian Point and the Zapata boat ramp

**Snowy Plover** *Charadrius nivosus*— Several were walking on the water's edge as we birded by van along the JFK Causeway after lunch at Snoopy's

**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus*— Seen closely at the JFK Causeway Wetlands, but also at Indian Point and the SPI convention center flats

**Piping Plover** *Charadrius melodus*— Many seen at the SPI convention center flats

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus*— Many at Anzalduas county park in the large field, also encountered incidentally at a few other spots

### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae**

**Long-billed Curlew** *Numenius americanus*— Good numbers seen flushing away and wandering the grasslands as we drove down Old Port Isabel Rd. and in smaller numbers at a few other locations along the coast

**Marbled Godwit** *Limosa fedoa*— A couple of birds tucked up at Indian Point, and a nice flock that gave us good views through the scope at the Zapata Memorial Boat Ramp

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*— Commonly seen along saltwater shorelines

**Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus*— Around 40 hanging out in the shallow waters of the Llano Grande seen from on top of the levee at Estero Llano Grande State Park

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*— Commonly seen along saltwater shorelines

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*— Good numbers at Indian Point, the Zapata boat ramp, and the SPI convention center flats, as well as several other spots

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*— Several in the mixed shorebird flock at Indian Point, the Zapata boat ramp, and Estero Llano Grande State Park

**Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri*— Many in the mixed shorebird flock at Indian Point, the Zapata boat ramp, and the SPI convention center flats

**Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus*— Seen at a few locations around South Padre Island and one at Indian Point

**Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*— A cooperative flock at the Port A. Birding Center and lots at Estero Llano Grande State Park

**Wilson's Snipe** *Gallinago delicata*— Good views of several sneaking through the grassy field on the Lamar Peninsula near Big Tree

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*— A couple in the Rockport area, one at the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center and at Salineño

**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca*— Good comparison views with Lessers at Cape Velero Dr. and in several other spots around Rockport

**Willet** *Tringa semipalmata*— Commonly seen along saltwater shorelines

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*— Seen several times around the Rockport area

### **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae**

**Bonaparte's Gull** *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*— Two hanging out at the Port A. Birding Center sitting on the mudflat below the boardwalk overlook

**Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla*— Thousands seen throughout the tour, all relatively close to the coast

**Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*— Seen in several places around the Rockport area and SPI, also at Salineño and Falcon State Park

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*— Found by ones and twos around the Rockport area

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*— A few found during our boat ride on The Skimmer around Aransas Bay, plus one at the Port A. Birding Center

**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*— One seen briefly from The Skimmer

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*— Mostly seen around the South Padre Island area and one cruised down the Rio Grande at Salineño

**Forster's Tern** *Sterna forsteri*— Many seen from The Skimmer and our ferry ride in the Rockport/Port Aransas area

**Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maximus*— A few seen on The Skimmer and many on the convention center flats at South Padre Island

**Black Skimmer** *Rynchops niger*— Great close views at Suter Wildlife Refuge and a good number roosting at the Zapata Memorial Boat ramp, many on the convention center flats at South Padre Island

### **LOONS: Gaviidae**

**Common Loon** *Gavia immer*— A small handful seen while on The Skimmer

### **ANHINGA: Anhingidae**

**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga*— Great views of them catching fish below the boardwalk bridge at the UTRGV campus in Brownsville, and a couple at Estero Llano Grande State Park

### **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae**

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*—Seen commonly throughout the tour whenever near any water body, more frequently near saltwater

**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus*— Seen commonly throughout the tour whenever near any water body, more frequently near freshwater

### **PELICANS: Pelecanidae**

**American White Pelican** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*— Seen well at many locations during the tour, with great views at the Port A. Birding Center

**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis*— Seen commonly any time near the saltwater coast

### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae**

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*— Nearly one hundred seen during the ride on The Skimmer with many others seen during the week

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*— Seen commonly near a variety of water bodies during the tour, notably abundant at Cape Velero Drive

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula*— Most abundant in the Rockport area but with several others seen throughout the tour

**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea*— Solitary birds seen at a few locations around Rockport and at the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center and Estero Llano Grande State Park

**Tricolored Heron** *Egretta tricolor*— Several seen from The Skimmer and at various wetland habitats along the coast

**Reddish Egret** *Egretta rufescens*— Both white and dark morph birds seen well during the tour, particularly at Cape Velero Drive and the Port A. Birding Center

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*— One out on an island at Anzalduas county park

**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens*— Two at the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center along the boardwalk

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*— Most abundant at Suter Wildlife Refuge and from The Skimmer, and a couple tucked in with the Yellow-crowns at Estero Llano Grande State Park

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea*— Several seen very well roosting at Alligator Lake at Estero Llano Grande State Park, plus a couple other sightings along the coast

### **IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae**

**White Ibis** *Eudocimus albus*— Seen commonly at coastal locations, like some very tame birds at the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center

**White-faced Ibis** *Plegadis chihi*— A few seen at Estero Llano Grande State Park

**Roseate Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja*— Seen very well a few times, like at Suter Wildlife Refuge, the Port A. Birding Center, and from The Skimmer

### **NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae**

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus*— Seen in relatively small numbers with good views in Rockport and Salineño

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*— Seen daily during the tour with good numbers at Sabal Palm and around Rockport

### **OSPREY: Pandionidae**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*— Seen by ones and twos everywhere along the coast, one eating a fish on a pole at the Laguna Vista Nature Trail, and one at Salineño dragging something from its feet in flight

### **HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae**

**White-tailed Kite** *Elanus leucurus*— Two seen from the levee at Estero Llano Grande State Park

**Northern Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*— A few seen hunting the marshes around Rockport and Old Port Isabel Rd.

**Cooper's Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii*— One hanging out at Oliveira Park the first night we looked for parrots there, and a couple other singles seen at Estero Llano Grande State Park, Rancho Lomitas, and Bentsen

**Harris's Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus*— A little family group seen on the way to Laguna Atascosa NWR and a few at both Santa Ana NWR and Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park

**White-tailed Hawk** *Geranoaetus albicaudatus*— Great views at Old Port Isabel Rd. and briefly at the Aplomado Falcon stop at Mustang Island

**Gray Hawk** *Buteo plagiatus*— Singles seen well at Salineño, Bentsen, and the National Butterfly Center

**Red-shouldered Hawk** *Buteo lineatus*— A couple seen at Hazel Bazemore hunting right outside the entrance, with singles at Sabal Palm Sanctuary, Estero Llano Grande State Park, and Quinta Mazatlan

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*— A few seen during the tour, notably at Oliveira Park and Anzalduas county park

### **OWLS: Strigidae**

**Great Horned Owl** *Bubo virginianus*— A pair started duetting while we were watching the feeders at Rancho Lomitas, and we were able to track them down for some good views

### **KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae**

**Ringed Kingfisher** *Megaceryle torquata*— One at the UTRGV campus resaca habitat as we were making our way back towards the vans, and a pair cruising up and down the Rio Grande at Salineño

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon*— Several seen in the Rockport area near the coast

**Green Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle americana*— One at willow lakes area of Santa Ana NWR

### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae**

**Golden-fronted Woodpecker** *Melanerpes aurifrons*— Many seen and heard throughout the tour, with good views at places like Salineño and Bentsen RGV State Park

**Ladder-backed Woodpecker** *Dryobates scalaris*— Several seen and heard throughout the week, with good views at places like Salineño and Sabal Palm Sanctuary

**Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus*— One heard at Salineño along the river

### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae**

**Crested Caracara** *Caracara cheriway*— Seen by the ones and twos, often while driving but also at places like Hazel Bazemore and Falcon State Park

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*— Often seen on power lines while driving or incidentally throughout the week, with good views at the Live Oak Country Club and Cape Velero Drive in Rockport

**Aplomado Falcon** *Falco femoralis*— A pair seen on their man-made hacking platform on Mustang Island

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*— One sitting on the tall tower at Hazel Bazemore that took off shortly after being spotted, and one hunting pigeons in Brownsville on our way to dinner at Toscafino

### **PARROTS: Psittacidae**

**Monk Parakeet** *Myiopsitta monachus* (1)— A small group seen in flight from the van as we drove through Corpus Christi on our way to Hazel Bazemore

**Red-crowned Parrot** *Amazona viridigenalis*— The main Brownsville flock was found in a neighborhood near Oliveira Park, took two tries to track them down

**White-fronted Parrot** *Amazona albifrons*— A few seen flying over us during our first night of searching for parrots in Brownsville, then again seen mixed in with the Red-crowns the following night when we discovered their new roost site

**Green Parakeet** *Psittacara holochlorus*— Around 250 seen in various groups mixed in with the incredible Great-tailed Grackle roost in midtown McAllen before our final dinner

### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae**

**Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet** *Camptostoma imberbe*— One seen in a great mixed flock at the National Butterfly Center along the hackberry trail

**Black Phoebe** *Sayornis nigricans*— One at Estero Llano Grande State Park near Alligator Lake, and one at Salineño along the river

**Eastern Phoebe** *Sayornis phoebe*— A few in the Rockport area, and singles at Sabal Palm, Estero Llano Grande State Park, and Quinta Mazatlan

**Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus*— Two at the pasture next to Big Tree on the Lamar Peninsula

**Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus*— Commonly seen once we got far enough south. First encountered at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center and many at Salineño

**Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus*— First were a couple seen at Oliveira Park while searching for parrots, then a few others the rest of the tour

**Couch's Kingbird** *Tyrannus couchii*— A couple heard well and seen at Sabal Palm, also at Salineño and Falcon State Park

### **VIREOS: Vireonidae**

**White-eyed Vireo** *Vireo griseus*— Mostly heard and encountered at a few locations, with good views at the National Butterfly Center

**Blue-headed Vireo** *Vireo solitarius*— One seen briefly at the Laguna Vista Nature Trail, and a few seen well in the mixed flock at the National Butterfly Center

### **SHRIKES: Laniidae**

**Loggerhead Shrike** *Lanius ludovicianus*— Several seen throughout the tour when near open field areas, with good views at the Live Oak Country Club and the Laguna Vista Nature Trail

### **CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae**

**Green Jay** *Cyanocorax yncas*— Commonly encountered at almost every stop once we got into the Lower Rio Grande Valley, with exceptional views at Salineño, Rancho Lomitas, and the National Butterfly Center

### **TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae**

**Black-crested Titmouse** *Baeolophus atricristatus*— First seen at the Laguna Vista Nature Trail, but subsequently observed well at places like Rancho Lomitas, Estero Llano Grande State Park, and Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park

### **PENDULINE TITS: Remizidae**

**Verdin** *Auriparus flaviceps*— Seen well at Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park, also briefly at a couple other locations

### **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae**

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*— One flying along the river at Salineño

**Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor*— Good numbers circling around the ponds at Estero Llano Grande State Park

### **KINGLETS: Regulidae**

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus calendula*— Seen many times during the tour, found by ones and twos mixed in with other passerines

### **GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae**

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Poliophtila caerulea*— Seen in well at Bentsen RGV State Park, the National Butterfly Center, and others, often part of mixed flocks

### **WRENS: Troglodytidae**

**Rock Wren** *Salpinctes obsoletus*—One heard only at Falcon State Park near the campground restrooms

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon*— Often heard from deep in the undergrowth, but glimpsed at places like the National Butterfly Center and the Big Tree area of the Lamar Peninsula

**Winter Wren** *Troglodytes hiemalis*— One heard by the feeding area at the National Butterfly Center

**Marsh Wren** *Cistothorus palustris*— Singles seen and heard at the Port A. Birding Center, the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center, and in the cattails along the river at Salineño

**Carolina Wren** *Thryothorus ludovicianus*— Often heard from deep in the lush areas, and seen at Santa Ana NWR

**Bewick's Wren** *Thryomanes bewickii*— One each at Falcon State Park and Rancho Lomitas

**Cactus Wren** *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*— One coming to the feeder at Rancho Lomitas

### **STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae**

**European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* (I)— Commonly encountered while driving through urban areas, biggest numbers at the McAllen grackle roost

### **MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae**

**Curve-billed Thrasher** *Toxostoma curvirostre*— Two coming to the feeding area at Rancho Lomitas

**Long-billed Thrasher** *Toxostoma longirostre*— Seen at several places giving great views, like the feeding station at Laguna Atascosa NWR and Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park

**Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos*— Commonly seen throughout the tour, with good views at Hazel Bazemore, Falcon State Park, and others

### **THRUSHES: Turdidae**

**Clay-colored Thrush** *Turdus grayi*— First seen coming to the feeders at Salineño, but much better views at Bentsen and Quinta Mazatlan

**American Robin** *Turdus migratorius*— Two around the camp host feeders at Falcon State Park

### **WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae**

**Cedar Waxwing** *Bombycilla cedrorum*— Two flyovers at Falcon State Park and at Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park

### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* (I)— Commonly seen in urban areas but also attending several feeding stations

### **PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae**

**American Pipit** *Anthus rubescens*— A single flyover at the Port A. Birding Center and several in the big field at Anzalduas county park

### **FINCHES: Fringillidae**

**Lesser Goldfinch** *Spinus psaltria*— Several along the hackberry trail at the National Butterfly Center and a few at Quinta Mazatlan

**American Goldfinch** *Spinus tristis*— A small flock high in the trees along the hackberry trail at the National Butterfly Center

### **NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Emberizidae**

**Olive Sparrow** *Arremonops rufivirgatus*— First seen coming to the feeding area at Laguna Atascosa NWR, but heard at several other spots and seen at other feeding areas

**Black-throated Sparrow** *Amphispiza bilineata*— Several came to visit us during our picnic lunch at Falcon State Park

**White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys*— Two coming to the camp host feeding area at Falcon State Park



**Savannah Sparrow** *Passerculus sandwichensis*— Several seen well around the pasture adjacent to the Big Tree on the Lamar Peninsula and at Cape Velero Drive, with a few other sightings during the tour

**Lincoln's Sparrow** *Melospiza lincolni*— Seen coming to the feeding area at Hazel Bazemore, and at the feeders at Laguna Atascosa, Salineño, and the National Butterfly Center

**Swamp Sparrow** *Melospiza georgiana*— A couple in the reeds at the Port A. Birding Center seen along the boardwalk

#### **NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae**

**Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna*— A few seen at various spots around Rockport, and a couple at Old Port Isabel Rd.

**Hooded Oriole** *Icterus cucullatus*— One coming to the feeders seen during our lunch at Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park

**Altamira Oriole** *Icterus gularis*— Best views at Salineño, Santa Ana, and Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park

**Audubon's Oriole** *Icterus graduacauda*— First seen coming to the feeders at Rancho Lomitas, and another at the feeding area at the National Butterfly Center

**Altamira x Audubon's Oriole (hybrid)**—One coming to the feeding area along with both pure Altamira and Audubon's

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*— Seen abundantly around a few feeding areas like Salineño and Bentsen RGV State Park, but commonly encountered throughout the week

**Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater*— A couple in the parking area of the Port A. Birding Center

**Brewer's Blackbird** *Euphagus cyanocephalus*— A couple dozen loitering around the Sarita Rest Area

**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus*— Commonly seen in urban areas and at several feeding areas, but most spectacularly at the McAllen roost at 10<sup>th</sup> and Trenton on our last evening

#### **NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae**

**Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia*— One in a small mixed flock at Estero Llano Grande State Park

**Orange-crowned Warbler** *Leiothlypis celata*— Commonly seen in mixed flocks throughout the week, especially in wooded areas

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*— A few in the reeds around the boardwalk at the Port A. Birding Center, at the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center, and at Salineño along the river

**Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia*— One female-type of the Mangrove subspecies at the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center and one of the northern subspecies at the Laguna Vista Nature Trail

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata*— Many seen throughout the tour, with good views at the Port A. Birding Center, the Laguna Vista Nature Trail, and the National Butterfly Center

**Yellow-throated Warbler** *Setophaga dominica*— One just outside the visitor center of the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center as we were leaving

**Wilson's Warbler** *Cardellina pusilla*— A few at the Laguna Vista Nature Trail giving mostly fleeting views, and one at Sabal Palm heard well but only glimpsed

#### **CARDINAL-GROSBEAKS: Cardinalidae**

**Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis*— Many seen during the week, often at feeders

**Pyrrhuloxia** *Cardinalis sinuatus*— A couple around Falcon State Park being very cooperative in the butterfly garden area, and one at Rancho Lomitas

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus*—One above the feeding area at Sabal Palm Sanctuary

#### **MAMMALS (10 species recorded):**

**Coyote** *Canis latrans*—Two seen hunting in an open field between Anzalduas and the National Butterfly Center

**Cottontail sp.** *Sylvilagus sp.*— Seen at Rancho Lomitas and Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park

**Eastern Fox Squirrel** *Sciurus niger*— Seen in the Rockport area, Estero Llano Grande State Park, and others

**Hispid Cotton Rat** *Sigmodon hispidus*— Seen at several feeding areas, like at Estero Llano Grande State Park and Salineño

**Collared Peccary** *Tayassu tajacu*— Seen at Falcon State Park under the feeders at the camp host site area, and at Bentsen RGV State Park

**Wild Boar** *Lithobates berlandieri*—A couple seen from The Skimmer in Aransas NWR

**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus*— Several seen in the Rockport Area

**Bottlenose Dolphin** *Tursiops truncatus*— Seen from The Skimmer, the ferry, and at the Zapata Memorial Boat Ramp

**Nine-banded Armadillo** *Dasypus novemcinctus*—Seen foraging along the entrance road to Laguna Atascosa NWR

**Nilgai** *Boselaphus tragocamelus*—One seen bolting through the foliage at the back of Sabal Palm Sanctuary

## REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (4 species recorded):

**American Alligator** *Alligator mississippiensis*— At the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center

**Red-eared Slider** *Trachemys scripta*— A few seen at the Port A. Birding Center, the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center, and at the UTRGV resaca habitat

**Texas Spiny Softshell** *Apalone spinifera emoryi*— Seen sunning at Hazel Bazemore

**Rio Grande Leopard Frog** *Lithobates berlandieri*—Encountered at Sabal Palm and the UTRGV campus resaca habitat

## Butterflies 19 species

### SWALLOWTAILS: Papilionidae

**Pipevine Swallowtail** *Battus philenor*

**Western Giant Swallowtail** *Heraclides rumiko*

### WHITES AND YELLOWS: Pieridae

**Dainty Sulphur** *Nathalis iole*

**Little Yellow** *Pyrisitia lisa*

### GOSSAMARWINGS: Lycaenidae

**Mallow Scrub-Hairstreak** *Strymon istapa*

### BRUSHFOOTS: Nymphalidae

**American Snout** *Libytheana carinenta*

**Monarch** *Danaus plexippus*

**Queen** *Danaus gilippus*

**Zebra Longwing** *Heliconius charithonia*

**Northern Mestra** *Mestra amymone*

**Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta*

**White Peacock** *Anartia jatrophae*

**Texan Crescent** *Anthanassa texana*

**Phaon Crescent** *Phyciodes phaon*

### SKIPPERS: Hesperidae

**Brown Longtail** *Urbanus procne*

**Checkered Skipper sp.** *Pyrgus sp.*

**Laviana White-Skipper** *Heliopetes laviana*

**Fiery Skipper** *Hylephila phyleus*

**Sachem** *Atalopedes campestris*