



Sunrise Birding LLC  
**South Texas Specialties**  
**Trip Report**  
February 15 – 23, 2020



**Photo: Our intrepid group of happy birders with Clay Taylor after seeing Couch's Kingbird!**

**Leaders:** Frank Gallo & Phil Rusch  
Report and photos by Frank Gallo with additional photos as labeled.

**Total Species: 179 + 1 escape (Yellow-crowned Parrot)**

## Some Highlights and Memorable Sightings from our Trip

- The Whooping Crane chase\*\*!
- Aplomado Falcon\*\*
- Hook-billed Kite\*\*
- Grove-billed Anis\*\*
- “Mangrove” Yellow Warbler\*\*
- Red-billed Pigeon\*\*
- Morelet’s Seedeater\*\*
- Rose-throated Becard\*\*!
- Green Jays & Plain Chachalacas
- Pauraques!
- “McCall's" Eastern Screech- Owl
- Great Horned Owl on a nest
- Hanging out with Clay & Debbie Taylor at their patch and house.
- Snowy Plovers
- Olive Sparrows
- Sprague’s Pipit & Grasshopper Sparrow
- Three Phoebe Species....Say’s!!
- Buff-bellied Hummingbird
- All three Kingfishers
- Ferruginous Pygmy Owl\*\*!!!
- Peccary & Armadillo
- The Zapata Landfill Experience!
- Great looks at a slew of raptors: White-tailed Kites, White-tailed, Swainson’s, Harris’s & Zone-tailed Hawks!
- Red-billed Pigeon Roost
- Lunch at Nana’s...
- Audubon’s, Altamira, and Hooded Orioles\*\*!
- Gull-billed and Sandwich Terns
- Clay-colored Thrush
- Tropical and Couch’s Kingbirds – Score!
- The company of friends, old and new!
- The food....

\* Photos by Frank Gallo unless otherwise noted.

### Saturday, February 15 - Arrival San Antonio

The group met at Enterprise Rental Counter at 1:30 p.m. We loaded our van and headed to the Frio Turf Farms in search of the Mountain Plovers scouted by Frank and Phil the day before. Sadly, the plovers had departed for more northern climes. However, we saw our first Chihuahuan Ravens and Western Meadowlarks at the farm, and were serenaded by a pair of dueting Great Horned Owls at the second, while we watched a Long-billed Curlew traverse the fields. Three Pyrrhuloxia teed up as we were leaving and gave us all nice views. Our official welcome dinner was at Catfish Charlies, a wonderful seafood restaurant just six minutes from our hotel. Everyone agreed that their hushpuppies were the best they’d ever eaten! The catfish was also very good. Overnight in Corpus Christi.

### Sun., February 16 – Corpus Christi: Hazel Bazemore to A. Turnbull Nature Center

We departed for Hazel Bazemore State Park after breakfast where we met our friend **Clay Taylor**.



Hazel is Clay’s patch, and we gathered on the park’s incredible hawk platform to scan the skies and bird feeders lining the clearing. Before we reached the platform, Clay heard a Tropical Kingbird in the golf course next door which showed nicely. Highlights from the platform included **Green Jay**, Field and Olive Sparrows, Inca and a White-tipped Doves, Golden-fronted Woodpecker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker seen by some. A Great Kiskadee serenaded us from its perch by the tower and a distant Merlin perched on a wire. Black-bellied Whistling Ducks and Long-

billed Curlews flew over us on their morning commute. Our walk to the pond garnered us a female Indigo Bunting, and fantastic views of a female **Green Kingfisher (below)**; she perched in the open above a small pond hosting Northern Shovelers and a young Tricolored Heron - amazing! We also

managed to obtain quick but good looks at a Sedge Wren in the pond-edge grasses. Eventually, we looped the park alternating between walking and driving. The boardwalk held a cooperative pair of Ladder-backed Woodpeckers that flew across the river, and a Common Yellowthroat in the grasses. Western Meadowlarks and a female Vermilion Flycatcher were nice finds in the field.



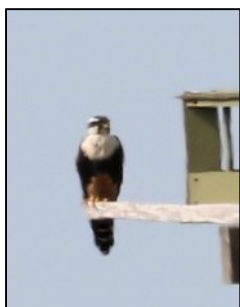
Next, we drove to Clay's house where Debbie met us with snacks and drinks. Thank you Clay and Debbie for taking such good care of us!! We saw both Curve-billed and Long-billed Thrashers, an

Orange-crowned Warbler, Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, and hordes of White-winged, Eurasian Collared, and Inca Doves. Some folks saw one of Clay's Black-chinned Hummingbirds, as well.

After saying our goodbyes to Clay and Debbie, we headed to Oso Bay Preserve on a quest for the elusive **Groove-billed Ani**. They evaded us until the very last minute; we were nearly back to the car when 8 popped up from the tall grass along the fence line. Touchdown! They gave us great views as the flock passed by us, stopping and feeding as they went. This is a tough bird to see in winter!



Our next stop was the causeway to Mustang Island to search for Snowy Plovers. We were rewarded with great looks at 4 running along the beach, and we saw a variety of waterfowl, waders, and shorebirds, including Red-breasted Mergansers, Redheads, Ruddy Turnstones, Sanderling, a Reddish Egret, and both White and Brown Pelicans.



Left, Aplomado Falcon, above Groove-billed Ani - Anthony Vicciarelli

As we continued north on Mustang Island, we picked up Pied-billed Grebe, Forster's Terns, and many other common gulls, terns, and waders. Our stop at the **Aplomado Falcon** hacking tower paid off; one of the pair was standing on the crossbar and gave us lovely views. Score!

Our next stop was the beautiful Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Nature Center in Port Aransas with its incredible observation tower with hopes of seeing a pair of Whooping Cranes present there all winter. The Cranes first gave us the slip, but there were many other birds in the pools, including slews of Forster's Terns, 10 Gull-billed Terns, Common Gallinules, American Coots, **Roseate Spoonbills**, White Ibis, enormous White Pelicans, a variety of shorebirds and herons, and a couple of rather wide alligators.



Continuing our quest to find the cranes, we drove to several access points around the preserve looking for them. Along the way, we picked up two pairs of Mottled Ducks in a roadside pool with Black-crowned Night-Herons. Heading south, we made a last ditch stop at Charlie's Pastures where Frank finally found the Whooping Cranes. We enjoyed watching them feed in the marsh from the trailer park next door, along with many of the trailer park residents. We shared our scopes!

We departed for Harlingen a bit behind schedule but triumphant. At Chapman Ranch, we were treated to incredible looks at White-tailed Hawk perched atop a post! After a stop at the Sarita Rest Area, we went for Dinner in Harlingen at a nice Tex-Mex restaurant. Overnight at Country Inn & Suites.

### Mon., February 17- Harlingen – Brownsville – McAllen



Our morning's goals were to look for Red-crowned Parrots in Harlingen before heading to find a Rose-throated Becard\*\* at Resaca de la Palma on the way to Brownsville. Dawn at the Community Center produced lovely views of a pair of Tropical Kingbirds and a couple of Long-billed Curlews but no parrots. Nor were there any at our next stop, so we headed to the Resaca.

Although the Resaca's buildings were closed on Monday's, walk-ins were allowed and volunteers were kindly keeping the feeders filled. We arrived early and were rewarded with a nice selection of species, including a beautiful young male Rose-throated Becard, first spotted by Anthony, feeding at the forest edge with Altamira Orioles. Black-crested Titmice, Olive Sparrows and **Plain Chachalacas** were visiting the feeders. It was very birdy around the buildings.

After a successful first stop, we headed to Lincoln' Park and the lagoons at the University of Texas RGV, Brownsville, with hopes of finding an elusive Black Hawk that was spending the winter. The campus was lovely, and we worked the trails and boardwalk near the lagoon. Additions to the list included Mexican Mallard, Solitary Sandpiper, both yellowleg species, and several other species. A stop at Lincoln Park produced a Northern Beardless Tyrannulet that we could hear

but not see. We also had up close looks at a piece of the mighty boarder wall. There may have been a symbolic staged protest to said wall.....

After a fine lunch at an authentic local barbeque joint, our intrepid birders headed on to South Padre Island and the incredible boardwalk at the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center.

At the Center, a **Neotropic Cormorant** decked out in breeding splendor met us on the board walk as we began the loop in search of "Mangrove" Yellow Warbler; hampered by gusty winds, everyone was able to hear a singing male, and a few were lucky to see it in the dense mangroves. Along the way, we also saw countless waders, shorebirds, ducks, and terns. We had incredible looks at **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks**, Purple and Common Gallinules, Roseate



Spoonbills, and our only Sandwich Tern of the trip, in the pools lining the boardwalk. It was a wonderful end to a great afternoon.

We headed on to McAllen our base for the next three nights. We made a stop for Harris's Hawk along the way. Shortly after, two White-tailed Kites hovered over our van. What stunning birds

### **Tue., February 18 – Santa Ana, Estero Llano Grande, and Parrots**

Today our target was the near mythical Hook-billed Kite. This year, a pair was being seen near the Tower at Santa Ana, so we arrived early went straight to the tower. A few folks spotted a Clay-colored Thrush along the way. We were set up early on the tower and our diligence paid off. At 8:38 a.m., Frank nearly jumped out of his socks, when the male Hook-billed Kite flew by heading west. Sadly, a couple of people missed it. To be fair to others waiting, Frank sent down seven people, to let others up. For those who stayed, the consolation prize was a magnificent Ringed Kingfisher that flew by at eye-level. Phil found a Great Horned Owl perched on its nest for all to enjoy. As everyone was exiting the tower, a Common Pauraque was found near the base that flew by the group.



Least Grebes - Mary Lou Mellon

After our Hook-billed Kite and Pauraque adventure, we hiked around Willow Lake in search of waterfowl, and were treated to great views of a couple of male Cinnamon Teal and some spunky little **Least Grebes**.

We took a break back at the Visitor's Center where we grabbed ice-cream and drinks and staked out positions to watch the Center's back feeders for a young male Hooded Oriole that was in the area. Much to everyone's delight, it appeared and put on a show!

We then had an early lunch at **Nana's Tacarilla**, Frank's favorite restaurant in the area, and it was a big hit with everyone! Their charro beans and tacos were mind-bogglingly good. It was voted the best meals of the trip.



After lunch, we visited Estero Llano Grande, nearby, a place that's



always productive. Here photographers were able to photograph right from the deck while others walked the grounds. We encountered the long-staying hybrid Pintail x Gadwall we lovingly dubbed, Pinwall Gadtail, found a Fulvous Whistling Duck, rare in the valley, had incredible looks at a **Common Pauraque**, Black Phoebes, Vermilion Flycatchers, Wilson's Snipe, Anhinga, both Yellow-Crowned and Black-Crowned Night Herons and a slew of waterfowl. At the top of the dike, we had terrific views of Stilt Sandpipers in the river and of a pair of **White-tailed Kites** hunting along the dike.



We then drove to a Red-crowned Parrot Roost along Indiana Avenue in McAllen. We arrived early and saw a swarm of Turkey Vultures coming to roost. Mixed in the swarm was a Swainson's hawk, rare in the valley in winter. At first, repeated circling of the area produced nothing other than squawks from a captive macaw, until a distant call was heard near our initial site. We jumped out to walk the block and several parrots flew over our heads. We followed them and then...Wow! Parrots started to fly in from

every direction to alight in a tree on Indiana Avenue. There were dozens of Red-crowned and even a few Yellow-headed Amazons. It was a noisy and colorful affair! We enjoyed the show with the ever-increasing number of birders arriving to take in the spectacle. It was an incredible experience. Interestingly, we noticed that the house below the roost tree was for sale!

### Wed., February 19 – Edinburg Scenic Wetlands, NABA, and Anzalduas SP

We awoke to an overcast and cold day with rain a possibility. We headed to the wonderful Edinburg Scenic Wetlands which is always birdy and has covered areas for birding. Fortunately, it didn't rain. The feeders near the parking area produced our only Buff-bellied Hummingbird, and a rather skittish Audubon's Oriole, along with Wilson's and a Black-and-White Warblers. Both Curve-billed and Long-Billed Thrashers were also seen at the feeders.



The viewing platform overlooking the North Impoundment held an assortment of herons and egrets, including 5 Cattle Egrets. John spotted a Ringed Kingfisher across the lagoon; Laurie found a Green Kingfisher hiding in the corner; and Frank spotted a second Green Kingfisher perched across the way. As we were leaving, we hit a mixed species flock that included a Northern Parula.

We went next to NABA. Overcast conditions kept butterfly numbers down, but we drove the loop near the river where Frank found a Clay-colored Thrush. We went to the butterfly garden feeders where we met another tour group and enjoyed watching another Clay-colored Thrush along with at least 3 **Audubon's Orioles**. Close views of a roosting "**McCall's Eastern Screech**" in the gazebo was a wonderful treat, and we practiced flight identification while watching Cave and other swallows cavort over the fields.



Lunch was at La Rocha, a local taco joint, and quite entertaining. Our final stop was Anzalduas State Park, always a terrific spot. Highlights included at least 7 Sprague's Pipits in the field,



up close and personal looks at a **Grasshopper Sparrow** at our feet, a Merlin perched in a tree top, and a lovely Zone-tailed Hawk perched by river. We saw a Black Phoebe in the picnic area, and our only Say's Phoebe along the dike. The river was full of American Coots and Lesser Scaup and two Ruddy Ducks. Northern Rough-winged Swallows seemed to be prospecting for nests in the dike.

Sunset found us at the Green Parakeet roost on North 10<sup>th</sup> Street. We stood beside a fountain and watched as parakeets came in to drink and bathe before heading to roost in the nearby trees. We estimated at least 150 parakeets and more than 5000 grackles were roosting in the area. We enjoyed a celebratory dinner at Ostionarea Michoacan before heading back to our hotel.

### Thur., February 20 – Travel to Zapata and Laredo

As light rain was predicted for most of the day, we left early for Roma Bluffs, our first stop in our quest to find Morelet's Seedeater. Although we walked the dirt road checking the reeds along the river

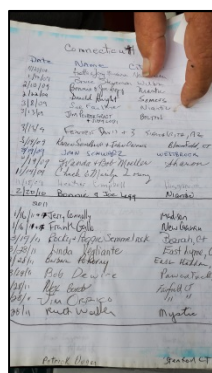
for a while, the Seedeaters did not come out to play. We did find a rather frightened Mexican man cowering in bushes thirty yards from the border patrol headquarters. It was not likely to be a good day for the guy. We left him in peace.



We drove north along the Rio Grande to the famous feeding station at Salineño. The first bird we encountered was a rather friendly Roadrunner grabbing snails from the garden and bashing them open on a paving brick. It kept us well entertained until the rain started in earnest. Merle, the caretaker, ushered us under an awning where we settled in to watch the feeders. It was an enjoyable morning trading stories with Merle, ogling eye-candy such as Altamira Orioles, and watching the Cooper's Hawk clear the blackbirds out. Before we left, Merle had us



sign the register and we saw the names of many friends that had come before us. When he opened the Connecticut section, there was **Frank and Jerry Connolly's** name from their trip in 2011!



Our next stop was Falcon County Park and Boat Ramp where we hoped to find a few dry desert species. Sadly, it wasn't dry. We did see a few Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in the scrub, and Neotropic Cormorants in the river. As the rain increased, we went and had a lovely lunch at Tina's in Zapata, before Frank and Phil took everyone to the landfill. When it rains, go watch 80-100 or so Crested Caracaras, White-tailed and Harris's Hawks, and Chihuahuan Raven's at the dump. It's nothing if not entertaining.



Los Corralitos Ranch was our next destination and where we hoped to find a Muscovy Duck. Our consolation prize was our only two Ring-necked Ducks and nice views of the historic ranch buildings!



Red-billed Pigeon - Anthony Vicciarelli

Given the weather, we went for it and Frank drove to Max A. Mandel Golf Course in Laredo, home to one of only two known roost sites in the U.S. for the rare Red-billed Pigeon. We arrived early, and staff ushered us to the 9<sup>th</sup> hole with explicit instructions to be out by 6 p.m. when the gate closed. Perched atop the bluffs overlooking the Rio Grande, we waited in the drizzle and overcast and scanned for Red-bills. It wasn't long before our first Red-billed Pigeon flew across from Mexico and landed in a nearby tree. Before we left, we would see at least 8 Red-billed Pigeons, hear a Gray Hawk, and get stunning views of a male Vermillion Flycatcher.

As a reward for a long day in the rain, Frank and Phil took everyone for Tapas at Tabernilla, in Laredo. The food and atmosphere was lovely, so we all went back to Zapata happy... Overnight in Zapata.

### Friday, February 21 – Zapata back to McAllen

After breakfast, we drove to Bravo Park to look for Morelet's Seedeaters. The park has a small reed-lined pond, which was full of noisy blackbirds that roost there for the night. In among them was a

stunning male Yellow-headed Blackbird that perched for everyone to see. We took a walk around the pond and were lucky enough to find Audubon's Warblers, two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and a Vermillion Flycatcher, when suddenly, a male Morelet's Seedeater popped up out of the reeds opposite the side of the library. Another birding group joined us, and twice we had brief, but good looks at the male, and Phil saw a female.

We then drove to Los Corralitos Ranch for one last try for Muscovy Duck. No duck! So it was back to the Zapata landfill to scan the road for desert birds. We had nice looks at Pyrrhuloxia and, of course, there where scads of Caracaras, White-tailed and Harris's Hawks, and several Chihuahuan Ravens.

On the way south, we stopped at the Drexel overlook which offers an incredible view of the Rio Grande.



Here, a beautiful **Black-throated Sparrow** was kind enough to perch in a bush beside the parking lot. Another stunner!



Morelet's Seedeater - Anthony Vicciarelli

We continued on to the Falcon County Park where we found Chipping Sparrows and were entranced by a singing Cactus Wren. It was then on to Roma for a hardy lunch at El Mexicano Restaurant. The food and service was excellent.

After lunch we drove back to Roma Bluffs and

scored great views of a male **Morelet's Seedeater** singing from the reed beds along the river before continuing on to Mission where we had great looks at a **Cassin's Sparrow** along the road.

We were unable to make it to Anzalduas before it closed, but did see the Say's Phoebe from the dike. Overnight at Wingate by Wyndham.

### **Sat. February 22 – McAllen to Corpus to San Antonio with stops along the way.**

We started our day listening to the dulcet tones of a Tropical Kingbird singing in the parking lot of our hotel, before driving to Estero Llano Grande to search for Couch's Kingbird. Oddly, they were nearly absent in the valley this year. There was a peccary feeding beside the observation deck when we arrived and a slew of shorebirds and ducks in the pools, including Wilson's Snipe and a Stilt Sandpiper. Our walk through the gardens produced a lovely singing Altamira Oriole, but no Kingbird. We moved on.



On our way back to Corpus, we made a few diversions into the hinterlands where we enjoyed watching a large flock of feeding Mottled and Mexican Ducks in a flooded field that also included a couple of Northern Pintails. We saw a few more **Cassin's Sparrows**, and a stop at Cattle Farm gained us distant views of Brewer's Blackbirds. However, the big treat was seeing a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl perched out in the open calling! Woohoo... an added bonus and a great way to wrap up the tour.



We had lunch in Raymondville at a nice little place called the Boot Company Bar and Grill, before driving north on 77. On the way, we saw a flock of Wild Turkeys by the roadside and we were surprised to see several huge Roan Antelope near Kingsville, as we drove through the King Ranch. The Sarita Rest Area came through with close looks at Brewer's Blackbirds.



We dropped off gear at Clay's house in the mid-afternoon before heading to Hazel Bazemore SP for one final shot at Couch's Kingbird, and we scored. We celebrated by taking a group photo with Clay on the deck before heading off to San Antonio and our farewell dinner.

We settled in to our hotel adjacent to the airport before taking the shuttle to dinner which was a lovely affair. Our driver was kind enough to take us all on a dry-run through the airport so everyone knew where they needed to go in the morning. It was a wonderful finish to a terrific trip. Thank you all so much. Safe travels and I look forward to another adventure together soon.

### Sun. February 23 – Depart for Home

Sincerely,  
 Frank Gallo  
 Sunrise Birding Tour Leader

\*Swainson's Hawk below - Laurie Reynolds & Green Parakeet – Mary Lou Mellon





Sunrise Birding LLC

# SOUTH TEXAS SPECIES LIST

February 15 – 23, 2020

Total Species: 179 + 1 escape (Yellow-crowned Parrot)

\* = TX specialties or rarities.

#	Species	Scientific Name	# of days seen	Max per day	Comments
1	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck*	<u><i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i></u>	3	52	1 <sup>st</sup> as flyovers at Hazel Bazemore; great looks at S Padre Nature Center
2	Fulvous Whistling-Duck*	<u><i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i></u>	1	1	Rare in the valley in winter. 1 seen well at Estero Llano Grande!
3	Blue-winged Teal	<u><i>Spatula discors</i></u>	7	75	Common throughout the valley
4	Cinnamon Teal*	<u><i>Spatula cyanoptera</i></u>	1	4	Males seen at both Santa Ana (1) and Estero Llano Grande (3)
5	Northern Shoveler	<u><i>Spatula clypeata</i></u>	4	20	Fairly common in the valley
6	Gadwall	<u><i>Mareca strepera</i></u>	5	10	Seen at most wetland sites. Pinwall Gadtail was at Estero Llano Grande!
7	American Wigeon	<u><i>Mareca americana</i></u>	2	8	Surprisingly scarce this year; S. Padre and Estero Llano
8	Mallard	<u><i>Anas platyrhynchos</i></u>	2	12	Not common in the valley. 1 <sup>st</sup> seen at Edinburg Scenic Wetland, and at roadside near Raymondville
9	Mexican Duck*	<u><i>Anas diazi</i></u>	5	6	Common in the valley
10	Mottled Duck*	<u><i>Anas fulvigula</i></u>	4	175	1 <sup>st</sup> seen on Mustang Island in a roadside ditch. Fairly common
11	Northern Pintail	<u><i>Anas acuta</i></u>	2	2	1 <sup>st</sup> seen at Hazel Bazemore and at roadside pools near Raymondville
12	Green-winged Teal	<u><i>Anas crecca</i></u>	3	175	1 <sup>st</sup> at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Ctr
13	Redhead	<u><i>Aythya americana</i></u>	1	25	Common in the Corpus area!
14	Ring-necked Duck	<u><i>Aythya collaris</i></u>	1	2	Two seen at Los Corrilitas Ranch
15	Lesser Scaup	<u><i>Aythya affinis</i></u>	2	250	South Padre Isle. & Anzalduas
16	Bufflehead	<u><i>Bucephala albeola</i></u>	1	1	One hiding among the scaup at Anzalduas
17	Red-breasted Merganser	<u><i>Mergus serrator</i></u>	1	1	Near shore on S. Padre Island.
18	Ruddy Duck	<u><i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i></u>	1	2	Hiding among scaup at Anzalduas

19	Plain Chachalaca*	<u><i>Ortalis vetula</i></u>	6	16	1 <sup>st</sup> at Resaca de la palms; lots at NABA picnic grove.
20	Wild Turkey	<u><i>Meleagris gallopavo</i></u>	1	6	Seen near Kingsville feeding on the roadside
21	Least Grebe*	<u><i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i></u>	4	6	Seen well in lagoons at Santa Ana!
22	Pied-billed Grebe	<u><i>Podilymbus podiceps</i></u>	5	11	1 <sup>st</sup> seen in pools on S. Padre Isle
23	Rock Pigeon	<u><i>Columba livia</i></u>	6	40	
24	<b>Red-billed Pigeon*</b>	<u><i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i></u>	1	8	Hole 9 at Max A. Mandel Golf Course paid off!!! Woohooo!
25	Eurasian Collared-Dove	<u><i>Streptopelia decaocto</i></u>	5	25	They are taking over the world...
26	Inca Dove*	<u><i>Columbina inca</i></u>	7	9	Our introduction to these cuties was at Hazel Bazemore...
27	White-tipped Dove*	<u><i>Leptotila verreauxi</i></u>	6	4	Showed well at Resaca de la Palma
28	White-winged Dove*	<u><i>Zenaida asiatica</i></u>	6	9	Common in the valley
29	Mourning Dove	<u><i>Zenaida macroura</i></u>	7	5	Fairly common
30	<b>Groove-billed Ani*</b>	<u><i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i></u>	1	8	Kick save at the last minute on the fence at Oso! Wow, prehistoric birds
31	Greater Roadrunner	<u><i>Geococcyx californianus</i></u>	1	1	Fantastic experience at Salineño
32	Common Pauraque*	<u><i>Nyctidromus albigollis</i></u>	1	2	1 <sup>st</sup> seen as it flew by at Santa Ana. Fantastic views at Estero Llano!
33	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<u><i>Archilochus colubris</i></u>	2	1-2	Clay's house
34	Black-chinned Hummingbird	<u><i>Archilochus alexandri</i></u>	2	1	Clay's house
35	Buff-bellied Hummingbird*	<u><i>Amazilia yucatanensis</i></u>	1 (2)	1	Incredibly scarce this year. Nice looks at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands
36	Common Gallinule	<u><i>Gallinula galeata</i></u>	3	16	
37	American Coot	<u><i>Fulica americana</i></u>	5	300	Common. Anzalduas had hoards
38	Sandhill Crane	<u><i>Antigone canadensis</i></u>	1	7	Flew over the highway on the way to Corpus Christi the first day
39	Whooping Crane*	<u><i>Grus americana</i></u>	1	2	The birding God shined down on us. Great looks at a pair from the trailer park near the Birding Center on Mustang Island.
40	Black-necked Stilt	<u><i>Himantopus mexicanus</i></u>	4	22	Always a joy to see. 1 <sup>st</sup> Hazel Bazemore

41	American Avocet	<u><i>Recurvirostra americana</i></u>	3	42	Great views at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Ctr, Mustang Island.
42	Snowy Plover	<u><i>Charadrius nivosus</i></u>	1	6	Great views along causeway to Mustang Island.
43	Killdeer	<u><i>Charadrius vociferus</i></u>	7	15	
44	Long-billed Curlew*	<u><i>Numenius americanus</i></u>	3	6	Our first was at the sod farms day 1
45	Ruddy Turnstone	<u><i>Arenaria interpres</i></u>	2	4	South Padre Island causeway
46	Stilt Sandpiper	<u><i>Calidris himantopus</i></u>	2	18	All at Estero Llano Grande!
47	Sanderling	<u><i>Calidris alba</i></u>	1	14	On the Beach at South Padre Isl.
48	Least Sandpiper	<u><i>Calidris minutilla</i></u>	3	60	Most at Estero Llano Grande
49	Long-billed Dowitcher	<u><i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i></u>	4	130	Our 1 <sup>st</sup> at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Ctr, Mustang Island
50	Wilson's Snipe	<u><i>Gallinago delicata</i></u>	2	4	1 <sup>st</sup> was flushed at Hazel Bazemore. Most at Estero Llano in the pools.
51	Spotted Sandpiper	<u><i>Actitis macularius</i></u>	3	1	1 <sup>st</sup> at Estero Llano Grande.
52	Solitary Sandpiper	<u><i>Tringa solitaria</i></u>	1	2	Unv. Of Texas in the lagoon.
53	Greater Yellowlegs	<u><i>Tringa melanoleuca</i></u>	6	10	Nice looks at the Unv of Texas
54	Willet	<u><i>Tringa semipalmata</i></u>	2	5	Along the beach on S. Padre Island.
55	Lesser Yellowlegs	<u><i>Tringa flavipes</i></u>	1	3	With Greater Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpipers at Unv of TX & S. Padre
56	Laughing Gull	<u><i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i></u>	5	400	Common along the coast!!
57	Ring-billed Gull	<u><i>Larus delawarensis</i></u>	4	20	Seen in Corpus & at Zapata Landfill
58	Herring Gull	<u><i>Larus argentatus</i></u>	2	2	Along the causeway on S. Padre Isl.
59	Gull-billed Tern	<u><i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i></u>	1	9	Great looks at these uncommon terns from the boardwalk at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center
60	Caspian Tern	<u><i>Hydroprogne caspia</i></u>	2	2	Seen from boardwalk at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center & S. Padre
61	Forster's Tern	<u><i>Sterna forsteri</i></u>	2	8	S Padre Island beaches..
62	Royal Tern	<u><i>Thalasseus maximus</i></u>	2	6	S Padre Island

63	Sandwich Tern*	<u><i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i></u>	1	1	Flew over the boardwalk at S Padre Island Birding Center. A tough one!
64	Black Skimmer	<u><i>Rynchops niger</i></u>	1	5	Nice looks from the boardwalk at the S Padre Island Birding Center
65	Common Loon	<u><i>Gavia immer</i></u>	(1)	1	I'm not sure if any of the group saw off causeway Mustang Island
66	Anhinga	<u><i>Anhinga anhinga</i></u>	3	5	Most at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands
67	Neotropic Cormorant*	<u><i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i></u>	3	18	Best look at breeding-plumaged bird at the entrance to S Padre Isl. Birding Center board walk! A stunner.
68	Double-crested Cormorant	<u><i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i></u>	6	7	Not super common, but around.
69	American White Pelican	<u><i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i></u>	6	600	Fairly common; an incredible cloud of 600 at the Rio Beef farm pond
70	Brown Pelican	<u><i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i></u>	2	12	South Padre Island/Corpus area
71	Great Blue Heron	<u><i>Ardea herodias</i></u>	8	8	Seen daily
72	Great Egret	<u><i>Ardea alba</i></u>	7	19	Seen almost daily
73	Snowy Egret	<u><i>Egretta thula</i></u>	6	32	Common on Mustang Island.
74	Little Blue Heron	<u><i>Egretta caerulea</i></u>	1	1	S Padre Island Birding Center; adult
75	Tricolored Heron	<u><i>Egretta tricolor</i></u>	3	3	S Padre Island Birding Center
76	Reddish Egret	<u><i>Egretta rufescens</i></u>	1	1	White bird dancing near shore off the causeway over to Mustang Island.
77	Cattle Egret	<u><i>Bubulcus ibis</i></u>	1	4	Edinburg Scenic Wetlands
78	Green Heron	<u><i>Butorides virescens</i></u>	1	1	Surprisingly, just one. South Padre Island.
79	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<u><i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i></u>	5	3	Roosts at Estero and Los Corralitos+
80	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	<u><i>Nyctanassa violacea</i></u>	1	12	At a roost at Estero Lllano Grande!
81	White Ibis	<u><i>Eudocimus albus</i></u>	4	104	Most in the Corpus and S Padre Island area but some at Estero, etc.
82	White-faced Ibis	<u><i>Plegadis chihi</i></u>	2	7	1 <sup>st</sup> at Santa Ana; Estero & Hazel B.
83	Roseate Spoonbill	<u><i>Platalea ajaja</i></u>	3	30	Seen from boardwalk at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, Mustang Isl.
84	Black Vulture	<u><i>Coragyps atratus</i></u>	8	12	Common; more at the vulture roosts but not counted.

85	Turkey Vulture	<u><i>Cathartes aura</i></u>	8	450	Circling near Vulture Roost, Wesleco w/ Swainson's Hawk
86	Osprey	<u><i>Pandion haliaetus</i></u>	6	3	Seen here an there.
87	White-tailed Kite*	<u><i>Elanus leucurus</i></u>	3	3	Crippling looks on the highway in San Benito and the Estero Llano dike
88	<b>Hook-billed Kite*</b>	<u><i>Chondrohierax uncinatus</i></u>	1	1	A Male seen from the tower at Santa Ana as it flew by. Often one of the hardest birds to see in Texas!
89	Northern Harrier	<u><i>Circus hudsonius</i></u>	5	4	Seen mostly around Corpus
90	Cooper's Hawk	<u><i>Accipiter cooperii</i></u>	4	2	The most memorable at Salineño bombing the feeders.
91	Harris's Hawk*	<u><i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i></u>	7	12	Many fond memories of these beauties; my favourite - all the birds perched by the tower at Santa Ana.
92	White-tailed Hawk*	<u><i>Geranoaetus albicaudatus</i></u>	5	3	My favourite was perched on the pole at Chapman Ranch south of Corpus.
93	Gray Hawk*	<u><i>Buteo plagiatus</i></u>	2	1 H	Heard only at Anzalduas & Max Mandel Golf Course
94	<b>Swainson's Hawk*</b>	<u><i>Buteo swainsoni</i></u>	1	1	High overhead with Vultures. A very good bird for the valley in winter!!
95	Zone-tailed Hawk*	<u><i>Buteo albonotatus</i></u>	1	1	Nice looks at bird both perched and flying at Anzalduas State Park.
96	Red-tailed Hawk	<u><i>Buteo jamaicensis</i></u>	8	5	Seen daily, including a few <i>Fuertes pale-bellied birds</i> .
97	"McCall's" Eastern Screech-Owl	<u><i>Megascops asio mcallii</i></u>	1	1	A South Texas subspecies seen at NABA (Nat Butterfly Center)
98	Great Horned Owl	<u><i>Bubo virginianus</i></u>	2	2	A pair dueting by the sod farm; one Phil found on a nest at Santa Ana.
99	<b>Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl*</b>	<u><i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i></u>	1	1	Woo-hoo... A real bonus bird on our last day!
100	Ringed Kingfisher*	<u><i>Megaceryle torquata</i></u>	3	3	1 <sup>st</sup> seen by a few at Santa Ana; others at Edinburg and Anzalduas+
101	Belted Kingfisher	<u><i>Megaceryle alcyon</i></u>	2	2	Santa Ana, Estero, & Anzalduas,
102	Green Kingfisher*	<u><i>Chloroceryle americana</i></u>	2	2	How lucky can you get. A female sat in the open at Hazel Bazemore!! A pair at Ediburg Scenic Wetlands!!
103	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<u><i>Sphyrapicus varius</i></u>	2	2	1 <sup>st</sup> at Hazel Bazemore seen by some. 2 seen well at Bravo Park by pond.
104	Golden-fronted Woodpecker*	<u><i>Melanerpes aurifrons</i></u>	7	6	What beauties. 1 <sup>st</sup> at Hazel Bazemore
105	Ladder-backed Woodpecker*	<u><i>Dryobates scalaris</i></u>	7	2	Seen or heard almost daily; 1 <sup>st</sup> was a pair at Hazel Bazemore by the river!

106	Crested Caracara*	<u>Caracara cheriway</u>	8	101	We shall never forget the Zapata Landfill...
107	American Kestrel	<u>Falco sparverius</u>	7	3	Seen in 1's & 2's; 1 <sup>st</sup> at the sod farm
108	Merlin	<u>Falco columbarius</u>	2	1	A distant one on the wire at Hazel B, & a male perched at Anzalduas
109	Aplomado Falcon*	<u>Falco femoralis</u>	1	1	Our scouting paid off. A beauty teed up at the hack tower on Mustang Is!
110	Red-crowned Parrot*	<u>Amazona viridigenalis</u>	1	75	What a show; coming to stage in a tree on Indiana Ave off W. 10 <sup>th</sup> , Weslaco. Wow!!! 1 <sup>st</sup> flew over us.
111	(Yellow-headed Parrot)	<u>Amazona oratrix</u>	1	2+	At least two mixed in with the Red-crowned Parrots. Not countable.
112	Green Parakeet*	<u>Psittacara holochlorus</u>	1	150	The McAllen Roost off 10 <sup>th</sup> near Trenton. Bathing in the fountain!!
113	<b>Rose-throated Becard**</b>	<u>Pachyramphus aglaiae</u>	1	1	A young male at Resaca de la Palma, Brownsville; nabbed by Anthony
114	Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet*	<u>Camptostoma imberbe</u>	1	1 H	Heard only. Lincoln Park, Brownsville at the edge of the field by the river
115	Black Phoebe*	<u>Sayornis nigricans</u>	3	3	Usually individuals; 1 <sup>st</sup> seen at Estero; and Anzalduas picnic area
116	Eastern Phoebe	<u>Sayornis phoebe</u>	5	2	1 <sup>st</sup> at Sod farm and Hazel Bazemore
117	Say's Phoebe*	<u>Sayornis saya</u>	2	1	Put on a show along the dike at Anzalduas.
118	Vermilion Flycatcher*	<u>Pyrocephalus rubinus</u>	6	3	1 <sup>st</sup> at Hazel; nice adult males at Estero and Max Mandel Golf Course
119	Great Kiskadee*	<u>Pitangus sulphuratus</u>	7	8	1 <sup>st</sup> at Sod Farm; Great looks at one perched off deck at Hazel Bazemore
120	Tropical Kingbird*	<u>Tyrannus melancholicus</u>	4	4	Our first in the golf course at Hazel Bazemore singing. Once tough in TX; Getting more common.
121	<u>Couch's Kingbird*</u>	<u>Tyrannus couchii</u>	1	1	Our last specialty bird of the tour, finally; oddly, none in the valley. Tours missed this bird.
122	White-eyed Vireo	<u>Vireo griseus</u>	7	3	Everywhere!
123	Blue-headed Vireo	<u>Vireo solitarius</u>	1	1	At Clay and Debbie's house
124	Loggerhead Shrike*	<u>Lanius ludovicianus</u>	8	3	It was nice to see them still so common. A wonderful bird to watch!
125	Green Jay*	<u>Cyanocorax yncas</u>	6	25	Nothing says you're in South Texas like these incredible creatures!
126	Chihuahuan Raven*	<u>Corvus cryptoleucus</u>	3	24	Zapata Landfill strikes again...

127	Black-crested Titmouse*	<u>Baeolophus atricristatus</u>	6	6	1 <sup>st</sup> at Hazel Bazemore
128	Verdin*	<u>Auriparus flaviceps</u>	1	2	Our first was at Hazel Bazemore
129	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<u>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</u>	1	12	Flying around the dike at Anzalduas
130	Purple Martin	<u>Progne subis</u>	3	5	1 <sup>st</sup> was at Hazel Bazemore
131	Tree Swallow	<u>Tachycineta bicolor</u>	2	18	1 <sup>st</sup> seen flying around Estero Llano
132	Barn Swallow	<u>Hirundo rustica</u>	4	8	1 <sup>st</sup> at boardwalk at Nature Center, South Padre Island
133	Cave Swallow*	<u>Petrochelidon fulva</u>	6	25	Best looks at nesting birds under the bridge at Roma Bluffs
134	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<u>Regulus calendula</u>	7	7	Common in the valley
135	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<u>Poliptila caerulea</u>	6	5	1 <sup>st</sup> at Hazel Bazemore
136	House Wren	<u>Troglodytes aedon</u>	3	1	1 <sup>st</sup> was at Oso Bay
137	Sedge Wren*	<u>Cistothorus platensis</u>	1	4	A few seen briefly but well at Hazel Bazemore
138	Carolina Wren	<u>Thryothorus ludovicianus</u>	2	3	1 <sup>st</sup> seen at the feeders at Hazel Bazemore
139	Cactus Wren*	<u>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</u>	1	2	One seen well at Starr County Park, Falcon Heights
140	European Starling	<u>Sturnus vulgaris</u>	8	70	
141	Curve-billed Thrasher*	<u>Toxostoma curvirostre</u>	4	2	1 <sup>st</sup> seen in Clay and Debbie's yard
142	Long-billed Thrasher*	<u>Toxostoma longirostre</u>	6	3	1 <sup>st</sup> seen in Clay and Debbie's yard
143	Northern Mockingbird	<u>Mimus polyglottos</u>	8	13	
144	Clay-colored Thrush*	<u>Turdus grayi</u>	2	3	1 <sup>st</sup> seen by some at Santa Ana; seen well at NABA on car loop & feeders
145	House Sparrow	<u>Passer domesticus</u>	7	12	In towns and cities
146	American Pipit	<u>Anthus rubescens</u>	2	2	1 <sup>st</sup> seen well at pond edge at Estero
147	Sprague's Pipit*	<u>Anthus spragueii</u>	1	8	Seen incredibly well in field at Anzalduas
148	House Finch	<u>Haemorhous mexicanus</u>	2	8	Seen only at Max Mandel Golf Course & Zapata Landfill



149	Lesser Goldfinch	<u><i>Spinus psaltria</i></u>	1	5	A small flock in the trees at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands; always nice to see
150	Cassin's Sparrow*	<u><i>Peucaea cassinii</i></u>	2	3	Seen along roadside in Sullivan City
151	Grasshopper Sparrow	<u><i>Ammodramus savannarum</i></u>	1	1	Incredible views of one in the grass at Anzelduas.
152	Olive Sparrow	<u><i>Arremonops rufivirgatus</i></u>	4	3	1 <sup>st</sup> seen well at the feeders at Hazel Bazemore SP
153	Chipping Sparrow	<u><i>Spizella passerina</i></u>	2	10	Seen at Max Mandel Golf Course and at Starr County Park
154	Field Sparrow	<u><i>Spizella pusilla</i></u>	1	4	Seen well at the feeders at Hazel B.
155	Black-throated Sparrow*	<u><i>Amphispiza bilineata</i></u>	1	1	Up-close looks at Drexel RG Picnic Area
156	Savannah Sparrow	<u><i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i></u>	3	4	Best looks in the fields at Anzelduas
157	Song Sparrow	<u><i>Melospiza melodia</i></u>	1	1 H	Heard singing in the parking lot at Santa Ana
158	Lincoln's Sparrow	<u><i>Melospiza lincolni</i></u>	2	8	Seen well at the Hazel Bazemore feeders
159	Swamp Sparrow	<u><i>Melospiza georgiana</i></u>	1	1	One seen in the reeds at Estero
160	Yellow-headed Blackbird	<u><i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i></u>	2	2	Great views of a male in the reeds at Bravo Park; also at Beef Farm
161	Western Meadowlark	<u><i>Sturnella neglecta</i></u>	6	12	First seen at the sod farms & good looks at Hazel Bazemore in the fields
162	Eastern Meadowlark	<u><i>Sturnella magna</i></u>	3	3	Seen/ heard at sod farms & Hazel B.
163	Hooded Oriole*	<u><i>Icterus cucullatus</i></u>	1	1	Young male at Santa Ana feeders
164	Altamira Oriole*	<u><i>Icterus gularis</i></u>	5	4-5	1 <sup>st</sup> seen well at Resaca de la Palma!
165	Audubon's Oriole*	<u><i>Icterus graduacauda</i></u>	1	3	1 <sup>st</sup> seen at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands; seen well at NABA feeders
166	Red-winged Blackbird	<u><i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i></u>	8	300	
167	Brown-headed Cowbird	<u><i>Molothrus ater</i></u>	5	300	1 <sup>st</sup> at Hazel Bazemore; tons at Zapata Landfill
168	Brewer's Blackbird	<u><i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i></u>	1	70	1 <sup>st</sup> at Beef Farm; Nice looks at a flock at Sarita Rest Area
169	Great-tailed Grackle*	<u><i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i></u>	8	5000 +	The flock on the wires at the McAllen Parakeet roost was impressive, but we saw huge roosts throughout the valley!
170	Black-and-white Warbler	<u><i>Mniotilta varia</i></u>	2	1	1 <sup>st</sup> seen at Resaca de la Palma; one

					at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands on tree near feeder
171	Orange-crowned Warbler	<u>Leiothlypis celata</u>	8	8	Common throughout the valley
172	Common Yellowthroat	<u>Geothlypis trichas</u>	5	4	1 <sup>st</sup> by the boardwalk at Hazel B.
173	Northern Parula	<u>Setophaga americana</u>	1	1	One in a mixed flock at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands
174	"Mangrove" Yellow Warbler*	<u>Setophaga petechia</u>	1	2	Heard by all; seen by some on boardwalk at S Padre Island Birding Center
175	Yellow-rumped Warbler	<u>Setophaga coronata</u>	4	12	Both Audubon's (2 Bravo Park) & Myrtle forms
176	Wilson's Warbler	<u>Cardellina pusilla</u>	3	2	1 <sup>st</sup> at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands near first feeders
177	Northern Cardinal	<u>Cardinalis cardinalis</u>	8	18	1 <sup>st</sup> at Hazel Bazemore Feeders
178	Pyrrhuloxia*	<u>Cardinalis sinuatus</u>	6	5	1 <sup>st</sup> , great looks at 3 perched when leaving the second sod farm
179	Indigo Bunting	<u>Passerina cyanea</u>	1	1	Female seen well at Hazel Bazemore
180	Morelet's Seedeater*	<u>Sporophila moreletii</u>	2	2	3 birds at two sites. Bravo Park(2); and a singing male at Roma Bluffs!! Wow!

### OTHER SPECIES

Fox Squirrel  
 Coyote  
 White-tailed Deer  
 Cottontail Rabbit  
 Common Bottlenose Dolphin  
 Nine-banded Armadillo  
 Collared Peccary (Javelina)  
 Ring-tailed Cat (NABA-John T only)  
 Roan Antelope (King Ranch)  
 Cat Tracks (Bobcat?)  
 Alligator  
 Chicken Turtle  
 Red-eared Slider  
 Spotted Whiptail Lizard  
 White Peacock Butterfly  
 Red Admiral Butterfly  
 Fire Ants

### Scientific Name

Sciurus niger  
 Canis latrans  
 Odocoileus virginianus  
 Sylvilagus floridanus  
 Tursiops truncatus  
 Dasypus novemcinctus  
 Pecari tajacu  
 Bassariscus astutus  
 Hippotragus equinus  
 Lynx or Felis sp.  
 Alligator mississippiensis  
 Deirochelys reticularia  
 Trachemys scripta  
 Aspidocelis gularis  
 Anartia jatrophae  
 Vanessa atalanta  
 Solenopsis sp.