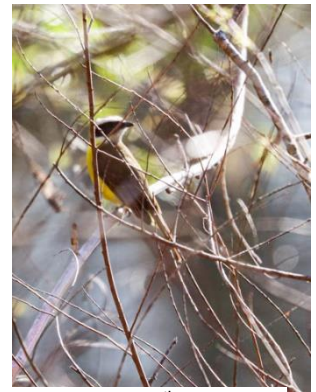




Bat Falcon – 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Record



Golden-crowned Warbler - Rare



Social Flycatcher – 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Record



Sunrise Birding LLC  
**South Texas Specialties**  
**Trip Report**  
February 12 – 20, 2022



Photo: Our intrepid group of happy birders after seeing Golden-crowned Warbler!

**Leaders:** Frank Gallo & Alex Lin-Moore

**Report:** by Frank Gallo & Alex Lin-Moore    **Photos:** by Frank Gallo, with additional photos as labeled.

**Total Species:** 177+1 (Cliff/Cave Swallow) with **3 Mega Rarities (Bat Falcon, Social Flycatcher & Golden-crowned Warbler!)**

## Some Highlights and Memorable Sightings from our Trip

- **Bat Falcon!!!** – 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Record
- **Social Flycatcher!!!** 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Record
- **Golden-crowned Warbler!!!**
- Brown Booby! – a trip first
- The Whooping Crane chase!
- Aplomado Falcons
- Grove-billed Anis
- “Mangrove” Yellow Warbler
- Red-billed Pigeon\* **50!!!**
- Scaled Quail!
- The Pauraque find!
- “McCall's" Eastern Screech- Owl
- Olive Sparrows, Green Jays & Plain Chachalacas
- Buff-bellied Hummingbird
- Clay-colored Thrush
- All three Kingfishers
- Burrowing Owl
- Caracaras, White-tailed & Harris’s Hawks
- Vermillion Flycatcher, Cactus Wren, Bewick’s Wren, Black-throated Sparrow, & Pyrrhuloxia
- The Zapata Landfill Experience!
- Lunches at Nana’s...
- Audubon’s, Altamira, & Hooded Orioles!
- Great looks at Gull-billed Tern
- Tropical & Couch’s Kingbirds – Score!
- Rancho Lomitas’s Feeders!
- Incredible numbers of shorebirds & waders at Leonabelle Turnbull NC
- Fun w/Jim Danzenbaker at Estero Llano
- The company of friends, old and new!
- The food....

### Saturday, February 12 - Arrival Corpus Christi to Port Aransas



The group met at Enterprise Rental at 1:30 p.m. with later arrivals coming at 2 p.m. We loaded our vans and headed to Oso Bay. Highlights along causeway included Ruddy Duck, Long-billed Curlew, **Roseate Spoonbills**, Loggerhead Shrike, a Western Sandpiper, Tricolored Heron, Mottled Ducks, a Peregrine Falcon, and a beautiful



**white-morph Reddish Egret**. Stops on Mustang Island where highlighted by a perched **Aplomado Falcon** in a roadside ditch before the tower, a flock of 27 Pied-billed Grebe, and a pair of White-tailed Hawk, one of which was later strafed by three Aplomado Falcons! As the day progressed, the wind increased, and the temperature dropped drastically. Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center produced close views of hundreds each of Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Long-billed Dowitcher, and **American Avocet**



(250!), and, close views of American Coot, Common Gallinule, Black-crowned Night-Heron and Snowy Egret. After checking in at the Island Hotel, we did the list, then enjoyed our official welcome dinner – good fish, barbecue, and empanadas – at MacDaddy’s. Night at the Island Hotel in Port Aransas.



### Day 2 – Sun., February 13 – Leonabelle Turnbull N.

#### Center, Lamar, Pollywog Pond to Harlingen

Our first bird of the day was a Yellow-throated Warbler in the palms of the hotel parking lot. We made a brief stop at Wetland Park to see scores of Gadwalls, and Northern Shovelers before continuing to the

beautiful Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center in Port Aransas with its incredible observation tower. We



hoped to see the pair of Whooping Cranes present there all winter. The Cranes were a no-show, but a male Yellow-headed Blackbird appeared as we arrived. High winds caused many of the birds present last evening to depart, but there were still many other birds in the pools, including slews of Black-necked Stilts, Common Gallinules, American Coots, distant Gull-billed Terns, 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 took the ferry to Aransas Pass and drove north to Lamar where we'd had good luck with Whooping Cranes during our scouting. Sadly, although we found **14 Sandhill Cranes**, Anhinga, Black-crowned Night-Heron, and Eastern Phoebe, there were no Whooping Cranes, despite repeated visits to reliable sites. Relying on intel from a local birder, we headed to a nearby marsh in a housing development. After a concerted search, an adult Whooping Crane was glimpsed before it disappeared into a ditch on private land. As we contemplated our next move, a resident appeared, granted us permission to enter the private land, where we were treated to prolonged looks at the Whooping Crane feeding in the marsh. Thanks go to powers that be and the kindness of strangers :0)



Heading back to Lamar, we stopped to watch an American Kestrel eat a mouse/vole, and saw a nice adult White-tailed Hawk, but there was still no sign of the Whooping Cranes in the area. We continued back to Corpus, and after a quick stop at the airport to pick up a missing bag, and a great lunch at Taqueria Los Altos de Jalisco #2, we made a visit to Pollywog Pond. Highlights included both Tropical and **Couch's Kingbird** (both vocalizing), Least and Pied-billed Grebe, Brown (rare farther south) and Long-billed Thrasher, White-eyed Vireo, many White-winged Doves and **Ladder-backed Woodpeckers**, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Green Jay, two distant Sandhill Crane, and a beautiful *fuertesii* Red-tailed Hawk.



After a brief gas and comfort stop, we headed south for Harlingen. Our planned stop at Sarita Rest Area produced 30+ Brewer's Blackbirds and good looks at Eurasian Collared-Dove. As we continued south, several Crested Caracara, Harris's Hawks, and American Kestrel were seen on King Ranch lands. When we arrived at Hampton Inn in Harlingen, the power lines in the neighborhood were adorned with thousands of **Great-tailed Grackle**. Dinner was at La Playa, a nice Mexican Restaurant. Night at Hampton Inn in Harlingen.



### **Day 3 – Mon., February 14 – Harlingen – South Padre Island – Brownsville – McAllen**

Our morning's first destination was an Aplomado Falcon Hacking Tower at Laguna Atascosa, before heading to the incredible boardwalk at the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center (SPIBNC) where we had hopes of seeing "Mangrove Yellow Warbler" and a slew of waders and shorebirds. The

hacking tower held a resting Aplomado Falcon, being serenaded by Eastern Meadowlarks. A close Loggerhead Shrike was also great to see teed up on a bush.



The SPIBNC was hopping when we arrived. The parking lot feeders and shrubs were attracting Wilson's, Yellow-throated, and Orange-crowned Warblers. Conditions were perfect: clear blue skies and no wind. The boardwalk produced fabulous views of courting (or fighting) Reddish Egrets, one white, one red, as well as Tricolored Herons, Caspian Terns, Neotropical Cormorants, hundreds of Black-necked Skimmers, Black-necked Stilts, and other shorebirds, a close flock of **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks**, stunning views of a feeding Clapper Rail, and a male "Mangrove" Yellow Warbler! We left for Brownsville with 60 species.

A roadside Pullover at Laguna Atascosa for shorebirds and waders produced our only Little Blue Heron for the trip (sometimes scarce), many **Tricolored Herons**, 65 Stilt Sandpipers, nice looks at 4 Marbled Godwits, and **Long-billed Curlews**. Other quick stops produced wonderful views of Harris's and White-tailed Hawks. We reached Brownsville in time for a nice lunch at the Toddle Inn Restaurant, a local Mexican favorite with great tortillas & salsas.



Straight after lunch, we went to the University of Texas (UTRGV) to search for a Social Flycatcher, a fourth U.S. record, that had been wintering near the campus lagoons. After a quick glimpse, and then a prolonged and concerted search, we relocated the bird actively feeding low in the tangles along the edge of one of the lagoons. Good looks were eventually had by all. We even showed it to some other visiting birders! There were many Tropical Kingbirds, a few Least Grebes, and a nice mix of passerines in the area, including, Wilson's, Magnolia, Orange-crowned, Yellow-throated, and Black-throated Green Warblers, Blue-headed Vireo, and a Summer Tanager.



Ahead of schedule, we decided to leave UTRGV and go straight to Santa Ana NWR for a shot at the Bat Falcon, a first U.S. record, being seen all winter, but sometimes difficult to find. The falcon was a no show, but we met some nice folks in our vigil at the park entrance. A Pauraque serenaded us as we left for dinner at Dimassi's, a wonderful Mediterranean Buffet nearby.

3 Nights in Pharr

## Day 4 – Tue., February 15 – Santa Ana, Estero Llano Grande, Valley NC, & Edinburg Scenic Wetlands



Our quest for the Bat Falcon had us at the entrance to Santa Ana before 7 a.m. Sadly, no falcon, but not a surprise given it was a no-show the evening before and had likely roosted elsewhere. We'd return at dusk.

We departed Santa Ana to try for a staked-out Burrowing Owl on Route 281, and enjoyed good views of it from the roadside. A quick stop afterwards for gas produced a nice flock of Bronzed

Cowbirds courting on the wires.



Estero Llano Grande SP was our next stop. We started adding new birds as soon as we got out of the vans. A Black-chinned Hummingbird, Curve-billed Thrasher, Hooded (uncommon) and Altamira Orioles, Orange-crowned Warbler, and a Golden-fronted Woodpecker were all in the parking lot. A walk around RV park and the caretaker feeders produced great views of Olive Sparrow, Clay-colored Thrush, a flock of Lesser Goldfinch, Tree and Northern Rough-winged Swallows, and our first Buff-bellied Hummingbird, along with more thrashers and orioles. Frank also caught up with an old friend, Jim Danzenbaker who was wintering in the area and helping at the park.

Our first Plain Chachalacas, an Olive Sparrow, and a **Long-billed Thrasher** met us on the walk into the Visitors Center. The grounds were as productive as ever and yielded a nice array of species, including high counts of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks and Least Grebes, Pied-billed Grebes, Mottled Duck, a variety of other ducks, and a heard-only Sora. The highlight of the morning was our search for the **Common Pauraque**, which, after much effort and nearly giving up, was found so close to the trail that we almost knelt on it! The nearby heron roost held double digits of both Yellow- and Black-crowned Night-Herons, several Anhinga, Tricolored & Great Blue Herons, and a large alligator. We ended the morning with stunning views of a **“McCall’s” Eastern Screech-Owl** sunning itself in a box on near the parking lot.



We then enjoyed an early lunch at **Nana's Taqueria**, Frank's favorite restaurant in the area, where the resident Curve-billed Thrasher put on a show. Nana's was a big hit with everyone! Their charro beans and tacos were mind-bogglingly delicious.



After lunch, we visited Valley Nature Center and quickly found the continuing rarity, Golden-crowned Warbler, with help from other rarity chasers. Extremely skulky at first, only giving fleeting views to the guides, it was eventually relocated at the nursery foraging uncharacteristically above eye-level in the open and provided wonderful views to all. A great group rarity effort!



With such quick success at Valley NC, we headed to Edinburg Scenic Wetlands with hopes of picking up both Green and Ringed Kingfisher and a verity of waders. There were many Neotropic Cormorants in different plumages to compare to a few Double-crested Cormorants, and a several breeding-plumaged Cattle Egrets were lounging in the trees with other herons and egrets. A hidden Ringed Kingfisher was spotted on the near shore of the lagoon, and after some effort, we had terrific and prolonged views of a female **Green Kingfisher**, a nearby Great Kiskadee, Clay-colored Thrushes, Curve-billed and Long-billed Thrasher, and Inca Doves. Some rather large Soft-shelled turtles were sunning on bank of the lagoon, near our first Ring-necked Duck of the trip. On the drive out, a public park pond produced Black-necked Stilts, American White Pelicans, and some Lesser Scaup mixed in with a motley array of domestic ducks and geese hybrids.



We were back at Santa Ana NWR entrance at 6:45 p.m. for another **Bat Falcon** vigil. To everyone's delight, it arrived on the entrance phone pole from the north just before 7:10 p.m., where it remained for several minutes giving everyone outstanding views!! It then made two or three short powerful flights after prey through the nearby palms and over the entrance trails, constantly visible and returning quickly to the post. It eventually took off to the west at 7:24 p.m. and did not return.

We enjoyed a celebratory dinner at Ostioneria Michoacán in north McAllen. What an amazing day!

### **Day 5 – Wed., February 16 – Santa Ana, Quinta Mazatlan, & Parrots**

This morning, our plan was to spend some quality time at Santa Ana. We made another early stop at the gate to look for the Bat Falcon, but it was a no-show. However, our first Common Ground Doves dropped into the cornfield by the entrance during our vigil.

We walked Pintail Lake loop and were treated to quick views of several Wilson's Snipe, many dabbling ducks, feeding American White Pelicans, and our first flyover White-faced Ibis. High winds (20mph+ gusting to >40mph) kept many of the passerines down, but our loop back along Rio Grande produced javelina tracks, and the star of the morning, a Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet – seen by a few, heard by most others.



Mid-morning, we had a productive time on the tall observation tower. In just 30 minutes, we saw Merlin, Peregrine hunting Greater Yellowlegs, two Wood Storks (rare) mixed in soaring White Pelicans and several **Harris's Hawks**, but sadly, no sign of a Hook-billed Kite.



Willow Lakes produced our next targets, White-faced Ibis and Cinnamon Teal among other expected dabbling ducks and waders. On our return to the Visitors Center, we found three Common Ground Doves on the dike. The feeders at the visitors center produced close views of Green Jays and the dramatic scene of a Sharp-shinned Hawk catching a House Sparrow.

We enjoyed another wonderful lunch at Nana's before heading to Quinta Mazatlan WBC where we staked out a productive feeding station. Highlights were 7+ **Clay-colored Thrushes**, close views of **Great Kiskadee**, Olive Sparrow, Summer Tanager, Black-crested Titmice, and Orange-crowned Warbler. Surprisingly, there was still no sign of White-tipped Dove, usually common in the valley.

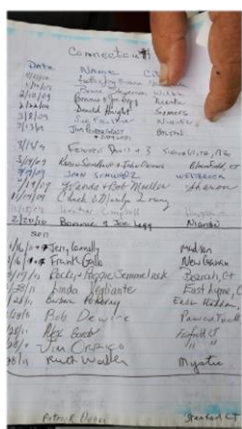
After a quick return to the hotel to clean up, we went in search of Red-crowned Parrots in northern McAllen. We were rewarded with nice views of seven perched in a tree on Houston and S 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dinner at Dimassi's made for a wonderful finish to a fantastic day!



### **Day 6 – Thur., February 17 – Travel to Salineño, Zapata, and Laredo**

We began our day in the tiny riverside town of Salineño on the Rio Grande, looking from the boat ramp at a perched Vermillion Flycatcher, Gray Hawk,

and Ring-necked Ducks in Mexico, and many fishing Osprey, Neotropic Cormorants, Spotted Sandpiper, and Mexican Ducks among other dabblers on the US side. Up the trail to the north, there was no sign of Morelet's Seedeaters, although many groups were looking, but we had memorable views of a hovering Ringed Kingfisher at eye-level, heard our first Black-throated Sparrow, and most importantly, had close views of a Red-billed Pigeon as it flew up-river. This species is an incredibly hard bird to see outside Laredo, so we were quite fortunate.



Back at Salineño's famous bird-feeding station, Merle, the caretaker, ushered us in and we settled in to watch the feeders. It was an enjoyable morning trading stories with Merle, ogling eye-candy such as Altamira Orioles, and Green Jays, and watching a Sharp-shinned Hawk clear the blackbirds out. Before we left, we'd seen

our first Chipping Sparrow, had nice views of Olive Sparrow and another Gray Hawk, and finally saw our first White-tipped Doves sneaking through the back of the feeding station. 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!



Driving through desert habitat up the old dump road on our way to lunch in Zapata, we had fleeting views of Pyrrhuloxia, heard Verdin, and managed unsatisfying views of Black-throated Sparrow in the midday heat. We'd try for them all the next morning.



Zapata has grown dramatically in recent years, and so we were able to enjoy a wonderful lunch at Sashimi, Sushi & Grill before heading up to Laredo. A quick stop at San Ygnacio Dump produced great views and high counts of **Chihuahuan Raven, Crested Caracara** and Black Vulture. Truck traffic

around the international terminal in Laredo delayed us, but we arrived at Max Mandel Municipal Golf Course on schedule. We walked straight to hole #9 and were quickly rewarded with views of FIFTY Red-billed Pigeons accumulating on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande – 19 of which were seen in the US. We also found a Belted Kingfisher and 19 Mexican Ducks on the river. We met up with Skye Haas to share bird information. Checking a new site for seedeater, which was not accessible, we picked up a Greater Roadrunner for the second vehicle. We enjoyed a great tapas dinner at **Tabernilla** in Laredo and spent the night in Zapata.



### Day 7 – Friday, February 18 – Zapata back to McAllen

We left Zapata at 6:30 a.m. and drove south to Salineño Dump Rd. on a very cold and windy morning.



The birds were generally quiet, but we eventually enjoyed nice looks at Verdin and Black-throated Sparrow. A Lark Bunting teed up briefly, and a Bewick's Wren was heard but not seen.

A visit back at Salineño was cut short as crowds of other tour groups were present, so we headed straight to Starr County Park (aka Falcon County Park) in search of more desert birds. Our adventures through the thorn scrub there were rewarded with great views of 3 Cactus Wren, 2 Vermillion Flycatchers, a Bewick's Wren, but only frustratingly fleeting views of Pyrrhuloxia. Continuing eastwards



down Chapeño Road, we enjoyed good views of Loggerhead Shrike, and more desert species, which were mostly heard.

After a quick lunch in Roma, we drove to **Rancho Lomitas**. Our hosts were wonderful, and the Ranch was outstanding – providing us point-blank views of our targets, **Greater Roadrunner**, Scaled Quail, **Pyrrhuloxia**, and the amazing **Audubon's Oriole**, as well as Bewick's Wren, Long-billed and Curve-billed Thrashers, Cactus Wren, Verdin, Golden-fronted and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, and Northern Bobwhites. We enjoyed a walk and talk with local naturalist Roberto, who told an incredible story of his “taming” a Roadrunner.



After our afternoon at Rancho Lomitas, we drove back to the lower Rio Grande Valley. Our final stop was the Green Parakeet Roost at 10<sup>th</sup> St and Trenton Rd. Although it was a spectacle watching thousands of grackles/starlings come to roost, there was no sign of the parakeets. We saw a least one Bronzed Cowbird, and a pair of Harris's Hawks successfully hunting the staging blackbirds, and an immature Cooper's Hawk unsuccessfully chasing blackbirds through the trees.



Dinner at Ostioneria Michoacán. Night in Weslaco

### **Day 8 – Sat. February 19 – Weslaco to Corpus with stops along the way.**

Today, we spent the morning at the famous Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park. Sadly, the eastern levee has been destroyed by border wall construction, but feeders at the old nature center were full of birds, including many Plain Chachalaca, Golden-fronted and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, a few Buff-bellied Hummingbirds, many Great Kiskadees, Green Jays, and Altamira Orioles. And at long last, we managed great views of multiple, White-tipped Doves!



We arranged to take a special tram directly to the hawk watch tower, spotting a flock of Wild Turkey at feeder #4 on the way. The hawk watch did not produce our hoped-for Hook-billed Kite, but we enjoyed a great raptor show otherwise: Black and Turkey Vultures, Cooper's Hawk, 5 Gray Hawks, 2 Red-shouldered Hawks, 2 Red-tailed Hawks, and at least 7 **Harris's Hawks** including a very odd-plumaged immature.



Upon our return, the Visitor Center's feeders held Long-billed Thrasher and Orange-crowned Warbler, and we enjoyed more excellent, close views of Plain Chachalaca.

After a nice lunch at La Playa in Harlingen, we hit the San Benito Wetlands looking for Groove-billed Anis. No luck with the Anis, but we were entertained by a pair of **Vermillion Flycatchers**, and Black Phoebes, Loggerhead Shrike, Peregrine Falcon, a likely Tropical Kingbird (silent), and an American White Pelican with an injured wing. As we left, we encountered a large flock of meadowlarks containing at least one Western Meadowlark.

Our drive back up to Corpus Christi produced nice views of a variety of raptors including White-tailed Hawk, Crested Caracara, and Harris's Hawks, along with sighting of several exotic antelope in the King Ranch. The reliable flock of Brewer's Blackbirds were still in the trees at Sarita rest stop.



We enjoyed a wonderful **farewell dinner** at the funky Black Diamond Restaurant.

### Day 9 – Sun. February 20 – Visit to Oso Bay and Hazel Bazemore State Park – Depart for Home

As everyone had afternoon flights, we were able to squeeze in some early morning birding before heading to the airport. Our first stop was along the bay shore near the Texas A&M campus to look for previously reported Brown Boobies. As we arrived, a Booby could be seen out in the bay, and two birds (one adult and one subadult) seen actively feeding close to shore. They were joined by bird from offshore, another youngster, and we watched as they fed close to shore. On the wetlands side across the road, we had good looks at several Marbled Godwit, a large Black Skimmer flock, Reddish Egret, and close views of a foraging Gull-billed Tern.



A quick stop at the nearby Oso Bay Wetland Preserve for a last shot at finding Groove-billed Ani paid off! After savoring close views of Lincoln's Sparrow and White-eyed Vireos. The wintering flock of EIGHT Anis emerged from the thick trailside grasses and entertained us with their antics for several minutes.



Our final stop of the tour was at Hazel Bazemore State Park, always a favorite, for our final minutes of birding. An adult, Red-shouldered Hawk met us near the first viewing platform upon arrival, where Sedge Wrens were heard but only glimpsed. After restocking the feeding station, we attracted several White-tipped and Inca Doves, many Northern Cardinals, a **Green Jay**, and several Black-crested Titmice, which were scattered by an immature Sharp-shinned Hawk. We also watched a herd of deer flush several Wilson's Snipe. After dropping off our coolers at Clay's, we found Long-billed Curlews actively feeding next to the road on our way to the airport. It was a nice finish to a wonderful tour.

My thanks to Alex and the group. I look forward to traveling with you all in the future. FG.

Sincerely,  
Frank Gallo  
Sunrise Birding Tour Leader

Alex Lin-Moore  
Sunrise Birding Tour Leader





Sunrise Birding LLC

# SOUTH TEXAS SPECIES LIST

February 12 – 20, 2022

**Total Species:** 177 + 1 Cliff/Cave Swallow

\* = TX specialties or rarities.

**Bold** = New for the trip list.

#	Species	Scientific Name	# of days seen	Max per day	Comments
1	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck*	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	3	250	Great looks at S Padre Nature Center
2	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>	7	150	Common throughout the valley
3	Cinnamon Teal*	<i>Spatula cyanoptera</i>	1	3	Males seen at Santa Ana's Willow Lake
4	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	8	90	Fairly common in the valley
5	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	8	120	Seen at most wetland sites. 120 at Wetland Park, Port Aransas
6	American Wigeon	<i>Mareca americana</i>	3	5	Scarce this year; Mustang Island, S. Padre
7	Mexican Duck*	<i>Anas diazi</i>	1	34	Most along upper Rio Grande, and in Laredo Area
8	Mottled Duck*	<i>Anas fulvigula</i>	5	16	1 <sup>st</sup> seen on way to Mustang Island. Fairly common
9	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	5	74	1 <sup>st</sup> seen on way to Mustang Island and Port Aransas
10	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	6	350	1 <sup>st</sup> at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Ctr and Wetland's Park
11	Redhead	<i>Aythya americana</i>	2	51	Common in the Oso Bay- Corpus area!
12	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	2	8	First 1 at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands. Not common
13	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	4	75	Mustang Island, Lamar, South Padre Isle.
14	Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	1	30	Oso Bay, Corpus.
15	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	2	16	S. Padre Island off boardwalk
16	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	2	9	Oso Bay & Santa Ana
17	Plain Chachalaca*	<i>Ortalis vetula</i>	4	33	1 <sup>st</sup> at Estero Llano Grande. Most at Bentsen

18	<b>Northern Bobwhite</b>	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	1	3	At Rancho Lomitas – often difficult to find
19	<b>Scaled Quail*</b>	<i>Callipepla squamata</i>	1	9	At Rancho Lomitas – often difficult to find
20	Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	1	9	Bentsen on roadside near feeders
21	Least Grebe*	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>	4	14	Seen well in lagoons at Pollywog Pond and elsewhere!
22	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	8	28	1 <sup>st</sup> seen in pools on S. Padre Isle
23	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	7	70	Not as common in some areas as expected
24	<u>Red-billed Pigeon*</u>	<i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i>	1	50	Hole 9 at Max A. Mandel Golf Course paid off!!! Woohooo! One at Salineño flying up river was one of the best finds of the trip!
25	Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	5	8	They are taking over the world... 1 <sup>st</sup> along bridge to Mustang Island
26	Inca Dove*	<i>Columbina inca</i>	5	9	Our introduction to these cuties was at Valley Nature Center
27	<b>Common Ground Dove</b>	<i>Columbiana passerina</i>	1	5	Santa Ana in the corn field and on the walk out by the canal. Not so common.
28	White-tipped Dove*	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	3	5	Amazingly, we didn't run into any until the 17 <sup>th</sup> - Salineño Wildlife Preserve--DeWind's Yard
29	White-winged Dove*	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	7	48	Common in the valley. Many at Pollywog Pond. First along causeway to Mustang
30	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	6	22	Fairly common
31	<u>Groove-billed Ani*</u>	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>	1	8	Kick-save at the last minute in the grass at Oso Bay! Frank spotted one that popped out of the grass for second. Wow, prehistoric birds. Same flock as in 2020.
32	Greater Roadrunner	<i>Geococcyx californianus</i>	2	1	Fantastic experience at Rancho Lomitas
33	Common Pauraque*	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>	2	1	1 <sup>st</sup> heard at Santa Ana. Fantastic views at Estero Llano! We almost missed it. It was so close hidden beside the trail that we looked over it. Tom looked down and it was at his feet.
34	Black-chinned Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>	1	1	One seen perched at the entrance to Santa Ana
35	Buff-bellied Hummingbird*	<i>Amazilia yucatanensis</i>	4	1	Still scarce this year. First and Nice looks at feeders at Estero Llano with

					Jim Danzenbaker
36	<b>Clapper Rail</b>	<i>Rallus crepitans</i>	1	1	Incredible views of one out in the open off the boardwalk at S. Padre Island NC.
37	<b>Sora</b>	<i>Porzana Carolina</i>	3	1	Heard only, first at Pollywog, Estero, and Santa Ana
38	Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>	5	9	Fairly common in coastal wetlands
39	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	6	18	Common.
40	Sandhill Crane	<i>Antigone canadensis</i>	1	14	In Lamar and at Pollywog Pond
41	Whooping Crane*	<i>Grus americana</i>	1	1	The birding God shined down on us. Great looks at one in the marsh channel in the <b>Holiday Beach</b> housing complex in Lamar
42	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	6	80	Always a joy to see. 1 <sup>st</sup> Leonabelle Turnbull BC
43	American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	2	200	Great views at Leonabelle Turnbull BC, Mustang Island.
44	<b>Black-bellied Plover</b>	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	3	6	1 <sup>st</sup> on causeway to Mustang Island
45	<b>Semi-palmated Plover</b>	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	1	15	S. Padre Island Birding Center (SPIBC)
46	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	4	4	1 <sup>st</sup> Leonabelle Turnbull NC (LTNC)
47	Long-billed Curlew*	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	3	3	Our first was Oso Bay causeway
48	<b>Marbled Godwit</b>	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	2	11	1 <sup>st</sup> at Bahia Grande pull-off.
49	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	3	6	1 <sup>st</sup> South Padre Island causeway
50	Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>	2	65	Bahia Grande, Lagoon Atascosa (south) at roadside
51	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	2	50	On the Beach along causeway to Mustang Island.
52	<b>Dunlin</b>	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	2	75	1 <sup>st</sup> Oso Bay causeway
53	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	5	55	Oso Bay causeway area
54	<b>Western Sandpiper</b>	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	2	2	Oso Bay causeway
55	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	2	100	Our 1 <sup>st</sup> at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Ctr, Mustang Island

56	Wilson's Snipe	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>	2	7	Most were flushed at Hazel Bazemore by deer
57	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	5	2	1 <sup>st</sup> at South Padre Island BC
58	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	4	21	1 <sup>st</sup> at Mustang Island
59	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	3	28	1 <sup>st</sup> along the causeway to Mustang Island
60	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	3	22	Along the causeway to Mustang Island
61	Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>	5	275	Common along the coast!!
62	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	4	11	Seen in Corpus along the causeway
63	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	4	2	Along the causeway to Mustang Island
64	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	2	2	Great looks at Oso Bay on last day! 1 <sup>st</sup> seen distantly at Leonabelle Turnbull BC
65	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	2	6	S. Padre and Osa Bay
66	Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	4	6	1 <sup>st</sup> on causeway to Mustang Island
67	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	2	4	1 <sup>st</sup> from Port Aransas Ferry
68	Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>	2	250	Nice looks at hundreds from the boardwalk at the S Padre Island BC
69	Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	1	2	Seen from S Padre Island BC
70	<b>Wood Stork</b>	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	1	2	Seen from the tower at Santa Ana rising with White Pelicans. Uncommon – a good find!
71	<b>Brown Booby</b>	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	1	3	Rare - Amazing views of an adult and 2 subadults along the edge of Oso Bay our last morning. New for Frank's State list!
72	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	5	4	1 <sup>st</sup> at Goose Island SP looking for Whooper's
73	Neotropic Cormorant*	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	3	32	1 <sup>st</sup> seen S Padre Isl. Birding Center. Most at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands
74	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	6	21	Not super common, but around.
75	American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	9	34	Fairly common; Seen daily.
76	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	4	81	Most South Padre Island/Corpus area

77	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	6	16	Seen most days
78	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	9	12	Seen daily in small numbers
79	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	8	25	Fairly common
80	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	1	1	Bahia Grande, adult – Not an easy bird to find.
81	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	4	29	Generally uncommon, but great looks at many at S Padre Island BC and Bahia Grande
82	Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>	3	6	A Red & White bird facing off at S. Padre Island BC.
83	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	3	38	Nice looks at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands
84	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	2	2	Uncommon. South Padre Island BC, and San Benito Wetlands
85	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	4	14	Roost at Estero Llano Grande
86	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	2	9	1 <sup>st</sup> at S Padre Island BC. Most at a roost at Estero Llano Grande!
87	White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	5	37	Most in the Corpus and S Padre Island area but some at Estero, etc.
88	White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	2	30	1 <sup>st</sup> and most at Santa Ana
89	Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>	4	9	Nice looks the first day in Oso Bay!
90	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	8	162	Common; Seen all but the first day
91	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	9	82	Seen daily in good numbers
92	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	6	8	Seen here and there along the coast
93	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	5	3	Seen mostly around Santa Ana & Bentsen
94	<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b>	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	3	2	Uncommon; first at Santa Ana. Most memorable at Salineño bombing the feeders.
95	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	4	1	1 <sup>st</sup> Leonabelle Turnbull NC
96	Harris's Hawk*	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>	4	8	Many fond memories of these beauties; my favourite – the close flyby and the perched birds at Bentsen Hawk watch platform
97	White-tailed Hawk*	<i>Geranoaetus albicaudatus</i>	5	4	My favourite were the two being harassed by 3 Aplomado Falcons on

					Mustang Island!
98	Gray Hawk*	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>	3	5	Nice looks at perched birds at Salineño and Bentsen Hawk Watch
99	<b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b>	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	3	2	Best looks at Bentsen from the hawk platform and at Hazel Bazemore
100	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	8	5	Seen nearly daily, including a perched <i>Fuertes</i> (pale-bellied) bird at Pollywog Pond
101	"McCall's" Eastern Screech-Owl	<i>Megascops asio mcallii</i>	1	1	A South Texas subspecies seen at Estero Llano Grande peaking from a box!
102	<b>Burrowing Owl</b>	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	1	1	Great looks at one perched on a concrete structure near Santa Ana.
103	Ringed Kingfisher*	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>	2	1	1 <sup>st</sup> seen an obscured perched bird at Edinburg Scenic Wetland and great looks at a hovering bird at Salineño
104	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	5	3	Scattered sightings
105	Green Kingfisher*	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	1	1	Incredible views of one at a female at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands!!
106	Golden-fronted Woodpecker*	<i>Melanerpes aurifrons</i>	8	8	What beauties. 1 <sup>st</sup> at Pollywog Pond
107	Ladder-backed Woodpecker*	<i>Dryobates scalaris</i>	7	4	Seen or heard almost daily; 1 <sup>st</sup> gave us nice looks at Pollywog Pond
108	Crested Caracara*	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>	5	95	We shall never forget the Zapata Landfill...
109	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	6	3	Seen in 1's & 2's; 1 <sup>st</sup> in Rockport
110	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	1	2	Flybys at Santa Ana
111	Aplomado Falcon*	<i>Falco femoralis</i>	2	3	Our first gave amazing views in a roadside ditch Mustang Island, then it was joined by two others to chase a White-tailed Hawk
112	<b>Bat Falcon ** (1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Record)</b>	<i>Falco ruficularis</i>	1	1	3 tries the charm - Incredible views at sunset as it flew in and perched on the pole at entrance to Santa Ana!!
113	<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	6	1	First at Oso Bay along causeway.
114	Red-crowned Parrot*	<i>Amazona viridigenalis</i>	1	7	7 teed up in a tree on E. Houston!.
115	Green Parakeet*	<i>Psittacara holochlorus</i>	1	30	30 flew past our hotel entrance at dawn in Harlingen
116	Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet*	<i>Camptostoma imberbe</i>	1	1	A nice surprise along the roadside near the tower at Santa Ana! Nice

					looks for a few. Heard by others.
117	Black Phoebe*	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	2	1	Seen at the ponds at the University and at San Benito Wetlands
118	Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	3	3	1 <sup>st</sup> at Lamar Whooper spot
119	Vermilion Flycatcher*	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	4	2	A little harder to find this year. Lovely male at Falcon County Park.
120	Great Kiskadee*	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	8	21	1 <sup>st</sup> at Pollywog Pond. Great looks at many places. Rancho Lomitas feeders!!
121	<b>Social Flycatcher ** (4<sup>th</sup> U.S. record!)</b>	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	1	1	It took some effort but everyone had great looks at it perched along the resaca edge at UTRGV! Mega!!!
122	Tropical Kingbird*	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	3	2	Great views of our first at Pollywog Pond, perched!!
123	<u>Couch's Kingbird*</u>	<i>Tyrannus couchii</i>	1	1	One calling while perched at Pollywog Pond; We saw none in the valley. Tours missed this bird.
124	White-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	4	3	Common in the thickets
125	Blue-headed Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	1	1	At UTRGV... along the resaca back edge
126	Loggerhead Shrike*	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	5	4	1 <sup>st</sup> at Oso Bay on the fence. A wonderful bird to watch!
127	Green Jay*	<i>Cyanocorax yncas</i>	7	20	Nothing says you're in South Texas like these incredible creatures! I never get tired of seeing them.
128	Chihuahuan Raven*	<i>Corvus cryptoleucus</i>	1	64	Zapata Landfill strikes again... Surprisingly inconspicuous otherwise
129	Black-crested Titmouse*	<i>Baeolophus atricristatus</i>	6	7	1 <sup>st</sup> at Pollywog Pond – cuties
130	Verdin*	<i>Auriparus flaviceps</i>	1	2	We had to work for this one; great looks at Rancho Lomitas in feeder tray.
131	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	2	2	Flying around at Estero and Salineño
132	Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	3	27	1 <sup>st</sup> seen flying around Estero Llano
133	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	5	4	Common in the valley; First at Pollywog Pond
134	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>	6	4	1 <sup>st</sup> at Polywog Pond
135	House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	3	3	1 <sup>st</sup> was at Estero Llano
136	Sedge Wren*	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	1	3	A few seen briefly at Hazel Bazemore



137	Carolina Wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	2	2	1 <sup>st</sup> at Quinta Mazatlan; seen at the feeders at Hazel Bazemore
138	<b>Bewick's Wren*</b>	<i>Thyromanes bewickii</i>	1	7	We had great luck with this tricky wren. 1 <sup>st</sup> at Falcon (Starr) County Prk; 3 at Rancho Lomitas!
139	Cactus Wren*	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>	1	7	A pair seen well at Starr County Park, Falcon Heights; 3 at Rancho Lomitas
140	European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	7	1000	McAllen roosts are impressive!
141	Curve-billed Thrasher*	<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>	3	5	1 <sup>st</sup> seen at Estero Llano Grande
142	<b>Brown Thrasher</b>	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	1	1	Seen at Pollywog Pond flitting through the understory. Not common.
143	Long-billed Thrasher*	<i>Toxostoma longirostre</i>	6	4	1 <sup>st</sup> seen at Pollywog Pond
144	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	9	5	Seen daily in small numbers
145	Clay-colored Thrush*	<i>Turdus grayi</i>	3	6	seen well 1 <sup>st</sup> at feeders at Estero; also, feeders at Quinta Mazatlan
146	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	6	88	In towns and cities
147	American Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	2	1	1 <sup>st</sup> seen at Santa Ana flew over and landed in cornfield
148	House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	1	1	Seen only on the phone wire along Dump Road, Rio Grande City.
149	Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	2	6	A small flock in the trees at Estero Llano; and Salineño dump road
150	Olive Sparrow	<i>Arremonops rufivirgatus</i>	3	3	1 <sup>st</sup> seen well at the feeders at Estero Llano after chasing one down singing
151	Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	1	1	Seen at the feeders in Salineño
152	Black-throated Sparrow*	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>	2	7	First at Salineño
153	Lark Bunting	<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i>	1	1	Seen perched along Salineño dump road by Frank and Katie
154	Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	3	2	First at Oso Bay; most in Salineño area
155	Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	4	8	Fairly common; seen well at Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve the last day!
156	Yellow-headed Blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	1	1	Male finally seen by all at Leonabelle Turnbull in the treatment plant
157	Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	1	1	At least one at San Benito Wetlands in farm fields nearby
158	Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	2	12	Seen/ heard at Progreso sod farms.

159	Hooded Oriole*	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>	1	2	1 seen in atop a tree near the entrance and another at a feeder at Estero Llano Grande
160	Altamira Oriole*	<i>Icterus gularis</i>	4	10	1 <sup>st</sup> seen at Estero Llano Grande. Hard to forget these beauties!
161	Audubon's Oriole*	<i>Icterus graduacauda</i>	1	2	Hard to come by this year. Amazing looks at a min of 2 at Rancho Lomitas
162	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	9	260	Seen daily - common
163	<b>Bronzed Cowbird*</b>	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>	2	7	On the wires at Stipes gas station near Santa Ana
164	Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	6	85	Pretty common
165	Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	2	32	Nice looks at a flock at Sarita Rest Area
166	Great-tailed Grackle*	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	9	3000 +	The flock on the every night in every town... thousands!!
167	Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>	7	7	Common throughout the valley. Saw 2 subspecies.
168	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	5	3	1 <sup>st</sup> by the boardwalk at Leonabelle Turnbull BC
169	"Mangrove" Yellow Warbler*	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	1	2	Amazing views of a male on boardwalk at S Padre Island BC. <b>Found by</b>
170	Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	4	4	Mostly Myrtles
171	<b>Yellow-throated Warbler</b>	<i>Setophaga dominica</i>	2	2	First outside our hotel in the palms at Port Aransas; & S Padre Island BC
172	<b>Black-throated Green Warbler</b>	<i>Setophaga virens</i>	1	1	Seen while searching for the Social Flycatcher at UTRGV.
173	<b>Golden-crowned Warbler</b>	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>	1	1	Great looks after a fun chase at Valley Nature Center near plant nursery – a Mega and a tough find.
174	Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	2	2	1 <sup>st</sup> at S. Padre Island BC at the feeders
175	<b>Summer Tanager</b>	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	2	1	1 <sup>st</sup> at UTRGV; best at Quinta Mazatlan
176	Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	8	18	Common in the valley; they seem to have longer crests than northern birds.
177	Pyrrhuloxia*	<i>Cardinalis sinuatus</i>	6	7	Worked hard for a glimpse at Starr (Falcon) County Park; stunning views at Rancho Lomitas
(178)	Cliff/Cave Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon sp.</i>	1	1	It flew by at Pintail Lakes, Santa Ana but went unidentified.

OTHER SPECIES	Scientific Name
Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>
White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>
Eastern Cottontail Rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>
Desert Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus audobonii</i>
Nine-banded Armadillo	<i>Dasyus novemcinctus</i>
Collared Peccary (Javelina) tracks	<i>Pecari tajacu</i>
Antelope (King Ranch)	??
Nutria	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>
Alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>
Chicken Turtle	<i>Deirochelys reticularia</i>
Red-eared Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta</i>
Spiny Soft-shell Turtle	<i>Apalone spinifera</i>
Texas Spiny Lizard	<i>Sceloperus olivaceus</i>
Blue Crab	<i>Apalone spinifera</i>

