

SOUTH TEXAS BUTTERFLIES & BIRDS

November 5-10, 2006

Leader: Marshall Iliff

Our inaugural South Texas Butterflies and Birds tour could only be described as a smashing success. Our weather was great and we had no wind, rain, or cold that would have shut down the butterfly show. I had some concerns about how the combination of birds and butterflies would balance, but I think in the end it worked well. We birded in the cool mornings and shifted to butterflies as the days heated up. Never would we pass up an opportunity to look at some neat bird, lizard, butterfly, dragonfly, mammal, toad, flower, damselfly, cricket, or whatever. This turned out to be one of my favorite natural history tours of all—mostly because we ignored nothing.

The butterflies were nothing short of spectacular. Fall rains had come in September and were renewed in October (during the annual “Butterfly Festival,” unfortunately for them!), and the butterflies were emerging in force. Each day seemed to be better than the previous day. Lasting memories for me will be the hundreds of Queens and Bordered Patches at Edinburg Wetlands, the swirling masses of Lyside Sulphurs, the great variety of fruit-loving butterflies attending baited trees at Roma, and our Butterfly “Big Day,” on which we recorded no fewer than 86 species! The most special butterfly was certainly the Red-spotted Patch that we shamelessly “chased” at Bentsen. This was the first USA record in more than 20 years, a first county record, and one of few ever in the USA. And it was stunning to boot! Other highlights included such show-stoppers as Crimson Patch, Malachite, Common Mestra, Mexican Fritillary, Blue Metalmark, and Silver-banded Hairstreak. Mexican Bluewing, perhaps the quintessential butterfly for the Rio Grande Valley, cooperated wonderfully. We had several individuals on fruit and tree trunks that showed us their subtle brown undersides followed by the screaming blue and black upperside pattern. Wow!

Several special butterfly detours gave us specific targets to hope for. A special detour for Xami Hairstreak proved worthwhile, and two trips to the unlikely butterfly hotspots of the Edinburg Burger King drive-thru got us a Whopper of a different kind: Red-bordered Pixie! It was a treat to have several Red-crescent Scrub-Hairstreaks, a Portillo Skipper, a Tropical Buckeye, a Yellow Angled-Sulphur, a Brown-banded Skipper, Zilpa Longtail, and several other surprises as well. But mostly I will remember the numbers. Check out www.naba.org/sightings/Multitudesofbutterflies.htm for a discussion of what big batches of butterflies could be called. My favorite may be a kaleidoscope of butterflies, but an adornment of butterflies may be runner-up. Whatever your favorite, we saw groupings and variety that can't be seen anywhere else in the country.

Dragonflies were a focus as well, though they occupied somewhat less of our time than the “leps.” A special highlight was the Turquoise-tipped Darner at Santa Ana, and an Orange-bellied Skimmer at Frontera was in the same league. Both are found in the USA primarily in South Texas. A mammal highlight was the small herd of Javelina on the Bentsen night drive—two cat-sized tawny babies in tow were the smallest peccaries I have ever seen! A herp (reptile/amphibian) highlight was certainly the Texas Coral Snake that slithered across our path at Santa Ana—they are venomous but not at all aggressive. It was my first in Texas! A Texas Indigo Snake was a good find as well.

Birds...oh yeah...birds! We saw a great variety of birds. Tops' was the Northern Jacana, a megararity that showed up in August at Llano Grande and had the graciousness to hang out for three months until our visit. It was a USA life bird for all. Our other two rare birds didn't have nearly the glamour—House Finch and Mallard—but may have been even rarer locally! But South Texas is really most famous for its specialty birds: the 30 or so species that can't be found anywhere else in the country. We saw brilliant Green Jays and subtle Plain Chachalacas, raucous Great Kiskadees and furtive Olive Sparrows, brilliant Altamira Orioles and curious Black-crested Titmice. A personal highlight was the cooperative Greater Roadrunner at Falcon State Park that snuck out from the bushes and obliged us with a full bowed-head calling display. After five minutes of show, it raised its tail high over its back and quite literally skipped back into the brush, a territorial display I'd not seen before. And congratulations are due to Paul Davis, who has a truly substantial USA list: his two lifers this trip were Northern Jacana and Muscovy Duck. Not bad for a butterfly tour!

Thanks to all of you for being such a great group. You loved to eat, and loved each others' company, but best of all, loved every new surprise we ran across. This trip never could have gone so smoothly without your remarkable interest in all aspects of nature.

ITINERARY:

Day 1, 5 Nov: Arrival in Harlingen; group met at 6:30 for dinner.

Day 2, 6 Nov: Morning at Sabal Palm Grove; lunch in Brownsville; afternoon visit to Old Port Isabel Rd. (Xami Hairsreak, Aplomado Falcon) and Palo Alto Battlefield; Laguna Atascosa HQ and loop drive; dinner at The Wild Olive in Weslaco.

Day 3, 7 Nov: Morning at Llano Grande WBC (Northern Jacana – yes!) and Frontera Audubon Thicket; lunch at Wild Olive Café; afternoon at Edinburg WBC; unusual side trip to Burger King drive-thru for Red-bordered Pixie (yes!); dinner at Milano=s in Weslaco.

Day 4, 8 Nov: Morning at Santa Ana NWR; lunch at Wild Olive Café; afternoon trip to NABA park; brief stop at Bensten WBC; return trip to Burger King, Edinburg; dinner at Wild Olive Café.

Day 5, 9 Nov: Morning at Salineño, where we observed some interesting human activity; Salineño dump road; Falcon S.P.; Starr County Park (Vermillion Flycatchers); lunch in Roma; Roma Bridge (great butterfly baiting spot); Bentsen World Birding Center in afternoon for butterfly rarity (Red-spotted Patch); Luby's for early dinner; Mission West RV Park hedge; Bentsen night drive.

Day 6, 10 Nov: Morning at Frontera Audubon and Valley Nature Center in Weslaco. Tour concluded at Harlingen airport at 11:00.

KEY:

BWBC = Bentsen World Birding Center

Frontera = Frontera Audubon Thicket

Laguna = Laguna Atascosa N.W.R.

Llano = Llano Grande WBC

SA = Santa Ana NWR

Sabal = Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary

VNC = Valley Nature Center, Weslaco

WBC = World Birding Center

BUTTERFLIES (98 spp.)

Tour highlights are underlined

True rarities are in ALL CAPS

In parenthesis are abundance codes for the Lower Valley, based on the Santa Ana checklist:

A=Abundant

C=Common

U=Uncommon

O=Occasional

R=Rare

H=Hypothetical (unrecorded at Santa Ana, but known from elsewhere in Lower Valley).

Following that I give the status for our trip with estimates of daily counts.

Pipevine Swallowtail *Battus philenor* (C) – Common; seen daily in small numbers (1-10)

Black Swallowtail *Papilio polyxenes* (U) – Rare; One at NABA 8 Nov; one at Starr Co. Park 9 Nov

Giant Swallowtail *Papilio cresphontes* (A) – Common; seen daily (10-30)

Checkered White *Pontia protodice* (A) – Rare: we had 4 individuals on 3 days (NABA, Bentsen)

Great Southern White *Ascia monuste* (U) – Uncommon; we had 13 on 3 days

Southern Dogface *Zerene cesonia* (C) – Fairly common; seen daily (5-35)

YELLOW ANGLED-SULPHUR *Anteos maerula* (O) – Rare; one at BWBC 9 Nov was found by Derek Muschalek and enjoyed by many that had come to see the Red-spotted Patch. Another one of our rarities.

Cloudless Sulphur *Phoebis sennae* (A) – Uncommon; (2-15 daily)

Orange-barred Sulphur *Phoebis philea* (O) – Rare; single females at Sabal 6 Nov and BWBC 8 Nov were our only ones

Large Orange Sulphur *Phoebis agarithe* (C) – Common; most common in west where we had 600 on 9 Nov; in eastern Valley it was seen daily (25-50 daily)

Lyside Sulphur *Kricogonia lyside* (A) – Abundant (100-1000 daily)

Mexican Yellow *Eurema mexicana* (U) – Uncommon; in west Valley only, we had five at Roma Bridge 9 Nov.

Tailed Orange *Pyrisitia proterpia* (O) – Rare; we had two at Santa Ana 8 Nov and one at BWBC 9 Nov

Little Yellow *Pyrisitia lisa* (C) – Common; seen daily (30-100) daily

Mimosa Yellow *Pyrisitia nise* (U) – Rare; we had one at Santa Ana and one at NABA 8 Nov

Sleepy Orange *Abaeis nicippe* (A) – Rare in east, common in west; we had two on both 7 & 8 Nov and 200+ in the western Valley 9 Nov.

Dainty Sulphur *Nathalis iole* (A) – Uncommon; although surprisingly scarce in the east, they were fairly common in the west (e.g., 30 at Falcon S.P. 9 Nov). In the east we had one on Old Port Isabel Rd. 6 Nov and one at NABA 8 Nov.

[Great Purple Hairstreak *Atlides halesus* (O)] – Rare; Leader only. I briefly had one at WBC 9 Nov; no photos.

Xami Hairstreak *Callophrys xami* (R) – Rare; singles at the Trap and Skeet Club on Old Port Isabel Rd. 4 & 6 Nov.

Silver-banded Hairstreak *Chlorostymon simaethis* (O) – Rare; we had a fresh, stunning individual at Laguna 6 Nov

Dusky-blue Groundstreak *Calycopis isobeon* (C) – Rare; one fresh individual at NABA 8 Nov

Gray Hairstreak *Strymon melinus* (A) – Common; seen daily (1-20)

RED-CRESCENT SCRUB-HAIRSTREAK *Strymon rufusca* (O) – Unusually common this year, this species is often much rarer. We had one at Laguna 6 Nov, one at Edinburg 7 Nov, one at Santa Ana and one at NABA 8 Nov

Mallow Scrub-Hairstreak *Strymon istapa* (C) – Common; seen daily (10-100)

Western Pygmy-Blue *Brephidium exilis* (A) – Rare; two on 8 Nov (NABA) and one at Falcon SP

Ceraunus Blue *Hemiargus ceraunus* (C) – Common; seen daily (15-30)

Reakirt's Blue *Echinargus isola* (A) – Uncommon; in west Valley only, where we had 10 at Falcon SP

Fatal Metalmark *Calephelis nemesis* (A) – Uncommon; 11 total on three dates

Rounded Metalmark *Calephelis perditalis* (A) – Uncommon; 3 total on two dates; several other *Calephelis* sp.

Red-bordered Metalmark *Caria ino* (C) – Uncommon; 9 total on four dates

Blue Metalmark *Lasaia sula* (R) – Rare; two bright males at Sabal 6 Nov were a major highlight.

Red-bordered Pixie *Melanis pike* (O) – Rare; we had this species only at the improbable butterfly spot – the Burger King drive-through in Edinburg. Five on 7 & 8 Nov.

American Snout *Libytheana carinenta* (A) – Abundant (perhaps our most common butterfly) and seen daily in large numbers (500-5000). Even found easily on night roosts.

Monarch *Danaus plexippus* (C) – Uncommon; seen daily (1-6)

Queen *Danaus gilippus* (A) – Abundant (perhaps our most common butterfly) and seen daily in large numbers (200-2000).

Soldier *Danaus eresimus* (U) – Uncommon but seen daily at numerous locations. Best numbers were perhaps at Laguna (15) or Edinburg (10+ among swarms of Queens).

Gulf Fritillary *Agraulis vanillae* (A) – Common and seen daily (4-45)

Julia Heliconian *Dryas iulia* (U) – Uncommon in woodlands and woodland edge; 14 on three dates.

Zebra Heliconian *Heliconius charithonia* (U) – Stunning! Uncommon in woodlands and woodland edge; 17 total, seen Daily.

Variegated Fritillary *Euptoieta claudia* (A) – Uncommon; 5 total on three dates

Mexican Fritillary *Euptoieta hegesia* (O) – Uncommon; 10 total on three dates

Theona Checkerspot *Chlosyne theona* (U) – Uncommon; 12 total on four dates. A beautiful bug, patterned like piano keys

Bordered Patch *Chlosyne lacinia* (C) – Abundant; seen daily (60-200)

CRIMSON PATCH *Chlosyne janais* (R) – Uncommon; one at NABA 5 Nov was followed by a fresh one at Edinburg WBC 7 Nov, two at NABA 8 Nov, and three at BWBC 9 Nov. A fairly good year for this beautiful and normally scarce species.

RED-SPOTTED PATCH *Chlosyne melitaeoides* (H) – Unbelievably rare!; one at WBC 9 Nov was the rarest butterfly of the trip. It seems that this species is known from only a handful of Starr County, TX, specimens from the mid 1970s. Thus, ours was the first Hidalgo County record and the first USA record since 1976.

Elada Checkerspot *Texola elada* (C) – Uncommon; four total on three dates

Vesta Crescent *Phyciodes graphica* (C) – Uncommon 20 total on three dates, with 15 in the far eastern part of the Valley 6 Nov, primarily at Laguna

Phaon Crescent *Phyciodes phaon* (C) – Common; seen daily (40-150)

Pearl Crescent *Phyciodes tharos* (C) – Uncommon; 11 total on 4 dates

Pale-banded Crescent *Anthanassa tulcis* (R) – Uncommon; usually rare, but we had good numbers. Three total at Sabal and Laguna 6 Nov and five at Edinburg WBC 7 Nov.

Texan Crescent *Anthanassa texana* (C) – Common; seen daily (10-40), often on forest trails and forest clearings

Common Buckeye *Junonia coenia* (U) – Uncommon; 12 total on 3 dates

Tropical Buckeye *Junonia evarete* (O) – Rare; one at NABA 9 Nov was not the more regular *nigrosuffusia* form.

White Peacock *Anartia jatrophae* (C) – Abundant; seen daily in numbers (150-500).

BANDED PEACOCK *Anartia fatima* (R) – Rare; one of our more special rare butterflies. Two at NABA on both 5 Nov and 9 Nov; also worn one at BWBC 5 Nov.

MALACHITE *Siproeta stelenes* (O) – Rare; one at Frontera 7 Nov was coming to bait on the trails and of three at Santa Ana 8 Nov, at least two were quite worn.

Question Mark *Polygonia interrogationis* (U) – Uncommon; one at NABA 5 Nov and one at Laguna 6 Nov; good numbers (20) at baited trees at Roma Bridge 9 Nov.

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* (C) – Uncommon; one at NABA 5 Nov and one at Laguna 6 Nov; large numbers (60) at baited trees at Roma Bridge 9 Nov.

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui* (C) – Uncommon; 7 total on 3 dates

Common Mestra *Mestra amymone* (C) – Common, especially in woodlands; seen daily (15-50). This is a member of a special tropical family, and is stunning, especially when seen from below!

Mexican Bluewing *Myscelia ethusa* (U) – Uncommon; 11 total on 3 dates. Even more stunning than the mestra, this is one of the quintessential south Texas butterflies.

Tropical Leafwing *Anaea aidea* (C) – Rare; four total on 4 dates. This species liked the fruit bait at NABA

Hackberry Emperor *Asterocampa celtis* (U) – Common; 21 total on 3 dates, especially at NABA and Roma, where this species liked the fruit bait at NABA

Empress Leilia *Asterocampa leilia* (C) – Uncommon; one at Santa Ana and 3 at Roma. This species liked the fruit bait

Tawny Emperor *Asterocampa clyton* (A) – Common; almost 100 total on three dates. This species liked the fruit bait at NABA

Carolina Satyr *Hermeuptychia sosybius* (A) – Common; seen on trails of Sabal 6 Nov (30), Frontera 7 Nov (1), and NABA 8 Nov (1).

White-striped Longtail *Chioides albofasciatus* (U) – Uncommon; 7 total on 4 dates. A striking skipper!

Zilpa Longtail *Chioides zilpa* (O) – Rare; two fresh bugs at WBC 9 Nov. A fairly rare longtail and strikingly patterned.

Long-tailed Skipper *Urbanus proteus* (U) – Uncommon; 8 total on 4 dates. This is the longtail with the greenish back

Dorantes Longtail *Urbanus dorantes* (U) – Common; seen daily (2-10). Seemed to be much less common 6-10 Nov than 4-5 Nov

Brown Longtail *Urbanus procne* (U) – Common; seen daily (20-30)

Two-barred Flasher *Astrartes fulgerator* (U) – Rare; one briefly visited the BWBC garden 9 Nov.

Potrillo Skipper *Cabares potrillo* (U) – Rare; one at SA 8 Nov was one of our rarer butterflies, first found by M. O'Brien; the saddle-shaped spot in the FW cell is distinctive on this one.

Mimosa Skipper *Cogia calchas* (C) – Rare; one worn individual at Sabal 6 Nov.

Sickle-winged Skipper *Eantis tamenund* (A) – Common; seen daily (10-20). Seen throughout the Valley.

Brown-banded Skipper *Timocharis rufifasciata* (O) – Rare; one at VNC 10 Nov was our last new butterfly and a lifer for me! Michael O'Brien had found this the prior day.

White-patched Skipper *Chiomara georgina* (U) – Uncommon; 12 total on 4 dates, from Weslaco to Roma.
Funereal Duskywing *Erynnis funeralis* (C) – Rare; one Arroyo WBC 4 Nov and one at SA 8 Nov
White Checkered-Skipper *Pyrgus albescens* (C) – Common; seen daily (10-20). This species is impossible to separate from the more widespread Common Checkered-Skipper (*Pyrgus communis*), but the latter is rare (or unknown?) in the lower Valley
Tropical Checkered-Skipper *Pyrgus oileus* (A) – Uncommon; scarcer than usual, with just 20 on 4 dates.
Desert Checkered-Skipper *Pyrgus philetas* (O) – Rare; one at Falcon S.P. 9 Nov was seen well from below, eliminating similar species.
Laviana White-Skipper *Heliopetes laviana* (C) – Common; 49 seen on 4 dates, curiously misse don 6 Nov in east
Turk's-cap White-Skipper *Heliopetes macaira* (U) – Rare; one at Old Port Isabel Trap & Skeet 6 Nov and two at WBC 9 Nov.
Julia's Skipper *Nastra julia* (O) – Rare; one at NABA 8 Nov
Fawn-spotted Skipper *Cymaenes trebius* (U) – Rare; two at Frontera 10 Nov. One of our last new bugs.
Clouded Skipper *Lerema accius* (A) – Abundant; seen daily (30-50). Most active at dawn and dusk.
Southern Skipperling *Copaeodes minima* (U) – Uncommon; 8 total on 4 dates
Fiery Skipper *Hylephila phyleus* (A) – Abundant; seen daily (50-500). The most common skipper by far.
Sachem *Atalopedes campestris* (A) – Common; seen daily (5-20)
Whirlabout *Polites vibex* (A) – Uncommon; seen daily (5-10)
Southern Broken-Dash *Wallengrenia otho* (C) – Uncommon; 8 total on 3 dates
Common Mellana *Quasimellana eulogius* (O) – Rare; one at Santa Ana and two at NABA 8 Nov, one at BWBC 9 Nov, and two possibly at Sabal 6 Nov.
Dun Skipper *Euphyes vestries* (U) – Rare; I had one at Llano Grande 5 Nov and Margot had one at Sabal 6 Nov.
Celia's Roadside-Skipper *Amblyscirtes celia* (C) – Rare; one was at NABA 5 Nov and at the Rio Grande City Dairy Queen (!) 9 Nov.
Eufala Skipper *Lerodea eufala* (C) – Common; seen daily (30-50). The second most common skipper after Fiery.
Violet-clouded (Olive-clouded) Skipper *Lerodea arabus* (R) – Rare; we had one at Frontera 10 Nov. Olive-clouded is apparently now lumped with Violet-clouded.
Obscure Skipper *Panoquina panoquinoides* (U) – Uncommon; this species feeds on saltgrass and occurs near the coast. On 6 Nov we had 10 at Port Isabel, 5 at Palo Alto Battlefield, and 20+ at Laguna.
Ocola Skipper *Panoquina ocola* (C) – Common; seen daily (3-10)
Purple-washed Skipper *Panoquina lucas* (U) – Uncommon; daily totals (7-10 Nov) of 1, 4, 4, and 3 seemed like good numbers. This specie sis typically scarce, and differs from Ocola primarily in the white band of spots in the HW.

MOTHS

We saw a number of species, but two bear special mention:

White-tipped Black Moth – nectaring commonly among the butterflies

Black Witch – a monstrous nocturnal species seen on the night walk 9 Nov

ODONATA (27 spp.)

Darners (Family Aeshnidae)

TURQUOISE-TIPPED DARNER *Aeshna psilus* (R) – Very rare; one at Santa Ana 8 Nov was our dragonfly highlight. A very rare species in the USA! We had nice scope looks.

Common Green Darner *Anax junius* (C) – Very common; seen daily (15-50)

Skimmers (Family Libellulidae)

Black Setwing *Dythemis nigrescens* (U) – Uncommon; 30 seen on 9 Nov from Salineño east

Pin-tailed Pondhawk *Erythemis plebeja* (U) – Rare; two at Santa Ana 8 Nov

Eastern Pondhawk *E. simplicicollis* (C) – Uncommon; 10 seen on four dates

Band-winged Dragonlet *Erythrodiplax umbrata* (C) – Rare; one female on 10 Nov, although other females were certainly ignored

Neon Skimmer *Libellula croceipennis* (R) – Rare; two at Roma were well past the late season date (18 Oct) listed in Abbott's Dragonflies and Damselflies of Texas

Spot-tailed Dasher *Micrathyrta aequalis* (U) – Rare; 4 at Santa Ana 8 Nov

Thornbush Dasher *M. hagenii* (C) – Common; a few seen on several dates

Roseate Skimmer *Orthemis ferruginea* (C) – Common; seen daily (25-50)

ORANGE-BELLIED SKIMMER *O. discolor* (R) – Rare; one at Frontera 7 Nov was a highlight. Also called Carmine Skimmer, this is a rare South Texas specialty

Blue Dasher *Pachydiplax longipennis* (C) – Rare; one male at Sabal 6 Nov

Wandering Glider *Pantala flavescens* (C) – Common; seen almost daily (2-30). Over open areas mostly
Spot-winged Glider *P. hymenaea* (C) – Rare; one at Falcon SP 9 Nov. Probably more could have been found among the swarms of the previous species.
Variegated Meadowhawk *Sympetrum corruptum* (C) – Rare; two fresh ones seen. This is a late fall dragonfly so perhaps just emerging.
Striped Saddlebags *Tramea calverti* (U) – Rare; one at Roma 9 Nov was a highlight
Black Saddlebags *T. lacerata* (C) – Common; seen daily (20-30)
Red Saddlebags *T. onusta* (C) – Uncommon; seen daily (2-10)

Broad-winged Damselflies (Family Calopterygidae)

American Rubyspot *Hetaerina americana* (R) – Common; 20 from Salineño to Roma 9 Nov; a striking damsel!
Smoky Rubyspot *H. titia* (C) – Rare; 8 at Roma 9 Nov

Spreadwings (Family Lestidae)

Chalky Spreadwing *Lestessigma* (U) – Rare; one at Santa Ana 8 Nov

Pond Damsels (Family Coenagrionidae)

Kiowa Dancer *Argia immunda* (U) – Rare; several at Frontera 7 Nov
Powdered Dancer *A. moesta* (C) – Rare; one at Roma 9 Nov
Blue-ringed Dancer *A. sedula* (C) – Common; 100 from Salineño to Roma 7 Nov
Familiar Bluet *Enallagma civile* (C) – Common; 10-50 seen on three dates
Rambur's Forktail *Ischnura ramburii* (C) – Common; our best look was one nice male at Roma 9 Nov
Desert Firetail *Telebasis salva* (C) – Uncommon; one at Sabal 6 Nov and 20 at Valley Nature Center 10 Nov

BIRDS (151 spp.)

South Texas specialties are underlined
True rarities are in ALL CAPS
(h) = heard only

Greater White-fronted Goose – flyovers at Old Port Isabel Rd.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

MUSCOVY DUCK – One seen by Paul and Betty Rae at Salineño a lifer for Paul

Gadwall

American Wigeon

MALLARD – two males from the Redhead overlook at Laguna 6 Nov were very rare for the Lower Valley

Mottled Duck

Blue-winged Teal

Northern Shoveler

Northern Pintail

Green-winged Teal

Redhead

Canvasback – Salineño

Ring-necked Duck – Salineño

Lesser Scaup

Plain Chachalaca

Least Grebe - Sabal

Pied-billed Grebe

American White Pelican

Brown Pelican

Double-crested Cormorant

Neotropic Cormorant

Anhinga

Great Blue Heron

Great Egret

Snowy Egret

Little Blue Heron

Tricolored Heron

Reddish Egret
Cattle Egret
Green Heron
Black-crowned Night-Heron
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – one at Edinburg WBC
White Ibis
White-faced Ibis
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
White-tailed Kite
Northern Harrier
Cooper's Hawk
Harris's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
White-tailed Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Crested Caracara
American Kestrel
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
(Apomado Falcon) – one along Old Port Isabel Rd. These birds are re-introduced and not considered “countable”, but it sure was a fantastic sighting
(h) Sora
Common Moorhen
American Coot
Black-bellied Plover
Killdeer
Black-necked Stilt
American Avocet
NORTHERN JACANA – One at Llano Grande was the rarity highlight of the tour (House Finch and Mallard aside!)
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Solitary Sandpiper – one at Frontera 7 Nov will probably winter
Willet
Spotted Sandpiper
Long-billed Curlew
Marbled Godwit
Ruddy Turnstone
Red Knot
Western Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Dunlin
Stilt Sandpiper
Short-billed Dowitcher
Long-billed Dowitcher
Laughing Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Caspian Tern
Forster's Tern
Rock Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove – has gotten quite common in the Weslaco area; a few seen elsewhere
White-winged Dove
Mourning Dove
Inca Dove
Common Ground-Dove
White-tipped Dove
Green Parakeet – at UT Brownsville

Red-crowned Parrot – at UT Brownsville
Greater Roadrunner
Lesser Nighthawk – on the last evening at Bentsen
(h) Common Pauraque
Buff-bellied Hummingbird
Ringed Kingfisher – great looks at Sabal
Belted Kingfisher
Green Kingfisher – seen best at Llano Grande
Golden-fronted Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Ladder-backed Woodpecker
Least Flycatcher – heard and glimpsed at Santa Ana
Black Phoebe – one at Salineño; a scarce bird in the Valley
Eastern Phoebe
Vermilion Flycatcher
Great Kiskadee
Couch's Kingbird
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – several groups of migrants, including 25+ near Laguna 6 Nov
Loggerhead Shrike
White-eyed Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo
Green Jay
Chihuahuan Raven
Tree Swallow
Bank Swallow
Barn Swallow
Black-crested Titmouse – recently split from Tufted Titmouse; now considered its own species
Cactus Wren
Carolina Wren
Bewick's Wren
House Wren
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET – An unprecedented invasion year. We had two (heard only) at Sabal 6 Nov and two
 (seen) at Salineño 9 Nov.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
(h) Black-tailed Gnatcatcher – Falcon SP
Northern Mockingbird
Long-billed Thrasher
European Starling
American Pipit
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Northern Parula
Tropical Parula – seen briefly by some at Santa Ana
Yellow Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Black-throated Gray Warbler – male at Salineño
Yellow-throated Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Wilson's Warbler
Olive Sparrow – amazing, close looks at Salineño
Lark Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
Pyrrhuloxia – great looks at Falcon SP

Red-winged Blackbird

Eastern Meadowlark

Great-tailed Grackle

Bronzed Cowbird

Brown-headed Cowbird

Altamira Oriole - stunning

HOUSE FINCH – Shocking were three at the UT Brownsville campus. There may be only one or two prior records for the Lower Valley!

Lesser Goldfinch

House Sparrow

MAMMALS

Eastern Fox Squirrel - Common

Eastern Cottontail – A few

Raccoon – Laguna Atascosa feeder robber

Javelina – Nice group of 10 or so at Bentsen on the night drive, including two itsy bitsy babies

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Texas Spiny Lizard – One at Bentsen night hike

Rose-bellied Lizard – Several at SA

Chihuahuan Striped Whiptail – The most common lizard – seen daily

Mediterranean Gecko – Several on Bentsen night hike

Texas Indigo Snake – one at Sabal

Diamondbacked Watersnake – one at Sabal

TEXAS CORAL SNAKE – one at SA – a great find!

Red-eared Slider – Common

Texas Spiny Softshell Turtle – Several at Llano

Rio Grande Leopard Frog – Heard and seen at SA

Woodhouse's Toad – Two at SA

Couch's Spadefoot Toad – One big one on Bentsen night drive