

# **CAMP TEJANO**

**JULY 6-18, 2007**

**Leaders: Victor Emanuel and Barry Lyon**

**Counselor: Amy Sugeno**

**Bird, Mammal, and Butterfly Lists  
Compiled by Barry Lyon**

**Reptile & Amphibian Lists  
Compiled by Amy Sugeno**

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*Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc.*

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*As a boy growing up in the suburbs of Los Angeles, my development as a birder and young naturalist centered on weekend outings with my father. Until I was 15, the parameters of my birding were limited entirely to the times when my dad could take me out for part or all of a day. As this was the only way I had ever experienced nature, it never occurred to me that there might be other people my age with a similar set of interests. Everything changed in January of 1987, when my parents showed me an article that appeared in Audubon magazine about a man named Victor Emanuel who was experimenting with an astonishing new concept, the idea of a youth birding camp. Like me and countless others, Victor had grown up a young birder with little or no contact with other young naturalists his age. Through his company, Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, the first youth birding camp was assembled in 1986 with the singular goal of bringing together young people who happened to share this rare passion for nature and the outdoors.*

*In the summer of 1987 I attended Camp Cascades in the state of Washington. For the first time in my life I was able to go birding with kids who behaved and acted just like me. I didn't need to make any excuses to anybody for my "weird" hobby. I could actually be myself. Now, 21 years later, the VENT program of summertime youth birding camps is far removed from the days of "experimental," when there were still people who doubted whether such an abstract idea could work. The camps have worked, and better than anybody could have imagined.*

*In continuing the tradition, 14 boys and girls, ages 13 through 17, gathered at the airport in San Antonio to kick off our 4th Camp Tejano, supervised by Victor Emanuel, Amy Sugeno, and me. As is the case every year, the enthusiasm and energy of our band of young birders was boundless. Immediately after arrival, campers were outside the airport scanning the skies for their first life birds. Cries of "Scissor-tailed Flycatcher" and "Cliff Swallow" were soon heard, while the camp supervisors fielded such questions as, "Do you think we'll get another one?"*

*Within the United States, outside Southeast Arizona, perhaps only Central and West Texas can provide such an ideal blend of high biodiversity and terrific visual scenery. In constructing this camp, we included three distinct, yet biologically rich ecosystems where campers could immerse themselves in the joys of being places where everything is new and where excitement wouldn't flag. Unlike the early years of the camps, when participants were budding expert birders and primarily just birders, the camp participants of today are full of information about mammals, butterflies, dragonflies, and reptiles. In every sense of the term, today's young birders are also well-rounded naturalists, who are as likely to keep a butterfly life list as a birder's life list.*

*To exemplify this point, we experienced more wildlife than on any previous Camp Tejano, with new record totals for mammals (18 species), reptiles and amphibians (24 species), and butterflies (77 species, smashing the old record). And our total of 153 species of birds was the second highest ever for the camp.*

*The summer of 2007 may well be best remembered for its record rainfall. Low pressure trapped over the state for months allowed Central Texas to record its rainiest summer in 60 years. Most noticeable was the sight of area rivers, particularly the Frio, swollen with recent rains. These rains extended the life of what had been a spectacular wildflower season, so that when we arrived we were greeted with roadsides, pastures, and hillsides decorated with a menagerie of yellows, whites, blues, and reds.*

*From our base at Neal's Lodge, we savored three days exploring the famed Texas Hill Country, with its limestone hills, cypress-lined waterways, riparian bottomlands, and oak and juniper-covered plateaus. This land is a zone of transition, where east meets west and north meets south. Consequently, birds are numerous, and we had no problem finding a host of species typical of South Texas, the southeastern U.S., and the southwestern U.S.! Olive and Field sparrows occupied the same brush piles; Yellow-throated Warblers and Hooded Orioles danced through the large live oaks; Vermilion and Brown-crested flycatchers called each morning around our cabins; Carolina Chickadees and Eastern Phoebes made themselves at home in the shade of stately bald cypress trees; and Golden-fronted Woodpeckers perched like sentinels atop seemingly every power pole. Field trips south and west of Uvalde produced such glamour birds as Crested Caracara, Harris's Hawk, and Couch's Kingbird, while Green and Ringed kingfishers along the Nueces River made us feel one step from the tropics.*

*The three great birds of the Texas Hill Country—Zone-tailed Hawk, Golden-cheeked Warbler, and Black-capped Vireo—were, of course, on everybody's mind, and our trip to Kerr Wildlife Management Area netted all three! A pair of foraging vireos was elusive, but eventually seen well by all, while a gorgeous male Golden-cheeked put on a great show as it foraged only yards away. In addition to these birds, we tracked down a slew of butterflies, scorpions, and spiders, while Victor and Amy offered fine interpretation of area plants and trees. An evening at the Frio bat cave saw us witness to one of North America's greatest wildlife spectacles—the emergence of millions of Mexican free-tailed bats.*

*Big Bend National Park, noble for its scenery, splendid for its birdlife, and irresistible for its vastness, was our home for four nights. One never has quite enough time at Big Bend, but our stay did allow us time to visit the most important, and best, parts of the park. A morning hike on the Window Trail produced sublime views of Gray and Black-capped vireos, Black-chinned Sparrow, Varied Bunting, and Scott's Oriole, before taking us into the depths of a magnificent desert canyon, with imposing walls of rock rising around us, flaming orange in the morning light. The hike to Boot Spring was the feature activity of our time in the park and we took our time traipsing upward into the forested higher reaches of the mountains, identifying birds and butterflies as we moved along. Colima Warblers were eventually viewed with ease in the depths of lovely Boot Canyon; a gorgeous male Lucifer Hummingbird was spotted at an agave; and sightings of very rare Dusky-capped Flycatchers and White-eared Hummingbirds rounded out the hike.*

*Tropical raptors put in a good showing, as we recorded Black and Gray hawks at Rio Grande Village, while Tropical and Couch's kingbirds nesting side by side at Cottonwood Campground were a special highlight. An evening owl prowl found us face-to-face with Western Screech and Elf owls one fortuitous evening. Amy Sugeno was our reptile and amphibian expert, and her capture of a Texas lyre snake and subsequent awakening of our sleeping campers to view it was unforgettable.*

*The Davis Mountains, cool and lush, high and scenic, proved a worthy final destination. The facilities provided by the Nature Conservancy of Texas were exceptional and afforded us two final days of total comfort while we explored one of Texas's few true "sky islands." A morning in the pine forest above the lodge turned up a host of new species, and birds more closely associated with Southeast Arizona and other parts of the West. Plumbeous Vireos, Grace's Warblers, and Hepatic Tanagers flitted among the pines while Gray Flycatchers and Mountain Chickadees offered a distinctly Rocky Mountain flavor. Butterflies were abundant, and thanks to Lauren's butterfly net we caught and identified countless species new for the trip. A final evening at Kelly Bryan's mountain homesite provided our best hummingbird show of the trip, with White-eared, Magnificent, and Broad-tailed hummingbirds vying for space at the feeders. A last-minute discovery of a male Calliope hummer put the finishing touches on a great afternoon.*

*Our grand finale was a visit to a prairie dog town en route to San Antonio, where colonies of black-tailed prairie dogs dashed around under the summer sun. A family of Burrowing Owls guarding their subterranean home was the final bit of polish on an outstanding trip.*

## **ITINERARY**

**July 6, 2007** – Today marked the start of Camp Tejano, 2007! Victor Emanuel, Barry Lyon, and Amy Sugeno all arrived at the airport in San Antonio this morning to greet 14 boys and girls who, over the course of the day, would be arriving from all parts of the country. Due to some flight delays, our scheduled mid-afternoon departure was postponed a couple hours until the late afternoon. Interesting, even fascinating, was that this summer in central Texas was one of the wettest on record. Tropical moisture streaming north from the Gulf of Mexico was hemmed in by high pressure on all sides, creating a situation in which a pocket of low pressure was literally trapped over the state with no place to go. The resulting weather pattern was one of unusually heavy rains, often on a daily basis, with much cooler than average seasonal temperatures. True to recent form, upon leaving the airport, we drove west toward Neal's Lodge through a pounding storm, with driving rain, booming thunder and brilliant lightning flashes. We arrived at Neal's around 6:30 p.m. and headed straight for dinner. The procession of Black-chinned Hummingbirds around the feeders was the first new birds of the trip for many.

**July 7** – We kicked off our exploration of the Texas Hill Country with a full morning around Neal's Lodge. Nestled on the banks of the lovely Frio River, Neal's is a famous site among birders and outdoor recreationist. A diversity of habitats in a relatively small area allows for an impressive assortment of birds, insects, plants, and trees. Following breakfast we spent considerable time around the vicinity of our cabins, finding birds, butterflies, and reptiles. The camp supervisors offered plenty of natural history interpretation and our eager group of campers avidly found life bird after life bird. Toward mid-morning we moved across the highway and spent time in a habitat consisting primarily of cactus and thorn-scrub. A sampling of the birds we enjoyed included Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Bell's Vireo, Painted Bunting, and Hooded Oriole. An added bonus was the presence of a few south Texas species in the area, and to our great delight we added Long-billed Thrasher and Olive Sparrow. In the late morning we moved down to the banks of the Frio to get away from the heat and immerse ourselves in a world of limestone cliffs and towering Bald Cypress, a tree new for most. Following lunch, we took some of the afternoon off before embarking on a ride south to Uvalde, on the edge of the Hill Country, and beyond, where we sampled a bit of the south Texas brush country. The highlight of the afternoon was undoubtedly the pair of Crested Caracaras teed up on

power poles along the roadside, but a couple of Harris's Hawks and some Mexican Ground-Squirrels were also of considerable interest.

**July 8** – As Franklin Roosevelt said as America entered World War II, “Today is a day that will live in infamy,” so will July 8, 2007 (at least for Victor, Barry, and Amy, who all are from Texas). The reason is that the record rains that centered on Texas this summer returned with a vengeance today. We awoke to lead gray skies and drizzle. All around us, on every horizon, lighting flashed and the sound of distant thunder heralded an ominous day ahead. The big plan was to visit Lost Maples State Park and undertake an exciting 5-mile hike through the canyon bottom and up along the western ridge. As we started north from Neal's Lodge toward Lost Maples, it soon became clear that we would have to abandon our plans. In the little town of Utopia, Victor, Barry, and Amy huddled to confer about alternate plans. A nice break came in the form of a pair of Barred Owls seen well in Utopia County Park. We decided to continue north toward Lost Maples to see what the rangers there had to say about the weather. By now, the skies had opened up and a huge storm was dumping a sheet of rain on the entire area. Soon after arrival we were informed that this was the rainiest summer in 60 years and that we needed to leave soon or we wouldn't be able to retrace our path due to rising water! The hike was totally out of the question, so we decided to go back. Too late! By the time we started back, the swollen creeks had jumped their banks and water was flooding the highway! The only thing to do was go WAY north to higher ground. It was then that Amy informed us of the Kerr Wildlife Management Area, and the possibility of finding the “vireo” and the “warbler” there. So off we went. To finish the story, we ended up having a great morning and early afternoon at Kerr, with everybody gaining great looks at Zone-tailed Hawk, Black-capped Vireo, and Golden-cheeked Warbler. A post-lunch walk through the oak-juniper woodland proved especially rewarding as we discovered a great mix of reptiles, butterflies, ants, plants, and trees. Several campers turned out to be especially good at finding scorpions! In the mid-afternoon we headed back to Neal's, with a final stop at the large pecan grove north of the lodge. The birding and butterflying were both very good here and Victor did a very good job of getting his mired van out of the mud! Though we were all sorry not to have made our hike, we ended up having a very good day.

**July 9** – To provide a different type of Hill Country experience, we headed southwest from Neal's, beyond the town of Uvalde to Chalk Bluff Park. Chalk Bluff, seated on the bank of the Nueces River, always provides an interesting morning of diversity as this is where the south Texas brush country and Texas Hill Country come together. The birdlife borrows heavily from both regions; consequently one might find Yellow-throated Warblers living alongside Olive Sparrows and Long-billed Thrashers. We spent the entire morning here working from one end of the park to the other. Aside from being bird rich, Chalk Bluff is also highly scenic, with white cliffs of limestone towering above the milky blue Nueces. After working through the length of the park, we headed back to the “ranch” for lunch. We took a long break in the afternoon so everybody could have some time to themselves, either birding around the cabins or simply sitting around and relaxing. Following an early dinner we loaded up and headed south to the Frio bat cave. Though totally unknown to our campers before our big visit, the Frio bat cave is the site of one of North America's greatest wildlife spectacles. Each evening around sundown, approximately 6 or 7 million Mexican Free-tailed Bats pour out of a huge underground cavern. At first they emerge in small numbers, but as momentum grows, they suddenly begin streaming out in mind-boggling numbers until the sky appears filled with long spiraling columns of smoke. VENT has been coming to the Frio Bat Cave for nearly three decades, and this is the fourth version of Camp Tejano to see the bats. Due to the heavy rains, the normal route in to the cave was unpassable, however, by taking the long way around we were treated to some beautiful backcountry roads, complete with Northern Bobwhite, Dickcissels, and Grasshopper Sparrows. Upon arrival at the bat cave we found the surrounding landscape as lush as anybody could remember; the rains that fell

plentifully through the summer turned the whole countryside into a garden, with wildflowers everywhere. Amy Sugeno delivered a wonderful presentation on the bats before they emerged. A short time later the millions of promised bats emerged as we stood on in amazement.

**July 10** – Today was one of transition, as we packed our gear, loaded the vans and said goodbye to Neal’s Lodge. Our destination was Big Bend National Park, but the ride out there required a lengthy drive west from the Hill Country through the town of Bracketville, on to Del Rio, past Amistad Reservoir and on across the Pecos River and into west Texas. One of my friends once said to me, “If you want to go to Big Bend, you just go to west Texas and take a left.” It’s actually true. To get there you head west for a couple hundred miles and take a left at the town of Marathon and go south for a ways. Actually, the ride to west Texas is an interesting one, and we enjoyed some great sights along the way. Outside Del Rio, in a roadside cemetery, we found a couple groups of Great Kiskadees, (a bonus bird for the trip); at the Amistad Reservoir Victor, Barry, and Amy were all amazed at the high water level of this massive body of water; and at the Pecos Canyon Overlook we all peered a thousand feet down into the depths of the canyon, where the Pecos and Rio Grande Rivers meet. We arrived in Marathon in the late afternoon, with a spectacular thunderstorm in full force off to the northwest. From Marathon the final leg of the journey was essentially a long scenic drive south into the desert of the Texas-Mexico borderlands, with many sweeping vistas and awesome panoramic scenery. We arrived at the Basin Campground in Big Bend in the late afternoon.

**July 11** – Following breakfast, we departed the Basin and began our exploration of the national park with a trip to Rio Grande Village on the park’s eastern side. We spent the first part of the morning birding around the campground, and watching a ridiculously tame pair of Crissal Thrashers, before walking the length of the Rio Grande Nature Trail to the top of the small bluff overlooking the river. From our perch we looked south into Mexico, while off to the west we viewed the eastern flank of the Chisos Mtns. Sadly, the Rio Grande, once one of North America’s mightiest rivers, is now, because of drought and water extraction, not much more than a narrow, muddy ribbon of water along this stretch. Still, as the river serves as the boundary between the two countries, it’s always worth seeing. We spent the final part of the morning working the western end of the campground in hopes of finding a Common Black-Hawk, which did not happen. We did luck upon a Gray Hawk though, which was fine consolation for many. We headed back to the Basin for lunch; afterward we took some time off and campers simply hung around the campground and relaxed. In the late afternoon we took a ride out onto the desert before returning to the Basin. After dinner we walked the very short paved portion of the Basin Loop Trail, which provided a nice overview of the birds and plants of the middle elevations of the Chisos Mtns.

**July 12** – The feature activity today was the three-mile hike from our campground down the Window Trail to the edge of the Basin. Birding and butterflying as we moved along, we had an outstanding morning filled with great birds (Gray and Black-capped vireos, Scott’s Orioles, and Varied Buntings), a great mammal (Black Bear), and loads of plants, trees, butterflies and other insects. We arrived back at the campground in time for lunch. Following lunch, we took some time off before heading back down into the desert and a late afternoon visit to the visitor center at Panther Junction. Aside from spending a few minutes browsing the displays and items for sale, we took the short nature hike that looped through the desert just outside the center. A little later we returned to Rio Grande Village for some much needed showers and an awesome barbeque prepared by Barry. It was during the time when the campers were clustered at the store that the Common Black-Hawks finally showed up. Everybody was delighted to have scope views of a mostly grown juvenile bird, but not everybody got to see the adult that came in a short while later. After dinner we waited for nightfall, and then it was time for an owl prow! We began by walking toward the small ponds on the edge of the campground where, with

little difficulty, we soon found ourselves face-to-face with a curious Western Screech-Owl. This little owl was cause for considerable excitement, but after he departed it was time to set our sights on Elf Owl. We had no problems hearing the rascal, but it took a few minutes to coax him into the open. But no worries here, as we all were soon enjoying great views of the world's smallest owl. With tonight's owling trip such a success, we decided to return to camp.

**July 13** – For many, the feature activity in Big Bend is the long traise up into the Chisos Mtns. to Boot Canyon. The same would be true for us. And how else could one possibly see a Colima Warbler?! So after breakfast early this morning, we set out, with our route taking us up the Pinnacles Trail to the crest, where the Emory Trail would carry us into Boot Canyon. We spent the entire morning working our way up the mountain, birding, butterflying, and sightseeing. Our first Colimas were encountered about two and a half miles up, but other sightings included two very rare Dusky-capped Flycatchers, a Peregrine Falcon and Band-tailed Pigeons. Once we hit the Emory Trail the hardest part of the hike was behind us, and we took our time walking through the mountain woodlands. Danny came through in a big way with his sighting of a male Lucifer Hummingbird visiting some agaves. We waited and sure enough, the bird came back repeatedly, so that everyone saw it well. Aside from being a great bird, it was the only one we saw the entire trip. Upon arrival at Boot Spring, some of the group went further down into the canyon while others simply rested in the shade of the large oaks and pines. Those who went a little further were treated to some wonderful views of more Colima Warblers, some frogs, lots of butterflies and a nice contrast between Flame and Neon Skimmer dragonflies. In leaving the canyon, we took the mile-long cutover trail that brought us out to Laguna Meadow. From Laguna, our intention was to take our time working back down the mountain, but the imminent threat of rain forced us to hike very fast. Ultimately we did not get the soaking we thought we would, and arrived back at the main park lodge in time for dinner. After dinner we returned to the campground, and shortly after sundown we walked down the road and had great views of a Common Poorwill.

**July 14** – We packed up early this morning and said adios to the Basin and began our slow departure from Big Bend. Our route to the Davis Mtns. took us out the western side of the park, where we took our sweet time making several stops. A short walk up a desert wash produced Verdins and a Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, in addition to Sheep Skipper and Western Pygmy-Blue butterflies. Stops at such overlooks as Sotol Vista, the Mule Ears, and Tuff Canyon provided fine views of the spectacular desert scenery that characterizes the park's western side. Moving on to Cottonwood Camground, we were treated to some very nice birds, even though it was very hot here. Couch's and Tropical kingbirds were nesting side-by-side and several Gray Hawks were noted. Vermilion and Ash-throated flycatchers, Golden-fronted Woodpeckers, and Orchard Orioles were all found here with ease. One camper remarked that he couldn't believe how many birds there were here. We departed Big Bend via the comparatively seldom used Old Maverick Road, which saw us bumping along through desert washes and gravel alluvium. Heading north from Big Bend, the higher grasslands of the Fort Davis/Alpine area began to appear toward mid-afternoon. We arrived at the Nature Conservancy property in the Davis Mtns. shortly before sundown, where we quickly made ourselves at home.

**July 15** – As the Davis Mtns. represented an entirely new series of ecosystems for us, we decided to spend the first half of the day exploring the pine forest above the Nature Conservancy property. The birding proved very good and we tallied such new birds for the trip as Western Wood-Pewee, Plumbeous Vireo, Mountain Chickadee, Grace's Warbler, and Hepatic Tanager. The butterflying was also excellent and many of the campers spent time running around with Lauren's net, catching a number of species new for the trip. We spent most of the afternoon hanging around the Nature Conservancy property and campers were given plenty of free time. Many just hung around and

relaxed, watching the hummingbird feeders, catching butterflies, or checking out the dragonflies along the creek, while others simply napped or socialized. Late this afternoon we loaded up and headed down to Davis Mtns. State Park and made the drive up Skyline Drive, searching for Montezuma Quail. Despite a strong effort, we never did find any. Kelly Bryan later informed us that the protracted drought preceding this summer's good rains had been hard on the quail and that very few were being seen as of late. Despite dipping on the quail, we enjoyed tremendous views from atop Skyline Drive, looking down on famous Fort Davis. Some people were lucky to have spotted a fast traveling Gray Fox.

**July 16** – To experience another part of the Davis Mtns., we headed south from the Nature Conservancy property to Elbow Canyon, a private piece of property on the east slope of the mountains. We ended up making most of a morning of it, hiking on what amounted to only a trace of a trail alongside a mostly dry streambed. Although the canyon and surrounding forests were scenic, we didn't add many new birds to the overall trip list. Unfortunately Barry lost the eyepiece on his spotting scope and Victor damaged the underside of his van by driving over a large rock. I think we were all ready to leave and head back to the TNC property for lunch. After lunch we loaded up and headed back down the highway to Fort Davis, where we met with retired Texas Parks & Wildlife employee, Kelly Bryan. Kelly told us about a place where Victor could get his van fixed, which took a couple of hours. Toward late afternoon we picked up the repaired van and headed to the south flank of the Davis Mtns. and a trip to the property of Kelly Bryan. Kelly's property sits in the pine forest at higher elevation than the TNC property and is an excellent place to see hummingbirds. It took awhile to wind all the way up to his house, but once we got there we were treated to a terrific hummingbird show. Everybody had good looks at Broad-tailed and Magnificent hummers, but a young male White-eared Hummingbird stole the show...that is until we were getting ready to leave when one of our campers spotted a gorgeous male Calliope Hummingbird buzzing around the feeders toward last light. Other highlights of our time at Kelly's were a pair of Zone-tailed Hawks soaring over the ridge and a delicious spaghetti dinner prepared by Victor.

**July 17** – We awoke this morning with the knowledge that today would be the final day of the trip. The main activity would be the long drive back to San Antonio, but Victor, Barry, and Amy had one last stop in store for the camp. Departing the Nature Conservancy property around mid-morning, our route took us back to Fort Davis and then southeast through Alpine and Marathon. En route we stopped to view Pronghorn Antelope and Cassin's Sparrows. North of Marathon we stopped at a colony of Black-tailed Prairie Dogs where we spent time watching the dogs as they peered out from the tops of their burrows and chased one another across the pasture. Besides the dogs, our enthusiastic group spotted a family of Burrowing Owls, while some distant Chihuahuan Ravens were also seen. Continuing north we hit a major traffic backup out in the middle of nowhere in which we lost so much time that we were compelled to have a picnic lunch at a wide spot on the side of the highway. Once we were back on track we spent the remainder of the afternoon en route to San Antone. We had dinner in Kerrville and arrived at the hotel around 8:00 p.m. After unloading the vans and getting everybody checked into their rooms, we held a final group meeting and informed everybody about plans for the morning.

**July 18** – The morning was a busy one for Victor, Barry, and Amy, as they took turns escorting different groups of campers to the airport for their departing flights home, marking the conclusion of Camp Tejano 2007.

## **BIRDLIST - TOTAL = 153**

NOTE: This birdlist is arranged in accordance with the A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds, Seventh Edition. The A.O.U. is the official source on the taxonomy of birds found in North America, including adjacent islands. This list incorporates all supplements to the Seventh Edition. Species considered target birds for the trip, are of unexpected or limited occurrence in Texas, or are regional specialties, appear in **bold**.

### **Ducks, Geese, & Swans: Anatidae**

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)** - While at Neal's Lodge in the Hill Country, we saw birds flying overhead on several mornings.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) – The “Mexican” subspecies; seen in west Texas

### **Turkeys: Meleagridae**

Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) – Several in the Hill Country

### **New World Quail: Odontophoridae**

Montezuma Quail (*Cyrtonyx montezumae*) – The drought of the past year, though ended by this summer's good rains, really hit this species hard. We searched, to no avail, at Davis Mtns. State Park. Although never seen, ultimately we heard calling males around the Nature Conservancy property and also in Elbow Canyon.

Scaled Quail (*Callipepla squamata*) – Seen well by most in the desert at Big Bend N.P.; especially productive for this species was the morning drive down to Rio Grande Village.

Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) – Only one seen, but what a sighting we had! While traveling to the bat cave on our final night in the Hill Country, we came across a beautiful male bobwhite perched atop a driveway gate on a lightly traveled backroad. Super looks for everyone!

### **Cormorants: Phalacrocoracidae**

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) – One VERY distant bird was seen in flight by one or two campers from the Pecos Canyon overlook.

### **Herons, Egrets, & Bitterns: Ardeidae**

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) – A couple flying around the ponds at the head of the nature trail at Rio Grande Village.

### **New World Vultures: Cathartidae**

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) – Most common in the Hill Country; only a couple at Big Bend.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) – Very common at nearly every location.

### **Hawks, Eagles, and Kites: Accipitridae**

**Common Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*)** – For most of the past 10 years, a pair of these tropical birds of prey have nested in the cottonwood forest at Rio Grande Village at Big Bend N.P. On the morning we drove down from our campsite at the Basin, we actually searched for, but MISSED this highly sought-after species. Thankfully, on a return visit several days later, on a stormy afternoon, we found an adult and juvenile near the country store, and later at the nest site. Some of us only saw the young bird, but most eventually had wonderful looks at an adult.

**Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*)** – A couple birds seen on two occasions; first was a pair seen along a highway south of Uvalde on an afternoon drive; second was another pair on a telephone pole between Uvalde and Bracketville while traveling west to Big Bend.

**Gray Hawk (*Asturina nitidia*)** – This spectacular tropical raptor was seen in two locations within Big Bend N.P.; first was a very skittish individual near a probable nest site at Rio Grande Village; the second was sightings of several birds between Cottonwood Campground and the Old Maverick Road on the east side of Big Bend.

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) – Several around Neal's Lodge.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) – Fairly common in the grasslands of west Texas.

**Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*)** – Probably a half dozen total individuals were seen in the Hill Country and the Davis Mtns. Nearly all campers reported fly-over birds around Neal's Lodge, while other individuals were seen farther north in the Hill Country. The first, and one of the best sightings, was an individual soaring over the parking area at Kerr Wildlife Management Area. In Big Bend, a pair spotted by Mike soaring over Boot Canyon was awesome. In the Davis Mtns., the pair soaring over the cliffs behind Kelly Brian's property were seen easily, and well, by all.

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) – Here and there throughout; most, if not all, birds were of the southwestern "Fuerte's" race.

### **Caracaras & Falcons: *Falconidae***

**Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*)** – Seen south and west of Uvalde; best was the couple of birds seen on power poles by the roadside on our afternoon drive into the brush country south of Uvalde. Judging by the excitement among the campers, this species was one of the most wanted birds of the trip!

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) – One bird coursing among the Pinnacles in the upper reaches of Big Bend N.P. provided a spectacular birding experience.

### **Plovers & Lapwings: *Charadriidae***

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*)

### **Pigeons & Doves: *Columbidae***

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*) – Seen mainly as fly-bys in the upper elevation oak forests in Big Bend N.P.; although at least one perched bird was seen well by most.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) – Abundant throughout; seen daily.

Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*)

Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*) – Fairly common around Neal's.

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*) – Present, but fairly scarce around Neal's.

### **Cuckoos: *Cuculidae***

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) – Though elusive, this bird was seen well by all in both the Hill Country and at Rio Grande Village in Big Bend.

Greater Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) – Seen at very close range at Rio Grande Village.

### **Typical Owls: *Strigidae***

Western Screech-Owl (*Megascops kennicottii*) – Our night of owling at Rio Grande Village started out in style, with wonderful views of a singing and inquisitive bird.

Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*) – Though we tried owling one night at Neal’s Lodge, we flunked out on finding this bird; early the next morning, several campers saw and heard a calling individual around one of the cabins. This is the northern limit of the “McCall’s” race of Eastern Screech-Owl, which may well be a separate species.

**Elf Owl (*Micrathene whitneyi*)** – After enjoying the Western Screech-Owl, we quickly found a calling Elf Owl; Rio Grande Village, and a lifer for most!

Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) – On a stormy lightning-filled morning, we enjoyed great looks at a pair of flighty Barred Owls at Utopia County Park in the Hill Country.

### **Nightjars & Allies: *Caprimulgidae***

Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) – Seen well at Rio Grande Village the night we went owling.

Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) – One in the Hill Country was about the only one seen.

Common Poorwill (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*) – A calling bird was seen well by all just after sundown from our campsite at the Basin in Big Bend N.P.; Though fairly common, this bird can be very hard to find.

Chuck-will’s-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) – Essentially this bird was heard only.

### **Swifts: *Apodidae***

Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) – A number of birds were seen over the gas station in Uvalde; In this part of the Hill Country we were at the western limit of this bird’s range.

White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes saxatalis*) – Seen around the Pinnacles in the upper reaches of Big Bend N.P.

### **Hummingbirds: *Trochilidae***

**White-eared Hummingbird (*Hylocharis leucotis*)** – Two females near Boot Spring in the Chisos Mtns. were unexpected, but wonderful, surprises.; another female and a young male at Kelly Bryan’s feeders in the Davis Mtns. were seen especially well; this species is generally rare in west Texas and any sightings are considered worthy of documentation by the Texas Bird Record Committee (TBRC). Sightings of this many birds are very suggestive of post-breeding wandering from Mexico, especially since it has been such a wet summer in west Texas.

**Blue-throated Hummingbird (*Lampornis clemenciae*)** – A couple birds seen well in Boot Spring in Big Bend.

**Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*)** – At least one female bird and a young male were seen well at the feeders at Kelly Bryan’s property in the Davis Mtns.

**Lucifer Hummingbird (*Calothorax lucifer*)** – Way to go Danny Williams for finding this jewel! This bird is one of the most sought-after of all west Texas and Camp Tejano specialty birds; we had outstanding looks repeatedly at a male visiting an agave on the way to Boot Spring.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) – Seen well at almost every location, especially at the feeders at the Nature Conservancy property in the Davis Mtns.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) – Males and females coming to the feeders at Kelly Bryan’s place in the Davis Mtns. provided the best sightings of the trip for this species.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) – Single males and females around the feeders at the Nature Conservancy property in the Davis Mtns.

**Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*)** – A male spotted after dinner at Kelly Bryan’s feeders on our last night in the Davis Mtns. was a very exciting finale to our day. This species normally begins showing up as a southbound migrant in the third week of July, but this one was a little on the early side and represented the first of the season.

### **Kingfishers: *Alcedinidae***

**Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata*)** – Fabulous looks at probably 2 different birds along the Nueces River at Chalk Bluff Park in Uvalde.

**Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle Americana*)** – Good looks at a single bird in virtually the same place as the above species.

### **Woodpeckers & Allies: *Picidae***

**Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*)** – Fairly common in the pine oak woodlands of the upper elevations of the Chisos and Davis Mtns.

**Golden-fronted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes aurifrons*)** – Common and easy to find from the Hill Country all the way west through the lower elevations of Big Bend.

**Ladder-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides scalaris*)** – A few seen by some of the group in the Hill Country, but eventually seen by all in Big Bend.

**Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)** – Davis Mtns.; the “Red-shafted” race.

### **Tyrant Flycatchers: *Tyrannidae***

**Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*)** – A couple in the pine forest on the Nature Conservancy property, Davis Mtns.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*)** – A calling bird seen well in the pecan bottom just north of Neal’s Lodge.

**Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*)** – A couple of birds seen very well in the pine forest on the Nature Conservancy Property, Davis Mtns.

**Cordilleran Flycatcher (*Empidonax occidentalis*)** – A common bird in shaded areas in the upper reaches of Big Bend.

**Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*)** – Seen well along the Frio and Nueces rivers in the Hill Country.

**Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*)** – A common Hill Country resident.

**Say’s Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)** – Seen very well around the lodge on the Nature Conservancy Property, Davis Mtns.

**Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)** – First seen along the Frio River in the Hill Country near Neal’s Lodge; many more seen in the campgrounds at Rio Grande Village and Cottonwood at Big Bend.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)** – Seen best around Neal’s Lodge; a few more in Big Bend.

**Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*)** – A few around our cabins at Neal’s Lodge were the only ones seen.

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)** – Quite unexpectedly, we came across two birds in different places in some of the moister canyons of the higher elevations in Big Bend. This bird was once considered an extreme vagrant in west Texas; it now appears to be slowly colonizing in appropriate habitat.

**Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)** – We found two family groups in a cemetery along the highway east of Del Rio. This is another example of a south Texas specialty bird that ranges farther north than one would expect.

**Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)** – Like the Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird was basically unheard of in west Texas before 1996. That year, our very own Camp Tejano discovered a singing male in Cottonwood Campground in Big Bend National Park. This record was the first for the Trans-Pecos region and was considered a very significant discovery. The birds have persisted through the years, and now, eleven years later, Camp Tejano once again recorded this species in its original location.

**Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*)** – It took awhile, but we found an actively foraging pair at Chalk Bluff Park along the Nueces River; then in Big Bend we saw the family at Cottonwood Campground that the staff birder had notified us of. This is another bird that ranges to the edge of the south Texas brush country and one that we are always excited to get on the camp. The Big Bend birds were particularly interesting because they were nesting practically side-by-side with the Tropicals.

Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*) – This is the common nesting kingbird of higher elevation grassland and oak-juniper woodland. We saw many around Fort Davis.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) – Common throughout

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) – A common bird of fields and pastures in the Hill Country; a few more north and west of Big Bend; a classic Texas bird.

### **Shrikes: Laniidae**

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) – Here and there throughout.

### **Vireos: Vireonidae**

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) – Common in the Hill Country, especially around Neal's Lodge.

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) – A few around Neal's Lodge and another at Chalk Bluff Park; though not at all rare, this species proved difficult to see for some of the campers.

**Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*)** – On a wild, strange day, in which heavy rain and flooding washed out our planned field trip to Lost Maples State Park, Amy Sugeno came through in the clutch and took us to the Kerr Wildlife Management Area, where we ultimately enjoyed excellent views of a foraging pair of vireos. Later, in Big Bend, we came across another pair along the Window Trail below the Basin Campground, where we had more great views. This species and the Golden-cheeked and Colima warblers comprise the three most important birds of this trip. Black-capped Vireo is not a predictable bird in Big Bend, so we should count ourselves doubly fortunate.

**Gray Vireo (*Vireo vicinior*)** – Great views of a singing bird along the Window Trail in Big Bend.

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) – Seen well in the pecan grove just north of Neal's Lodge; good looks for everybody.

Plumbeous Vireo (*Vireo plumbeus*) – Pretty good views for most of a calling bird on the Nature Conservancy property in the Davis Mtns.

Hutton's Vireo (*Vireo huttoni*) – A common bird in the higher elevations of Big Bend.

Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) – One seen briefly by a few campers in Boot Canyon. This bird was of the "Southwestern" race.

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) – One in the small sycamores along the Nueces River at Chalk Bluff Park was probably not seen by all and was the only one seen on the whole trip.

### **Crows, Jays & Magpies: Corvidae**

Western Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*) – Not many this trip; seen only in the oak woodland in the Davis Mtns. Resort near Kelly Bryan's property.

Mexican Jay (*Aphelocoma ultramarina*) – Seen in the oak forests around and above the Basin in Big Bend National Park; the subspecies "A.u. couhcii."

Chihuahuan Raven (*Corvus cryptoleucus*) – Though we never were able to get a really definitive look at this bird, all the ravens in the desert grasslands between Big Bend and the Davis Mtns. were almost certainly this species.

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) – Common in Big Bend and the Davis Mtns.

### **Swallows: *Hirundinidae***

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) – Common in the Hill Country.

Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*) – Nesting around the lodge on the Nature Conservancy property in the Davis Mtns.; many nice looks for all.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)

**Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)** – Hundreds at eye-level at the Frio bat cave.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

### **Chickadees & Tits: *Paridae***

Carolina Chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*) – Seen in the Hill Country.

Mountain Chickadee (*Poecile gambeli*) – Good looks at a fairly quiet pair in the pine forest above the Nature Conservancy property, Davis Mtns.

Black-crested Titmouse (*Baeolophus atricristatus*) – Seen nearly every day of the trip in all major destinations.

### **Penduline Tits: *Ramizidae***

Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*) – Though common in Big Bend, this species, for whatever reason, proved unusually difficult. We finally saw an adult bird very well in a desert wash the last morning while en route to Cottonwood Campground.

### **Long-tailed Tits: *Aegithalidae***

Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*) – A couple along the Emory Trail en route to Boot Canyon in Big Bend were the only ones seen. Like the Verdin, this species was surprisingly elusive this year.

### **Nuthatches: *Sittidae***

White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) – Only one or two seen; either in Big Bend or in the Davis Mtns.; frankly I don't remember which one.

### **Wrens: *Troglodytidae***

Cactus Wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*) – Seen well in central and west Texas.

Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) – Good looks for most on the canyon walls on the Window Trail in Big Bend.

Canyon Wren (*Catherpes mexicanus*) – We had so-so looks along the Frio River below Neal's, and many other good looks in Big Bend.

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) – Seen well repeatedly in the Hill Country.

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) – Big Bend and the Davis Mtns.

### **Gnatcatchers: *Poliophtilidae***

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*) – A fairly common bird at middle elevation in Big Bend National Park, especially along the Window Trail.

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila melanura*) – Great views of flighty male in a desert wash on the west side of Big Bend while en route to Cottonwood Canyon.

### **Thrushes & Allies: *Turdidae***

Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) – Seen especially well in the Hill Country north of Utopia.

Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*) – Seen in the Davis Mtns.

### **Mockingbirds & Thrashers: Mimidae**

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*)

**Long-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma longirostre*)** – Very nice looks at two birds, one at Neal’s Lodge and another at Chalk Bluff Park.

Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma palustris*) – Seen best outside the visitor center at Panther Junction, Big Bend.

**Crissal Thrasher (*Toxostoma crissale*)** – Very exciting was the sight of a pair of seemingly fearless individuals running around in the campground at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend, in the middle of the morning. This species is often barely detectable in the summertime and should not be regarded as a guaranteed bird for this trip.

### **Starlings: Sturnidae**

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

### **Silky-Flycatchers: Ptilonotidae**

Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*) – Though the rains were good in west Texas this summer, a prolonged drought beforehand has apparently knocked back a number of species, including Phainopepla. Normally easy to find in Davis Mtns. State Park, only one bird was seen, spotted by Alex Hickey.

### **New World Warblers: Parulidae**

**Colima Warbler (*Vermivora crissalis*)** – Probably the premier bird of the trip, certainly for Big Bend at least; most of the group saw the bird well in the shaded oak forest below the pinnacles, but best were the birds in the depth of Boot Canyon, where we saw several individuals very close and well.

**Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*)** – A beautiful male was seen well by all at the Kerr Wildlife Management in the Hill Country; one of North America’s most range-restricted bird species and a lifer for almost everybody.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) – An abundant breeding bird in the southern Hill Country. Seen well and in numbers around Neal’s Lodge; more at Chalk Bluff Park.

**Grace’s Warbler (*Dendroica graciae*)** – A couple seen well in the pine forests of the Davis Mtns. on the Nature Conservancy Property.

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) – A few in the Hill Country.

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) – Several in the tamarisks around Rio Grande Village, Big Bend, were seen well.

### **Tanagers & Allies: Thraupidae**

**Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*)** – Initially seen by some of the group around the Basin at Big Bend; ultimately seen well by all in the pine forest around the Nature Conservancy property at Big Bend.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) – Many, many colorful males seen in the Hill Country and in the riparian areas of Big Bend.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) – We had good looks at a bright male and several duller individuals in the pine forests above the Nature Conservancy property in the Davis Mtns.

### **Buntings, Sparrows & Allies: Emberizidae**

**Olive Sparrow (*Arremonops rufivirgatus*)** – Several seen, but easily the best was the curious individual outside the cabins at Neal’s Lodge our first morning out.

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*) – Chisos Mtns., Big Bend.  
 Canyon Towhee (*Pipilo fuscus*) – Common around Neal’s Lodge; more in Big Bend.  
 Cassin’s Sparrow (*Aimophila cassinii*) – A couple spotted by Spencer south of Alpine the final morning were the only ones seen.  
 Rufous-crowned Sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps*) – Seen extremely well in Big Bend along the Window Trail.  
 Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) – Common in the Hill Country.  
 Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) – A couple of birds in the pastures around Neal’s Lodge.  
**Black-chinned Sparrow (*Spizella atrogularis*)** – Dynamite looks at singing birds along the Window Trail in Big Bend.  
 Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) – A very common summertime bird in the Texas Hill Country; we saw lots.  
 Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*) – Seen very well through the scope around the parking area for the Frio bat cave; others in Big Bend.  
 Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) – Nice looks at several juvenile birds on a fence line along the road to the Frio bat cave.

### **Saltators, Cardinals & Allies: Cardinalidae**

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) – Abundant through the Hill Country and the lower elevations of Big Bend.  
 Pyrrhuloxia (*Cardinalis sinuatus*) – Several good looks at bright males along the road from Panther Junction to Rio Grande Village, Big Bend.  
 Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) – Fairly common in the higher elevations of the Chisos Mtns., Big Bend; eventually seen well by most.  
 Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*) – Seen well on all major portions of the trip; a truly beautiful bird and one we never tired of looking at.  
 Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) – A couple in the pasture behind the cabins at Neal’s Lodge.  
**Varied Bunting (*Passerina versicolor*)** – Lots of great views of males along the Window Trail in Big Bend.  
**Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)** – A common bird of the Texas Hill Country; still, this bird has got to be one of North America’s most beautiful.  
 Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) – Several males seen well in the pastures southwest of Neal’s Lodge.

### **Blackbirds, Orioles & Allies: Icteridae**

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) – Here and there throughout.  
 Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) – Seen in the high grasslands of west Texas; this is the special “liliana,” or Lillian’s Meadowlark of the Southwest and what might be a separate species one day.  
 Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) – Incredibly abundant in central Texas; many others farther west.  
 Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) – Surprisingly few in west Texas, but not hard to find around Neal’s Lodge in the Hill Country.  
 Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*)  
 Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) – Breeds in small numbers in riparian areas within Big Bend; we had a few in Cottonwood Campground.  
 Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*) – A few around Neal’s Lodge.  
 Bullock’s Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) – Although several were seen this trip, probably none were seen exceptionally well; many were birds spotted in flight while the perched individuals were seen at a distance; seen in the brush country south of Uvalde and around Chalk Bluff Park.

Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*) – Several gorgeous males were seen around our campsite in Big Bend and along the Window Trail below the Basin.

**Siskins and Crossbills: *Fringillidae***

House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)

Lesser Goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*) – Several seen around Neal's Lodge in the Hill Country.

**Old World Sparrows: *Passeridae***

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

**MAMMALS TOTAL = 18**

**Opossums: *Didelphidae***

Virginia Opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*)

**Rabbits: *Leporidae***

Eastern Cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*)

Black-tailed Jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*) – Seen especially well in the Hill Country.

**Squirrels: *Sciuridae***

American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) – A pair in the ponds along the Rio Grande Nature Trail at Rio Grande Village; not a species one would automatically think of along the Mexican border.

Eastern Fox Squirrel (*Sciurus niger*)

Black-tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) – We visited a portion of a fairly large “town” north of Marathon on our final full day together. Once widespread in west, central, and north Texas, this species now occurs in much reduced numbers. Still, we had lots of good enjoyable views of prairie dogs, and also enjoyed studying their behavior.

Rock Squirrel (*Spermophilus variegates*)

Mexican Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus mexicanus*) – A few on a lawn south of Uvalde were the only ones seen.

Texas Antelope Squirrel (*Ammospermophilus interpres*)

**Bats: *Tadarididae***

Mexican Free-tailed Bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) – Millions emerging from the Frio bat cave on our final night in the Hill Country put on a truly epic and unforgettable show for us Cave Myotis (*Myotis velifer*)

Western Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus Hesperus*)

Eastern Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus subflavus*)

**Dogs: *Canidae***

Gray Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) – One sneaky individual was traveling quickly away from us in Davis Mtns. State Park and was probably not seen by all.

**Bears: *Ursidae***

Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*) – One spotted by Amy along the Window Trail in Big Bend was simply wandering around in the open. Seen very well by everybody and was a lifer for some, including Amy. Probably the premier animal sighting of the trip!

**Pronghorn: Bovidae**

Pronghorn (*Antilocapra Americana*) – A number seen in the pastures in and around Fort Davis.

**Peccaries: Tayassuidae**

Collared Peccary (*Peccari tajacu*) – A family group foraging on the paved Basin Loop trail in Big Bend were studied at length. Among them were several very young ones that were actually some of the smallest any of us had seen.

**Deer: Cervidae**

White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) – Some larger “Eastern” White-taileds in the Hill Country, and several “Chihuahuan” White-taileds in Big Bend; the latter form is one of the smallest subspecies.

**REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS - TOTAL = 24**

(Compiled by Amy Sugeno)

Gulf Coast Toad (*Bufo valliceps*)

Red-spotted Toad (*B. punctatus*)

Blanchard's Cricket Frog (*Acris crepitans blanchardi*)

Green Treefrog (*Hyla cinerea*) – Questionable, i.d. based on call; range map does not show them to be as far west as Neal's Lodge, but I have seen them as far west as Mason.

Cliff Chirping Frog (*Syrrophus marnockii*)

Couch's Spadefoot (*Scaphiopus couchii*)

Bullfrog (*Rana catesbiana*)

Big Bend Slider (*Trachemys gaigeae*)

Texas Tortoise (*Gopherus berlandieri*)

Mediterranean Gecko (*Hemidactylus turcicus*)

Southwestern Earless-Lizard (*Cophosaurus texanus scitulus*)

Big Bend Canyon Lizard (*Sceloporus meriami annulatus*)

Crevice Spiny Lizard (*S. poinsettia*)

Eastern Tree Lizard (*Urosaurus ornatus*)

Texas Spotted Whiptail (*Cnemidophorus gularis gularis*)

Plateau Spotted Whiptail (*C. gularis septemvittatus*)

Marbled Whiptail (*C. marmoratus*)

Colorado Checkered Whiptail (*C. tessellatus*)

Eastern Black-necked Garter-Snake (*Thamnophis cyrtopsis ocellatus*)

Patchnose Snake (*Salvadora sp.*)

Texas Lyre Snake (*Trimorphodon biscutatus vilkinsonii*)

Central Texas Whipsnake (*Masticophis taeniatus girardi*) (Or could have been Desert Striped Whipsnake (*M. t. taeniatus*); it depends on which reference you use)

Mottled Rock Rattlesnake (*Crotalus lepidus lepidus*)

Black-tailed Rattlesnake (*C. molossus molossus*)

## **BUTTERFLIES - TOTAL = 77**

The arrangement of this list parallels the taxonomic classification and organization employed by Jim P. Brock and Kenn Kaufman in the Butterflies of North America, 2003. Many of these butterflies were seen in multiple locations, but the site listing for each of them reflects only the location where they were FIRST during the camp.

### **Swallowtails: *Papilionidae***

Two-tailed Swallowtail (*Papilio multicaudata*) – Elbow Canyon, Davis Mtns.

Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*) – Neal's Lodge, Hill Country.

Spicebush Swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*) – Neal's Lodge.

Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*) – Neal's Lodge.

Giant Swallowtail (*Papilio cresphontes*) – Neal's Lodge.

### **Whites & Sulphurs: *Pieridae***

Checkered White (*Pontia protodice*) – Del Rio.

Orange Sulphur (*Colias eurytheme*) – Neal's Lodge.

Southern Dogface (*Colias cesonia*) – Neal's Lodge.

Sleepy Orange (*Eurema nicippe*) – Neal's Lodge.

Dainty Sulphur (*Nathalis iole*) – Neal's Lodge.

Little Yellow (*Eurema lisa*) – Neal's Lodge.

Mexican Yellow (*Eurema mexicana*) – Neal's Lodge

Lyside Sulphur (*Kricogonia lyside*) – Neal's Lodge

### **Gossamer-winged Butterflies: *Lycaenidae***

#### **Hairstreaks: Subfamily *Theclinae***

Gray Hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*) – Neal's Lodge.

Poling's Hairstreak (*Satyrium polingi*) – Nature Conservancy Property, Davis Mtns.

Dusky-Blue Groundstreak (*Calycopis isobeon*) – Neal's Lodge.

“Siva” Juniper Hairstreak (*Callophrys gryneus siva*) – Nature Conservancy Property, Davis Mtns.

Great Purple Hairstreak (*Atlides halesus*) – Neal's Lodge.

#### **Blues: Subfamily *Polyommattinae***

Spring Azure (*Celastrina ladon*) – TNC Property, Davis Mtns.

Marine Blue or Cassius Blue (*Leptotes marina* or *L. cassius*) – A single individual found outside the visitor center at Panther Junction, Big Bend, was probably *L. marina*, but I got caught without my field guide and *L. cassius* could not be ruled out.

Western Pygmy-Blue (*Brephidium exile*) – Desert wash, west side of Big Bend.

Reakirt's Blue (*Hemiargus isola*) – Neal's Lodge.

#### **Metalmarks: *Riodinidae***

Fatal Metalmark (*Calephelis nemesis*) – Rio Grande Village, Big Bend.

### **Brush-footed Butterflies: *Nymphalidae***

#### **Longwings & Fritillaries: Subfamily *Heliconiinae***

Zebra Heliconian (*Heliconius charithonia*) – Chalk Bluff Park, Uvalde.

Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*) – Neal's Lodge.

Julia Heliconian (*Dryas Julia*) – Neal’s Lodge.  
Variegated Fritillary (*Euptoieta Claudia*) – Neal’s Lodge.

**Crescents & Checkerspots: Subfamily *Nymphalinae***

Pearl Crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*) – TNC property, Davis Mtns.  
Vesta Crescent (*Phyciodes vesta*) – Neal’s Lodge.  
Phaon Crescent (*Phyciodes phaon*) – TNC property, Davis Mtns.  
Elada Checkerspot (*Texola elada*) – Del Rio.  
Texan Crescent (*Phyciodes texana*) – Neal’s Lodge.  
Bordered Patch (*Chlosyne lacinia*) – Neal’s Lodge.  
Theona Checkerspot (*Thessalia theona*) – Chalk Bluff Park, Uvalde.

**“Typical Brushfoots”: More *Nymphalinae***

Question Mark (*Polygonia interrogationis*) – Neal’s Lodge.  
Eastern Comma (*Polgonia comma*) – Neal’s Lodge.  
Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*) – Neal’s Lodge.  
American Lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*) – Neal’s Lodge.  
Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*) – Neal’s Lodge.  
Common Buckeye (*Junonia coenia*) – Neal’s Lodge.  
[Tropical Buckeye (*Junonia genoveva*)] – Identified in the Basin Campground in Big Bend; I now believe the initial i.d. I made was incorrect and have removed it from the list.  
Common Mestra (*Mestra amymone*) – Neal’s Lodge.

**Admirals & Sisters: Subfamily *Limenitidinae***

Arizona Sister (*Adelpha eulalia*) – Pinnacles Trail, Big Bend National Park.

**Leafwings: Subfamily *Charaxinae***

Goatweed Leafwing (*Anaea andria*) – Chalk Bluff Park.

**Emperors: Subfamily *Apaturinae***

Tawny Emperor (*Asterocampa clyton*) – Neal’s Lodge.  
Empress Leilia (*Asterocampa leilia*) – Window Trail, Big Bend N.P.

**Snout Butterflies: Subfamily *Libytheinae***

American Snout (*Libytheana carinenta*) – Roadside south of Uvalde.

**Milkweed Butterflies: Subfamily *Danaïinae***

Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) – Neal’s Lodge.  
Queen (*Danaus gilippus*) – Neal’s Lodge.

**Satyrs: Subfamily *Satyrinae***

Red Satyr (*Megisto rubricate*) – Pinnacles Trail, Big Bend.  
Canyonland Satyr (*Cyllopsis pertepida*) – TNC property, Big Bend.  
Mead’s Wood-Nymph (*Cercyonis meadii*) – Pinnacles Trail, Big Bend.

**Skippers: *Hesperiidae***

**Spread-Wing Skippers: Subfamily *Pyrginae***

Golden-banded Skipper (*Autochton cellus*) – Emory Trail, Big Bend.

Northern Cloudywing (*Thorybes pylades*) – Emory Trail, Big Bend.  
Drusius Cloudywing (*Thorybes drusius*) – TNC property, Davis Mtns.  
White-striped Longtail (*Chioides catillus*) – Neal’s Lodge.  
Texas Powdered-Skipper (*Systasea pulverulenta*) – Window Trail, Big Bend.  
Mournful Duskywing (*Erynnis tristis*) – TNC property, Davis Mtns.  
Horace’s Duskywing (*Erynnis horatius*) - Neal’s Lodge.  
Funereal Duskywing (*Erynnis funeralis*) – Neal’s Lodge.  
Meridian Duskywing (*Erynnis meridianus*) – Boot Canyon, Big Bend.  
False Duskywing (*Gesta gesta*) – Neal’s Lodge.  
Common Checkered-Skipper (*Pyrgus communis*) – Neal’s Lodge.  
Desert Checkered-Skipper (*Pyrgus philetas*) – Del Rio.

**Skipperlings: Subfamily *Heteropterinae***

Chisos Skipperling (*Piruna haferniki*) – Pinnacles Trail, Big Bend.

**Grass Skippers: Subfamily *Hesperiinae***

Fiery Skipper (*Hylephila phyleus*) – Neal’s Lodge.  
Sachem (*Atalopedes campestris*) – TNC property, Davis Mtns.  
Tropical Least Skipper (*Ancyloxypha arene*) – TNC property, Davis Mtns.  
Orange Skipperling (*Copaeodes aurantiaca*) – Neal’s Lodge.  
Southern Skipperling (*Copaeodes minima*) – Neal’s Lodge.  
Clouded Skipper (*Lerema accius*) – Neal’s Lodge.  
Southern Broken Dash (*Wallengrenia otho*) – Del Rio.  
Dun Skipper (*Euphyes vestries*) – Neal’s Lodge.  
Taxiles Skipper (*Poanes taxiles*) – Colima Trail, Big Bend.  
Sheep Skipper (*Atrytonopsis edwardsii*) – Desert wash, west side of Big Bend.  
Bronze Roadside-Skipper (*Amblyscirtes aenus*) – Window Trail, Big Bend.  
Dotted Roadside-Skipper (*Amblyscirtes eos*) – TNC property, Davis Mtns.  
Orange-headed Roadside-Skipper (*Amblyscirtes phylace*) – TNC property, Davis Mtns.