



Prothonotary Warblers were one of the commonest migrants throughout our time on the coast (Simon Mitchell)

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PART I - COASTAL: 16 – 22 APRIL 2013

PART II - HILL COUNTRY 23 APRIL – 2 MAY 2013

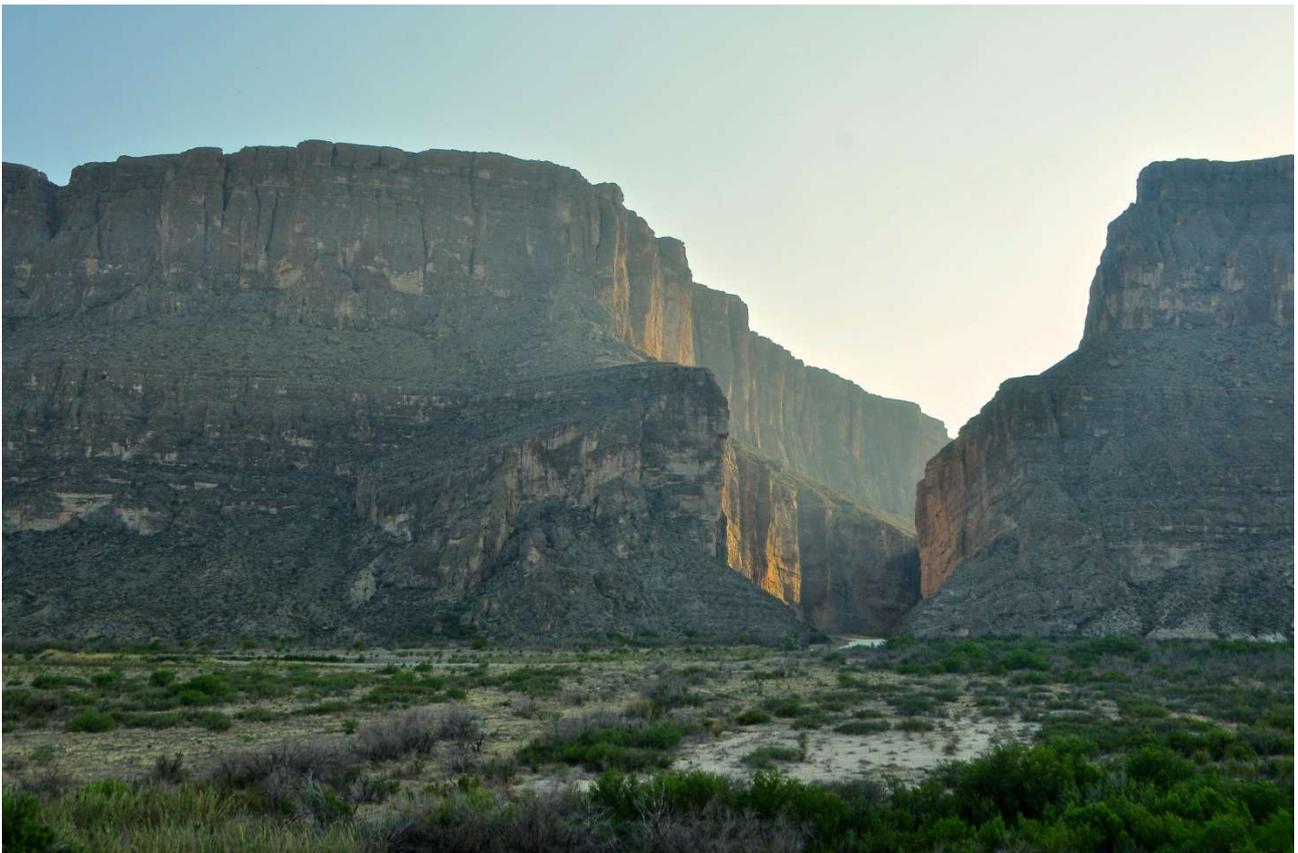
LEADER: SIMON MITCHELL

Texas is an enormous state, covering a larger area than the whole of the United Kingdom. With a wealth of different biomes and avifaunas separated across such a huge landscape it is often easier to separate birding these areas shorter manageable trips. As such the Birdquest Texas trip was very much a tour of two halves. Heading for the coast we stopped first at nearby Long-leaf pine forests where we encountered the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Bachman's Sparrow as well as a variety of woodland birds. The rest of our first week was spend watching a dazzling array of migrants and shorebirds passing through the famous coastal sites of High Island and Sabine Woods. Here, we eagerly anticipated changes in the weather and noticed by-the-hour differences in the birds concentrated into a tiny area. One the second part of our trip we travelled West of San Antonio, across the Edward's Plateau where the topography and Live Oak- woodland was reminiscent of Mediterranean cork-growing regions. Here was encountered two incredibly beautiful species almost endemic to Texas - Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo. As we moved further west the scenery became gradually drier and we moved into open desert country. In a

bleak but spectacular landscape of Big Bend National Park the Chisos Basin is a single huge caldera which rises out of the desert providing an oasis of woodland.

Our first week was largely focussed on migrants and on some days we recorded as many as 20 species of warblers! After the right conditions some of the coastal migrants traps were a profusion of colour as Indigo Bunting and Blue Grosbeaks, Prothonotary Warblers and Hooded Warblers, Scarlet and Summer Tanagers flitted around as streaks of blue, yellow and red. Creeping through the understory we found Waterthrushes, Ovenbirds, catharus thrushes and a variety of Geothlypis warblers. Freshwater wetlands at Anahuac NWR harboured gave us wonderful views of Yellow, King and Sora Rails, whilst the coastal lagoons and mudflats along the Bolivar Peninsular were alive with incredible numbers of shorebirds and waterfowl. Nearby turf farms also provided a wonderful bonus of both Buff-breasted and Upland Sandpiper.

During our second week we traversed the Hill Country of the Edward's Plateau. Here we found a wide range of breeding birds of central Texas. The biggest highlights here were Black-capped Vireo and Golden-cheeked Warbler, both near-endemic to Texas as breeding birds. However was also recorded several other tough and interesting species including Yellow-headed Blackbird, Grasshopper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Painted Bunting, Lazuli Bunting, Hutton's Vireo, Brewer's Sparrow, Vermillion Flycatcher, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Great Horned Owl and Cave Swallow. A stop at a local wetlands produced even more waders and several late waterfowl we hadn't recorded along the coast. Moving further west we reached the at Del Rio, where Couch's Kingbird, Green Jay, Green Kingfisher and Great Kiskadee were among the 'South Texas Specialities' we found right on the fringes of their ranges.



As well as great birding Big Bend N.P offered some unforgettable landscapes (Simon Mitchell).

Heading towards Big Bend National Park in the Chihuahuan Desert we entered an arid landscape and a harsh dry climate. Here more bird species included the difficult Colima Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Canyon and Rock Wrens, Blue-throated and Lucifer Hummingbirds, Phainopepla, Chihuahuan Raven, Curve-billed Thrasher, Lucy's Warbler, Lark Bunting, Mexican Jay, Verdin, Varied Bunting, Black-throated, Rufous-crowned and Black-chinned Sparrows and Scott's and Hooded Orioles. Finally we visited areas around Davis State Park, where new birds included Common Poorwill, Western Wood-pewee and Western

Bluebirds. On our way back to San Antonio we called in at the impressive Balmorhea Lake, where both Clark's, Western Grebes and Eared Grebe were the highlights among an amazing variety of waterbirds. Arriving in Houston we immediately headed towards our accommodation to the east in Jasper. Arriving late we all headed for our rooms immediately after dinner, knowing we would have an early start in the morning. We began the next day by setting off before dawn and heading into the Angelina National Forest. As it gradually grew lighter we began to hear calls and taps from the woodpeckers and soon got reasonable views for all the group. Certainly not a bad species to begin the trip on! Over the next couple of hours we recorded numerous new species: Brown-headed and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Pine Siskin, Song Sparrow, Brown Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, Pine Warbler, Golden-fronted Woodpecker and Red-eyed Vireo. After a few hours of searching we tried our final site for Bachman's Sparrow. This time we quickly heard the distinctive song and were able to track down two birds which gave great views. Whilst watching them an impressive kettle of over 150 Mississippi Kites passed overhead giving us the tough decision of which species to look at! A few Broad-winged Hawks were also mixed in with the group with disappeared within just a couple of minutes of appearing



Bachman's Sparrows showed unusually well in the Angelina National Forest and Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found nearby (Simon Mitchell).

Continuing towards the coast we visited more deciduous woodland areas around Silsbee. Here we found a slightly different group of birds, reflecting the different vegetation. Our stakeouts for Prairie Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat proved reliable and we also encountered a number of other species not found elsewhere on the trip including Red-headed and Downy Woodpeckers, Tufted Titmouse. Other species included Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Cedar Waxwing (a flock of 60+) and American Crow. From Silsbee we called in a Beaumont Water Treatment plant and Tyrell Park. Although only a limited number of species were recorded from these two locations they did include our only Bonaparte's Gulls and Fish Crows of the trip. At Beaumont a few ducks were present including a over one hundred and fifty Blue-winged Teal and a single Green-winged Teal. A Little Blue Heron, a few White-faced and White Ibises were also present, but unfortunately a fly-by Least Bittern was too brief for most.

Our final port of call for the day was at a small area of turf farms near Nome. Here we found more than 20 smart Buff-breasted Sandpipers picking their way across the short grass. Even better was a single Upland Sandpiper - a species right at the tail end of its passage period through the area. Stopping in Winnie for dinner we arrived at our accommodation on High Island after dark. Two additional good species were seen en route in the form of a Swallow-tailed Kite near Kirbyville and a Dickcissel in fields near Anahuac NWR.

The next day we began exploring the migrant traps of High Island for the first time. We spent our first half hour in Hooks Sanctuary where it became apparent that not many migrants were filtering through. However, we did record a single Eastern Wood-pewee and a single Yellow-billed Cuckoo as well as a pair of Inca Doves. Warblers included a single Tennessee Warbler and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, one Northern Parula and two Yellow-rumped Warblers. Five Eastern Kingbirds were fly-catching on the open margins of the woods and several groups of hirundines including ten Purple Martin, two Tree Swallow, four Northern Rough-winged Swallow and ten Barn Swallow flew through as well as a few Chimney Swifts. With the forecast far

more promising for coming days we decided to check some of the sites along the Bolivar Peninsular. Heading down Yacht Basin Road we quickly encountered an impressive flock of 12 White-crowned Sparrows. However, our real targets in this area were car more skulking sparrow species. After several minutes we finally located our quarry in the form of both Seaside and even better Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows. Before heading back we paused to admire both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs when an American Bittern took flight over the salt marsh giving all of us reasonable views.



Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows are often difficult to gain good view of (Simon Mitchell).

Next we headed to Bolivar Flats, the most extensive mudflats on the peninsular. here an excellent variety of shorebirds were present including ten Grey Plover, two Snowy Plover, six Wilson's Plover, three Semipalmated Plover, two Piping Plover, several Killdeer, ten or more Black-necked Stilts and over three thousand American Avocets. Additionally we recorded small numbers of both Yellowlegs species, several Willet and a few each of Hudsonian Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper and Long-billed Dowitcher. Western Sandpipers were well represented with over 100 present but only a single Red Knot was recorded - perhaps reflective of this species decline in North America.

Returning to High Island for lunch we then headed out around Boy Scout woods for three hours or more in the afternoon. Several new migrants had arrived during the day and we amassed reasonable totals including twelve or more Tennessee Warblers and four Northern Parulas. Watching the specially created pools and 'dripping taps' as the day cooled off was also productive, with singles of Magnolia, Black-and-white, Kentucky, Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Orange-crowned and Nashville Warblers. Other migrants included five Yellow-rumped Warblers, four Ruby-crowned Kinglets, two Scarlet Tanagers and a single Summer Tanager. Two Painted Buntings and five Indigo Buntings also added to the spectacle.



Tennessee Warbler (Simon Mitchell).

Towards dusk we headed along the High Island Beach road where we continued to find new species. Most significant on this visit was a flock of seventeen Baird's Sandpipers and give or six Pectoral Sandpipers which came in off the sea and landed on the beach during a heavy rain squall.

After a long day in the field we headed back to our accommodation for the evening meal. With more showers and northerly winds forecast overnight anticipation for more migrants passerines the next day was high.



An amazing flock of 17 Baird's Sandpipers were on the beach at High Island (Simon Mitchell).

Heading out shortly after a hearty pre-dawn breakfast we focused our morning's attentions on the Smith Oaks Sanctuary. Walking amongst the Live Oaks there was a notable increase upon the number of birds from the previous day. We soon tallied several Black-and-white and Black-throated Green Warblers and by lunchtime had recorded at least ten of each. Also fairly numerous were Hooded Warbler and Prothonotary Warblers with five of each seen. Conditions were rather blustery, but one especially sheltered spot yielded a wonderful variety of warblers in a small area. An American Redstart first caught our attention, but we were

soon distracted by a showy Yellow-throated Warbler. Not to be outdone, our first Blackburnian Warbler flicked through the low Mulberries close to eye level and a Northern Parula picked it's way through the treetops. The real highlight came when we spotted a Cerulean Warbler (a lifer for all of us)! which also preformed wonderfully in the morning sunshine. Cameos from Scarlet Tanagers and Indigo Buntings all added to the experience - truly migration at its best! As well as the numbers and diversity we were also impressed with the excellent view several of the species gave and during the course of the morning many typically difficult to see species such as Kentucky Warbler and Swainson's Thrush presented themselves for unusually good views.



Blackburnian Warblers can't fail to catch the eye as they flick through the treetops (Simon Mitchell).

As well as birding the woodlands for passerines we also headed to the wetland areas to look over the large lake and egret and spoonbill colonies. Here Great Egrets numbered over eighty and Roseate Spoonbills exceed a hundred. Smaller numbers of Snowy Egret, Tricoloured Heron and Cattle Egret were also seen. A pair of American Purple Gallinules picked their way across some floating vegetation and a few Pied-billed Grebes and Neotropic Cormorants were also present.

Continuing quietly around the trails we heard the rustle of dry leaves betrayed the presence of an Ovenbird which soon wandered along the path giving good views. By the end of the morning we had also seen additional Cerulean Warblers and American Redstarts, our first Blackpoll Warbler and Chestnut-sided Warblers and singles of Blue-winged Warbler, Orange-crowned Warblers and Common Yellowthroat. Added to these was an impressive five Blackburnian Warblers, three Yellow-throated Warblers, four Northern Parulas, three Yellow Warblers, two Golden-winged Warblers and an amazing twenty or more Tennessee Warblers. Other migrants had also increased in numbers including twenty-five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, ten summer Tanagers and in excess of forty Indigo Bunting. A few raptors also passed overhead during the course of the morning and through the gaps in the trees we picked up two Swallow-tailed Kites, three Broad-winged Hawks and a Swainson's Hawk. Another highlight came when we located a cryptic Chuck-will's Widow roosting amongst thick vegetation close to one of the boardwalks.



Watching Roseate Spoonbills in courtship display was a wonderful way to start morning at Smith Oaks (Simon Mitchell).

In the afternoon we took a walk around Hooks Sanctuary and headed down the High Island Beach Road to the fringes of McFadden National Wildlife Refuge. The former produced several more migrants including five Northern Waterthrushes, Yellow-rumped Warbler, two Yellow-billed Cuckoos and Painted Bunting. The latter held our first Little Blue Herons, Reddish Egrets and impressive numbers of duck including fifteen American Wigeon, four hundred Blue-winged Teal, sixty Lesser Scaup, forty Northern Shoveler and four Mottled Duck. Also present were a good selection of Terns roosting on the pools, including Gull-billed, Black, Least, Forster's, Sandwich and Royal. A single Semi-palmated Sandpiper flew incredibly close to the vehicle on one of the roadside pools.



Both Western and Semi-palmated Sandpipers (pictured) showed extremely well at times (Simon Mitchell).

On the morning of the 20th we took a change of scene by heading to Anahuac NWR. This 137.6 km² area of wetlands and flooded pastures is home to a fabulous variety of shorebirds, waterfowl, herons, egrets and rails. The Cattail Marshes here are home to 5 species of Rail, and one of the big attractions for any visiting birders is that organized 'Rail Walks' once a week give birders a stronger chance of encounter with these species than almost anywhere else in the world. In particular Anahuac is regarded as perhaps the best place in Texas to see Yellow Rail.

Our first activity of the morning was undertake the famed Rail walk. David S, the walk organizer assured us that "someone will most likely fall in, it's just a question of who!" We began walking an evenly spaced 'flush-line' across the (surprisingly dry) Cattail Marsh and it wasn't long before something flicked out in front of us - a Sedge Wren - not what we had been anticipating, but a new bird nonetheless. Continuing we disturbed a Sora which hurtled away low over the marsh, and several Seaside Sparrows. It wasn't long however before a distinctive pale rail with white in the wings shot out from our feet. Eventually we were able to locate it and other birds at close enough range to gain good flight views, and recorded a total of seven individuals. A single Black Rail was heard calling across the marsh, but couldn't be located. In the event we were all also grateful to remain (relatively) dry.



White-tailed Kite and baby Alligators at Anahuac NWR (Simon Mitchell).

Later in the morning we explored other areas of the refuge. Good views of both American and Least Bitterns were particular highlights and several other new species were recorded amongst a large variety of waterbirds. These included Black-crowned Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-heron, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, American Kestrel, Belted Kingfisher. Heading back towards Winnie for brunch we recorded another surprise Upland Sandpiper in roadside fields a Dickcissel along the fence-lines and another White-tailed Kite.

In the afternoon we made our way towards Sabine Woods. Several stops on the way yielded only a few migrants, but we did gain reasonable views of our first Marsh Wren of the trip. At the wood themselves however there was a reasonable selection of species. Most notable amongst these was a distinct fall of *Catharus* thrushes. As well as a total of twenty-five Swainson's Thrushes we recorded two Wood Thrushes a Grey-cheeked Thrush, and a frustratingly skulking Veery. Other migrants included Cerulean, Blackpoll, Black-and-white, Prothonotary, Chestnut-sided, Kentucky and Hooded Warblers as well as Northern Parula, Common Yellowthroat a showy Ovenbird and at least eight Northern Waterthrushes. Small numbers of other migrants included Scarlet and Summer Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and at least two Common Nighthawks a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and single Yellow-throated and Philadelphia Vireos.

The next morning we made an early visit to McFadden NWR area on High Island Beach Road. A similar variety of waterbirds to previous days was noted but particularly significant totals included sixty Dunlin, one hundred and twenty Stilt Sandpipers an amazing four hundred Wilson's Phalaropes and over five hundred Royal Terns! Amongst the throngs of shorebirds we located two distinctive but elusive White-rumped Sandpipers. Easier to keep track of was a smart adult Franklin's Gull - our first of the trip.

Next we moved to the migrant traps at Boy Scout Woods, Red Bay Sanctuary and in particular Smith Oaks, where we spend most of the morning. It was clear that the previous afternoon and overnight a good fall of migrants had occurred, with totals significantly higher than on previous days. Our highest counts of Hooded Warblers (eight), Kentucky Warbler (three) Ovenbird (two) and Prothonotary Warbler (eight) were all recorded along with single Worm-eating and Black-throated Green Warblers. Overhead we noted six different species of hirundines and other migrants included at least fifteen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and twenty Indigo Buntings. After lunch we located several excellent species including two brief Black-billed Cuckoos, a showy Yellow-throated Warbler and a pristine Philadelphia Vireo which fed close by.



This Philadelphia Vireo was unconcerned with our presence having apparently just arrived across the Gulf of Mexico (Simon Mitchell).

In the late afternoon we spent some more time along the Bolivar Peninsular where we admired some species we'd already recorded previously at closer quarters. We also recorded our first American Oystercatcher and several rather distant American White Pelicans.

The following we day we left the coast, but decided to do so via the alternative route, travelling across on the Bolivar Ferry to Galverston Island. This gave us the opportunity to call in at Lafitte's Cove which is another well known gulf-coast migrant trap. As well as an interesting change of scenery the are produced several species we had not located around High Island. A flock of about 15 Redhead showed well on one of the local ponds and two Common Loons sat preening amongst the harboured boats. Migrants were relatively few but included good views of Scarlet Tanager as well as a productive sparrow flock which held our first Lark Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos and Chipping Sparrows as well as a single Lincoln's Sparrow.

Much of the rest of the day was spend undertaking airport drop-offs and pick-ups as well as the drive across to San Antonio. After a long day we arrived tired from the journey but excited about our prospects for our next leg of the tour.



A pristine male Scarlet Tanager visited one of the drips at Lafitte's Cove (Simon Mitchell).

The next morning we headed towards Friedrich Park just west of San Antonio where our main target was Texas's famed breeding endemic - the beautiful Golden-cheeked Warblers. Already the habitat here was entirely different to the coast with a range of small junipers and evergreen oaks forming rather sub-alpine looking vegetation across rocky ground. Around the visitor centre we located a number of commoner inland species. Several Carolina Chickadees and a Black-chinned Hummingbird were noted around the car park. Further into the woodland we located several Ruby-crowned Kinglets and a quartet of Hutton's Vireos - it was an interesting comparison to see these two superficially similar-looking species one after another. It wasn't long before we heard the distinctive cadence of a distant Golden-cheeked Warbler, even in the blustery conditions. With some patience and careful positioning we were all able to gain excellent views of a male as it picked its way around the low treetops. Several Black-crested Titmice, Bewick's Wren and Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, Orange-crowned Warblers and Nashville Warblers were also recorded as well as both Blue Jay and Woodhouse's Scrub-Jays. Having achieved our main target and with several squalls threatening to make birding more difficult we decided to move on to our next location.

Our next stop was at Chalk Bluff Park, where we hoped to connect with two unusual species which had taken up temporary residence in the area: a pair of Rufous-capped Warblers and a Ringed Kingfisher. Even on the entrance road we encountered a number of excellent new species. Two Common Ground-doves, two Ash-throated Flycatcher, good numbers of both Clay-coloured and Chipping Sparrow and at least four singing Cassin's Sparrows at least one of which was seen. As we arrived several Yellow-headed Blackbirds were noted amongst Red-winged Blackbirds in the cattle fields.

Walking along the river shore with the impressive Bluff on the far side looming above us we searched in vain for the Rufous-capped Warblers. Even a brief snatch of song which may have been this species couldn't be tracked down in the blustery conditions. However, we did succeed in finding the long-staying Ringed Kingfisher. This impressively massive beast showed well in a riverside tree before powering off down the river. Other new species included a Golden-fronted Woodpecker, several Bell's and Yellow-throated Vireos and a Western Kingbird.



Chalk Bluff Park was not only extremely birdy, but also a very scenic location (Simon Mitchell).

In the later afternoon we took a quick walk around Uvalde Fish Hatchery. In only a short time we located a trio of Gadwall and a pair of Ring-necked Duck on the pools. Around the fringes of the water bodies we also located our first Vermillion Flycatchers and a single Black Phoebe.

The next morning we headed to Lost Maples State Natural area. A good variety of species were seen including at least eight Golden-cheeked Warblers, a few Black-and-white Warblers and over forty Orange-crowned Warblers. Whilst waiting out a particularly heavy shower in the hides we watch several species come and go from the feeders. As well as several Black-crested Titmice, Black-capped Chickadees and Blue Grosbeaks visiting the feeders we spotted a pristine male Lazuli Bunting - an unexpected but extremely welcome bonus species at this location.

Poor weather meant activity was rather low for the remainder of the morning. However, we did locate our first group of Bushtits, a single Blue-headed Vireo and a lone male Dickcissel which fed along the side of the path giving good views. Also noted were heard-only Rock and Canyon Wrens. Having failed to locate any Black-headed Vireos at Lost Maples we next headed to Kerr Wildlife Management area where we hoped we would have better luck.

Conditions had improved significantly by the time we reached Kerr WMA although it was still fairly blustery. Driving the tracks it wasn't too long before we heard our first Black-headed Vireo. A patient wait and some careful selecting of the right position and we eventually all gained excellent views of the bird as it moved into a more open part of the hedgerow.



Two of the most specialized and range-restricted birds in Texas Black-capped Vireo and Golden-cheeked Warbler were both seen exceptionally well (Simon Mitchell).

In the evening we headed to the famed Frio Bat Spectacle. As dusk fell we marvelled at the incredible spectacle of over ten million Mexican Free-tailed Bat's leaving one small opening in their roosting cave. Several opportunistic raptors appeared to be trying to take a advantage of the potential 'late lunch' and we picked up our first Merlin, as well as Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk and two Northern Crested Caracaras. A brief Great Horned Owl and a singing Lesser Nighthawk were also noted.



The site of millions of Mexican Free-tailed Bat leaving roost was singularly impressive (Simon Mitchell).

The following morning we paid another visit to the Uvalde Fish Hatchery. With more time to adequately check the pools we located a good variety of waterbirds, several of which we hadn't recorded on the coast. Waders included Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, two Solitary Sandpipers (our first encounter) and a single Wilson's Snipe. Also recorded were a few Least Sandpiper, several Long-billed Dowitcher and at least one Baird's Sandpiper. The biggest surprise of all however, came when three Upland Sandpipers dropped in along the top of one of the banks - a good late inland record of this species. Wildfowl were similarly well represented with two Pintail, a couple of Northern Shoveler, four Fulvous Whistling-duck, several Blue-

winged Teal, a single Green-winged Teal and even a pair of Cinnamon Teal. Further adding to the bonanza were an American Wigeon and a single Greater White-fronted Goose and the only White-faced Ibis we recorded away from the coast.

By mid-morning we had covered the Hatchery ponds entirely and decided to move on to Kickapoo Caverns State Park. We took a slow pace along the minor road to the Caverns as it passed through several significant areas of excellent desert and dry-scrub habitat. Make several stops and driving slowly through this habitat we noted several interesting species. Sparrows were particularly numerous and we noted over 300 Clay-coloured Sparrows on the journey as well as several Vesper Sparrows and even a single Grasshopper Sparrow which conveniently sat out on the fence line affording good views for the whole group. Several Bobwhites were heard and at least one was seen. Also noted were a few Couch's Kingbirds and our first Western Wood-Pewee of the tour.



Long-billed Dowitchers show darker tails in flight than their congeners (Simon Mitchell).

Upon arrival at the State Park we were amazed to find that in the middle of the week it had been closed. Before heading onwards we stopped for lunch and birded around the entrance. This produced our first Olive Sparrows of the trip which responded strongly to our playing the call at the roadside. Several of our first Woodhouse's Scrub-Jays and good views of both Painted Bunting and Yellow-breasted Chat were also welcome bonuses.

It wasn't until late afternoon that we made it to Fort Clarke Springs in Red Bridge. Although birding here was relatively quiet we did encounter as many as 15 Yellow-breasted Chats and several Carolina Wrens. An unexpected highlight however, was a pair of Green Jays!

After spending the night at our surprisingly secluded accommodation at Del Rio we took a morning walk around Moore Park. In a fairly brief period of time we recorded a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, two Dickcissel, two brief Great Kiskadees, a Hermit Thrush and best of all a Green Kingfisher. With a long day's drive towards Big Bend National Park ahead of us we set off relatively early planning to make a couple of stops en route.

Our first stop was at the Judge Roy Bean Museum in Langtry, where we experience our first true taste of desert birding. Accordingly the species composition had shifted markedly and we recorded our first Cactus Wren, Hooded Orioles, Scott's Orioles and Canyon Towhees.

It was early evening by the time we finally made it to Big Bend NP. Our first Greater Roadrunner, Acorn Woodpeckers and several Black-headed Grosbeaks were encountered as we made our way along the trails of against the spectacular backdrop of the sun setting over the Chisos Basin. In the late evening sun we picked up a group of Black-chinned Sparrows - the only sighting of the trip.

The next morning we headed from our accommodation in Terlingua to the far side the National Park at Rio Grande Village. Whilst en route pre-dawn we disturbed two separate Mexican Whip-poor-wills from the road, one of which returned for long enough to provide reasonable views in the headlights. Around the village itself we recorded several more Greater Roadrunners, our first Verdin a few Bell's Vireos and multiple Black-chinned Hummingbirds. A pair of Brewer's Blackbirds were also new and a smart male Hepatic Tanager was the only record of the tip.



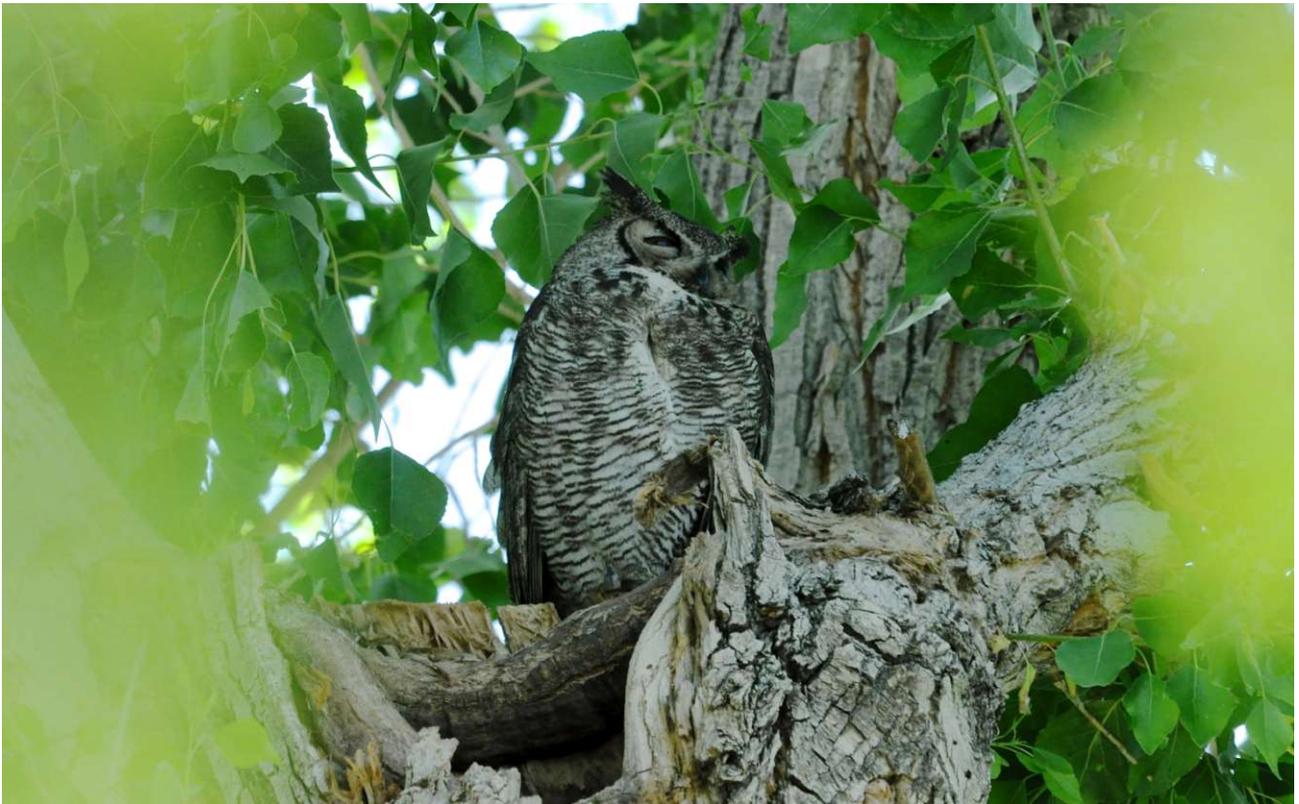
This young male Scott's Oriole but on an excellent performance at Langtry (Simon Mitchell).

During the rest of the day we stopped at the Chisos Basin, Dugout Wells areas. The scenery ranged from arid and rather barren desert to shaded called trails through the basin where numerous species sheltered from the heat of the sun and sought water along the spring lines. Our first Mexican Jays were a particularly highlight as a noisy flock came to inspect exactly what we were up to. We also located Ash-throated and Great Crested Flycatchers here as well as a showy Rock Wren, a Plumbeous Vireo a Curve-billed Thrasher and a pair of Chihuahuan Ravens. In the late afternoon a roosting Great Horned Owl was the highlight at Cottonwood Campground where we also heard Grey Hawk calling close by, but despite some effort could not locate it.



Sunset comes late to parts of the Chisos Basin thanks to a 'window' in the Crater Rim (Simon Mitchell).

The following day we spent the almost the entire day making the long, but very productive hike out to Boot Springs an area of woodland nestled into the rim of the Chisos Basin crater. Setting off before dawn ensured we had plenty of time to meet the trip and attempt to catch up with our main target - the exceptionally localised Colima Warbler.



A roosting Great Horned Owl gave great views at Big Bend NP (Simon Mitchell).

It wasn't long before we began to record new species for the trip. As well as several Bushtits and a few Hermit Thrushes we record our first Spotted Towhees, a single Townsend's Solitaire and a frustratingly brief

Broad-tailed Hummingbird. Continuing up the trails the landscape began to change markedly into more wooded habitats. Here we located a mixed warbler and tit flock which held not only a single Warbling Vireo (our first of the trip), but a surprise Cassin's Vireo and several Plumbeous Vireos. A White-throated Nuthatch was noted at the springs itself as well as a singing Canyon Wren and a close Blue-throated Hummingbird which stayed on its perch long enough for us all to gain close views. Working our way along the wooded spring creek it wasn't two long before we located our key target of the hike - a smart singing Colima Warbler. Although the bird stuck mostly to the treetops we were gradually able to pick more and more details out until we could all be confident we had seen all the salient features of the species. Having taken a sandwich and plenty of water with us on our hike we had still worked up a significant appetite by the time we returned to our accommodation at well after 5pm. An enjoyable evening in which the local restaurant turned into something of a 'barn dance' won't be forgotten in a hurry!



Our walk to Boot Springs produced some wonderful desert flowers as well as our main target of the range-restricted Colima Warbler (Simon Mitchell).

We were back in the field again at dawn the next morning, waiting for the sun to warm the cold desert of Blue Creek Wash. Activity here increased very gradually but we picked up a few new species in the first hour or so. Better views of several Curve-billed Thrasher and a showy pair of Black-tailed Gnatcatchers were especially exciting. Moving further up the wash we noted several Bell's Vireos and an all-to-brief Lucifer Hummingbird. A MacGillivray's Warbler also showed well initially but then frustrated us by going completely to ground. Next we located several very mobile Phainopepla, which eventually gave good views to the whole group. A Grey Flycatcher took a little while to make certain it wasn't a (similar looking) Dusky or Hammond's Flycatcher although a single Cordilleran Flycatcher was assumed to be this species (and not Pacific-slope) based only on range.

Suddenly we flushed a pair of burnings from the side of the creek bed which, in from the brief flight views looked suspiciously like Varied Buntings. Carefully re-checking the area several times and we finally located the pair, gaining excellent view of the singing male.



Varied Buntings performed wonderfully at Big Bend National Park (Simon Mitchell).

Next, having still not managed to properly see a Canyon Wren and this being prefer habitat we decided to try a brief attempt to illicit a response. We need not have done since apparently a bird was already in very close proximity and it flutter up on to some adjacent scrub to give an excellent performance.



A singing Canyon Wren put on a fantastic show (Simon Mitchell).

Heading back to accommodation during the heat of the day we flushed a Gambel's Quail from the side of the road - something of a surprise since we assumed Scaled Quail to be more expected here. In the late afternoon we headed to the Chisos Basin where another brief MacGillivray's Warbler was noted and we heard (but couldn't locate) a Western Tanager. An attempt at night-birding produced several calling Elf Owls around the Sam Nail ranch but despite our best efforts we couldn't locate any of the birds in the torchlight.



Big Bend impressed throughout our time there with the stark beauty of its unforgiving landscape (Simon Mitchell).

We spend our final morning in Big Bend at the Cottonwood Campground. Here numerous Wilson's Warbler and Bell's Vireos gave good views and we were amazed to discover a pair of nesting Lucy's Warbler's - a species which is right on the fringe of it's range in Westernmost Texas. Also present were a few extremely late migrants - an American Robin and a duo of female Lark Buntings, which in the context (perching in thick bushes in a wooded campground) were initially rather confusing.

Most of the remainder of the day was spent heading towards Davis County and our next location. We arrived in time to take a short walk along the Madera Canyon trail, where a Western Wood-pewee and a White-breasted Nuthatch. A short spell around Davis State Park after dark produced an excellent close Common Poorwill which repeatedly perched right beside on of the side roads.

Disappointingly we found that Monezuma Quails had become very illusive in the State Park following the closure of the key feeding station. Based on this we decided to try the more promising Madera Canyon trail nearby, where birds had been recorded in the previous couple of days. In the even both this area and the park seemed to be heavily affected by drought and the morning's only new species was a pair of Western Bluebirds.

With day heating up we decided to allow ourselves the time for one final stop on our return journey to San Antonio and headed first to Lake Balmorhea slightly to the north of Davis State Park. This proved to be an excellent move as we picked up a good variety of species we hadn't otherwise found during the trip. The wonderful enormous shallow lake held not only a great selection of waterbirds but also several interesting

passerines. Good numbers of Eared Grebe were present along with at least 30 Western Grebes and a single Clark's Grebe. We also found the best selection of duck of the trip here with over thirty Gadwall, fifty Northern Shoveler and over eighty Ruddy Duck as well as two American Wigeon, four Blue-winged Teal, two Cinnamon Teal, three Lesser Scaup and seven Bufflehead. Waders totalled twelve species, several of which we hadn't recorded since leaving the coast. Two Short-billed Dowitcher and single Franklin's Gull were also highlights. A number of Vesper Sparrows and an American Kestrel were seen along the scrubby fringes of the lake.



This breeding plumage female Wilson's Phalarope needed to hurry if she was to make it to her sub-arctic breeding ground this year! (Simon Mitchell).

With the long drive back to San Antonio ahead and having seen almost all the species the area had to offer we reluctantly decided it was time to leave. A few stops on the journey, although not particularly noteworthy for birds did allow us more panoramic views of the Chihuahuan Desert and some wonderful vistas across the Rio Grande. We all agreed that the landscapes and birds of Texas had left a memorable impression on us.



We stopped on the way back to San Antonio to enjoy one more Panorama over the Rio Grande (Simon Mitchell).



As is sometimes the case this feeding Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was completely unconcerned by our proximity (Simon Mitchell).

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species). Species marked ++ have a taxonomic or status note in the latter section. Species seen only on the coastal section of the trip are marked with a numeral (I) and those seen only on the second section are marked with numerals (II), species bearing neither symbol were seen on both legs of the trip.

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website:

<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>

E = Endangered, **V** = Vulnerable, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient.

Common Loon (Great Northern Diver) *Gavia immer* (I) Two showed well at at Lafittie's Cove on 22nd.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* Small number on freshwater wetlands throughout

Eared Grebe (Black-necked G) *Podiceps nigricollis* (II) Twenty or more were at Balmorhea Lake on 1st May.

Clark's Grebe *Aechmophorus clarkii* (II) At least one at Balmorhea Lake.

Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis* (II) Over 30 were seen at Balmorhea Lake, some of which showed well.

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* (I) Twenty or more were roosting on at Bolivar peninsular.

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* (I) Fairly common along the immediately along the coast.

Neotropic Cormorant (Olivaceous C) *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* Relatively common along the coast, 3 at Del Rio.

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus* Several seen along the coast, 10 or more at Balmorhea Lake

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* (I) One was seen briefly at Taylor Bayou.

American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus* (I) Two singles; one along yacht basin road and another at Anahuac NWR.

Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis* (I) Two singles at High Island and Anahuac NWR

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* Common along the coast and at least 4 at Balmorhea Lake.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* Over 80 were seen between Port Arthur and Sabine Woods and one was at Amistad.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* Common on the coast and a total of 5 near Big Bend N.P and Amistad Recreation Area.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (I) Common on the coasting including day totals of up to 40.

Tricolored Heron (Louisiana H) *Egretta tricolor* (I) Not uncommon on the coast including c20 near Sabine Woods.

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens* (I) Three individuals seen along the coast, including at least one white-morph juv.

Western Cattle Egret ++ *Bubulcus ibis* Over 200 recorded en route to High Island. A few at Uvalde Hatchery.

Green Heron ++ *Butorides virescens* (I) Small numbers along the coast including at least 5 at Anahuac NWR.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (I) Two were at Anahuac NWR.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* (I) Ten or more were at Anahuac NWR

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* (I) Mainly small numbers along the coast, although at least 50 were at Anahuac NWR

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* Fifty plus at Anahuac NWR with many others along the coast. One at Uvalde.

Roseate Spoonbill *Ajaia ajaja* Small numbers on the coast, except at the Smith Oaks nesting colony where 80+ seen.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* The commonest vulture along the coasts, although largely absent from Big Bend.



A group of Redhead and two Common Loons at Lafitte's Cove were both welcome additions to the list (Simon Mitchell).

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* Roughly half the numbers of the former on the coast. Common in desert areas.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* Flocks of up to 40 around High Island, 5 in Del Rio.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* (I) Eighty or more at Anahuac NWR, four at Uvalde Hatchery.

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* (II) One at Uvalde Fish Hatchery on 25th.

Gadwall *Anas strepera* (I) Five at Uvalde Hatchery and 30 or so at Balmorhea Lake.

American Wigeon *Anas americana* Seen in small numbers at Anahuac NWR, Uvalde and Balmorhea Lake.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (I) Two were seen at Beaumont Water Treatment Plant.

Mottled Duck ♦ *Anas fulvigula* (I) Small numbers daily along the coast.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* Common on the coast with flocks up to 400. Also at Uvalde and Balmorhea Lake.

Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera* (I) Two at Uvalde Hatchery and 2 at Balmorhea Lake

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* Up to 50 along the coast and similar numbers at Balmorhea Lake.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* Two at Uvalde Fish Hatchery.

Green-winged Teal ++ *Anas carolinensis* One at Beaumont Water Treatment Plant and another at Uvalde.

Redhead *Aythya americana* (I) Fifteen or so were at Lafitte's Cove.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* (II) Two were at Uvalde Fish Hatchery on 23rd.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* Up to 60 along the coast and 3 at Balmorhea Lake

Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola* (II) Seven at Balmorhea Lake on 1st May.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* (II) Eighty or more were at Balmorhea Lake on 1st May.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (II) One was at Balmorhea Lake

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* (I) One near Kirbyville on 17th and two over Smith Oaks on 19th.

White-tailed Kite ++ *Elanus leucurus* Three sighting along Bolivar Peninsular on may have all been the same bird.

Mississippi Kite ♦ *Ictinia mississippiensis* (I) A kettle of 150+ over Angelina National Forest. Three High Island.

Northern Harrier ++ *Circus cyaneus* (I) Numerous along the coast including c10 at Anahuac NWR.

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperi* (II) One was seen near the Frio Bat Spectacle at dusk.

Red-shouldered Hawk ◊ *Buteo lineatus* One was near Silby on 17th and another was at Chalk Bluff Park.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* (I) Five or more at Silsby on 17th and 3 at Hooks Sanctuary on 19th.

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* (I) Small numbers daily along the coast.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* One or two seen almost every day.

Northern Crested Caracara ++ *Caracara cheriway* Small numbers along the coast and at least 4 at Fort Clarke.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* (I) Amazingly the only one recorded was at Anahuac NWR

Merlin *Falco columbarius* (I) One attempted to catch a bat at the Frio Bat Spectacle.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (I) One seen on 17th.

Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo* (I) Two separate pairs were seen in the Uvlade area on 23rd and 24th.

Scaled Quail ◊ *Callipepla squamata* (II) Two which ran across the road in Big Bend on were frustratingly brief (LO).

Gambel's Quail *Callipepla gambelii* (II) One flew across the road in Big Bend on 29th.

Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus* (II) One was seen and others heard en route to Kickapoo Caverns.

Yellow Rail *Coturnicops noveboracensis* (I) An amazing total of 7 were flushed on the 'rail walk' at Anahuac NWR

King Rail *Rallus elegans* (I) At least 3 were seen in freshwater areas at Anahuac NWR.

Sora *Porzana carolina* (I) One was flushed at Anahuac NWR on 20th.

Purple Gallinule (American P G) *Porphyrola martinica* (I) Two at Smith Oaks and one at Anahuac NWR



A variety of plovers proved easy to find along the beaches of the Bolivar Peninsular (Simon Mitchell).

Common Gallinule ++ (Laughing G) *Gallinula galeata* (I) Small numbers at each freshwater coastal wetlands.

American Coot *Fulica americana* Reasonable numbers at all freshwater wetlands including 100+ at Balmorhea Lake.

Black-bellied Plover (Grey P) *Pluvialis squatarola* (I) Small numbers along the coast.

Snowy Plover ++ *Charadrius nivosus* (I) Small number along the beaches at Bolivar Peninsular, including 6 on 21st.

Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia* (I) Flocks of up to 10 along the beach at Bolivar Peninsular

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* A few along the coast and 4 at Balmorhea Lake.

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* (I) Two at Bolivar Peninsular on 18th.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* Common in suitable habitat throughout.

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* Two seen along Bolivar Peninsular.

Black-necked Stilt ++ *Himantopus himantopus* Common along the coast. Ten at Balmorhea Lake.

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana* Common with a flock of c3,000 at Bolivar Flats, small groups inland.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* A total of 13 along the coast and one at Uvalde Fish Hatchery.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* Common along the coast and a single at Uvalde Fish Hatchery.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* (II) Two were at Uvalde Fish Hatchery on 25th.

Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* (I) Common on the coast: both the Eastern and Western sub-species seen.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* One at Bolivar Peninsular on 18th and 8 at Balmorhea Lake

Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* Three singles along the coast and a flock of 3 at Uvalde Fish Hatchery.

Hudsonian Whimbrel ++ (H Curlew) *Numenius hudsonicus* (I) Flocks of up to 20 along the coast.

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa* Seven seen along the coast and two at Balmorhea Lake.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Common along the coast.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus* (I) One was at Bolivar Flats on 18th.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* (I) Flocks of up to 20 were seen along the coast.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* (I) Very small numbers on the beach at Bolivar, but c50 at Anahuac NWR.
Western Sandpiper *Calidris kauri* A flock of 100 at Bolivar Flats with other and several smaller groups.



Western Sandpipers were acquiring almost their full breeding plumage as they passed along the coast at Bolivar Flats (Simon Mitchell).

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* (I) A total of 11 were recorded along the coast.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* Two were recorded on the pool along High Island Beach Road on 21st.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* Birds on the coast included a flock of 19. Small nos at Uvalde and Balmorhea.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* (I) A total of 10 were recorded along the coast.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* (I) Flocks of 25 and 60 were recorded along the Bolivar Peninsular.

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus* (I) Over 120 were recorded on the High Island Beach Road.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper ◊ *Tryngites subruficollis* Twenty were at Douget Turf Farm near Nome on 17th.



This breeding plumaged Long-billed Dowitcher was at Balmorhea Lake (Simon Mitchell).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (I) A single bird at Anahuac NWR had been originally found a few days earlier.

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* About 30 were totalled along the coast, two were at Balmorhea Lake.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* Twenty recorded along the coast and 8 at Uvalde Fish Hatchery.

Wilson's Snipe ++ *Gallinago delicata* (II) One was flushed at Uvalde Fish Hatchery.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* An impressive flock of c400 were on the Beach Road, a few inland.

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia* (I) At least two at Beaumont Water Treatment Plant were a complete surprise.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* (I) Abundant along the coast.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* After some effort one was located on 21st another was at Balmorea.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* (I) Small numbers along the coast.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* Common along the coast, 15 were at Balmorea Lake on 1st.

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica* (I) Two or three were noted along the coast

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* (I) Three at Bolivar flats and one was roosting on High Island Beach Road on 21st.

Royal Tern *Sterna maxima* (I) Several large flocks on the coast including c500 along the Beach Road on 21st.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* (I) Several large flocks, numbering up to about 50.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* (I) At least two singles were located amongst flocks of Forster's Terns on the coast.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* Several large flocks included c300 along the Beach Road on 21st.

Least Tern ++ *Sterna antillarum* (I) Several large flocks along the coast included c300 at Bolivar Flats on 18th.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* (I) Thirty were at Rollover Pass on 18th, with small numbers elsewhere on the coast.

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* (I) Over 40 were seen at Rollover Pass on 18th.

Rock Dove *Columba livia* Available.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* Common throughout and seen daily.

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* Common throughout, but limited to urban areas than the former.

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura* The commonest dove throughout. Up to 40 daily in Big Bend NP.

Inca Dove *Columbina inca* (I) Four were recorded on High Island

Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerine* (II) Two at Chalk Bluff Park and five in Chisos Basin.

Black-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (I) Two recorded on 21st, but neither were especially co-operative.



At times Yellow-billed Cuckoo totals approached double figures within a single day! (Simon Mitchell).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo ◇ *Coccyzus americanus* (I) Twenty-three birds were recorded as migrants on the coast.

Greater Roadrunner *Geococcyx californianus* (II) Six in Big Bend N.P and two around Lake Balmorea.

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus* (II) One showed well at the Frio Bat Spectacle and another on the way back.

Elf Owl ◇ *Micrathene whitneyi* (II) Several were heard around Big Bend NP on night of 29th & 30th.

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis* Singles were at High Island, Lost Maples State Park and Big Bend NP

Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor* (I) Five migrants were recorded along the coast.

Common Poorwill ◊ *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii* (II) One showed well at Davis State Park.

Chuck-will's-widow ◊ *Caprimulgus carolinensis* (II) One was seen well roosting at Smith Oaks, High Island.

Mexican Whip-poor-will ◊ ++ *Caprimulgus arizonae* (II) Three were recorded whilst driving at night in Big Bend NP.

Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* Flocks of up to thirty seen only the coast a total of 9 recorded inland.

White-throated Swift *Aeronautes saxatilis* (II) A flock of 7 were seen on the walk to Boot Springs.

Blue-throated Hummingbird ◊ *Lampornis clemenciae* (I) Two were seen at Boot Springs on 28th.

Lucifer Hummingbird ◊ *Calothorax lucifer* (II) A female was seen briefly at Blue Wash Creek.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris* (I) Four migrants were recorded on the coast.

Black-chinned Hummingbird *Archilochus alexandri* (II) 45 were recorded at our accommodation near Concan.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird ◊ *Selasphorus platycercus* (I) One was seen briefly en route to Boot Springs (LO)

Ringed Kingfisher *Ceryle torquatus* (II) A long-staying vagrant was recorded at Chalk Bluff Park.

Belted Kingfisher *Ceryle alcyon* One was seen between High Island and Winnie, another was at Balmorhea Lake.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana* (II) One showed well in Moore Park, Del Rio.

Red-headed Woodpecker ◊ *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (I) A total of 8 were recorded in the Silsbee area

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus* (II) Common in Big Bend National Park, particularly the Chisos Basin.

Golden-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes aurifrons* (II) First recorded at Chalk Bluff Park; common there Westwards.

Red-bellied Woodpecker ◊ *Melanerpes carolinus* (I) Six were recorded along the coast and around Silsbee.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius* (I) One was at Smith Oaks on 21st.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Picoides scalaris* (II) First record at Chalk Bluff Park and common West of there.



Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were common throughout the hill country (Simon Mitchell).

Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens* (I) One was seen at Silsbee.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker ◊ *Picoides borealis* (I) Six were seen well in the Angelina National Forest.

Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus* (I) Three were seen in the Silsbee area, another was near Taylor Bayou.

Western Wood-Pewee *Contopus sordidulus* (II) Two were seen near Davis State Park on 1st May.

Eastern Wood-Pewee *Contopus virens* (I) At least 8 migrants were totalled along the coast.

Acadian Flycatcher *Empidonax virescens* (II) One was heard at Moore Park, Del Rio but could not be located (H, LO)

Grey Flycatcher *Empidonax wrightii* (II) One was at Blue Wash Creek, Big Bend National Park on 29th.

Cordilleran Flycatcher ++ *Empidonax occidentalis* (II) Two were seen in Big Bend National Park

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* (II) First recorded at Friedrich Park and a further 3 in Big Bend N.P.

Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe* One was seen at High Island with others at Lost Maples SP and Moore Park.

Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya* (II) Six were recorded in Big Bend National Park.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (II) Common from Lost Maples SP westward.

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens* (II) First recorded at Chalk Bluff Park. Common in Big Bend N.P

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus* (II) Small numbers were present in Big Bend National Park.

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus* (II) Two were recorded on the Laguna Meadows Trail in Big Bend.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus* (II) Three were recorded in Moore Park, Del Rio.

Couch's Kingbird *Tyrannus couchii* (II) Recorded at both Kickapoo Caverns and Moore Park, Del Rio.

Cassin's Kingbird *Tyrannus crassirostris* (II) Eight were recorded between Big Bend N.P and Balmorhea Lake.

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis* (I) Common from Chalk Bluff Park westwards.

Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus* (I) Common as a migrant on the coast including 40+ at Del Rio on 19th.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* Common on the coast and the hill country but absent from Big Bend.

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus* Reasonably common along the coast and as far West as Uvalde.

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus* (I) Common throughout in small numbers.

Bell's Vireo *Vireo belli* (II) Four at Chalk Bluff Park and small numbers in Big Bend N.P.

Black-capped Vireo \diamond *Vireo atricapillus* (II) One seen well and another heard at Kerr Wildlife Management area.

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* One on the coast, three at Chalk Bluff Park and one heard at Moore Park.

Plumbeous Vireo ++ *Vireo plumbeus* (II) Two were seen in Big Bend National Park.



This showy Blue-headed Vireo posed well at High Island (Simon Mitchell).

Blue-headed Vireo ++ *Vireo solitarius* One seen and another heard at High Island another seen at Lost Maples S.P

Cassin's Vireo ++ *Vireo cassinii* (II) A rather surprising find was one in Big Bend N.P on 29th.

Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni* (I) Three were seen in Friedrich Park and a further three were seen near Boot Springs.

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus* (II) One was seen well en route to Boot Springs in Big Bend N.P.

Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphia* (I) One showed extremely well at Smith Oaks and another at Sabine Woods.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* Small numbers almost daily on the coast, one at Uvalde Hatchery

Green Jay *Cyanocorax yncas* (II) Two were seen briefly in Fort Clarke Springs, Del Rio.

Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata* (I) Very common along the coast, particularly in woodlands around Silsbee.

Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay ++ *Aphelocoma woodhouseii* (II) A few at Friedrich Pk, Kickapoo Caverns and Balmorea.



Mexican Jays were obviously curious about the prospect of food from passing hikers (Simon Mitchell).

- Mexican Jay (Grey-breasted J) *Aphelocoma ultramarina* (II)** Common in Chisos Basin, Big Bend N.P
- American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos* (I)** Several around Silsbee and Tyrell Park on 17th.
- Fish Crow ◊ *Corvus ossifragus* (I)** Two were seen and heard in Tyrell Park on 17th.
- Chihuahuan Raven ◊ *Corvus cryptoleucus* (II)** Small numbers were in drier areas of Big Bend National Park.
- Common Raven (Northern R) *Corvus corax* (II)** Common throughout the Hill Country and Big Bend National Park.
- Purple Martin *Progne subis* (I)** Common as a migrant along the coast.
- Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* (I)** Common as a migrant on the coast, including 50+ at Anahuac NWR on 20th.
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow ++ *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*** Small numbers almost daily throughout.
- Bank Swallow (Sand Martin) *Riparia riparia* (I)** Small numbers on the coast, but 100+ at Beaumont on 17th.
- Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*** Occasional flocks throughout inc. 200+ at Uvalde Fish Hatchery on 23rd.
- Cave Swallow ◊ *Petrochelidon fulva*** A few on the coast, commoner in the Hill Country, inc. near Uvalde on 24th.
- Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*** Up to 20 seen almost daily.
- Carolina Chickadee ◊ *Poecile carolinensis*** A few in Angelina National Forest and in Friedrich Park.
- Tufted Titmouse *Baeolophus bicolor* (I)** At least two in Angelina National Forest.
- Black-crested Titmouse ◊ ++ *Baeolophus atricristatus* (II)** First at Friedrich Park, many in the Chisos Basin.
- Verdin *Auriparus flaviceps* (I)** Common in Big Bend National Park, but more often heard than seen.
- Bushtit *Psaltriparus minimus* (I)** Five en route to Boot Springs and other small flocks in Chisos Basin.
- White-breasted Nuthatch ++ *Sitta carolinensis* (II)** Singles at Boot Springs, Davies S.P and Madera Canyon Trail.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis* (I)** A good year for this species with 9 recorded including at High Island!
- Brown-headed Nuthatch ◊ *Sitta pusilla* (I)** Four or more seen in Angelina National Forest.
- Cactus Wren *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus* (II)** Ten or more recorded in Big Bend National Park
- Rock Wren *Salpinctes obsoletus* (I)** Heard around Friedrich Park and one seen well in Big Bend.
- Canyon Wren *Catherpes mexicanus* (II)** Several heard in the Hill Country, seen well in Blue Creek Wash, Big Bend.
- Carolina Wren ◊ *Thryothorus ludovicianus*** Several along the coast and others around Del Rio.
- Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii* (II)** First recorded in Chalk Bluff Park. Common in Big Bend N.P
- House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* (II)** Small numbers regularly in Big Bend National Park
- Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis* (I)** One heard at High Island and two eventually seen near Sabine Woods.
- Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris* (I)** One seen at Anahuac NWR and another heard near Boy Scout Woods.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula* A total of 10 birds were recorded for widely scattered locations.

Blue-grey Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea* One heard at High Island and numerous in the Hill Country and Big Bend.

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher *Polioptila melanura* (II) Two at Blue Wash Creek, Big Bend N.P and another next day.

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis* (I) Four between High Island and Winnie on 17th. Three in the Hill Country.

Western Bluebird *Sialia mexicana* (II) Three were seen on Madera Canyon Trail near Davis State Park.

Townsend's Solitaire ◊ *Myadestes townsendi* (II) One was seen briefly on Laguna Meadows Trail, Big Bend N.P.

Veery *Catharus fuscescens* (I) One was typically skulking at Sabine Woods on 20th.

Grey-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus* (I) One at Sabine Woods on 20th.

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* (I) An impressive 25 at Sabine Woods on 20th; 20 at High Island next day.

Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus* (II) A total of 11 recorded in the Hill Country and Big Bend N.P

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina* (I) Two at Sabine Woods on 20th and one at High Island the following day.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius* (II) A very late migrant was found at Cottonwood Campground on 27th.

Grey Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis* (I) A few seen daily around High Island.

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos* Common throughout and recorded at virtually every location.

Brown Thrasher *Toxostoma rufum* (I) A total of 20 or so were recorded from the coast.

Curve-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma curvirostre* (II) Two in Big Bend National Park and one near Balmorhea Lake.

European Starling (Common S) *Sturnus vulgaris* Common as far West as Del Rio. Absent from Big Bend.

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum* Recorded throughout, including 60 in the Silsbee area.

Phainopepla *Phainopepla nitens* (II) A few in Big Bend N.P. including 5 around Blue Wash Creek.



This Cerulean Warbler took advantage of the abundant insect life in a sheltered corner of Smith Oaks (Simon Mitchell).

Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora pinus* (I) Two migrants recorded at High Island.

Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera* (I) Three recorded at High Island.

Tennessee Warbler *Vermivora peregrina* (I) Fifty or so migrants on the coast included 20 at Smith Oaks on 19th.

Orange-crowned Warbler *Vermivora celata* A few on the coast, commoner in Hill Country; 40 at Lost Maples S.P.

Nashville Warbler *Vermivora ruficapilla* One at High Island, over 15 totalled in the Hill Country.

Colima Warbler ◊ *Vermivora crissalis* (II) Two seen and another two heard near Boot Springs, Big Bend N.P

Lucy's Warbler *Vermivora luciae* (II) A nesting pair were found in Cottonwood Campground on 30th.

Northern Parula *Parula americana* A total of fifteen or so recorded on the coast, on in Big Bend on 29th.

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* Three migrants at High Island and another three scattered sightings inland.

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Dendroica pensylvanica* (I) A total of five migrants were seen at High Island.

Magnolia Warbler *Dendroica magnolia* (I) A single was recorded at Boy Scout Woods on 18th.

Yellow-rumped Warbler ++ *Dendroica coronata* Ten or so late birds on the coast, common in Big Bend N.P.

Golden-cheeked Warbler ◊ *Dendroica chrysoparia* (II) Three seen or heard at Friedrich Park, 8+ at Lost Maples S.P

Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica virens* (I) Thirteen were recorded on 19th - evidently a single fall.

Townsend's Warbler *Dendroica townsendi* (II) One was seen near Boot Springs, Big Bend on 28th.

Blackburnian Warbler *Dendroica fusca* (I) Five were recorded at High Island on 19th.

Yellow-throated Warbler ◊ *Dendroica dominica* Three on 19th and one the next day. Two were at Lost Maples S.P.

Pine Warbler ◊ *Dendroica pinus* (I) Ten were recorded around Silsbee and Angelina National Forest on 17th.

Prairie Warbler ◊ *Dendroica discolor* (I) A total of four were recorded around Silsbee on 17th.

Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata* (I) Two separate singles were recorded at High Island.

Cerulean Warbler ◊ *Dendroica caerulea* (I) Two on 19th and one on 20th at Smith Oaks.

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* A total of 21 at High Island (15 on 19th) and a single in Big Bend N.P

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* (I) Seven were recorded in total along the coast.

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea* (I) Surprisingly, one of the commoner migrants, with 25 totalled.

Worm-eating Warbler *Helmitheros vermivorus* (I) Three recorded on the coast.

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapillus* (I) Three at High Island and two at Sabine Woods.

Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis* (I) Ten totalled at High Island and 8 at Sabine Woods on 20th

Kentucky Warbler *Oporornis formosus* (I) Seven were recorded on four separate days at High Island.

MacGillivray's Warbler *Oporornis tolmiei* (II) Three in Big Bend were all typically brief and skulking.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* (I) Twelve migrants were recorded along the coast.



Hooded Warblers were one of the commonest coast migrants (Simon Mitchell).

Hooded Warbler *Wilsonia citrina* (I) Twenty-eight of these smart warblers were seen along the coast.

Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla* (II) Six recorded around Cottonwood Campground at Big Bend N.P.

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria vireos* Recorded in most locations, an impressive 15 at Fort Clarke Springs on 25th.

Hepatic Tanager (Northern Hepatic-Tanager) *Piranga flava* (II) One seen and further two heard in Big Bend N.P

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* One of the commonest coastal migrants and also present in small numbers inland.

Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea* Eighteen recorded along the coast and a single in Big Bend National Park
Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana* (II) One heard in Big Bend National Park couldn't be located (H).
Olive Sparrow *Arremonops rufivirgatus* (II) Two seen near Kickapoo Caverns, several heard elsewhere.
Spotted Towhee ++ *Pipilo maculatus* (II) Ten or so were seen on the hike to Boot Springs.
Canyon Towhee ++ *Pipilo fuscus* (II) Common in Big Bend National Park.
Cassin's Sparrow *Aimophila cassinii* (II) One seen and several heard near Chalk Bluff Park.
Bachman's Sparrow ◊ *Aimophila aestivalis* (I) Four seen in Angelina National Forest after some serious searching!
Rufous-crowned Sparrow *Aimophila ruficeps* (II) Ten or so were recorded in total from Langtee westward.
Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina* One heard in Angelina National Forest, common west of San Antonio.
Clay-coloured Sparrow *Spizella pallida* (II) Common in the West, including c300 at Kickapoo Caverns.
Brewer's Sparrow ◊ *Spizella breweri* (II) One in fields en route on the afternoon of 23rd.
Black-chinned Sparrow ◊ *Spizella atrogularis* (II) Five were seen together in Chisos Basin on 26th.
Vesper Sparrow *Poocetes gramineus* (II) Five near Kickapoo Caverns and one near Balmorhea Lake.
Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* (II) Common in the Hill Country including 20 near Frio Bat Spectacle.
Black-throated Sparrow *Amphispiza bilineata* (II) A total of 13 recorded in more desert areas including Big Bend.
Lark Bunting *Calamospiza melanocorys* (II) Two were surprising migrants at Cottonwood Campground, Big Bend.



Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were common along the coast (Simon Mitchell).

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis* Small numbers throughout including 5 at Balmorhea Lake.
Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum* (II) One en route to Kickapoo Caverns was the only record.
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow ◊ *Ammodramus nelsoni* (I) Three were seen along Yacht Basin Road on 18th.
Seaside Sparrow ◊ *Ammodramus maritimus* (I) Two on Yacht Basin Rd and four at Anahuac NWR.
Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolni* One at Lafitte's Cove and small numbers at several inland sites.
Swamp Sparrow *Melospiza georgiana* (I) A few were at Anahuac NWR and Sabine Woods.
White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* (I) Six or more were recorded across several days at High Island.
White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys* Twelve on Yacht Basin Rd on 18th and several more throughout.
Dark-eyed Junco ++ *Junco hyemalis* (I) A few were at Lafitte's Cove on 22nd.
Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis* Common throughout although less frequent in the very driest habitats.
Pyrrhuloxia *Cardinalis sinuatus* (II) Small numbers almost daily in Big Bend N.P.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* (I) Common as a migrant at High Island including 30 on 19th.

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus* (II) Small numbers almost daily in Big Bend N.P

Blue Grosbeak *Guiraca caerulea* Common throughout including 20 at Lost Maples S.P

Lazuli Bunting *Passerina amoena* (II) An unexpected bird was visiting feeders at Lost Maples S.P

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* Perhaps the commonest coastal migrant including c70 on 19th.

Varied Bunting *Passerina versicolor* (II) A total of 8 in Blue Creek Wash, Big Bend N.P

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* Five coastal migrants and several inland including c10 at Kickapoo Caverns S.P.

Dickcissel ♦ *Spiza americana* Two near High Island, one at Lost Maples S.P and two at Moore Park, Del Rio.

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* Common on the coast and at Uvalde Hatchery and Balmorhea Lake.

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna* A few on the coast and 2 of *lillanae* race en route to Big Bend on 26th.

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* (I) A few in the Hill Country included 15 nr Uvalde.

Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus* (II) Six were seen in Big Bend National Park.

Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula* Common along the coast and a few elsewhere.

Boat-tailed Grackle ♦ *Quiscalus major* (I) A total of 8 recorded along the coast - in marshier areas than the next.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus* The commonest Grackle along the coast including 30 on 17th.

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus* Several at Big Bend N.P and c100 at Balmorhea Lake on 1st.

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater* Very common along the coast and a few in the Hill Country and Big Bend.

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius* Good number along the coast including 15 on 19th, odd birds almost daily inland.

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus* (II) Three at Moore Park, Del Rio and another 3 at Langrty.

Baltimore Oriole ++ *Icterus galbula* (I) Ten or so recorded as migrants along the coast.

Scott's Oriole *Icterus parisorum* (II) Twelve or more were recorded from Langrty westwards.

House Finch *Carpodacus mexicanus* (I) Two in Beaumont on 17th and common from Lost Maples S.P westwards.

Pine Siskin *Carduelis pinus* (I) Three were seen in Angelina National Forest.

Lesser Goldfinch *Carduelis psaltria* (II) A few small groups were encountered in the Hill Country and Big Bend.

American Goldfinch *Carduelis tristis* (II) Two in the Chisos Basin on 27th.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Small numbers in urban areas throughout.

MAMMALS

Common Long-nosed Armadillo *Dasypus novemcinctus* Two were at High Island.

Common Raccoon *Procyon lotor* One was at Lafitte's Cove on 22nd.

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus* Common in the hill country and a few around big bend.

Eastern Grey Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis* Common along the coast and hill country.

Eastern Fox Squirrel *Sciurus niger* A few were seen in the Angelina National Forest.

Rock Squirrel *Spermophilus variegatus* Small numbers were recorded in Big Bend NP.

Merriam Kangaroo Rat *Dipodomys merriami* Surprisingly common along the roads of Big Bend NP at night.

Black-tailed Jackrabbit *Lepus californicus* Small numbers were seen at night in Big Bend NP.

Desert Cottontail *Sylvilagus audubonii* A few at night in Big Bend NP.

Eastern Cottontail *Sylvilagus floridanus* Small numbers along the coast.

Mexican Free-tailed Bat *Tadarida brasiliensis* Somewhere between 10 and 12 million left there roost near Concan.

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The most up to date referenced taxonomic list referred to in the Tour Report is that of the IOC World Bird Names. Gill, F and Donsker, D (Eds). 2012. IOC World Bird Names (v2.11). Available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

The AOU checklist uses the name Cattle Egret for this species, but it has been renamed following the splitting off of Eastern Cattle Egret *B. coromandus*.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*

This form is sometimes lumped in Striated (or Green-backed) Heron *B. striatus*.

Mottled Duck *Anas fulvigula*

This form was formerly often lumped in Mallard *A. platyrhynchos*.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*

The AOU checklist lumps this form in Eurasian Teal *A. crecca* but uses the name Green-winged Teal for the enlarged species (which is generally called Common Teal in the Old World).

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*

This form is sometimes lumped in Black-shouldered (or Black-winged) Kite *E. caeruleus*.

Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonius*

This form very likely deserves specific status, although the AOU still lump it in Hen Harrier *C. cyaneus* of the Old World, using the name Northern Harrier for the enlarged species.

Crested Caracara (or Northern Crested-Caracara) *Caracara cheriway*

This form was formerly lumped (along with the extinct Guadelupe Caracara *C. lutosus*) in Southern Caracara (Southern Crested-Caracara) *C. plancus*, using the name Crested Caracara for the enlarged species. The name Crested Caracara is now used only for the northern form.

Common (or Laughing) Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*

The New World form was formerly lumped in Common Moorhen *G. chloropus*, which is now restricted to the Old World.

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata*

The AOU and IOC checklists formerly considered this form conspecific with Common Snipe *G. gallinago* of the Old World though in more recent revisions it is considered a distinct species.

Snowy Plover *Charadrius nivosus*

The New World forms are now considered a separate species from Kentish Plover *C. alexandrinus* of the Old World.

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*

This form is sometimes lumped in Black-winged Stilt *H. himantopus*.

Western Willet *Tringa inornata*

This form has been suggest as a distinct species, however, awaiting further evidence it is not currently treated as such by Birdquest or the IOC. If separated the *T. semipalmata* is retained as the nominate sub-species renamed Eastern Willet. In addition to differences in size, plumage and voice, the two forms occupy separate breeding and wintering grounds.

Western Screech-Owl *Otus kennicottii*

This species was formerly lumped in Eastern Screech-Owl *O. asio*, with the name Screech Owl being used for the enlarged species.

Mexican Whip-poor-will *Caprimulgus arizonae*

This form was formerly lumped in Eastern Whip-poor-will *C. vociferus*, with the name Whip-poor-will being used for the enlarged species.

Red-naped Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*

This form was formerly lumped in Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *S. varius*.

Pacific-slope Flycatcher *Empidonax difficilis*

Cordilleran Flycatcher *Empidonax occidentalis*

Cordilleran Flycatcher was formerly lumped in Pacific-slope Flycatcher, with the name Western Flycatcher being used for the enlarged species.

Gilded Flicker *Colaptes chrysoides*

This form, which is found in the Sonoran Desert region of Arizona and SE California, was formerly sometimes lumped in Northern Flicker *C. auratus*.

Plumbeous Vireo *Vireo plumbeus*

This form, which is found in the interior southwestern USA including Arizona and SE California, was formerly lumped in Solitary Vireo *V. solitarius*.

Cassin's Vireo *Vireo cassinii*

This form, which migrates through Arizona to the Pacific West-coast, was formerly lumped in Solitary Vireo *V. solitarius*.

Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay *Aphelocoma woodhouseii*

This form (along with California Scrub-Jay *A. californica*, Island Scrub-Jay *A. insularis* and Sumichrast's Scrub-Jay *A. sumichrasti* of Mexico) was formerly lumped in Florida Scrub-Jay *A. coerulescens*, with the name Scrub Jay being used for the enlarged species. Prior to the most recent split, *woodhouseii* and *sumichrasti* were included with *californica* under the name Western Scrub-Jay.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

This form was formerly lumped in Southern Rough-winged Swallow *S. ruficollis*, with the name Rough-winged Swallow being used for the enlarged species.

Juniper Titmouse *Parus ridgwayi*

This form, which is found from northern Sonora through SE Arizona and eastern California north and east to Idaho and Oklahoma, was formerly lumped in Oak Titmouse *P. inornatus*, with the name Plain Titmouse being used for the enlarged species. Oak Titmouse inhabits coastal and adjacent regions from Baja California north to California and southern Oregon.

Northern House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

Brown-throated Wren *T. brunneicollis* (along with the extralimital Southern House Wren *T. musculus*) are often (as in the AOU checklist) lumped in this form with the name House Wren being used for the enlarged species.

Brown-throated Wren *Troglodytes brunneicollis*

See the note for Northern House Wren above.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata*

The western form *auduboni* was formerly split off as Audubon's Warbler and may be treated as distinct again in future.

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*

This form was formerly lumped in Eastern Towhee *P. erythrophthalmus*, with the name Rufous-sided Towhee being used for the enlarged species.

Canyon Towhee *Pipilo fuscus*

This species was formerly known as Brown Towhee, but was renamed following the splitting of California Towhee *P. crissalis*.

Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullocki*

This form was for a time lumped in Baltimore Oriole *I. galbula*, with the name Northern Oriole being used for the enlarged species, but it has now been split off again.

New World Warblers *Parulidae*

Following clarification of the phylogenetic relationships between New World Warbler species, several species have been re-assigned genera. The following Latin names change under AOU, IOC and Birdquest lists:

MacGillivray's Warbler *Geothlypis tolmiei* formerly *Oporornis tolmiei*
Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia* formerly *Dendroica petechia*
Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata* formerly *Dendroica coronata*
Yellow-throated Warbler *Setophaga dominica* formerly *Dendroica dominica*
Black-throated Grey Warbler *Setophaga nigrescens* formerly *Dendroica nigrescens*
Cerulean Warbler *Setophaga cerulean* formerly *Dendroica cerulean*
Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia* formerly *Dendroica magnolia*
Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca* formerly *Dendroica fusca*
Prairie Warbler *Setophaga discolor* formerly *Dendroica discolor*
Townsend's Warbler *Setophaga townsendi* formerly *Dendroica townsendi*
Kentucky Warbler *Geothlypis formosa* formerly *Oporornis formosus* [note change in spelling of species name]
Hooded Warbler *Setophaga citrina* formerly *Wilsonia citrina*
Northern Parula *Setophaga Americana* formerly *Parula Americana*
Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens* formerly *Dendroica virens*
Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla* formerly *Wilsonia pusilla*



Are a relatively plentiful migrant throughout the Central and Western flyways. (Simon Mitchell)