



TROPICAL
BIRDING



SOUTH
TEXAS

BIRDING WITH A
CAMERA

A Tropical Birding Set-Departure

January 14-22, 2023
Guide: Ken Behrens

Photos by Ken Behrens &
[Steve Siegel](#)

TOUR SUMMARY

South Texas is renowned as one of the top birding areas in the ABA area. This is for several reasons. Most important is its geography – the Lower Rio Grande Valley is one of the southernmost parts of the United States, and holds a suite of species that are otherwise only found in Mexico and elsewhere in the Neotropics. In some years, several exciting vagrant species show up in this area in the winter – species that are only occasionally seen in the ABA area. South Texas' s warm southern location also make it an attractive area for wintering birds. Just in terms of the species that can be seen in a day, it counts among the best winter birding locations in the states. Finally, South Texas has an abundance of protected areas and well-designed birding and nature centers that give easy access to its natural wonders.

South Texas is also well known in the wildlife photography community as a top destination. This is for many of the same reasons that make it an excellent birding destination. The various birding centers and other preserves have feeder setups that can be great for photography. There are even some private reserves, such as Laguna Seca, which we visit on this trip, which are expressly set up for photography. There is a high density of birds throughout the area, and most of

them are approachable, including a bounty of coastal birds. This is a tour where you can easily go home with good shots of 80-100 species.

This year's tour was successful both on birding and photography fronts. We recorded 190 bird species. The [eBird trip report](#) already includes photos of over 100 of those species!



A classic species of South Texas, the only place in the ABA area where it occurs: Clay-colored Thrush.

Our trip kicked off with four nights based in the McAllen area, a good base for exploring in various directions, which we duly did. On our first day, we headed south, right up to the Mexican border, visiting Bentsen-Rio Grande State Park and Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. This was a great introduction to some of the star birds of the Tamaulipan Thornscrub, such as Plain Chachalaca, Altamira Oriole, and Clay-colored Robin. Santa Ana had a bounty of wintering

shorebirds and waterbirds, glowing in beautiful late afternoon light. Our next day was spent “upriver”, in the Salineño and Falcon Dam area. One treat here was a pair of scarce Audubon’s Orioles in the early morning light. We staked out the Rio Grande River for an hour, watching for Morelet’s Seed eaters, which we didn’t locate, but there was tons of bird activity, including a couple Groove-billed Anis, and we racked up 19 species for our Mexico lists! The bird feeders at the local sanctuary were hopping with species including Long-billed Thrasher, Great Kiskadee, and Altamira Oriole.



The shallow lakes in Santa Ana NWR were loaded with shorebirds like these Black-necked Stilts.

Our final day in the McAllen area was dedicated to the Laguna Seca Ranch. This place is designed and run completely with photography in mind, and the fact that one participant took 10,728 photos on this day is an elegant tribute to its success in this mission! Most of our morning was spent in a series of raptor hides where Crested Caracaras, Turkey and Black Vultures, and Harris’s Hawks assembled at close range, for amazing photos. A White-tailed Hawk flew right over,

but didn't come in. The late morning and later afternoon were spent in blinds designed for smaller birds, and these were delightful. Around 20 species came in for great shots, including Long-billed Thrasher, Lesser Goldfinch, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Green Jay, Olive Sparrow, and even a Cedar Waxwing, a rarity for the ranch.



We had staggeringly awesome views of Crested Caracaras at Laguna Seca.

From McAllen, we headed east and spent a whole morning at Estero Llano Grande, an excellent state park that holds a remarkably diverse array of birds, due to its range of habitats, from the deeper oxbow lake, to shallow mudflats and marshes, to some well-preserved thornscrub. Over the course of the morning we saw nearly 100 species of birds, all on foot in this reserve. Lunch was at the nearby Nana's Taqueria, and might have been the best meal of the trip! In the afternoon, we visited Resaca de la Palma State Park, which was rather quiet. At sunset we were in position at a parrot roost, and eventually a few dozen Red-crowned Parrots came in.

Birding the coast at South Padre island produced a bounty of new species for the trip list, not to mention a bunch of great photo opportunities. The mudflats and marshes were loaded with birds. One particular highlight was an hour of “freeform” photography on an extensive mudflat with a good variety of terns, plovers, and sandpipers. On the way back to Brownsville we made a successful effort to seek out Aplomado Falcon.



Coastal fare on South Padre Island: a pierful of Brown Pelicans.

Driving north from Brownsville, we spent most of the next morning in Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. It was quiet overall, though there was some action at the headquarters bird feeders, and there were lots of raptors along the roads approaching the refuge. Along the way north, we made a short but excellent birding stop near the highway, and had a White-tailed Kite hovering right in front of us, as well as a gorgeous male Vermillion Flycatcher, a species that had

been strangely absent on the previous days. After a few hours of driving, we arrived in Corpus Christi. The weather was not ideal – cold, with occasional rain, and gusting winds. Nonetheless, we birded all afternoon at a variety of coastal locations, and managed to see and photograph a few new species, including Snowy Plover.

The reason to visit the Corpus Christi area is to be in position for a boat trip to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. This is the winter stronghold of the Endangered Whooping Crane. Over the course of a several-hour boat trip, we encountered a dozen cranes, some at quite close range. Seeing this pallid, towering bird striding around the marshes is a thrill. Its continued existence is a heartening conservation success story. After getting off the boat, we birded by road, and found even more Whooping Cranes, at even closer range! There were also flocks of smaller and grayer Sandhill Cranes, and lots of shorebirds in a flooded field, including Wilson's Snipe.

On our final day, some folks left very early, but Steve and Ken squeezed in a final morning of birding. On a sunny but frigid morning at a local preserve, they found a bunch of sparrows, including a single beautiful LeConte's Sparrow.



Whooping Crane is a magnificent bird that is back from the brink of extinction.

TOP 5 TOUR SIGHTINGS

As voted by all the tour participants plus Ken

1) **Harris's Hawk – 4 VOTES.** This beautiful hawk is a classic “southwestern” species, found in south Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. At Laguna Seca, we had incredibly close-range views (and photo ops!) of several individuals: adult males and females, and immatures. Seeing raptors this intimately is a real treat. As you’ll see below, raptors did quite well in our “top sightings” competition! The photo below is by Steve Siegel.



2) **Northern Bobwhite – 3 VOTES.** Another highlight of Laguna Seca came when a pair of these little gamebirds came cautiously trotting in to a feeder and water setup. Although skittish, they did pose beautifully several times, in gorgeous late afternoon light. Just seeing bobwhite this well was great, and getting photos was a bonus. The awesome photo below, clicked as the pair “crossed paths”, was taken by participant Steve Siegel.



Whooping Crane – 3 VOTES. This is one of the species around which this tour is build. We had around a dozen cranes inside of Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, and several more just outside of the refuge. Many folks don't realize how big this bird is until they see it for themselves. It dwarfs a hefty heron like a Great Blue Heron! The trio below was photographed by Steve Siegel.



Buff-bellied Hummingbird – 3 VOTES. This is a classic south Texas specialty bird, though as its scientific name hints, it's found down into Mexico's Yucutan, and even in Belize. It's certainly a bird that feels very tropical!



Crested Caracara – 3 VOTES. Along with Harris’s Hawks, there was a whole gang of caracaras attending the raptor setup at Laguna Seca. We delighted in the considerable individual and age-based variation in this species, as well as in the social antics that naturally ensued when so many birds were assembled together. The caracara donnybrook below was captured by Steve Siegel.



White-tailed Kite – 3 VOTES. There's something about raptors! And they don't come much more beautiful or elegant than this slim white, gray, and black beauty. On our way to Corpus, we made a stop where we had a kite hovering in front of us, with dark storm clouds in the background – a breathtaking sighting! Photo below by Steve Siegel.



ITINERARY

- January 14** Arrival in Harlingen. Night in Harlingen.
- January 15** Bentsen-Rio Grande State Park and Santa Ana NWR. Night Harlingen.
- January 16** Salineño, Falcon State Park, and Bentsen-Rio Grande SP. Night Harlingen.
- January 17** Laguna Seca Photographic Ranch. Night Harlingen.
- January 18** Estero Llano Grande State Park and Resaca de la Palma SP. Night Brownsville.
- January 19** South Padre Island. Night Brownsville.
- January 20** Brownsville to Corpus Christi. Night Corpus Christi.
- January 21** Aransas NWR, by boat and road. Night Corpus Christi.
- January 22** Departures from Corpus Christi.



Within the ABA area, the Black-crested Titmouse is virtually restricted to Texas.

PHOTO GALLERY



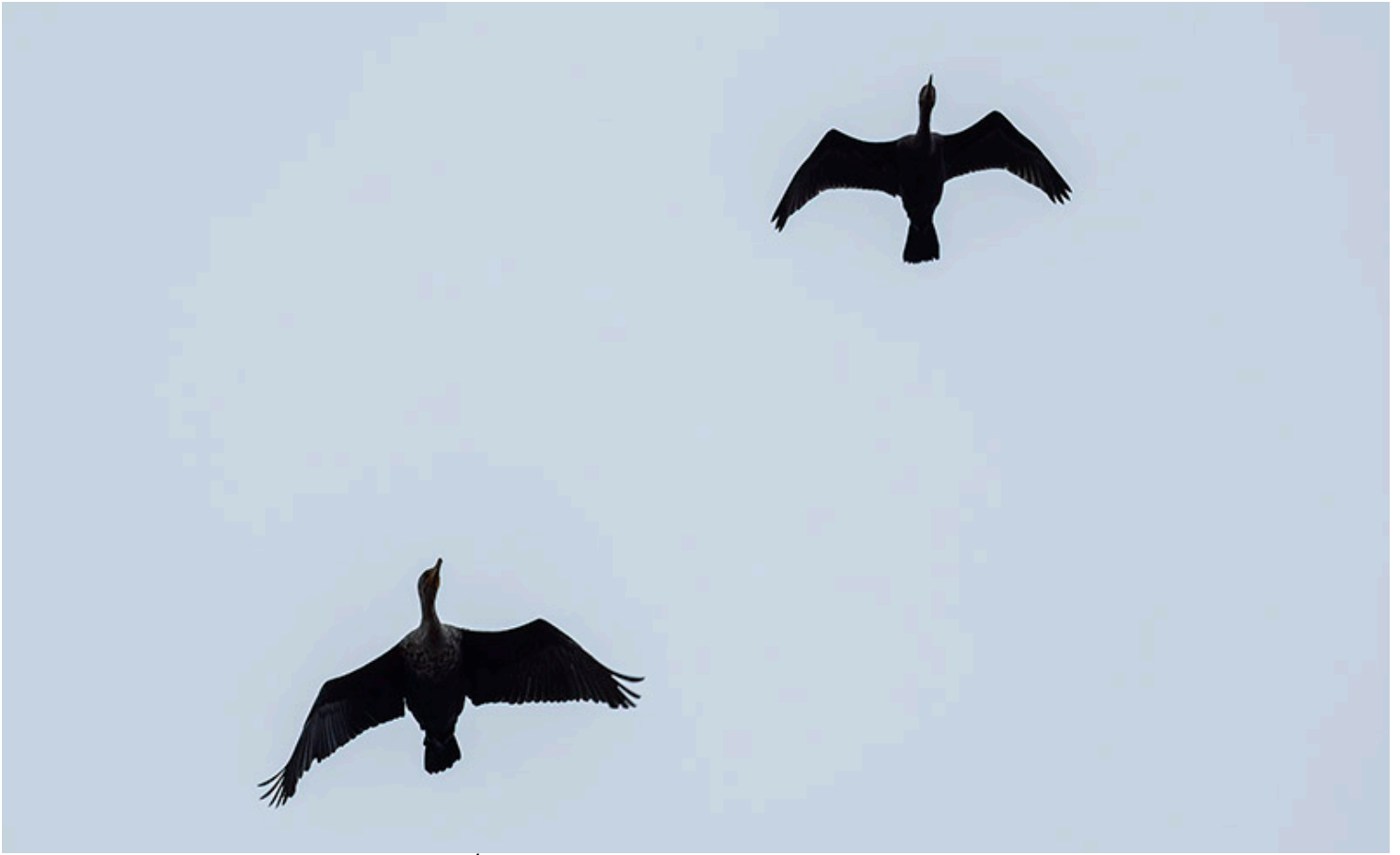
Inca Dove, a scaly little dove with a subtle beauty. Photo by Steve Siegel.



Shorebirds on South Padre: Piping Plover (left) and Dunlin (right). Photos by Steve Siegel.



Long-billed Thrasher, a handsome south Texas specialty.



We had an ideal Double-crested / Neotropical Cormorant flyover comparison at Estero Llano Grande.



Sandhill Cranes, the smaller, grayer, and much more common cousin of the huge Whooping Crane.



Occasionally the stars align for a good flyover shot, like this one of an Altamira Oriole!



Nine-banded Armadillo was the coolest mammal of the trip! Photo by Steve Siegel.



This Cedar Waxwing at Laguna Seca came as a nice surprise. Photo by Steve Siegel.



An impressive aggregation of waterbirds in Aransas NWR. Photo by Steve Siegel.



Common Pauraque day-roosting in Estero Llano Grande. Sitting in the open, yet incredibly cryptic!



Red-breasted Merganser is a common wintering species in the Laguna Madre. Photo by Steve Siegel.



Royal Terns looking regal indeed. Photo by Steve Siegel.



Great Kiskadee is a big, bold flycatcher that is wonderfully common in south Texas.



Golden-fronted Woodpecker is the most common woodpecker in the region. Photo by Steve Siegel.



Ducks like this Northern Pintail were in immaculate plumage, and were often approachable during this winter tour. Photo by Steve Siegel.



The rare sight of two Black Vultures mating, at the Laguna Seca raptor setup.



A great size comparison among gulls: Laughing, Ring-billed, Herring, and Laughing again.

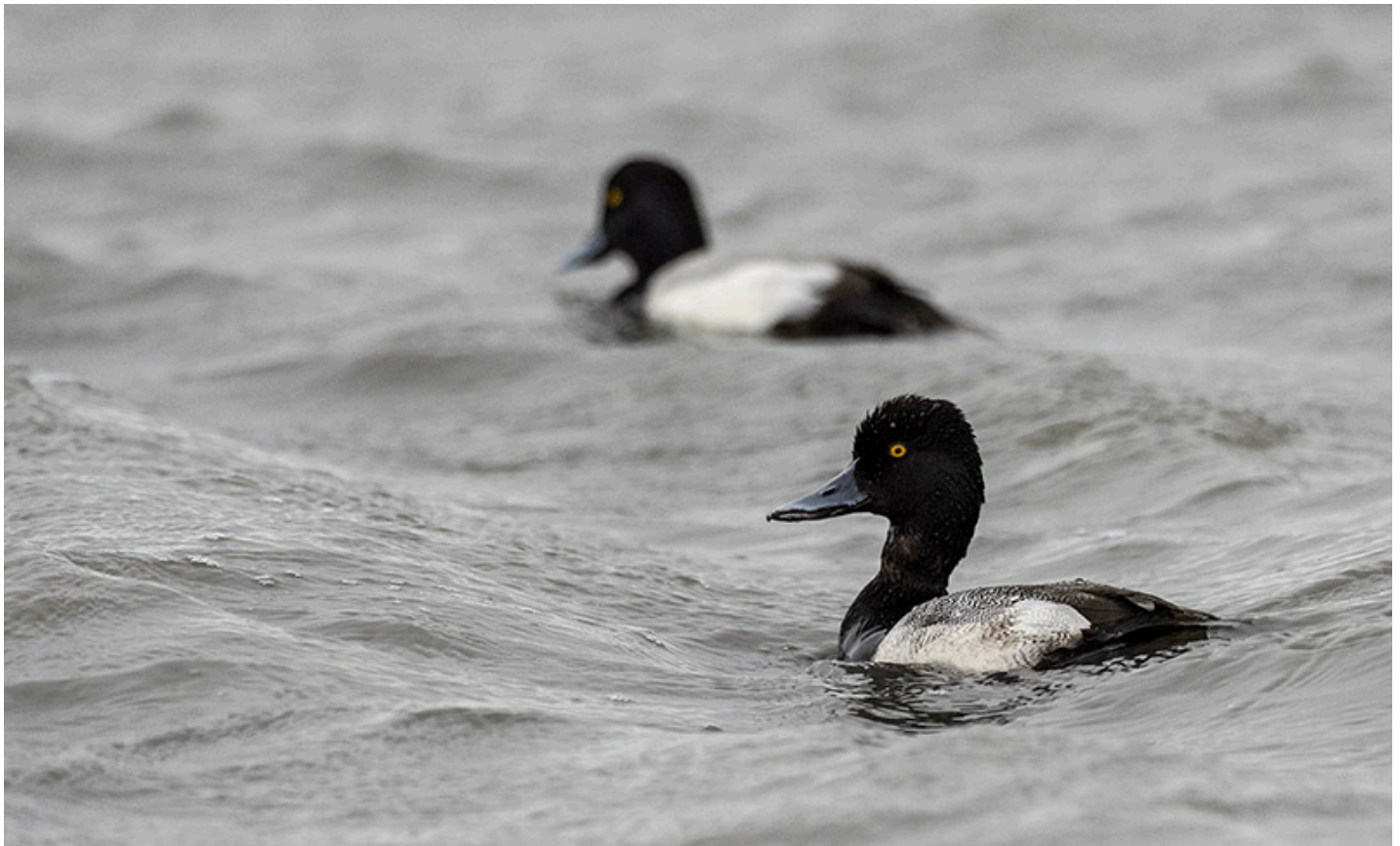


We took so many good shots of Crested Caracaras! Photo above by Ken Behrens and below by Steve Siegel.

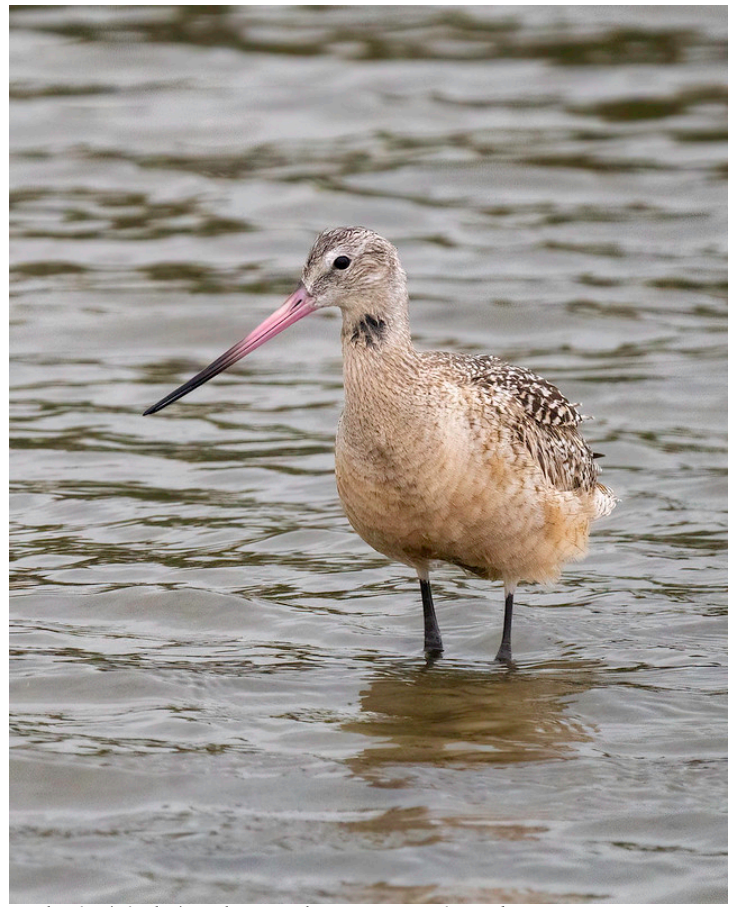




Lesser Goldfinch at Laguna Seca.



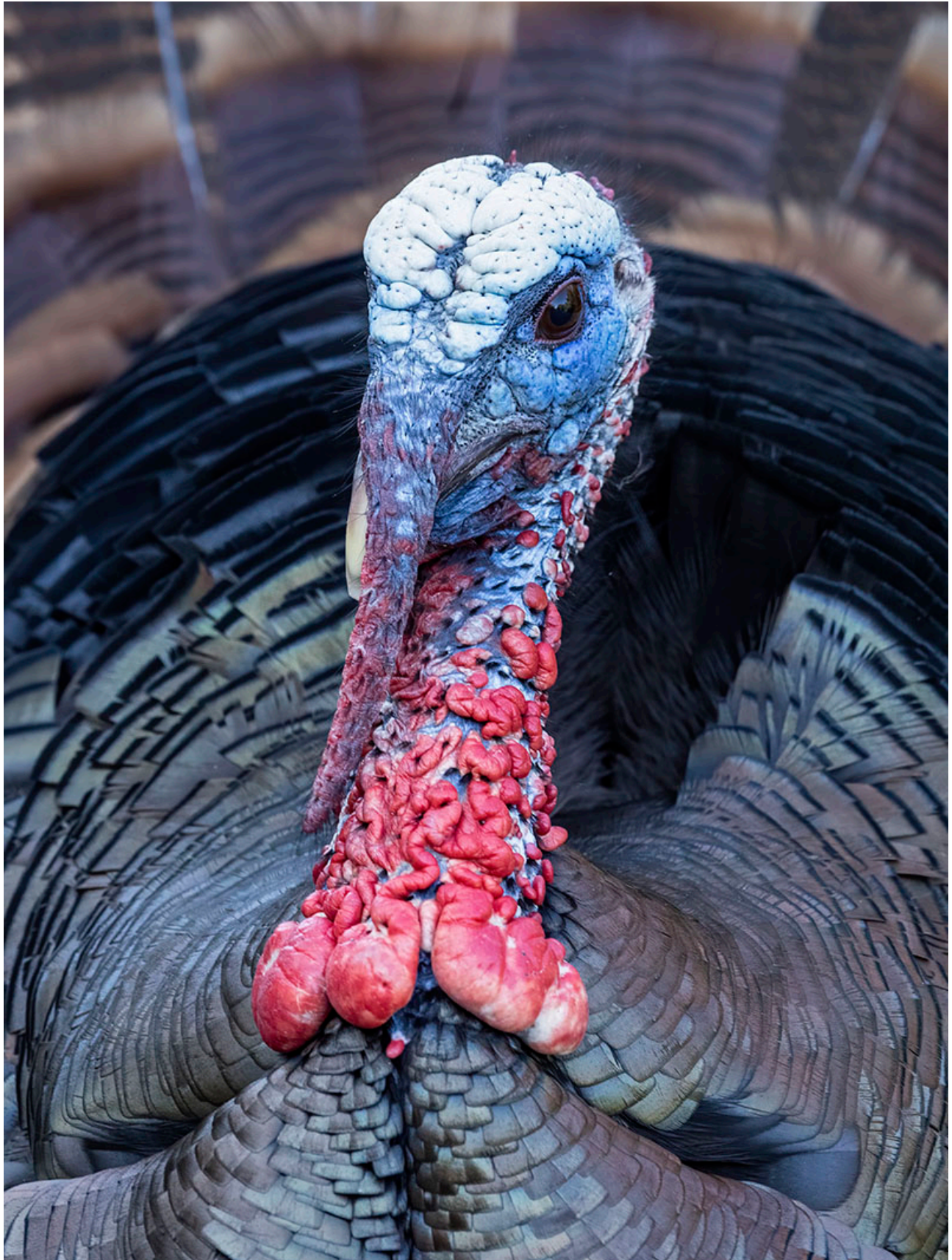
Lesser Scaup on a blustery day in Corpus Christi.



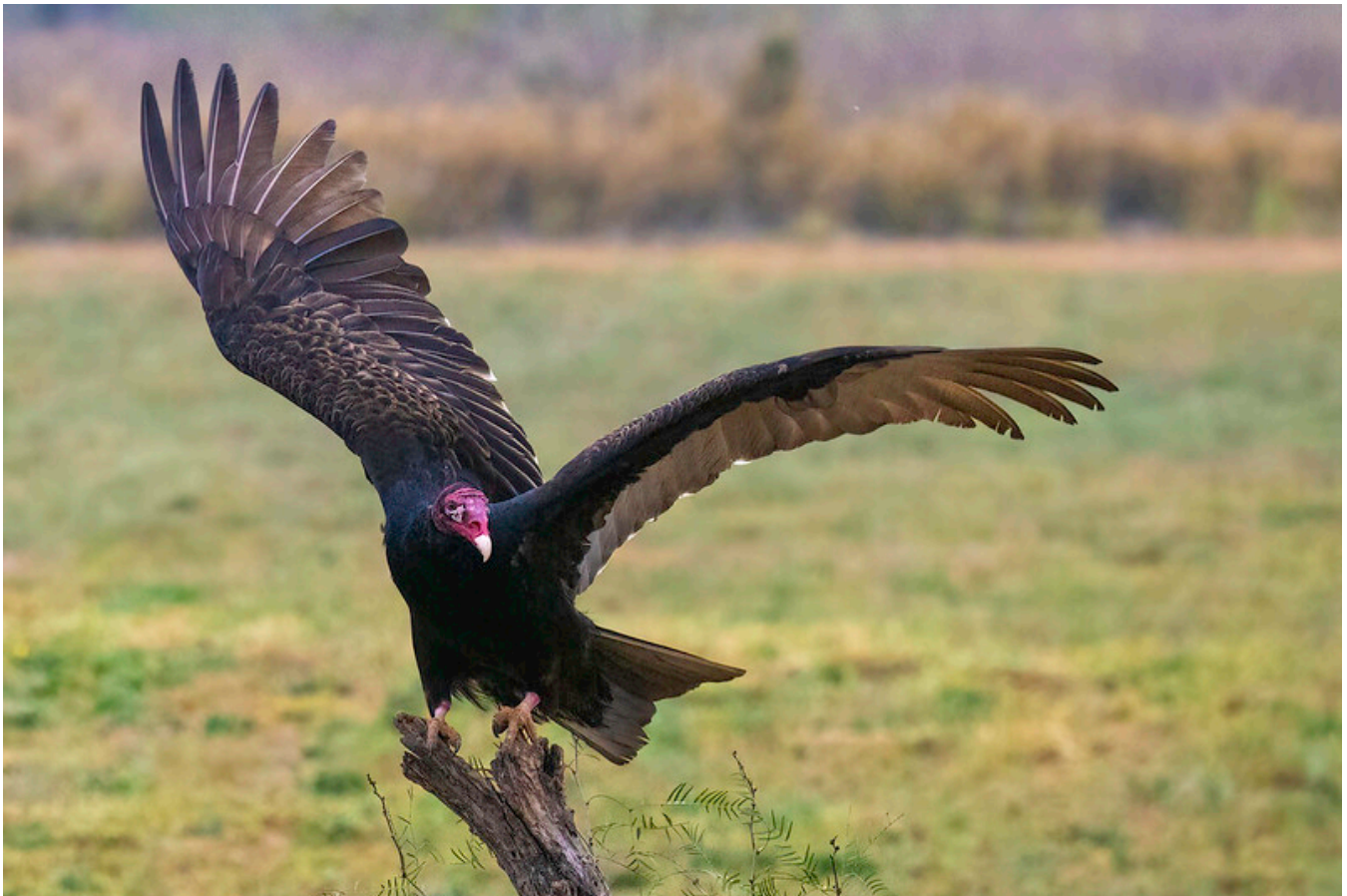
White-tailed Hawk (left) and Marbled Godwit (right). Photos by Steve Siegel.



Uncommonly good views of a Common Ground-Dove!



We had a memorable encounter with a flock of Wild Turkeys in Bentsen.



Turkey Vulture is surprisingly beautiful with an up-close view. Photo by Steve Siegel.



Greater Yellowlegs trio on a coastal mudflat.



American Oystercatcher (left) and Green Heron (right). Photos by Steve Siegel.



Lincoln's Sparrow is a fairly common though inconspicuous wintering bird.



A cool "karate chop" photo of a Great Blue Heron! Photo by Steve Siegel.



Couch's Kingbird (left) is a south Texas specialty, while Black-bellied Plover (right) is one of the world's most widespread birds. Photos by Steve Siegel.



We had endless great photo-ops with Northern Cardinals. Truly a stunner when you see it with fresh eyes.



Curve-billed Thrasher is an elusive beast, but we managed a few photographs.



Snowy Egret (left) and Altamira Oriole (right). Photos by Steve Siegel.



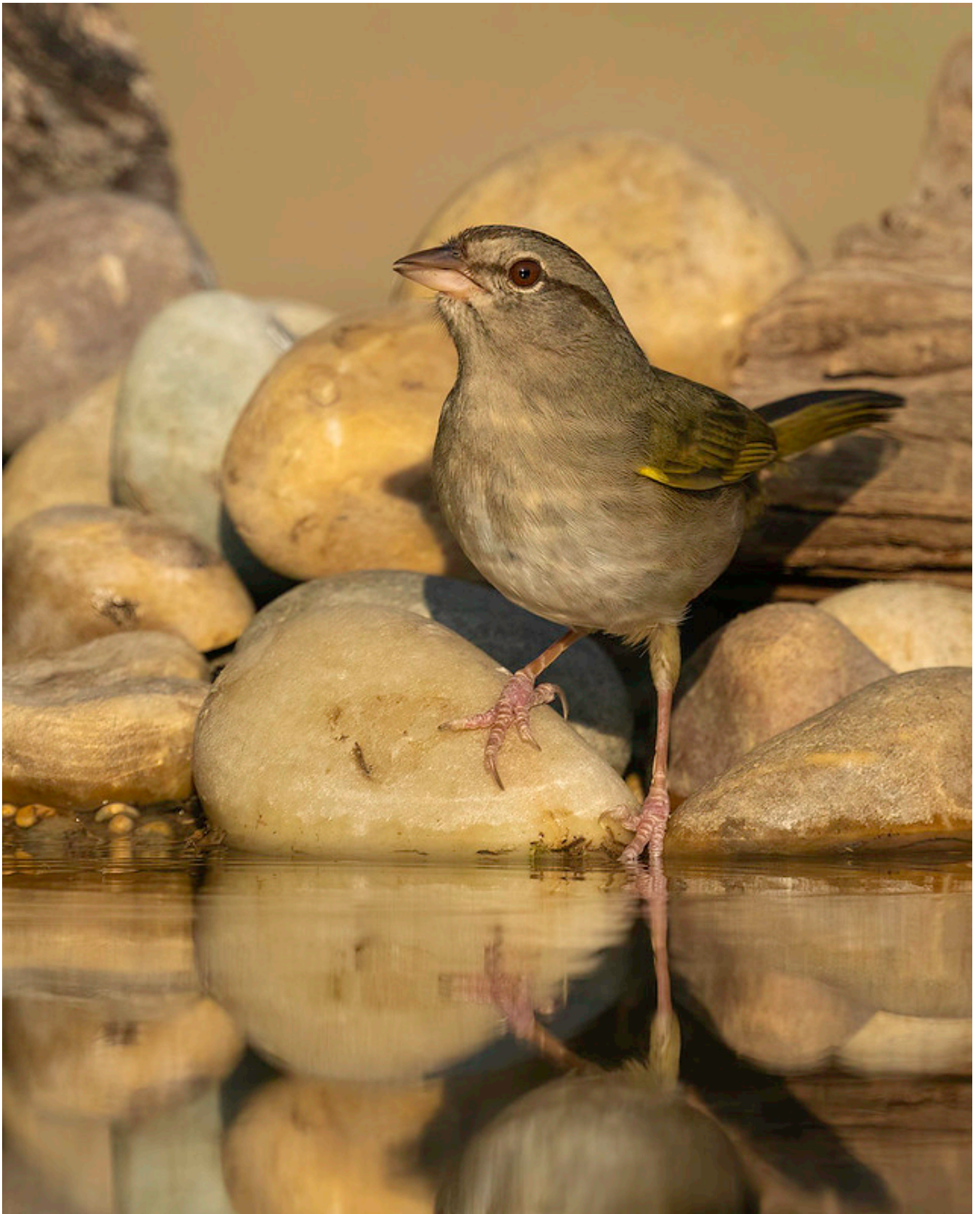
We saw and carefully counted 88 Long-billed Curlews at the South Donna sod farm! Photo by Steve Siegel.



American Avocets are always photogenic creatures. We had a flock at close range near Corpus.



Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, common residents of the Lower Valley. Photo by Steve Siegel.



Olive Sparrow, another species restricted to south Texas within the ABA area. Photo by Steve Siegel.



We had some Wilson's Snipe that were surprisingly photographable in a flooded field.



Snowy Plover, just one of a diverse range of plovers that we sighted during this tour.



This immature Cooper's Hawk swooped in to a feeder setup at Bentsen, and tried to catch a songbird.



Black Skimmers facing into the breeze on South Padre Island.



Black-crested Titmouse (left) by Steve Siegel. LeConte's Sparrow (right) by Ken Behrens.



Ruddy Turnstones, almost always on rocks, wherever you see them in the world! Photo by Steve Siegel.



Large numbers of Redhead winter on the Laguna Madre.



Northern Mockingbird, one of the most common birds throughout Texas.



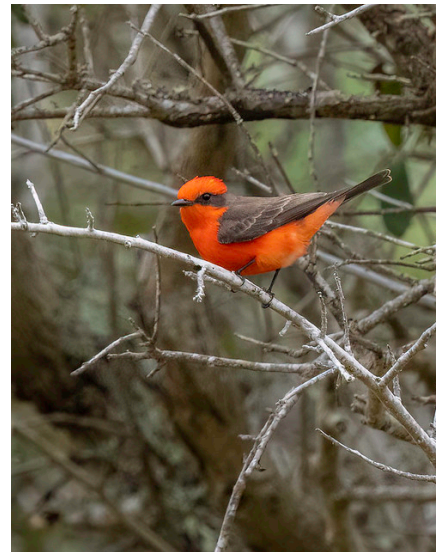
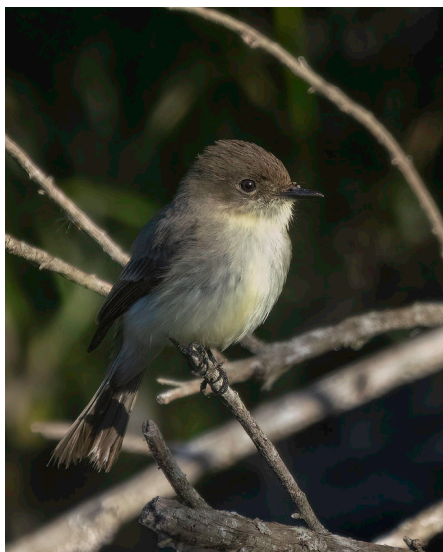
This was a good winter for waterfowl, including the fairly common Green-winged Teal.



Green Jay, definitely one of the star birds of this tour, for birders and photographers alike.



There are three kingfishers in south Texas, including this, the biggest one: Ringed Kingfisher.



Eastern Phoebe (left), Tricolored Heron (middle) and Vermillion Flycatcher (right). Photos by Steve Siegel.



Reddish Egret nestled into the mangroves on South Padre Island.

BIRD LIST

Taxonomy and nomenclature follow *The Clements Checklist of the Birds of the World v2022* (including updates through October 2022).

The full list, including numbers, and in the case of many species, photos, can be see as part of the [eBird trip report](https://ebird.org/tripreport/101819) for this trip: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/101819>

ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae		
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	
Snow Goose	<i>Anser caerulescens</i>	
Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	
Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>	I
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>	
Cinnamon Teal	<i>Spatula cyanoptera</i>	
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	
American Wigeon	<i>Mareca americana</i>	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	
Mottled Duck	<i>Anas fulvigula</i>	
Mexican Duck	<i>Anas diazi</i>	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	I
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	
Canvasback	<i>Aythya valisineria</i>	
Redhead	<i>Aythya americana</i>	
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	G
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	

GALLIFORMES: Cracidae		
Plain Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis vetula</i>	
GALLIFORMES: Odontophoridae		
Northern Bobwhite	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	
GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae		
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	
PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae		
Least Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>	
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	
Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	
COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae		
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	I
Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	
Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>	
Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	
White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	
White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	
CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae		
Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>	
Greater Roadrunner	<i>Geococcyx californianus</i>	
CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae		
Common Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>	
CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Trochilidae		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	
Black-chinned Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>	
Buff-bellied Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia yucatanensis</i>	
GRUIFORMES: Rallidae		
Clapper Rail	<i>Rallus crepitans</i>	
Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>	H

Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>	
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	
GRUIFORMES: Gruidae		
Sandhill Crane	<i>Antigone canadensis</i>	
Whooping Crane	<i>Grus americana</i>	
CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae		
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	
American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	
CHARADRIIFORMES: Haematopodidae		
American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	
CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae		
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius nivosus</i>	
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	
CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae		
Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	
Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	
Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>	
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	
Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	
Wilson's Snipe	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>	
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	
Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	

Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	
CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae		
Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>	
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	
Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	
Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	
Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>	
GAVIIFORMES: Gaviidae		
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	
SULIFORMES: Sulidae		
Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>	
SULIFORMES: Anhingidae		
Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	
SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae		
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>	
Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum brasilianum</i>	
PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae		
American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	
PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae		
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	

Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	
Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>	
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	
PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae		
White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	
White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	
Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>	
CATHARTIFORMES: Cathartidae		
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	
ACCIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae		
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	
ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae		
White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	
Harris's Hawk	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>	
White-tailed Hawk	<i>Geranoaetus albicaudatus</i>	
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	
STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae		
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	H
CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae		
Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>	
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	
Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	

PICIFORMES: Picidae		
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes aurifrons</i>	
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates scalaris</i>	
FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae		
Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>	
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	
Aplomado Falcon	<i>Falco femoralis</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Tyrannidae		
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	
Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	
Couch's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus couchii</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Vireonidae		
White-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	
Blue-headed Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae		
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae		
Green Jay	<i>Cyanocorax yncas</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Paridae		
Black-crested Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus atricristatus</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Remizidae		
Verdin	<i>Auriparus flaviceps</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Regulidae		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Corthylio calendula</i>	

Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Polioptilidae		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Troglodytidae		
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	
Sedge Wren	<i>Cistothorus stellaris</i>	
Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	
Carolina Wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	
Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	
Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae		
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	I
PASSERIFORMES: Mimidae		
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	
Curve-billed Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>	
Long-billed Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma longirostre</i>	
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae		
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Bombycillidae		
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae		
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	I
PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae		
American Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	
Sprague's Pipit	<i>Anthus spragueii</i>	

PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae		
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	
Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	
American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>	G
PASSERIFORMES: Passerellidae		
Olive Sparrow	<i>Arremonops rufivirgatus</i>	
Clay-colored Sparrow	<i>Spizella pallida</i>	
Black-throated Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>	
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	
LeConte's Sparrow	<i>Ammospiza leconteii</i>	
Seaside Sparrow	<i>Ammospiza maritima</i>	
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	
Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	
Spotted / Eastern Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus / erythrophthalmus</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Icteridae		
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	
Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>	
Altamira Oriole	<i>Icterus gularis</i>	
Audubon's Oriole	<i>Icterus graduacauda</i>	
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	
Bronzed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>	
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	
Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	
PASSERIFORMES: Parulidae		
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>	
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	

PASSERIFORMES: Cardinalidae

Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	
Pyrrhuloxia	<i>Cardinalis sinuatus</i>	

H = heard-only

G = seen only by Tropical Birding guide

I = Introduced

REPTILES & MAMMALS

American Alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>
Pond Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta</i>
Nine-banded Armadillo	<i>Dasypus novemcinctus</i>
Hispid Cotton Rat	<i>Sigmodon hispidus</i>
Swamp Rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus aquaticus</i>
Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>
White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>

BUTTERFLIES

Queen	<i>Danaus gilippus</i>
American Snout	<i>Libytheana carinenta</i>
Empress Leilia	<i>Asterocampa leilia</i>
Great Purple Hairstreak	<i>Atlides halesus</i>
Sickle-winged Skipper	<i>Eantis tamenund</i>