

Seven Ponds Nature Center

Texas Lower Rio Grande Valley Birding Tour

November 10-15, 2021

LEADERS & GUIDES

- **Daryl Bernard** (Executive Director - Seven Ponds Nature Center)
- **Ken Blankenship** (Birding Guide - East-West Birding Tours)
- **Allee Forsberg** (Birding Guide - East-West Birding Tours)

PARTICIPANTS

- **Gavin Awerbuch** - Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
- **Jan Giesken** - Lapeer, Michigan
- **Lynne Holmberg** - Traverse City, Michigan
- **Barb Cooper-Johnson** - Warren, Michigan
- **Sue Keener** - Oxford, Michigan
- **Sharon Korte** - Warren, Michigan
- **Yvonne Lentner** - Lake Orion, Michigan
- **Gabriella Meredith** - Sawyer, Michigan
- **Katrina Moilanen** - Howell, Michigan
- **Candy Petrick** - Buelah, Michigan
- **Jane Pedersen** - Durango, Colorado
- **Steve Somora** - Durango, Colorado



LODGING

Radisson Hotel McAllen Airport – McAllen, Texas

DINNERS

Wednesday, November 10 - **The Blue Onion** (McAllen)

Thursday, November 11 – **Nana's Taqueria** (Weslaco)

Friday, November 12 – **Joe's Oyster Bar & Restaurant** (Port Isabel)

Saturday, November 13 – **Costa Messa** (McAllen)

Sunday, November 14 – **Costa Messa** (McAllen)



BIRDING LOCATIONS

Wednesday, November 10

- Quinta Mazatlan (pre-tour)



Thursday, November 11

- Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge
- Estero Llano Grande State Park
- The Valley Nature Center
- W. Tenth Street & Oklahoma Avenue Red-crowned Parrot Roost (Weslaco)



Friday, November 12

- Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge
- South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center
- Boca Chica LRGV National Wildlife Refuge
- Boca Chica Beach



Saturday, November 13

- Quinta Mazatlan
- Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park
- Edinburg Scenic Wetlands
- N. Tenth Street & Trenton Road Green Parrot Roost (McAllen)



Sunday, November 14

- Salineño Wildlife Preserve, including DeWind's Yard
- Starr County Park
- Falcon State Park
- Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park



BIRDS (136)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck – First seen flying overhead at the Red-crowned Parrot roost, we also saw these gorgeous ducks at the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center.

Greater White-fronted Goose – A flock of 40 geese flew overhead shortly after we arrived at Salineño.

Blue-winged Teal – We saw these beautiful little ducks at Santa Ana NWR, Estero Llano Grande SP, and Edinburg Scenic Wetlands.



Northern Shoveler – Our group saw shovelers at Estero Llano Grande SP and Edinburg Scenic Wetlands.

Mexican Duck – Formerly considered a subspecies of Mallard, we saw about a dozen of these ducks on the Rio Grande at Salineño.

Mottled Duck – These common ducks were seen several times during our tour, including Santa Ana NWR, Estero Llano Grande SP, South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center, and Edinburg Scenic Wetlands.

Northern Pintail – About eight pintails were observed at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center.

Ring-necked Duck – A drake and hen Ring-necked Duck were seen by our group at Santa Ana NWR.

Red-breasted Merganser – We didn't have great looks at these divers which were viewed through the scope in the distant, heat-shimmering haze at Boca Chica Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR near SpaceX.

Plain Chachalaca – We never tired of the antics of these noisy birds, seen at several locations including Quinta Mazatlan, Estero Llano Grande SP, Valley Nature Center, the Red-crowned Parrot roost, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, and DeWind's Yard at Salineño.

Wild Turkey – Seen at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, where we watched a few toms jumping for bark butter in the feeder.



Least Grebe – Our only views of these small grebes occurred on our first full day together at Santa Ana NWR.

Pied-billed Grebe – We saw these common grebes at multiple locations, most numerous at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center.

Rock Pigeon – Seen daily at numerous locations.

Eurasian Collared-Dove – We didn't pay a lot of attention to these non-native doves, but they were present at Santa Ana NWR and Salineño.

Inca Dove – Although rather common in the Valley, we never tired of seeing these small, handsome doves. Most numerous at Quinta Mazatlan.

White-tipped Dove – These large, pale doves were seen by the group in small numbers at Estero Llano Grande SP, Laguna Atascosa NWR, and Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP.

White-winged Dove – Seen at several locations, with our largest numbers at Quinta Mazatlan and Salineño.

Mourning Dove – Seen regularly at numerous locations and throughout our travels while driving.

Greater Roadrunner – Our lone roadrunner was seen back in the fenced-off maintenance area at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP.

Common Pauraque – At the base of the tall tower at Santa Ana NWR - we saw one that was staked out by our guides, and then Katrina spotted two more on the other side of the tower!

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – During our brief pre-tour visit to Quinta Mazatlan we spotted what looked like a young male.

Black-chinned Hummingbird – After so many slash hummers, we finally got good looks at an adult male Black-chinned on our final afternoon at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, sporting his purple gorget.



Ruby-throated/Black-chinned hummingbird – we saw several *Archilochus* hummingbirds that could not be identified to species, being females or young males.

Buff-bellied Hummingbird – This stunning bird was our most common identifiable hummer and we saw them at several locations, including Quinta Mazatlan, Estero Llano Grande SP, Valley Nature Center, and Edinburg Scenic Wetlands.

Common Gallinule – First we had a heard-only gallinule at Santa Ana NWR, but then we enjoyed great close-up looks at South Padre Birding and Nature Center.

American Coot – We saw coots up close at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center, then again at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP.

Black-necked Stilt – Our first encounter with stilts was an amazing double-loop low-overhead flyover at Santa Ana NWR. We then had the more traditional wading-bird views at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center and again at Boca Chica Beach.

American Avocet – Our only encounter with American Avocets came as the sun was setting on the Rio Grande where the river empties into the Gulf of Mexico at Boca Chica Beach.

American Oystercatcher – Two birds were on the tidal flat at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center.

Black-bellied Plover – At South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center and again at Boca Chica Beach.

Killdeer – Seen by some of our group while we were pulled over to the side of the road at Boca Chica Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR.

Long-billed Curlew – These amazing shorebirds were seen at Boca Chica Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR.

Ruddy Turnstone – We saw two of these small shorebirds at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center, and then saw several of them along the shoreline at Boca Chica Beach.

Red Knot – A rare fall/winter visitor to the Lower Rio Grande Valley, we saw three continuing birds at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center.

Stilt Sandpiper – Another shorebird that we only encountered in the tidal flats at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center, where we had ten of these long-legged sandpipers.

Sanderling – Always fun to see these little shorebirds dashing away from the waves, we saw numerous during our drive along Boca Chica Beach.

Dunlin – Seen at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center sporting their dull non-breeding plumage.

Least Sandpiper – Wonderful large-flock fly-bys while we were standing on the riverbank of the Rio Grande at Salineño.

Short-billed/Long-billed Dowitcher – Tough to discern Long-billed vs. Short-billed in non-breeding plumage at the distances we were looking at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center, so we had to leave these birds as a slash.

Spotted Sandpiper – Seen at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center as well as a lone bird at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands.

Greater Yellowlegs – Our lone yellowlegs was at the very mouth of the Rio Grande at Boca Chica Beach.

Willet – Large and conspicuous, we saw good numbers of these hefty shorebirds at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center, Boca Chica Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR, and Boca Chica Beach.

Laughing Gull – The most common gull in the Valley, we saw these birds in large numbers at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center as well as during our time along Boca Chica Beach.

Ring-billed Gull – We saw a few ring-bills at Boca Chica Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR and Boca Chica Beach.

Herring Gull – Like ring-bills, Herring Gulls were seen at Boca Chica Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR and Boca Chica Beach.

Caspian Tern – Our first encounter with this large tern was at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center; we also saw them at Boca Chica Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR and Boca Chica Beach.

Forster's Tern – As with most of our gulls and terns, we saw these sleek terns at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center, Boca Chica Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR, and Boca Chica Beach.

Royal Tern – Seen in large numbers at Boca Chica Beach, where we had them alongside the larger Caspian Terns.

Sandwich Tern – We got our only looks at these seashore terns at Boca Chica Beach, where we tallied a total of three.

Anhinga – We had good looks at a couple fairly distant Anhingas at the resaca at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP.

Double-crested Cormorant – Seen throughout our stay at numerous locations.

Neotropic Cormorant – Since we saw large numbers of these smaller cormorants alongside their larger relatives at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands and Salineño, we could often directly compare the two species side by side.

American White Pelican – Always a pleasure we see, these exceptionally large birds graced us with their presence at several locations throughout our stay, most notably at Salineño, where we tallied over 200 flying low over the Rio Grande and settled on the water.

Brown Pelican – More coastal than their cousins, we saw these pelicans at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center and again at Boca Chica Beach.

Least Bittern – Some members of the group had a “heard only” encounter with this small bittern in the cattails at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center.

Great Blue Heron – Common throughout the Valley, we saw these large herons at several locations, most numerous at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center.

Great Egret – Another common member of the heron family, we saw these large birds as flyovers while driving and at several locations, with our largest number coming at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center.

Snowy Egret – The small white egret with the yellow boots, we saw them at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center, Boca Chica Beach, Edinburg Scenic Wetlands, and Salineño.

Little Blue Heron – We saw at least four little blues at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center.

Tricolored Heron – Another heron species we saw at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center.

Reddish Egret (both red and white forms) – After our first individual was scoped at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center, we saw a few more - including a white form - on the tidal flats at Boca Chica Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR.

Cattle Egret – We saw more than a dozen of these small egrets at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands.

Green Heron – We enjoyed very close views of this striking heron at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center and Edinburg Scenic Wetlands, then again more distantly along the island at Salineño.

Black-crowned Night-Heron – An adult and a juvenile were in the same scope view at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands.

White Ibis – Several views at these waders at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center.

Roseate Spoonbill – Nice looks at a small group out on a log at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center, then a lone bird flyover at Quinta Mazatlan.

Black Vulture – Seen singly at a couple locations, we had our largest numbers at Salineño.

Turkey Vulture – Seen regularly at numerous locations throughout the tour.

Osprey – We saw Ospreys at several locations, but perhaps our best looks were along the Rio Grande at Salineño, where at least three were actively calling and fishing.



White-tailed Kite – As we were scanning the tidal flats at Boca Chica Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR, this raptor was spotted soaring overhead. We enjoyed watching until it circled into the glaring sun and out of our sight.

Northern Harrier – Three birds at Santa Ana NWR from the observation tower (seen by group one), then single birds at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center, Boca Chica Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR, and Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP.

Sharp-shinned Hawk – We had lone sharpies cruising the feeders at both Quinta Mazatlan and Salineño.

Cooper's Hawk – We had a lone Coop during our pre-tour visit to Quinta Mazatlan, then an accipiter that was a strong candidate for Cooper's Hawk at Salineño, but it was never seen clearly.

Harris's Hawk – Far more numerous and widespread than our eBird checklists would show, as most of the Harris's Hawks were seen on utility poles while we were traveling, often clumped in twos and threes. We did tally them at many of our stops as well.

Gray Hawk – This small buteo was seen at Santa Ana NWR (including a juvenile) as well as Estero Llano Grande SP and Salineño.

Zone-tailed Hawk – Good fortune turned our way when Gavin spotted this zone-tailed soaring overhead at Salineño while we were searching for Morelet's Seedeater along the Rio Grande. Another bird - or the same one - was spotted a short while later circling over the Mexican side of the river.

Red-tailed Hawk – Not as numerous as Harris's Hawk, we still saw plenty of red-tails, particularly on utility poles while we were traveling.

Eastern Screech-Owl – We enjoyed views of "Fred in the Shed" while at Estero Llano Grande SP.



Ringed Kingfisher – Our first encounter with this large kingfisher was a male that perched up nicely on the top of a tall tree at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands; we found out just how loud and raucous they are when we visited Salineño, where we had a pair flying over during much of our visit.

Belted Kingfisher – This common kingfisher was seen at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center and Boca Chica Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR.

Green Kingfisher – After working hard for obscured views at Santa Ana NWR, we enjoyed fly-by looks just over the surface of the river at Salineño.

Golden-fronted Woodpecker – Everywhere we went we saw these large woodpeckers, every day!

Ladder-backed Woodpecker – Less conspicuous than their larger Valley relatives, we still managed to see and hear ladder-backs on several occasions, most numerous at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP.



Crested Caracara – We didn't see a lot of caracaras, but we had nice looks at a few locations. Our best encounters came at Salineño.

American Kestrel – Seen regularly, especially on utility lines, in numerous locations.

Peregrine Falcon – The first group that went up the observation tower at Santa Ana NWR was treated to a wonderful, close fly-by. Unfortunately, we all missed the falcon on the water tower at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center by just a few minutes.



Red-crowned Parrot – Our group tracked down an incoming flock of Red-crowned Parrots in Weslaco. We will not soon forget the raucous commotion as these birds first approached and then circled overhead for several minutes before setting down in neighborhood trees. What a spectacle!

Green Parakeet – After a teaser view of a half-dozen fly-by birds at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands, the group staked out at a Target parking lot in McAllen later the same day where more than 200 parakeets flew in and settled on utility wires.

Rose-throated Becard – We were far up the Valley when reports of this bird at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP grabbed our attention. After lunch at Falcon State Park, we scrapped our desert birding plans for a chance at this rare winter visitor. We drove 90 minutes and found the subtly handsome female becard just minutes after arriving at Bentsen. A couple hours later, the group was relaxing at the La Familia Nature Center at Bentsen when Gavin spotted the same bird in a tree just across the park road, and we had amazing views for a few minutes before the bird disappeared into the tree line.



Eastern Phoebe – Although we were spread out on our walk back to the visitor center, most members of our group saw the phoebe working over the levee at Bensten-Rio Grande Valley SP. Another Eastern Phoebe was seen at Estero Llano Grande SP.

Vermilion Flycatcher – We had a lone bird perched up on the island at Salineño and then another at Starr County Park.



Great Kiskadee – One of our most commonly seen Valley specialties, our biggest numbers were at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP.

Tropical Kingbird – Although most certainly some of the kingbirds we saw perched on the utility wires along the Laguna Atascosa NWR access road were Tropical Kingbirds, our only confirmed bird was one on a wire at a Stripes gas station stop on the way to the Green Parakeet roost in McAllen. Unfortunately, not everybody was able to see this bird.

Couch's Kingbird – Our best Couch's Kingbird was a van view on a utility wire on the Laguna Atascosa NWR access road.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – Playing twister in the van got most of us looks at these handsome flycatchers on the utility wires along the access road to Laguna Atascosa NWR. We also saw them on the wires along the road to Boca Chica Beach.

White-eyed Vireo – Our lone vireo species of the trip, we encountered these birds either vocally, visually, or both several times. With quite a bit of effort, most people eventually got decent, if not ideal, looks at this brush-loving songbird.



Loggerhead Shrike – Unfortunately we never spotted a shrike while birding proper, so we had to settle for a van view en route to Bentsen. By working together and repositioning the van a few times, everybody got good looks at this bird - even Barb, who exercised considerable effort to see the bird!

Green Jay – Like the Great Kiskadee, Green Jays were seen daily at numerous locations, and it never got old!

Chihuahuan Raven – As we were loading the van at Falcon State Park to head back to Bentsen for the Rose-throated Becard, Katrina spotted a couple of distant corvids. This turned out to be our only encounter with Chihuahuan Ravens during the entire tour.



Black-crested Titmouse – Seen daily at numerous locations, especially near feeders. It was nice seeing this Texas cousin of our own Tufted Titmouse in Michigan and Jane & Steve's resident Juniper Titmouse in Durango, Colorado.

Verdin – These little buggers never gave us clear, happy looks. Always active, seemingly always obscured, and far more often heard than seen, we managed to briefly get eyes on them at Quinta Mazatlan, Santa Ana NWR, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, and Salineño.

Horned Lark – We had nice looks at a particularly colorful Horned Lark while scoping at Boca Chica Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR.

Tree Swallow – We didn't encounter a lot of swallows while birding in south Texas, but did see Tree Swallows at Santa Ana NWR and Estero Llano Grande SP.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – Probably more common than our checklists would indicate, we did record these tiny songbirds at Santa Ana NWR, Estero Llano Grande SP, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, and Edinberg Scenic Wetlands.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – Another familiar bird that we encountered often; they were most numerous at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP.

House Wren – Ever chatty, these small wrens were more often heard than seen. We noted them at several locations.

Marsh Wren – A lone Marsh Wren popped up for us after announcing its presence at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center.

Sedge Wren – Observed by the lead pack of our group at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center.



Carolina Wren – Particularly noted near the feeders at Estero Llano Grande from the Indigo Blind.

European Starling – Seemingly not as common in the Valley as elsewhere in North America, we still did see these non-native birds on a number of occasions, usually while driving.

Curve-billed Thrasher – This denizen of the southwest was enjoyed by our group at several locations, including Quinta Mazatlan, Estero Llano Grande SP, Edinburg Scenic Wetlands, and Starr County Park.

Long-billed Thrasher – Far more range-restricted than their curve-billed relatives, the secretive Long-billed Thrasher was seen by our group at several locations, including Quinta Mazatlan, Laguna Atascosa NWR, Salineño, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, and Estero Llano Grande SP.



Northern Mockingbird – We saw mockingbirds at most of the birding locations we visited, as well as perched up on utility wires while we traveled.



Hermit Thrush – About half our group observed a lone Hermit Thrush while we were walking back to the parking lot at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP. The bird popped out of the brush and hopped across the road, stopping to drink from a puddle before disappearing into the ground cover.

Clay-colored Thrush – Once quite rare in the Valley, you'd never know it now based on how many we encountered and the number of places we saw them. Though they like to hang out in the underbrush, they pop out to enjoy the feeders. We saw our best numbers at Quinta Mazatlan, but also had them at Santa Ana NWR, Estero Llano Grande SP, Valley Nature Center, and Laguna Atascosa NWR.

House Sparrow – Most numerous seen at Quinta Mazatlan.

House Finch – Our lone House Finch was seen at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP from the parking lot shortly after our arrival.



Olive Sparrow – Ever skulky, this plainly-adorned, ground-loving sparrow seemed to tease us from the edges of feeding stations, mostly remaining in the thickery. We managed some kind of look at them at multiple locations, including Santa Ana NWR, Laguna Atascosa NWR, Quinta Mazatlan, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, and Estero Llano Grande SP.

Lincoln's Sparrow – This familiar sparrow was seen in Seedeater Gulch at Salineño.

Eastern Meadowlark – At Boca Chica Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR.



Altamira Oriole – We enjoyed nice looks at these large, bright orange orioles at Laguna Atascosa NWR, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, and Salineño.

Audubon's Oriole – At Salineño we had a frustrating encounter with a bird that was initially heard, then seen fleetingly as it flew across the Rio Grande to Mexico, where some of us managed to pick it out of the shrubbery at river's edge. Definitely a BVD (better view desired) bird!

Red-winged Blackbird – Seen in large numbers at several locations during our tour.

Bronzed Cowbird – As we enjoyed the Green Parakeets at the Target parking lot in McAllen, thousands of Great-tailed Grackles also settled in. Among them was a smaller number of Bronzed Cowbirds, of which we had nice looks through the scope and our binoculars in the fading sunlight.

Great-tailed Grackle – Everywhere, all the time. Our most notable experience was the evening roost fly-in at the Target parking lot, which we estimated to be 5,000 birds - could easily have been double that number.



Black-and-white Warbler – First seen at the Valley Nature Center when we were searching for the Golden-crowned Warbler, we had another encounter at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP.

Tennessee Warbler – We had looks at a this warbler in the parking lot at the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center.

Orange-crowned Warbler – Seemingly everywhere, we had several chances to study this small warbler.

Nashville Warbler – At a few locations, including Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP and Quinta Mazatlan.

Northern Parula – Nice looks at a male parula near the parking lot at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center.

Yellow-rumped Warbler - Seen by some of our group at Santa Ana NWR.

Black-throated Gray Warbler – An uncommon winter visitor in the Valley, we got nice looks at this bird at the Edinburg Scenic Wetlands just after we stepped off the observation deck.

Black-throated Green Warbler – While waiting for the entrance to be unlocked at Quinta Mazatlan, we found a this bird actively foraging in the trees around the parking lot.

Golden-crowned Warbler – A Lifer for everybody in our group, including our guides, this bird took more effort than any other on our tour. When we got word of this bird found, we altered our afternoon plans, bypassing Frontera Audubon in favor of the Valley Nature Center. It took nearly two hours to find, with dozens of birders on the hunt. Finally, we tracked the bird down in some dense thickery and managed looks - sometimes only parts, eventually most if not all of the bird.

Wilson's Warbler – Glimpses of this bird were had by the group at the Valley Nature Center and at Quinta Mazatlan.

Northern Cardinal – A familiar face for the group amid all the Valley specialties. Seen at multiple feeding stations throughout our tour.



Pyrrhuloxia – We had a challenging time tracking down a good view of this relative of our cardinal, but finally had looks at one or two birds in the desert scrub at Starr County Park.

Morelet's Seedeater – After paying our dues by hiking through Seedeater Gulch, we were rewarded with great looks at this skulker in the tall reeds along the Rio Grande at Salineño. Lifer for most in the group!

MAMMALS

Fox Squirrel
White-tailed Deer
Coyote
Bottlenose Dolphin
Bat species

REPTILES

Fence lizard species
Blue Spiny Lizard
Brown Anole
Indigo Snake - skin
Turtle species



FISH

Mullet

NOTABLE INSECTS

Walking stick
Queen (butterfly)
Monarch (butterfly)
Mexican Bluewing (butterfly)
Zebra Longwing (butterfly)

Black witch (moth)
Roseate Skimmer (dragonfly)



CRUSTACEANS

Fiddler crab species
Crayfish species (very aggressive!)

Photos by Daryl Bernard, except:
Sharon Korte:

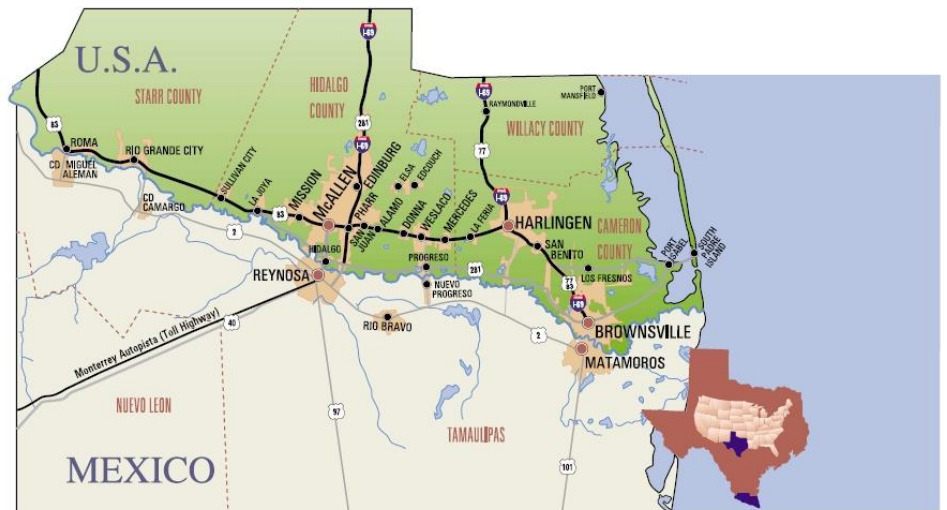
White-tailed Kite
Green Kingfisher
Crested Caracara
Rose-throated Becard
Green Jay
Morelet's Seedeater

Yvonne Lentner:

Least Grebe
Ladder-backed Woodpecker

Katrina Moilanen:

Blue Spiny Lizard



The Lower Rio Grande Valley encompasses the four southernmost counties of Texas: Starr, Hidalgo, Willacy, and Cameron. Below them lies Mexico. (Map courtesy of Rio Grande Valley Partnership, Rio Grande Valley Chamber of Commerce.)