

# Seven Ponds Nature Center

## Texas Lower Rio Grande Valley Birding Tour

### January 18-25, 2018

#### LOCATIONS

##### **Thursday, January 18**

- Quinta Mazatlan

##### **Friday, January 19**

- Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park
- Anzalduas County Park
- Edinburg Scenic Wetlands
- Valley Nature Center (parking lot)

##### **Saturday, January 20**

- Salineño (feeders & along the river)
- Falcon State Park
- Zapata County Landfill
- San Ygnacio Bird Sanctuary and riverfront
- Santa Maria Land & Cattle Ranch

##### **Sunday, January 21**

- Donna's Deck (private residence)
- Cameron County Aplomado Viewing Area (TX100)
- South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center
- South Padre Island – mudflats
- South Padre Island – Isla Blanca Park
- Bahia Grande – Brownsville shipping channel canal area
- TX48 Shrimp Basin Bridge/Zapata Memorial Boat Ramp/San Martin Lake outlet
- Old Port Isabel Road (looking for Aplomado Falcons)

##### **Monday, January 22**

- Brush Line Road (LRGV National Wildlife Refuge)
- Delta Lake / Delta County Park
- Sarita Rest Area on US77)
- Fulton Harbor
- Aransas Bay via the Skimmer

##### **Tuesday, January 23**

- Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge
- Estero Llano Grande State Park
- Progreso Lakes Grain Silos
- Hayashi parking lot – McAllen (Green Parakeets)

##### **Wednesday, January 24**

- Sabal Palm Sanctuary
- Boca Chica Highway/Boca Chica State Park/Boca Chica beach
- Mission Hike & Bike Trail (parking lot)
- West Mile 7 Road (Hidalgo County)
- McAllen Fire Station (Red-crowned Parrots)

## **BIRDS**

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** – seen in large numbers on Donna’s roof

**Fulvous Whistling-Duck** – a lone individual landed on Donna’s roof along with many Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks

**Snow Goose** – a large flock was seen at Bentsen-Rio Grande State Park from the Kingfisher Overlook

**Greater White-fronted Goose** – a large flock was seen at Bentsen-Rio Grande State Park from the Kingfisher Overlook

**Blue-winged Teal** – seen at a number of locations, including Bentsen, Edinburg Scenic Wetlands, South Padre Island Birding & Nature Center, Santa Ana NWR, and Estero Llano Grande State Park

**Cinnamon Teal** – a few individuals were seen at Santa Ana NWR

**Northern Shoveler** – seen at a number of locations, including Bentsen, Edinburg Scenic Wetlands, South Padre Island Birding & Nature Center, Santa Ana NWR, and Estero Llano Grande State Park

**Gadwall** – seen at a number of locations, including Bentsen, Salineño, Santa Ana, Estero Llano Grande, and Sabal Palm Sanctuary

**American Wigeon** – we saw wigeon at a few places, including Levee Road, South Padre Island, and Aransas Bay

**Mexican Duck (Mallard subspecies)** – seen along the Rio Grande at Salineño

**Mottled Duck** – seen at Bentsen, South Padre Island, Aransas Bay, Santa Ana, and Estero Llano Grande

**Northern Pintail** – seen at Bentsen, South Padre Island, Aransas Bay, and Santa Ana

**Green-winged Teal** – seen at Aransas Bay, Santa Ana, and in huge numbers at Estero Llano Grande

**Redhead** – we saw a huge raft of Redheads from the boardwalk on South Padre Island, and also saw them at Bahia Grande-Brownsville ship channel canal area and Aransas Bay

**Ring-necked Duck** – seen at Bentsen, Anzalduas County Park, Santa Maria Land & Cattle Ranch, and Sabal Palm

**Lesser Scaup** – seen at Bentsen, Anzalduas, Edinburg Scenic Wetlands, and Salineño

**Bufflehead** – a few individuals were seen on our boat trip to and from Aransas Bay

**Hooded Merganser** – a pair of Hooded Mergansers were seen at Aransas Bay

**Red-breasted Merganser** – at least one individual was seen at Bahia Grande-Brownsville ship channel canal area

**Common Goldeneye** – seen by some on the return boat trip from Aransas Bay

**Ruddy Duck** – a few ruddies were seen at Bentsen, Aransas Bay, and Santa Ana, and over 30 were seen at Estero Llano Grande

**Plain Chachalaca** – we saw numbers of this entertaining bird at several locations, including Quinta Mazatlan, Bentsen, Edinburg Scenic Wetland, Salineño, Santa Ana, Estero Llano Grande, and Sabal Palm

**Northern Bobwhite** – while watching the feeders at Salineño, four of these quail emerged in the back, then quickly disappeared when a hawk flew through (or when the Green Jays said a hawk flew through)

**Wild Turkey** – we saw a small flock of turkeys from the van along US-77 on our way to Rockport

**Common Loon** – a few loons in their drab winter plumage were seen both out and back on our boat trip to Aransas Bay

**Least Grebe** – we enjoyed seeing these tiny grebes at Bentsen, Santa Maria Land & Cattle Ranch, Santa Ana, Estero Llano Grande, and Sabal Palm

**Pied-billed Grebe** – we saw small numbers (sometimes just a single grebe) of these birds at Bentsen, South Padre, Santa Ana, and Sabal Palm

**Neotropic Cormorant** – we saw these birds at several of our stops, including Bentsen, Edinburg Scenic Wetlands, Salineño, Falcon State Park, San Ygnacio Bird Sanctuary, and Aransas Bay

**Double-crested Cormorant** – seen throughout our stay at numerous locations

**American White Pelican** – always a pleasure to encounter, we saw these massive birds at a number of locations, including Bentsen, Edinburg, the Zapata County Landfill, South Padre Island, Bahia Grande-Brownsville ship channel canal area, Fulton Harbor, Aransas Bay, and Estero Llano Grande

**Brown Pelican** – more bound to the coast than their pelican counterparts, we saw Brown Pelicans at South Padre Island, Bahia Grande-Brownsville ship channel canal area, Fulton Harbor, and Aransas Bay

**Great Blue Heron** – we saw Great Blues at a number of locations, but the largest concentration was at Aransas Bay

**Great Egret** – these birds were seen throughout our stay at a number of locations, most notably at the Kingfisher Overlook at Bentsen

**Snowy Egret** – seen at a number of locations, but the biggest numbers were at Bahia Grande-Brownsville ship channel canal area

**Little Blue Heron** – we saw at least a single individual at three different locations: South Padre Island, Bahia Grande-Brownsville ship channel canal area, and Aransas Bay

**Tricolored Heron** – we had great, close-up looks at this bird from the boardwalk at South Padre Island, and also saw at least one at Aransas Bay

**Reddish Egret (both red and white forms)** – both forms were observed engaged in their unique hunting style at South Padre Island; we also saw this bird at Bahia Grande-Brownsville ship channel canal area and Aransas Bay

**Cattle Egret** – a lone individual was seen from the Kingfisher Overlook at Bentsen; we also saw several birds while driving the van (perhaps not seen well by the group)

**Green Heron** – we had great views of this bird – including some very close up looks – at Bentsen, Edinburg Scenic Wetlands, Estero Llano Grande, and Sabal Palm

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** – we had these birds at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands, Aransas Bay, and Estero Llano Grande

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – great, close-up looks at three of these birds at Estero Llano Grande

**White Ibis** – a large number of these birds were seen at Bahia Grande-Brownsville ship channel canal area; we also had a few at Aransas Bay and Santa Ana

**White-faced Ibis** – we saw a lone individual from the van along Boca Chica Boulevard in what was likely Boca Chica State Park

**Roseate Spoonbill** – we first saw these unique birds at Bahia Grande-Brownsville ship channel canal area, then saw them again at Aransas Bay and Estero Llano Grande

**Black Vulture** – seen at a few locations, most notably at the Zapata County Landfill, where we saw more than 50

**Turkey Vulture** – seen regularly at numerous locations

**Osprey** – we saw Osprey at several locations, but probably had our best looks along the Rio Grande at Salineño

**White-tailed Kite** – our first White-tailed Kite was spotted by Andrew from the back seat of the van at 60mph along State Highway 100 en route to South Padre Island. We turned around and got a better look outside the van at Andrew's #500 Life Bird as it kited in the strong coastal wind. We saw another pair perched on utility wires at Estero Llano Grande

**Northern Harrier** – first seen at the Zapata County Landfill, we had several more lone birds throughout our travels

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** – we saw sharpies at least twice: Bentsen and Salineño

**Cooper's Hawk** – seen at locations: Quinta Mazatlan and Anzalduas

**Harris's Hawk** – after our first sighting on Levee Road, we saw these hawks at several other locations and travels, including Zapata County Landfill, Old Port Isabel Road, Santa Ana, Estero Llano Grande, and Progreso Silos

**White-tailed Hawk** – seen along roadsides while traveling and at Zapata County Landfill, Santa Ana, and Estero Llano Grande

**Gray Hawk** – first seen briefly at the Valley Nature Center while we were waiting for parrots, then seen much better while birding along the river at Salineño and again at Sabal Palm

**Red-shouldered Hawk** – seen twice by the group: at Bentsen and at Estero Llano Grande

**Red-tailed Hawk** – seen a number of times, including at Anzalduas, Zapata County Landfill, Delta Lake, Aransas Bay, Progresso Silos, and the McAllen Fire Station

**Sora** – great, close looks at one individual along the boardwalk at the South Padre Island Birding Center

**Common Gallinule** – seen first at Bentsen and later at Sabal Palm, our best looks were at about a dozen birds along the boardwalk at the South Padre Island Birding Center

**American Coot** – seen at many locations and on at least six days, but our closest looks were along the boardwalk at the SPI Birding Center

**Sandhill Crane** – a large flock was seen from the van as we drove north to Rockport

**Whooping Crane** – several of these majestic birds were seen feeding on their wintering grounds at Aransas NWR from our vantage point aboard the Skimmer out of Rockport

**Black-necked Stilt** – these long-legged birds were seen, sometimes in good numbers, at several locations, including South Padre Island, Bahia Grande, Shrimp Basin Bridge, Santa Ana, and Estero Llano Grande

**American Avocet** – we saw a few of these beautiful shorebirds at Shrimp Basin Bridge and Estero Llano Grande, but saw our largest concentration of them from the boat during our boat trip into Aransas Bay

**American Oystercatcher** – seen at the South Padre Island mudflats and at Bahia Grande

**Black-bellied Plover** – our sightings of these large plovers were all up the gulf coast: South Padre Island (both at the birding center and mudflats area) and Aransas Bay

**Snowy Plover** – a pair of birds were seen resting in the sand at the South Padre Island mudflats

**Semipalmated Plover** – three birds were seen feeding at the South Padre Island mudflats

**Piping Plover** – three birds were seen at the South Padre Island mudflats

**Killdeer** – we saw Killdeer on at least two occasions: first from the van while watching three Harris's Hawks, and again at Santa Ana

**Long-billed Curlew** – seen on at least four occasions, including Donna's house (flyover), Aplomado Viewing Area along TX100 in Cameron County, Bahia Grande, and Aransas Bay

**Ruddy Turnstone** – seen at SPI (birding center and mudflats), Fulton Harbor, and Aransas Bay

**Stilt Sandpiper** – seen at the Bahia Grande Brownsville ship channel canal area

**Sanderling** – we saw good numbers of these speedy little wave runners at South Padre Island mudflats and a few more at Aransas Bay

**Dunlin** – a few were spotted on South Padre Island (birding center and mudflats), and a large number were seen at Bahia Grande

**Least Sandpiper** – these tiny peeps were seen at the SPI Birding Center and at Bahia Grande

**Western Sandpiper** – seen in good numbers far out on the sandbar at Bahia Grande

**Short-billed Dowitcher** – we saw these birds always in association with the Gulf Coast, at SPI Birding Center, Bahia Grande, and Aransas Bay

**Long-billed Dowitcher** – seen inland at Santa Ana and Estero Llano Grande – in sizable numbers at both locations

**Wilson's Snipe** – one bird was seen by a few in our group as a flyover at Estero Llano Grande while we were waiting for the Black-chinned Hummingbird to visit the feeder in the campground

**Spotted Sandpiper** – a small number of these tail-bobbers were seen at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands (1), Salineño (3), and SPI Birding Center (2)

**Greater Yellowlegs** – the larger of the yellowlegs was seen at SPI Birding Center, Aransas Bay, Santa Ana, and Boca Chica State Park (along Boca Chica Boulevard)

**Willet** – this large shorebird was seen at Bahia Grande and again at Aransas Bay, where we saw several

**Lesser Yellowlegs** – the smaller of the yellowlegs was seen at SPI Birding Center, Bahia Grande, Aransas Bay, and Boca Chica State Park (Boca Chica Boulevard) – where we got a nice comparison view of Greater and Lesser

**Laughing Gull** – after not seeing a single gull species for the first few days of our tour, we saw plenty of these gulls at South Padre Island, Bahia Grande, Fulton Harbor, and Aransas Bay

**Ring-billed Gull** – much less common than their Laughing cousins, we did see Ring-bills at South Padre Island, Aransas Bay, and Boca Chica beach

**Herring Gull** – seen in relatively small numbers at South Padre Island, Fulton Harbor, and Aransas Bay

**Gull-billed Tern** – we saw a single individual at both the South Padre Island Birding Center and from the boat at Aransas Bay

**Caspian Tern** – seen at several locations, including Bentsen (Kingfisher Overlook), SPI (birding center and mudflats), Bahia Grande, and Aransas Bay

**Forster's Tern** – we saw several of these small terns on the beach at the SPI mudflats, and again at Aransas Bay

**Royal Tern** – seen at the SPI mudflats, Aransas Bay, and Boca Chica Beach; at the mudflats we were able to compare Royal Terns with the nearby Caspian Terns

**Black Skimmer** – seen in good numbers at SPI mudflats, Shrimp Basin Bridge/Zapata Memorial Boat Ramp, and Aransas Bay

**Rock Pigeon** – seen daily at numerous locations

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** – seen at San Ygnacio, SPI Isla Blanca Park, and Progreso Silos

**Inca Dove** – we saw this little dove with the scaled feathers at several locations, including Quinta Mazatlan, Bentsen, Edinburg Scenic Wetlands, Estero Llano Grande, and Progreso Silos

**Common Ground-Dove** – unfortunately the group never got a good look at this speedster; a lone bird was seen streaking across the road as we traveled down Brush Line Road (where we searched for the Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl) and another bird was seen briefly from the lead tram in Estero Llano Grande State Park; in both instances, Mary and Daryl were probably the only two who saw the dove

**White-tipped Dove** – this chunky dove was seen at feeders at Bentsen, Salineño, and Sabal Palm

**White-winged Dove** – seen at several locations, including in very large numbers at Salineño

**Mourning Dove** – seen regularly at numerous locations, and throughout our travels while driving

**Greater Roadrunner** – this bird was seen briefly twice, both from the van: along the Park Road 46 in Falcon State Park, and right after we pulled onto US83 after leaving Falcon State Park; unfortunately we never got great looks at this unique member of the cuckoo family

**Barn Owl** – Mary flushed a couple of these fantastic owls from a barn at a top-secret location (Shhhhh!)

**Eastern Screech-Owl** – nice looks at this little owl as it peered from a nest box at Estero Llano Grande

**Great Horned Owl** – Mary spotted this owl at 60mph along FM 3169 after we left the private ranch; we turned around and were rewarded with a brief glimpse from the van as the owl flushed from our presence

**Burrowing Owl** – Mary took us to another top-secret location for a short look at this neat little ground-dwelling owl

**Common Pauraque** – we were fortunate to see three of these ultra-camouflaged daytime ground roosters; one at Quinta Mazatlan, and two at Estero Llano Grande

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** – we saw this bird at the feeder just outside the visitor center at Estero Llano Grande

**Black-chinned Hummingbird** – we saw this lone individual at the feeder and then on the utility wire at the campground at Estero Llano Grande

**Rufous Hummingbird** – thanks to the hospitality of Mary’s friend Donna, we saw a beautiful male Rufous Hummingbird at her private residence from the comfort of her deck

**Buff-bellied Hummingbird** – we had nice looks at this common LRGV hummer at Quinta Mazatlan, Bentsen, Edinburg Scenic Wetlands, and Estero Llano Grande

**Ringed Kingfisher** – we saw this large kingfisher twice, both times on a wire, as we drove by La Lomita Historical Park and again from Anzalduas County Park while we walked the Sprague’s Pipit field

**Belted Kingfisher** – seen at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands, SPI Birding Center, and twice while driving

**Green Kingfisher** – we saw this tiny dart first at Bentsen from (you guessed it) Kingfisher Overlook, then again at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands, Salineño (briefly as one flew low over the water), and at Estero Llano Grande; this was quite possibly the “bird of the tour” for Daryl

**Golden-fronted Woodpecker** – seen daily at numerous locations – what a beauty!

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** – seen at Quinta Mazatlan on our first day, then again from the parking lot at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands

**Ladder-backed Woodpecker** – seen regularly at numerous locations, including great, close-up looks at the Salineño feeders

**Crested Caracara** – seen regularly at numerous locations; greatest numbers were at the Zapata County Landfill

**American Kestrel** – seen regularly, especially on utility lines, in numerous locations

**Merlin** – our lone Merlin, seen at quite a distance along the Boca Chica Highway, really wanted to be an Aplomado Falcon...or, well, WE *really* wanted it to be an Aplomado Falcon; but, it was a Merlin, and Merlins are pretty darned cool, too!

**Peregrine Falcon** – saw our first Peregrine on the Laguna Madre water tower, then saw another chasing shorebirds at the South Padre Island Birding Center

**Green Parakeet** – after striking out on parrots at Weslaco, we came upon a huge flock preparing for their evening roost in the trees of a McAllen restaurant parking lot; we saw another large flock perched on utility wires as we sped down Expressway 83 coming back from our last day of birding and heading for dinner

**Red-crowned Parrot** – we saw a growing flock fly over and circling from the McAllen Fire Department parking lot, then saw dozens perched on wires a few blocks away when we left

**Yellow-headed Parrot** – mixed in one of the flocks of Red-crowned Parrots was a lone Yellow-headed Parrot, which Mary pointed out to us from the McAllen Fire Department parking lot

**Black Phoebe** – we saw two birds as we ate our picnic lunch at Anzalduas County Park, the only Black Phoebes we saw during our tour



**Eastern Phoebe** – we saw at least one or two of these birds on six different days of our tour and at several locations

**Say's Phoebe** – we tracked down our lone Say's Phoebe along West Mile 7 Road, where it gave us some great looks as it hunted insects from a fence wire along the road

**Vermilion Flycatcher** – we had a lone bird at least three different times: at Bentsen, at Anzalduas, and at Salineño

**Great Kiskadee** – seen daily at numerous locations – always fun to see these gregarious birds!

**Tropical Kingbird** – seen at numerous locations, including Quinta Mazatlan, Valley Nature Center (parking lot), South Padre Island Birding Center, Estero Llano Grande, and McAllen Fire Station

**Couch's Kingbird** – we first saw this bird at San Ygnacio, then again at Estero Llano Grande, where it was also heard, cinching the identification

**Loggerhead Shrike** – we saw these mini-raptor-wannabes at several locations, including the Zapata County Landfill, South Padre Island Birding Center, Old Port Isabel Road, Boca Chica Highway, and West Mile 7 Road (several)

**White-eyed Vireo** – good looks at these fun vireos were had at Edinburg Scenic Wetland, Salineño, Falcon State Park, and Santa Ana

**Blue-headed Vireo** – seen at Sabal Palm Sanctuary

**Green Jay** – seen daily at numerous locations, and it never got old!

**Chihuahuan Raven** – we saw a handful of these corvids at the Zapata County Landfill, then saw a lone bird at the Aplomado Viewing Area along TX100

**Tree Swallow** – seen feeding over the water at Estero Llano Grande

**Cave Swallow** – seen at several locations, including Bentsen, Anzalduas, Santa Ana, and Estero Llano Grande

**Black-crested Titmouse** – seen daily at numerous locations, especially near feeders

**Verdin** – seen at Salineño as we walked along the river

**House Wren** – seen at several locations, including San Ygnacio, Santa Ana, and Sabal Palm

**Marsh Wren** – we got great looks at one of these often difficult-to-see wrens at Santa Ana

**Carolina Wren** – several members of the group heard this bird at several different locations, but I don't think one was ever spotted

**Cactus Wren** – we tracked down this great bird at the parking lot of the Mission Hike & Bike Trail, where it gave us a nice, long look

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** – seen regularly at numerous locations

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** – seen regularly at numerous locations

**Eastern Bluebird** – we had two Eastern Bluebirds at Anzalduas County Park where we had a picnic lunch

**Clay-colored Thrush** – this once uncommon bird was seen at several locations, including Quinta Mazatlan, Valley Nature Center (parking lot), and Sabal Palm

**Gray Catbird** – we had this bird when we were watching the feeders behind the camper at Falcon State Park

**Curve-billed Thrasher** – seen at numerous locations including Quinta Mazatlan, Bentsen, Edinburg Scenic Wetlands, Donna's Deck, and West Mile 7 Road

**Long-billed Thrasher** – we were given great looks at this thrasher at a number of locations, including Quinta Mazatlan, Bentsen, Edinburg Scenic Wetlands, Salineño, Falcon State Park, San Ygnacio, Santa Ana, and Sabal Palm – pretty much everywhere we went! If only our own Brown Thrasher was so cooperative!

**Northern Mockingbird** – seen daily at numerous locations

**European Starling** – seen daily at numerous locations, but not in the large numbers we see here in Michigan

**American Pipit** – a lone individual was seen at Bentsen in the same field where we later saw a Javelina

**Sprague's Pipit** – we twice flushed a lone individual in the grassy field at Anzalduas County Park, giving us brief looks

**Black-and-white Warbler** – we saw this nuthatch-wannabe warbler at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands and at Santa Ana

**Orange-crowned Warbler** – seen daily at numerous locations (our default warbler!)

**Nashville Warbler** – we spotted a couple of these warblers at Bentsen near the Kingfisher Overlook

**Common Yellowthroat** – seen briefly at Salineño, SPI Birding Center, and Santa Ana, then we got good looks at several individuals from the birding blind at Sabal Palm

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** – seen at numerous locations, including Bentsen, Edinburg Scenic Wetlands, San Ygnacio, South Padre Island Birding Center, Santa Ana, and Estero Llano Grande

**Yellow-throated Warbler** – seen on the second day of the tour at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands

**Olive Sparrow** – we saw this Valley specialty at Salineño, Falcon State Park, and Sabal Palm

**Chipping Sparrow** – several of these sparrows were seen along the road at West Mile 7 Road

**Clay-colored Sparrow** – seen at the Santa Maria Land & Cattle Ranch during our private visit

**Lark Sparrow** – great looks at several of these colorful sparrows from the parking lot at Bentsen, then again at the Santa Maria Land & Cattle Ranch

**White-crowned Sparrow** – we spotted several of these sparrows along the road at West Mile 7 Road

**Vesper Sparrow** – seen at the Zapata County Landfill and along West Mile 7 Road

**Savannah Sparrow** – these birds were seen at Estero Llano Grande

**Lincoln's Sparrow** – this beautiful little sparrow was seen at both Bentsen and Estero Llano Grande

**Swamp Sparrow** – we spied at least a couple of these from the bird blind at Sabal Palm

**Northern Cardinal** – these familiar beauties were seen at several spots, including Quinta Mazatlan, Edinburg Scenic Wetlands, Salineño, Falcon State Park, Santa Ana, and Sabal Palm

**Pyrrhuloxia** – these cardinal-cousins were seen very well at the feeder at Falcon State Park, then again at Santa Maria Land & Cattle Ranch and West Mile 7 Road

**Indigo Bunting** – we saw these birds in their brown-dabbled winter plumage at Bentsen and also Santa Ana

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** – seen at the Zapata County Landfill and Progreso Silos

**Western Meadowlark** – seen in large numbers in the grassy fields of Anzalduas County Park

**Eastern Meadowlark** – seen at Falcon State Park and Old Port Isabel Road

**Hooded Oriole** – a lone young bird was seen at the feeders at Salineño, always feeding in the very back feeder

**Altamira Oriole** – great looks at this gorgeous bird at the Bentsen feeders, the Salineño feeders, the Santa Ana feeders, and the Sabal Palm feeders

**Audubon's Oriole** – close looks at a male and female at the Salineño feeders

**Red-winged Blackbird** – seen regularly at numerous locations, especially big numbers at the Salineno feeders and the Progreso Lakes Grain Silos

**Bronzed Cowbird** – a lone individual seen at the Zapata County Landfill by some, then seen in large numbers at the Progreso Lakes Grain Silos

**Brown-headed Cowbird** – seen at Salineño and at the Zapata County Landfill

**Brewer's Blackbird** – we saw a few of these as we approached the border patrol checkpoint on US77 north, then got better looks just up the highway at the Sarita Rest Area

**Great-tailed Grackle** – seen daily at numerous locations, pretty much everywhere, and in large numbers

**Lesser Goldfinch** – a nice flock of these birds gave great looks at the Edinburg Scenic Wetlands

**American Goldfinch** – we saw a couple of these birds at Santa Ana

**House Sparrow** – seen regularly at numerous locations, most notably in the tree just outside the Alamo Inn entrance

**TOTAL BIRDS SEEN/HEARD BY OUR GROUP: 184**

**BIRD GROUPS:**

**21 ducks/geese**

**10 herons**

**12 hawks**

**22 shorebirds**

**7 gulls/terns**

**7 doves**

**4 owls**

**4 hummingbirds**

**3 kingfishers**

**3 woodpeckers**

**4 falcons**

**3 parrots**

**7 flycatchers**

**4 wrens**

**6 warblers**

**9 sparrows**

**11 blackbirds (includes orioles)**

**MAMMALS**

**Fox Squirrel**

**Javelina**

**Feral Hog**

**White-tailed Deer**

**Nutria**

**Eastern Cottontail**

**Ornyx (fenced)**

**Mouflon Sheep (fenced)**

**TOTAL MAMMALS SEEN BY OUR GROUP: 8 species**

## **LODGING**

Alamo Inn Bed & Breakfast – Alamo, Texas

## **DINNERS**

Thursday, January 18 – **El Dorado (Alamo)**

Friday, January 19 – **Blue Onion (Weslaco)**

Saturday, January 20 – **Taco Express (Mission)**

Sunday, January 21 – **Joe’s Oyster Bar & Restaurant (Port Isabel)**

Monday, January 22 – **Green Jay Bar & Grill (Kingsville)**

Tuesday, January 23 – **Blue Onion (McAllen)**

Wednesday, January 24 – **The Republic of the Rio Grande (McAllen)**

## **LEADERS & GUIDES**

- Daryl Bernard (Executive Director - Seven Ponds Nature Center)
- Nancy Kautz (Naturalist – Seven Ponds Nature Center)
- Mary Gustafson (Bird Guide Extraordinaire – Lower Rio Grande Valley)

## **PARTICIPANTS**

- Jeanette Bostrom-Eastham
- Tim Browne
- Suzy Daley
- Sara Haigh
- Pat Kloss
- Yvonne Lentner
- Andrew Simon
- Anita Spencer
- Marci Stewart
- Hal Stewart