

TEXAS, APRIL 6-21 2007



Great Kiskadee, Santa Ana, 070412

Report written by Robert Tuveson and Nilla Bengtsson, Vänersborg, Sweden

Introduction

This trip was Roberts fourth and Nillas first birding trip to North America. All in all we saw 294 species, and most of the key species of the area. We found birding in Texas to be most exciting, and the scenery to be more beautiful and varied than we had expected. People were very friendly and helpful.

The two first days were really cold and windy (we had to wear gloves and caps ...), but the rest of the trip we had nice, sunny weather. We started birding in the Rockport/Port Aransas area, where strong winds cancelled the Whooping Cranes tour we'd planned to go on the 8th of April, a tour we were able to join the 9th of April instead. The cancelled Whooping Cranes tour delayed our tightly scheduled trip one day, why we only had two days in the Lower Rio Grande, which isn't enough; you really need at least three days down there to be able to visit all the important sites and see all the key species.

After Rockport we birded one day on South Padre Island, which had had a fall-out the day before, and many good birds were still around. Then we went down to the Lower Rio Grande where we spent two days visiting most of the classic birding hotspots there. From the Lower Rio Grande we went up to Kingsville where we went on a guided tour in the King Ranch (\$119/person), which was successful despite really windy conditions. From Kingsville we went up to Lost Maples where we spent a wonderful day. The day after we enjoyed the "Greater Prairie-Chicken festival" in Attwater and the same day we joined a Yellow Rail Walk at Anahuac. Pretty tight schedule the first week! After this we spent six days on the

Upper Texas Coast, which was most enjoyable despite that we weren't lucky enough to experience a fall-out.

We stayed in motels, and never had any problems finding a motel for the night. We had pre-booked motels in Rockport, Eagle Lake and Winnie. The flight ticket from Gothenburg to Houston, via Amsterdam, with KLM was 6700 SEK (~958 \$). We rented a car through Holiday Autos (Alamo) for fifteen days, which cost 5730 SEK (~820 \$). All in all we drove 2397 miles/3835 kilometers. Petrol for the entire trip was about 2000 SEK (290 \$).

Itinerary at a glance

- 6/4 Arrival to Houston. Night in Days Inn, Rockport.
- 7/4 Rockport Beach State Park, Rockport Demo Bird Garden, Goose Island State Park, Oystercatcher Point. Night in Days Inn, Rockport.
- 8/4 Rockport Harbor, Rockport Demo Bird Garden, ponds south of Rockport on Hwy 70, Paradise Pond, Port Aransas Birding Center, Port Aransas South Jetty. Night in Days Inn, Rockport.
- 9/4 Whooping Cranes tour, Pipit Corner, stop along Hwy 1420 north of Rio Hondo, La Tina, Harlingen. Night in Motel 6, Harlingen.
- 10/4 South Padre Island: South Padre Island Convention Center, Sheephead's Road, Cora Lee Road. Night in Motel 6, South Padre Island.
- 11/4 Sabal Palm, Brownsville, Bentsen. Night in Motel 6, McAllen.
- 12/4 Santa Ana, Roma Bluffs, Zapata Library Pond. Night in Motel 6, Kingsville.
- 13/4 King Ranch, Pipit Corner. Night in Motel 6, Kingsville.
- 14/4 Lost Maples, Acadia Loop, Utopia. Night in Sportsman's Motel, Eagle Lake.
- 15/4 Attwater, Anahuac. Night in Studio 6, Winnie.
- 16/4 Boy Scout Wood, Smith Oaks, Anahuac. Night in Studio 6, Winnie.
- 17/4 Anahuac, Boy Scout Wood, Rollover Pass, Yacht Basin Road. Night in Studio 6, Winnie.
- 18/4 Boy Scout Wood, Sea Rim State Park, Sabine Woods, Patterson Road. Night in Studio 6, Winnie.
- 19/4 Anahuac, Boy Scout Wood, Rollover Pass, Yacht Basin Road, Bolivar North Jetty, Bolivar Flats. Night in Studio 6, Winnie.
- 20/4 Patterson Road, Sea Rim State Park, Sabine Woods, Tyrrell Park, Liberty Municipal Park. Night in motel in Westfield.
- 21/4 W.G. Jones State Forest. Flight home.

Literature

- Cooksey, Mel and Weeks, Ron, *A Birder's Guide to the Texas Coast*, ABA, 2006
Jensen, Michael Mosebo, *Texas April 12-27 2003*, www.club300.se
Lockwood, Mark W., McKinney, William, Paton, James N. and Zimmer, Barry R., *A Birder's Guide to the Rio Grande Valley*, ABA, 1999
Rydell, Leif, *Skådarresa till Texas 7-17/4 2001*, www.club300.se
Sibley, David, *The North American Bird Guide*, Pica Press, Sussex, 2000¹

¹ Sibley's Guide is also available in two compact forms; one for the eastern and one for the western portion of North America.

CD-recordings

Keller, Geoffrey A., *Bird Songs of the Lower Rio Grande Valley and SW Texas*, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca

Peterson, Roger Tory, *Western Bird Songs*, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca

Peterson, Roger Tory, *Eastern/Central Bird Songs*, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca

Useful Internet-resources

<http://www.texasbirding.net/> [Info about birding in Texas; contact persons; sound recordings]

<http://www.houstonaudubon.org/index.cfm> [Houston Audubon Society]

<http://www.rockportadventures.com/rpa/> [The Skimmer's Whooping Cranes tours]

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/texas/attwater/index.html> [Attwater]

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/REFUGES/texas/anahuac/calendarofevents.html> [Anahuac]

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/hunt/wma/find_a_wma/list/?id=12 [Kerr WMA]

<http://www.king-ranch.com/index.html> [King Ranch]

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/lost_maples/ [Lost Maples]

<http://www.worldbirdingcenter.org/> [Very good site with sound recordings etc]

<http://www.virtualbirder.com/vbirder/realbirds/rbas/TX.html> [Texas Rare Bird Alert]

<http://listserv.uh.edu/archives/texbirds.html> [Birding discussion list for Texas]

[http://www.daysinn.com/DaysInn/control/home²](http://www.daysinn.com/DaysInn/control/home<sup>2</sup) [Days Inn-motels]

[http://www.staystudio6.com/index.asp³](http://www.staystudio6.com/index.asp<sup>3</sup) [Studio 6-motels]

Maps

The Roads of Texas, Mapsco, 2005.⁴

Comments about species we didn't see

There were a few of our target species we didn't get to see, but that we heard that other birders had seen in the area while we were there. We include this information because it might be of help in the planning process for the birder going to Texas.

Muscovy Duck

Reported from Roma Bluffs, Salineno, Chapeno and Zapata Rest Stop three miles north of San Ygnacio.

Hook-billed Kite

Seen in Santa Ana.

Black-billed Cuckoo

Reported from Smith Oaks the 16th of April.

Brown Jay

Reported from Roma Bluffs and Chapeno.

² We stayed at Days Inn's motel in Rockport. This motel is perfectly situated close to Rockport Beach State Park. Might be considered overpriced for the quality you get, compared to for example the Motel 6 chain with almost the same quality but lower prices. There is no Motel 6 in Rockport though.

³ We stayed in their motel in Winnie, which is perfectly situated close to High Island and has very nice rooms. We recommend it!

⁴ This map is \$ 17.95 and is well worth the price. The maps are detailed (but it hasn't got any good city-maps), apart from the Rockport/Port Aransas-area, with most roads marked. This is the only map you'll need to get to the places we visited.

Tamaulipas Crow

We heard there were Tamaulipas Crows down in Brownville too late, when we'd already reached the Upper Texas Coast. They were nesting on Dakota Avenue just off Hwy 4 (corner to Boca Chica Blvd) close to Sabal Palm.

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Reported from Sabine Woods 22 April.

Golden-winged Warbler

One seen by two British birders in Boy Scout Wood 18th of April.

Blackburnian Warbler

One seen in Boy Scout Wood 17th of April and one seen in Sabine Woods 18th-20th of April.

Blackpoll Warbler

One female reported at the Willows, Anahuac 15th of April.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Seen by a bird tour group at Bolivar Flats. We searched hard for this specie at many of the recommended places but had no luck. Local birders told us that the number of this specie varies from year to year, and that there were fewer around than normal.

Audubon's Oriole

Supposed to be "easy" to see during the King Ranch tour, but we had no luck, maybe because of the windy conditions the day we visited. Reported from Salineno and Chapeno.

The trip day by day

April 6

At this very day we were sitting on a plane with the destination George Bush Intercontinental Airport, Houston filled with expectations and pictures of for example how Whooping Cranes looked like in real life, of how it would be at High Island and if we were going to experience a real fall-out there. At last we were going to one of the most exciting places in the whole world for a hardcore birder in April!

The plane started rolling, and then it stopped. The captain told us that one of the engines was broken, so we had to stay sitting in the plane waiting until the engine had been repaired, which took a couple of hours. Not the best of starts! After this delay in Amsterdam, and after a long flight trip, we finally reached Houston, both of us eager to start birding as soon as possible. First we had to wait in the queue for the passport inspection and the questioning, then we had to get the car, and then we came to the worst thing of all – to drive out of Houston in the busy traffic! That was kind of a nightmare! The highway signs were surprisingly small, and we missed the first toll zone, because we did not know how the toll system functioned, and all the cars that drove very fast along the five lined highway didn't make things better. It took some time to get out of Houston, why we had to postpone our plans to do some birding already the first day, and instead we had to focus on the long drive to Rockport and the Days Inn Motel, which we had prebooked on the Internet. It felt really great to meet the kind staff at the motel when we arrived there around half past twelve in the middle of the night.

April 7

Despite the late arrival, the time exchange and the long car trip it was extremely easy to get out of bed in the early dawn. Outside the motel we met a chorus of bird songs. The chock was a fact and we desperately tried to identify all the sounds and the first birds we saw outside our room. We took out our Sibley guide and started focusing on the most common specie outside, which turned out to be *Great-tailed Grackle* (probably the most common bird during the whole trip, but we did not know that at this time ...). After a while we calmed down a little bit and tried to eat some breakfast because all those new species (at least new for Nilla) demanded full concentration.

Already on our way out to Rockport Beach State Park we had a lot of birds. The wind was blowing hard, and it felt really cold. We had to put on gloves and use the hood on our hooded sweatshirts, kind of unexpected. There were *Laughing Gulls* all around us, *Common Loons* diving in the waves and most of the shorebirds exposed really nice. Hundreds of *Black Skimmers* were standing on the beach and suddenly a flock of *Long-billed Dowitchers* came flying right above us and landed a few meters in front of us on the pawn. Our walk around the small area of Rockport Beach State Park led to more excitements, for example *American Oystercatcher* and *Chuck-will's-widow*.

After the really nice walk we turned around and walked back towards the motel. After that we spent some time birding the streets around the motel. Suddenly an enormous flock of about 200 *Chimney Swifts* was flying above us. The short walk in the nice neighborhood also gave us our first *Prothonotary Warbler*, and lots of more common species like *Northern Cardinal*, *Purple Martin*, *Blue-gray Gnatcatcher* and *Great Crested Flycatcher*.



Black Skimmers, Rockport Beach State Park, 070407

When we jumped into the car for the first time during the day, we did not have to drive far to get to Rockport Demo Bird Garden, where we met the first birders – a nice couple from Canada who were spending a long weekend in Texas. We walked along the short boardwalk into the small wood with open areas filled with low vegetation and flowers pollinated by *Ruby-throated Hummingbirds*. This really small spot gave us great opportunity to see new species and get great looks of the birds even though we had not taken our telescopes out of the car!

Goose Island State Park was our next stop. When we reached the park we had barely got out of the car before a woman stopped us and started to inform us about the current observations and helped us to identify the first sparrows we saw, *Lincoln's Sparrows*, at the well filled feeders. A couple of nice observations later we started to walk along a narrow paved road. All of a sudden a *Buff-bellied Hummingbird* showed up at a red flower, its favorite flower the nice woman who we had met before told us when we reached her camping wagon and her “garden” filled with feeders and, of course, exciting birds. She, like almost every American we met, was really accommodating and keen on giving us good information about whatever that could be in our interest. After leaving her we continued to bird the area. It didn't take long before we found *Franklin's Gull* and *Gull-Billed Tern*. The wind out there almost blew us away, but it was amazing to watch our first *Scissor-tailed Flycatcher* struggle in the wind.

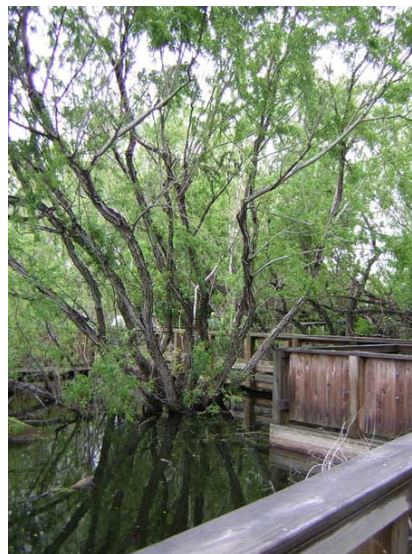
After this we went to Oystercatcher Point where we saw a few tern species and also some shorebirds. Our appetite for food and the coming dusk forced us to jump back into the car and go back to Rockport “city” again.

April 8

We started our day by waking up at 6.45, feeling panic since we were supposed to be at Fulton fifteen minutes later to be able to catch the Skimmer Boat which would take us out to the area where the *Whooping Cranes* winters. It is amazing how fast you can be sometimes, fifteen minutes later we were standing in the harbor, only to read a sign saying “Today’s tour is cancelled”. The weather was really bad, and after looking out towards the sea and the high waves we understood why the tour had been cancelled. But what to do now!? We had a strict trip plan, but felt that *Whooping Crane* was an important target specie, which we only could get here. Since we didn’t know if the weather would be better the next day, and if the tour would leave or not, we drove back to the motel and asked a fisherman in the harbor about the weather forecast. He was really helpful and let us listen to his radio, which promised better weather the day after. So we decided to stay one more day, and take one day less in the Lower Rio Grande area, which wasn’t an easy decision to take.

We took a short stop at Rockport Demo Bird Garden, which was nice but didn’t give us anything new, so we continued by driving south on Hwy 70. We stopped at ponds along the road south of Rockport to look for *Greater Scaup*, seen by other birders there the day before. We didn’t manage to find the target specie, but we had a great time watching *Franklin’s Gulls*, shorebirds, ducks (a couple of *Redheads* for example) and waders.

After a while we moved on to take the ferry over to the Port Aransas area and Paradise Pond. The later is a small area with a boardwalk all around it. This spot, which is situated within the city limits of Port Aransas, is a real hotspot for migrating birds. It might sound hard to bird here considering the pretty tight vegetation, but it was quite easy because of the boardwalk and the smallness of the place which made it simple to get great looks at all the birds if you just had some patience. The first birds we saw here were our first *Black-crowned-* and *Yellow-crowned Night-Herons*. The more or less sleeping adult and sub adult herons gave a great opportunity to study their characters, which would be helpful ahead when we sometimes only saw them flying by or sitting far away. At first it was really calm and the birders we met said it seemed to be a really slow day, but suddenly it just said “poof” and there were birds everywhere.



Paradise Pond, 070408

Among the more exciting birds we saw were *Louisiana Waterthrush*, *Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*, *Tennessee Warbler* and *White-eyed Vireo*. Even though the place really earned its reputation we had to move on to be able to have enough time at the Port Aransas Birding Center.

If Paradise Pond was exciting, this was extremely exciting. Close to the parking lot we saw a lot of warblers, for example *Yellow-rumped-* and *Yellow-throated Warbler*. In this area were also a huge amount of *Least Sandpipers*, a *Downy Woodpecker*, a couple of agitated fast flying *Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers* and a *Wilson’s Snipe*. It took its time to watch all these exciting birds, but we moved on to explore the boardwalk, which turned out to be amazing. The boardwalk stretched out into the middle of the wetland, and there was no reed in the way for our binoculars and telescopes. The closeness of the birds made it easy to study all the

characters of every single bird, and in most cases you could be able to do that with your binoculars. Most of the birds were shorebirds or waders, but there were also pelicans, cormorants, one *Swamp Sparrow* and some raptors, like *White-tailed Hawk* and *Crested Caracara*. We strongly recommend a visit here, because of the enormous amounts of birds, but also for the richness of different species and the opportunity to get great views of the birds. It was not hard to burn some hours here, and we were happy that our plans were changed so that we were able to go here.

A female birder noticed that we were pretty good at identifying all kinds of birds, so she asked us if we could go with her and her husband to a baseball field close by to help her identify some shorebirds. We followed her car and found out that the flock of shorebirds feeding at the field was consisting of *Pectoral Sandpipers*, *Long-billed Dowitchers* and *American Golden-Plovers*. Robert shot some pictures through one of our telescopes while Nilla studied a singing *Eastern Meadowlark*.



Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Port Aransas, 070408

We ended the day by visiting Port Aransas South Jetty. The target specie was *Common Tern*, which is not a common bird in Texas. We found the specie, and also *Gull-billed Tern*, *Baird's Sandpiper*, *Franklin's Gull* and huge amounts of *Sanderlings* on the beach. Both of us were very pleased with the day when we returned towards Rockport in the dark.

April 9

Today we had ordered wake up in good time to avoid stress. So we were at the boat half an hour before the boat should leave the harbor. Despite our early arrival the harbor was filled with birders and more were coming. But the weather was better today and the boat had room for everyone that turned up this morning.

The man leading the tour was very informative and talked about all the species the boat were passing so that no one missed anything. He also stopped the boat and turned over when it was an exciting bird or when he noticed that there was a bird which the passengers were interested in. It took quite a while to get to the islands where the cranes were. We cannot say that the trip was very rich in species, but we got great views and saw the only *Common Goldeneyes* and *Horned Larks* of the entire trip. We also saw *Gull-billed Terns*, *Franklin's Gulls*, *Merlin*, *American Oystercatchers*, *Seaside Sparrows* and *Wilson's Plovers*.



Whooping Cranes, Aransas Bay, 070409

When we reached the first *Whooping Cranes* the tour leader told us about their behavior, their expansion and about different projects people were running to help build up

the population and spread it so that a natural catastrophe would not ruin the whole world population. 237 cranes had been wintering in the area this year, 45 of them were juveniles.

Back in the harbor again we had to move on fast not to lose more time. At first we drove to Pipit Corner southeast of Kingsville, where two Swedes (Måns Grundsten and Tomas Stafström) had found a female *Masked Duck* a couple of days before. Along the way, right before we parked our car, a female *Wild Turkey* suddenly ran across the road right in front of us. We met up with some persistent birders whispering that they had been standing there waiting for a really long time. We gave it an hour before we gave up, because we knew that we were able to visit the place again later on. Before we left we searched the fields where we had parked our car. There were *Upland-*, *Buff-breasted-* and *Pectoral Sandpipers*. Between the pond and the fields there was an area with bushes and cactuses, where we had the only *Cactus Wren* of the trip.

We drove on south but took a stop along road 1420 when Nilla found a *Harris's Hawk* sitting on a pole. This turned out to be a good choice, maybe not better than anywhere else but we thought it was great; we saw *Bewick's Wren*, *Buff-bellied Hummingbird* and some vireos, warblers and flycatchers, all these birds in just a really tiny area right along the road!

We did not drive very far until we stopped again, this time at La Tina, a nice area just by the road with a flooded field. Here we had an enormous screw with raptors, consisting of *Swainson's-* and *Broad-winged Hawks*. In the flooded field were 110 *Fulvous Whistling-Ducks* (!), *Snow Goose*, *Northern Pintails*, *Wilson's Snipe*, a lot of shorebirds and some other duck species. We also saw a *Red-tailed Hawk* and a *Golden-fronted Woodpecker* in this area. Right when we were standing here enjoying all the birds and counting the ducks a truck turned over and stopped right beside us. It was a birder who asked us about our observations and if we had been on South Padre Island. It turned out that it had been a great "fall out" there the same day. A really good tip about a happening that we wouldn't have found out about if this nice man hadn't stopped and told us!

We drove on and discussed the schedule for the coming day. Robert had planned to skip South Padre Island because of our delay, but when we heard the man telling us about the huge amount of birds over there we both agreed on visiting the place the next day. But right now our goal was Harlingen where a flock of *Red-crowned Parrots* had their winter territory. Our timing was perfect. We jumped out of the car at half past seven and two minutes later one *Red-crowned Parrot* flew right above us calling. This exciting observation was the only one we got, so we were lucky ...

April 10

We were both very excited when we drove over the bridge leading to the island and South Padre Island Convention Center. The latter is situated at the other end of the small town we had to drive through. Most of the shops in the town seemed to be focused on beach dwellers, since they sold surfing clothes. At the Convention Center we were almost alone at first and we could enjoy all the orioles and warblers in peace. We noticed quickly that there still were a lot of migrating birds left. Soon more birders came, and we heard some of them grumble about how slow it was compared to the day before. For us it was everything but slow.

The area is very small and consists of a lawn with some bushes and a tiny grove where there were Hummingbird feeders (well visited by the *Ruby-throated Hummingbirds*) and sliced oranges, besides two boardwalks out into the reeds. At first we just walked around the lawn, because there just dropped out bird after bird from the bushes. On the ground we had one *Grey-cheeked Thrush* and a couple of *Swainson's Thrushes* and a *Brown Thrasher*.

Right when we were enjoying the different kinds of orioles and warblers we heard something about *Swallow-tailed Kites* in the neighborhood. Robert was very fast with asking about the birds and we got a description for how to get there. We jumped into the car and drove immediately to Cora Lee Road where seven (!) *Swallow-tailed Kites* were resting in

the top of a palm tree. Later on we heard a local birder saying that this was her second observation of *Swallow-tailed Kites* on the island even though she had been birding there for twelve years.

One tip led to another, so we drove to the South Padre Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary at Sheep Head's Rd, consisting of one bush land on each side of the road in the middle of a neighborhood. Also here there were feeders and sliced oranges, which the orioles loved. Do we have to say that this gave great opportunities to take pictures?! Here we saw our first *Worm-eating Warblers* jumping around in the lower vegetation. There were also a lot of other different warblers and vireos.



Sheep Head's Road, 070410

Suddenly a beautiful bright colored *Wood Thrush* flew down to the little water hole to drink. We were probably pretty lucky to see the bird, because a man who used to bird the area almost every day said that he had never had a *Wood Thrush* here, unfortunately he did not get to see this one either ... The place gave a lot of nice birding; two *Swallow-tailed Kites* flew right above us, probably two of the birds we saw earlier the same day. We also had about 200 *White Ibises* flying over, *Black-chinned Hummingbird*, *Eastern Wood-Pewee*, *Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers* and *Yellow-billed Cuckoos*.

It was really hard to leave the place, but we felt it could be a good idea to check out the Convention Center again, and that turned out to be a good choice, we had barely gotten out on the boardwalk before two birders looking in a telescope stopped us to show us a *Least Bittern*; we got a really good view of a specie which usually is really hard to see! On the down pressed reed *Blue-winged Warblers* jumped around searching for bugs. Everywhere we looked there were *Soras*. On our way back we were lucky to hear a *Clapper Rail*, and when we looked down from the boardwalk we saw that there were two of them walking fast into the tight reed. After this really nice experience we walked back to the lawn where we had the luck of seeing a *Rose-breasted Grosbeak* jumping out from a bush. A male *American Redstart* also pleased our appetite for colors.



Baltimore Oriole, Sheep Head's Rd, 070410

Our appetite for food brought us to a sandwich bar called "Psychadelica" which had tasty, but expensive sandwiches. Then we drove to Sheep Head's Rd again. Some of the "old" birds were still there, but we were also lucky to see two *Varied Buntings* and a *Lesser Nighthawk*. Then we went back to the Convention Center where we saw the only *Wilson's Warbler* of our trip.

April 11

We left the island really early in the morning to go to Sabal Palm, which we reached by dawn. The wooded area is like a tropical jungle with small tracks in the wood and boardwalks over the water areas. We started out with a couple of *Plain Chachalacas* walking on the track in front of us. All around us we heard and saw *White-tipped Doves*. A British couple with the same target birds as us joined us and four eye pairs are better than two; we didn't have to wait long until we saw a small green bird fly across the pond and land on a branch. Soon the Brits got the bird in their telescopes, and there it was, the magnificent *Green Kingfisher*. In the area were also a singing *Long-billed Thrasher*, a *House Wren* and a couple of *Olive Sparrows*, but it took a while before we localized them, because the vegetation around there was pretty thick. All the time we listened for *Groove-billed Anis*, which had been reported there this spring, but we were not lucky with them.



Ringed Kingfisher, Sabal Palm, 070411

When the sun started to shine it seemed like the birds woke up even more and one of the Brits found a *White-tailed Kite* flying above us, later on we also saw a *Swallow-tailed Kite* in the top of a tree. The woods here were good for woodpeckers; we had both one *Ladder-backed-* and *Golden-fronted Woodpeckers*. *Least Grebes* were nesting here and one of the four we saw were lying on a nest. But the highlight of our visit came later when we went to the Kingfisher Pond and walked into a hideaway. Robert found a male flying *Ringed Kingfisher* in his pair of binoculars. Our jealousy did not last very long, because we found a female sitting closely high up on a branch. She was extremely cooperative and sat still for a really long time before she flew away so that we could study the jizz of the flying bird. Satisfied and happy we returned to the office, which now was open. The staff there was really nice and a computer with pictures and sounds of every possible bird in the area were rolling all the time. The shop had a good supply of books, tapes and CD-records.



Green Parakeet, Brownsville, 070411

Now we left the countryside and drove into the big city Brownsville and the university at E. Elisabeth Street. The traffic was thick and we were a little bit surprised and very happy when we found some dead palm trees filled with holes at a parking lot. But no *Green Parakeets* or *Red-crowned Parrots* in sight. So we put on our sun hats and stood looking up in the palm trees in the hot sun. The time was picking slow and we started to get a little bit frustrated when suddenly two parakeets came flying and went into one of the holes. Then we had a great opportunity to watch them better when they looked out of the hole and got out and

into it. We were satisfied, but the Brits were very keen on the *Red-crowned Parrots* so they stayed, and when we met them later on in Bentsen they told us that they had got lucky!

Along the road on our way to Bentsen we saw an enormous cloud of white birds. Nilla watched them in her pair of binoculars and found out that they were *American White Pelicans*, about 300! When we arrived at Bentsen, after spending a few hours shopping at the fantastic Rio Grande Valley Premium Outlet, it was not late enough for the night active birds, so we started checking La Parida Banco from Kingfisher Overlook and the first bird we saw was a *Ringed Kingfisher*! This one was also sitting on a branch exposing really nice. A little while later we found *Anhingas* drying their wings in the evening sun. Around us in the grove there were *Plain Chacalacas* searching for food. We also walked the asphalt road deeper into the reserve when a herd of pigs passed the road right before a little *Bobcat*. It started to get dark and more birders emerged and so did the owls, the first one we heard was a low voiced *Elf Owl*. *Lesser Nighthawks* were sounding everywhere and we also heard the dropping *Common Pauraque* on our way against the fast whistling *Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl*, which exposed in the top of a tree. With our flashlight and the telescope we, and all the other birders, got an extremely nice view of it. In the background an *Eastern Screech-Owl* whirred loudly to make himself heard, which was not easy, because a *Great Horned Owl* had enjoyed the chorus of night birds. We stayed for a long time to enjoy the choir of birds. But there was a day next day, and on our way back to the motel in the car we felt really exhausted.

April 12

We arrived about an hour after dawn to Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. The staff at the visitor center was really nice and helpful. They told us about the latest observations and gave us some useful information about our target species. The shop there is big and their supply is good, they even had mosquito spray. We stopped right outside the door at the feeders, because we knew that there was supposed to be nesting *Clay-colored Robins* around there. We saw a lot of woodpeckers and *Plain Chachalacas*, but not the target specie. We gave it some more time and suddenly we had a *Hooded Oriole* at a mast on the backside of the toilets.

Then we walked to the hawk watching spot, where a Swedish born Texas citizen worked as a bird guide. We found out that a *Hook-billed Kite* had been seen there in some distance earlier the same day. We had the opportunity to study the more common raptors. It was a little bit slow, but at least we saw *Swainson's*, *Broad-winged*- and *White-tailed Hawk*, *Peregrine Falcon*, *Sharp-shinned*- and *Cooper's Hawk*, and about 2500 (!) *American White Pelicans*. The guide was really helpful and told us what to focus on when trying to identify the raptors.

After that we walked over to the birding tower, which was supposed to be good for raptors too. From the tower we found *Altamira Oriole* and *Harris's Hawk* and a few migrating raptors. When we felt ready with the tower we went down to a little pond to look for *Clay-colored Robin*, this time we were lucky enough to find one. It exposed nice in a little open area by the pond. On our way back a *Bobcat* was running in front of us on the track for a while before it rushed into the woods.



Roma Bluffs, 070412

We drove on westwards to Roma Bluffs and the Rio Grande. From the observation deck we had a great view over the river and over to Mexico. The place is beautiful with green trees,

blossoming cactuses and the blue river. Just down the railing in front of us a *Black Phoebe* flew around the cactuses, swallows and *Chimney Swifts* searched for food above us and above the water and a flock of about 100 *Cedar Waxwings* came flying and stopped in the trees to roost. Then we found one of our target birds; two *Red-billed Pigeons* landed in the top of a tree.

Our last stop for the day was at the Library Pond in Zapata, where we pretty soon found our target bird, *White-collared Seedeater*, after playing its song on a speaker; the male bird answered once and flew up and showed himself, and then he was gone. After dusk we drove all the way to Kingsville, which took a couple of hours.

April 13

The day begun at King Ranch Visitor Center at 6 am. Most of the other birders who also had signed up for the guided bird tour were already there when we came, but some of them met up later on. The group of birders had very different goals with the tour; some just wanted to go there to enjoy the landscape while some (actually most of the group) were hardcore birders with special target species. Everybody jumped into a van and it was a lot of driving in the beginning, which is not surprising if you consider that the ranch is as big as the whole state of Rhode Island, and divided into four divisions. The guide who drove the car knew very much about the ranch and about the birds there, not surprising if you consider that he had done his examination work about the birds in the ranch area as a student twelve years ago and had been working there since then as a guide.

Outside the gate to the division we were to visit we saw *Pyrrhuloxias* and also a few *Common Ground-Doves*. Already on our first stop inside the gates the guides played both *Audubon's Oriole* and *Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl*, the sound of the later often seems to scare the oriole and makes it sound and sometimes fly out of the vegetation. But we had no luck on either of the species here, so we moved on and tried again and again, with no luck. It was unfortunately pretty windy this day too, which, as you understand, is no optimal condition to find any of the two key species. After a while they tried to play *Tropical Parula*, and that gave result! We both heard the little magnificent bird sing and got really good views of it. The guides did not give up until everyone had got a good look at the bird.



King Ranch, 070413

When we moved on with the van a while later we had a *Greater Roadrunner* in the middle of the road, it took a while before it lived up to its reputation though ... *Wild Turkeys* moved along the road close to the car and once we saw a male displaying in front of a couple of females. The landscape was good for raptors; we saw about ten *Crested Caracaras* for example. The guides were keen on stopping the vans if anyone wanted to take a closer look at any of the birds we found while we sat in the car. The guides kept on playing both the oriole and the owl at every stop, and around noon we finally heard the owl. Everyone looked for the bird and after a while we saw it exposing on an open branch. All telescopes pointed in the owl's direction and the birders enjoyed the calling owl for a really long time. No oriole in sight though ... But we got a really nice view of a *Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet* at the same location as a bonus.

At the place for our lunch we had a great view over a huge open area where one raptor came after one other really close to us, so we alternated the fork and knife with our binoculars all the time. In this area we saw a couple of really Rubin red *Vermilion Flycatchers*.

Moving on we saw a couple of *Northern Bobwhites* flying up and landing on the road, before taking off again. We also heard a *Carolina Wren*. Before we moved on we looked carefully at the *Bronzed-* and *Brown-headed Cowbirds* to see if we could find a *Yellow-headed Cowbird*, because one had been seen there a couple of days ago. No luck though.

Suddenly the other van stopped and we got the message; a *Sprague's Pipit* sat in a small bush pretty close to the road. We started to search for the bird from our van, but we were unable to relocate it; the pipit had probably jumped down into the grass and was impossible to find again. But our really helpful guide tried really hard for the specie when he heard how keen we were on it. We walked along the field for a really long time trying to flush it, and then we drove on a road through a huge field which was supposed to be good for the specie. No luck on the pipit, but we got extremely good views of *White-tailed Hawks* and *Black Vultures* instead.

We did a couple of tries for the oriole again at different "good" places for the specie, and it was obvious that the guide was both disappointed and surprised of how hard the bird was today. He was really eager that we should get the specie, but he also noticed that some of the members of the group got tired of the target birding so he took us to a shallow lake where we had *Baird's Sandpiper*, *Wilson's Plover*, *Gadwall* and *Gull-billed Tern*.



Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, King Ranch, 070413

We felt really satisfied with the day when we got back to the visitor center at around 5.30 pm (supposed to be back at 3 pm) ; the richness of birds (especially raptors), the good views of two of our target birds and the guides' eagerness made the visit memorable. We made a short visit to the King Ranch Saddle Shop in Kingsville, before we drove to Pipit Corner. It was nice to have a short break enjoying beautiful leather work after an intensive day. At Pipit Corner we sat in the car at first, knowing that the *Masked Duck* was really shy. We searched the little pond carefully from end to end again and again, but no target bird in sight. We enjoyed a *Red-tailed Hawk* and a *Lesser Nighthawk* during the time, but it was really slow. The minutes ticked away and it started to get dark when Nilla saw a duck with big white speculums flying from one end of the pond to the other and land in the part of the pond that was closest to the vehicle. Nilla looked through all ducks in the Sibley guide and found out that the *Masked Duck* was the only one with speculums looking like that. After a few minutes we refound the bird swimming out of the vegetation, exposing its very characteristic head for about ten seconds before it dived to the other side of the pond and was impossible to see again. Happy and excited we could return to the motel.

April 14

The day before was extremely intensive and we were really tired in the evening so we decided to spend the night in Kingsville, which meant that we had to start this day by driving all the way to Lost Maples really early. Our timing was perfect and we arrived just in time for the guided bird walk there. Surprisingly we were the only ones going on the walk, so we got two private guides - what a luxury! The fact that we were the only ones signing up of course

meant that we could tell the guides which our target birds were so that we could focus on them.

The nature in the area is very beautiful. The high, vegetated hills which are cleaved by a small, shallow river with water clear as crystal was really a sight for the eyes. We listened carefully for *Carolina Chickadee* and *Golden-cheeked Warbler* while we searched above for raptors. Initially it was pretty slow, probably because of the windy conditions, but singing *Canyon Wrens*, an *Ash-throated Flycatcher* and a *Zone-tailed Hawk*, flying so close that you even could see the yellow legs, were great!

We followed the East Trail with our guides and it kept on being pretty slow so we talked about birds in common and about the US while we searched the trees for small birds. One of the guides said that she heard a *Golden-cheeked Warbler* far away a couple of times, so we moved on against the place where the song came from. Time was ticking and the guides started feeling that we were a little bit irritated about

the lack of target species, so the male guide started sounding like an *Eastern Screech-Owl* at a good spot and suddenly a lot of birds appeared. *Blue-gray Gnatcatchers* chased a couple of *Orange-crowned Warblers*, and suddenly we saw a glimpse of a *Golden-cheeked Warbler*. We followed the bird and were able to localize it in a tree beside us after a while and could enjoy the magnificent little warbler for a long time in the top of a tree. After this first observation we saw many more, maybe because it had got less windy. Suddenly we heard a *Carolina Chickadee* also, and could localize this bird and many others after it.

Before the guides left us they told us about good spots for *Black-capped Vireo* and also helped us identifying a singing oriole as a *Scott's Oriole*, the only one seen/heard on the trip! We started to walk upwards along East Trail to the ridge. It was a little bit tough to walk up there, but it was worth it; the panorama over the area was impressive! We did not have to walk very long until we had our first singing *Black-capped Vireo*. But the bird was really skulking and did not want to show himself. Although we knew exactly in which bush it was only Robert got a short look, and we only heard the other two. But during the searching Robert found a *Hermit Thrush* on the ground under one of the bushes. The climate up here was really different, more arid, why it was easy to understand why there were different species up here. There were lower bushes with more open areas between the vegetation; instead of leaf trees there grew small pine trees and bushes here.

After a while we found *Field Sparrows*, which also felt completely right in this kind of biotope. The descent was worse than the way up had been and we felt a little bit tired but extremely satisfied when we reached normal ground level again. We walked back pretty fast, because we knew we had much else to do. Before driving on Nilla checked the feeders while Robert asked the staff at the visitor center about current observations. Nilla only had some common hummingbirds and Robert was disappointed about the rude staff, who was not keen on helping him at all.

The drive between Lost Maples and Kerrville along Acadia Loop was very beautiful; the curved road stretches out in a hilly landscape covered with leaf trees, flowers and rivers. The houses along the road are really picturesque with well cared gardens and cute window shutters. We stopped along the road for some birding and found one singing *Eastern Phoebe* in the top of a tree and two *Red-tailed Hawks* flying right above us. In Kerrville we visited



Lost Maples, 070414

“Museum of Cowboy Artists”. We recognized a couple of saddles from King Ranch and enjoyed the often comic pictures and statues. Nice with a little bit of culture helping us to get to know the state a bit better.

We ended the day at Utopia with an *American Robin* in the middle of the little cute town, and a *Great Horned Owl* when it got a little bit darker and we searched for *Barred Owl* which a Canadian bird tour leader had told us about. After dusk we drove all the way to Eagle Lake, which was exhausting to say the least. Sportman’s Motel, and the town itself, was shabby, but we were so tired that we didn’t really care.

April 15

Both of us were happy when we left the motel and the town early in the morning, driving against Attwater for the “Greater Prairie-Chicken Festival”. This festival seems to be the only time in the year when they keep the breeding area of the specie open for visitors, so it felt very special when we arrived and jumped out of our car and into one of the vans. There were not as many cars there as we had expected, but there were pretty many people at the observation deck. We got quite good views of one displaying *Greater Prairie-Chicken*, sitting on the top of a pole when we came. A couple of guys were taking pictures with enormous objectives on their cameras, probably well needed at this distance! We enjoyed the chicken, but it felt a little bit like being on a circus standing there far away from the animal almost watching it like it was in a cage. But it definitely felt great; the specie is really cool! We stood there for a while before we returned to the bird center where we had parked our car and joined a group going for a guided bird walk in the area.

Robert found a noisy *King Rail* in a wetland close to the road. The guide told the group about every single bird she saw, even the most common species. We were happy when a *Red-shouldered Hawk* came flying above! Still looking at the raptor Robert told us that he had a *Grasshopper Sparrow* singing and everyone’s eyes suddenly focused on the little sparrow instead. The tour was pretty slow later on, especially because of the tempo. But at least we heard a *Red-bellied Woodpecker* and saw a pair of *Tufted Titmice*, which was pretty nice since we only had seen the *Black-crested Titmouse* before. A couple of *Northern Bobwhites* were also seen.



Attwater, 070415

Back again at the center Robert wanted to go with a guided car tour, so we did that. It felt ambiguous sitting in a carbon dioxide licking car while enjoying the nature, but the Americans did not seem to think so much about it ... We were sitting in the front seat and were really excited when the guide told us that she had had a *Sprague’s Pipit* at the road yesterday. Since it would be a new tick for both of us she called the driver in the van in front of us for permission to pass, because he would scare the pipit away if it was still there so that we would not be able to see it. His answer was that we would get all the good birds if we passed and they would miss them. So we had to run out and get into the other van, where the self centered guide said that he had been driving this tour for four years without seeing a *Sprague’s Pipit*. We told him about the observation the day before, but that did not make him more helpful, only more pessimistic. We suddenly regretted that we had changed van, but then it was too late. The other passengers seemed to be more eager on snakes and alligators

than on birds, so Nilla did not say anything when she found a *White-tailed Hawk* in a long distance, but after a while when the raptor was much closer and the guide screamed out the specie and the woman beside him commended his “good eyes” she regretted that she did not. We both felt relieved when the car was back at the center again and we could leave the arrogant man behind.

Now we drove the pretty long distance between Attwater and Anahuac, to be able to catch the Yellow Rail Walk in the evening. We actually arrived earlier than expected and could enjoy the huge amount of waders and shorebirds from an observation deck, situated at one of the sides of a flooded field along Trail 1. We looked through our scopes as long as possible before we had to go back to the car and change to the rubber boots we had borrowed at the visitor center.



Yellow Rail Walk, Anahuac, 070415

Then we joined the pretty big group of eager birders keen on seeing *Yellow Rail*, but a few mainly hoping to see the rare *Black Rail*, which is usually only reported once or twice a year. The two biologists who were going to walk with us told the group about the rules and that it can be pretty tough out there on the marsh. But nothing could scare us from going there! We drove from the center to the marsh (about four miles) and everybody gathered up behind the long rope with empty milk cans that the guides were holding. Less than five minutes later the first *Yellow Rail* flew up in front of us and landed in the grass, impossible to see again. We continued and were able to see it once again and also one other bird. Later on a *Le Conte's Sparrow* and two *Sedge Wrens* were seen. Then the guides gave up; we knew it would be useless trying to find a *Black Rail* on our own so we went back with the van and focused on birding as much of Anahuac as possible before dusk.

First we checked one of the fields close to the visitor center and found one *White-fronted Goose* and three *Snow Geese*, which an American birder had told us about. Then we walked towards the Willows. We looked out against the marsh across the road and Robert found a *White-tailed Kite* sitting in the top of a bush eating a large animal (large compared to the bird). We took it into the scopes and enjoyed the marvelous slender raptor in perfect evening light. Robert also saw a *Merlin* in this area. Along the gangway we had *Song Sparrow*, a lot of different warblers, *Downy Woodpecker*, *King Rail* and *White-crowned Sparrow*. A group of about 25 *Fulvous Whistling-Ducks* also flew up from one of the ditches. We managed to find a *Cave Swallow* hunting over the marsh together with hundreds of *Tree-*, *Barn-* and *Bank Swallows*. The light was just perfect and we also used our time to look at all the shorebirds searching for food. It was completely dark when we returned to the car and the mosquitoes were eager on sucking our blood.

April 16

This day we began at Boy Scout Wood and Smith Oaks Wood at High Island, which cost 5 dollars per day or 25 dollars per season in entrance fee. The vegetation in the woods is really tight with high trees and bushes, so it is a little bit hard to find the birds, but we got a lot of nice observations of the common birds at least. Or what shall we say about extremely close views of about 20 *Scarlet Tanagers*, 10 *Wood Thrushes* jumping on ground level with no branches in the way, the logotype bird of the year: *Yellow-breasted Chat*, lots of orioles of different kinds, a couple of *Ovenbirds*, large amounts of different but common warblers and

vireos, *Rose-breasted Grosbeaks*, *White-throated Sparrows* and *Common Nighthawks* exposing open in trees of two of the gardens outside Boy Scout Wood?! But we missed the big rarities like *Golden-winged-* and *Black-throated Blue Warbler* ...

We spent most of the day at High Island, but ended up at Anahuac in the evening and we were very happy when we found our first *White-rumped Sandpiper* at the flooded field at Trail 1. It was a little bit tricky to watch the shorebirds because many of them are so small and the grass was pretty high and there were shorebirds everywhere almost like ants in a huge ant hill. Except for the shorebirds we had many *Night-Herons*, *Common Nighthawks* flying around in their clumsy way, *Fulvous Whistling-Ducks*, *Crested Caracaras* and the



Boy Scout Wood, 070416

same geese as the day before. But the most exciting thing came when we were about to return to the car and saw two *Barn Owls* flying out from a nest under the roof of the visitor center. They looked so majestic with their long deep wing beats.

April 17

After a lot of nagging from Nilla's side we agreed on starting at Anahuac, and it was also Nilla's idea to check all the *White-faced Ibises* to see if we could find any *Glossy Ibises* among them. After a while we did find three, and could count one more specie to the travel list. It was also good training; when we had checked out the flock and found the deviated birds it was easy to separate the two species from each other. We continued on the same track and started to watch the dowitchers trying to separate the Long-billed from the Short-billed, which was very nice to do since the birds were so close, appeared in good amounts and had different plumages. After a while we felt like Robert has felt on previous trips to North America, that is to say that they are very difficult to separate, except by call. We were both very focused on the objects, so when we felt finished with the identifying work we were both really glad to find a *Wilson's Phalarope* and a group of five (!) *White-rumped Sandpipers*. We continued from the



Scarlet Tanager, Boy Scout Wood, 070417

Willows, where we had spent most of the time, and began walking towards the Shoveler Pond. During the walk we heard at least five singing *Marsh Wrens* and saw three (!) *Least-* and two *American Bitterns*. The counting of *Fulvous Whistling-Ducks* landed on 22 individuals today. But we were still looking for our target bird around the reeds in the ditches. We split up; Nilla walked in front and searched the boardwalk farthest away and had one *White-tailed Kite* and one *Black Tern*, while Robert

stayed at the first observation deck where he saw two *Purple Gallinules*. Nilla also got to see them after a long time of searching.

We took a short stop at Boy Scout Wood, but it was extremely slow so we decided to drive to Rollover Pass instead. The wind was blowing hard out on the Bolivar Peninsula. There were lots of birds! Far out on small green islands there were colonies of different kinds of breeding waders. Closer to us a colony of about 300 *Black Skimmers* were standing until they suddenly flew up exploding into a cloud of huge bills and black-and-white wings. On the beach a *Red Knot* was running around, as were a *Snowy Plover*, *Piping Plovers*, *Dunlins*, *Sanderlings*, *Black-bellied Plovers* and *Whimbrels*. Further out in the water about 20 *Marbled Godwits* walked around searching for food. In the air we had more than hundred *Black Terns*, one *Franklin's Gull*, a pair of *Common Terns* and two young *Bonaparte's Gulls*. We also saw a huge bunch of *American White Pelicans* really far out around the green islands.



Black Skimmers, Rollover Pass, 070417

We had one special target bird that was possible at a location nearby, so we moved on to Yacht Basin Rd which is supposed to be the best place around for *Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow*. No luck with that target birding although we tried really hard. But as a bonus we saw two *Clapper Rails* in the ditch beside the road. They just walked along the edge of the ditch like no normal skulking rail would do!

April 18

Today we started out at Boy Scout Wood. Nothing really exciting happened there. We had some warblers, some vireos, one *Common Nighthawk*, one *Baltimore Oriole* and also one *American Robin*.

We decided to go to Sabine Woods, where we started at the Willow's which is a really small place with a boardwalk into a little woody area with low trees in water. There is also one place where you can look out against the Gulf; you cannot see the water but you can see the terns and the pelicans and so on. It was a little bit slow when we came but after walking around a while we found a *Purple Gallinule* walking close to the boardwalk and then disappear into the woods. We also had all the buntings, tanagers and grosbeaks that we had had at High Island. *Northern Parulas* were really common here and we also noticed that the *Great-tailed Grackles* had been replaced by the glazy *Boat-tailed Grackles*. After a while we drove back the road to Texas Ornithological Society's Sabine Woods where we paid for a temporary membership (5 dollars per person). Here the vegetation is much lighter than at High Island and the area is not as big either, so it is much easier to find the birds here. It seemed like it was the world championship of *Tennessee Warblers* here, we saw at least 20 of them. A *White-tailed Kite* flew above the woods, so we kept an eye up in the sky searching for raptors. Suddenly a female *American Redstart* jumped around in the lower vegetation close to us, and then we found a *Worm-eating Warbler* also jumping around in the lower vegetation really close. The warblers came one after another, but we were keen on the hot species that would be new for us so we walked along the small tracks outside the boardwalk when Robert almost stepped on a black snake, a poisonous *Cottonmouth*.

After a while we finally were rewarded for our efforts when it turned out that the bird that a group of birders was watching was a beautiful male *Cerulean Warbler*, which made us really excited. Oh, what a bird! It exposed totally open for a really long time, so we had a great opportunity to study the beautiful little blue and white colored warbler.

Excited and happy we just walked twenty or thirty meters away and checked some trees when Robert found a male *Chestnut-sided Warbler*, also candy for the eyes. The other birders around were really grateful for the observation and that made it feel even better. We walked along for a long time afterwards without having anything really special so we returned to the car, but just at the gate in a bush we found a thrush which we followed until it exposed for a while and we could identify it as a *Veery*. On the other side of the road there is a huge flooded field with low reed. Perfect for *Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow* we thought and tried really hard for the specie, but we got two *King Rails* instead. A birder told us about a couple of *Yellow-headed Cowbirds* in a garden between Sabine Woods and the Willow's so we went there and were lucky to see them. It is great that the birders were so eager on spreading information about current observations!

Now it was pretty late in the evening, but we decided to try for *Swainson's Warbler* at Patterson Rd where they are supposed to breed. It took a while until we found the right place; the descriptions and the maps in "A Birder's Guide to the Texas Coast" are really great, but the description of the distances do not fit with the real world ... Well at the right place we met an extremely nice fisherman who talked about hurricanes, helped us identify the snake from Sabine Woods and then told us about the birds of the area when he got to know that we were birders. He also gave us information about a pair of breeding *Bald Eagles* close to Beaumont. If we hadn't told him that we were short in time he probably had invited us home, so we cannot complain about the hospitality of the Americans ... Before he left we had a group of five *Wood Ducks* flying right above our heads just as he had told us that they use to do at dusk and dawn. When the man went home it started to get dark, so we tried to sound like a *Barred Owl* and got an answer quickly, so we tried again and suddenly we had two (!) calling owls close to us and they flew even closer to check out their "enemy".

April 19

This day we started at Anahuac; Robert at the Willows with the telescopes and Nilla running along the boardwalk and then around Shoveler Pond to get some exercise. Just a while after she had left Robert found a flock of *Dickcissels*, a new tick ... Nilla had obviously ran by without seeing them. Robert laughed a lot later when telling about it; happily enough we found them again so also Nilla got the possibility to see those beautiful birds! We got very happy when we heard there was a *Hudsonian Godwit* across from the Willows walking in the water. A group of *Wilson's Phalaropes* swam in the water and there were both *White-rumped-* and *Baird's Sandpipers*.

Robert could also be proud over his observation of a *Yellow-breasted Chat* - the second of the trip! Along the boardwalk on the way back to the car we saw a *White-crowned Sparrow* and a *Red-tailed Hawk*. Robert also observed the *White-tailed Kite* again, a couple of *Swamp Sparrows* and a *Northern Bobwhite*. We also heard and saw a *Sedge Wren* really well.



Merlin, Bolivar Flats, 070419

At High Island it was pretty slow, the most exciting birds were two *Black Vultures*, one *Eastern Wood-Pewee* and an *Ovenbird*. We saw a couple of warblers, thrushes and so on but there were not many birds around, so we moved on to the Bolivar Peninsula. We started with a female *Black Scoter*, which had been reported just south of High Island. We were lucky, because the bird was still in the same place!

We moved on, checking Rollover Pass and Yacht Basin Rd, which gave no new birds, and continued to the HAS Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary. We walked along the beach (which is drivable), and saw a *Merlin* sitting on a pole just fifteen meters in front of us.

Out on the flats, pass the observation tower, we were happy to find huge amounts of shorebirds and gulls. But before searching them we walked around in the reeds trying to find a *Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow*, and we also had a sparrow that looked good but it only flew up for a second and then we were not able to find it again, so we did not tick it.

The evening light was just perfect and the flock was not just rich in individuals but also in species! We had *Snowy*-, *Wilson's*-, *Piping*- and *Semipalmated Plovers* and also lots of sandpipers and about 40 *Marbled Godwits*. When we checked the gulls and terns we found three *Common Terns*, but not the *Black-legged Kittiwakes* that had been reported from there. We were both really sad when the dusk arrived and we were forced to go back to the car. Worst with it was that we knew that we could not go to this fantastic place tomorrow or the day after that ...

April 20

We started around dawn at Patterson Rd, where we met a bunch of birders going on a guided bird tour in the area. The guide helped us with his recordings, so that we got good views of the *Barred Owls*, but also the warblers breeding there showed themselves really nicely. A *Fish Crow* flew pass and two *Carolina Chickadees* flew around. But our target bird did not want to expose itself ... The nice guide played it over and over again, but no answer. Since we did not have all time in the world we decided to continue, but just when we were about to drive pass the group the leader stopped us and said that he had a *Swainson's Warbler*. We parked the car and were able to enjoy a singing male who was showing himself very well.

We moved on to Sabine Woods where one of the first birds was an *Eastern Wood-Pewee*, not bad ... It was a pretty good tempo with lots of birds around, no rarities though. We took our time walking forth and past the boardwalk, into the woods on the small trails searching the trees and the little ponds for tired migrants. We were searching the ground for



Snowy Plover, Bolivar Flats, 070419



Bolivar Flats, 070419

thrushes and ground habituated warblers when Robert suddenly found an *Eastern Towhee*, the only one on the whole trip. We felt a little bit frustrated about the lack of new really hot birds. Today it was a really good day for *White-throated Sparrows* though; we had eight of them. After a couple of hours searching the area we finally found something interesting, a really light vireo, and when we studied it we found out that it was our first and only *Philadelphia Vireo*. A tour leader was extremely happy when we helped her and her group to find the bird. The *Warbling Vireo* jumping around in the background made the experience a little bit pedagogic too. Outside the gate, when we searched the area for *Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow*, we heard two *Marsh Wrens* singing frequently and a couple of *Swamp Sparrows* exposed themselves nicely. But the Sharp-tailed did not want to show itself to us ...

We made a quick stop at Tyrrell Park in Beaumont. It was very hot, and bird activity low, but we found *Black-necked Grebes*, some ducks, woodpeckers and five *Fish Crows*, but nothing else. After doing some shopping in a mall in Beaumont we moved on to Liberty Municipal Park, a place we had been told was good for *Mississippi Kites* and *Swallow-tailed Kites*. We stopped between two baseball fields; we had



Sabine Woods, 070420

been told to look in the direction of a pond where the raptors had been flying around. We put up our scopes and searched the trees and the sky over and over. No raptors were seen, only egrets, herons and ducks. The dusk was arriving, the baseball games were over and we felt that we needed to leave to be able to find a motel as close to W.G. Jones State Park as possible.

April 21

We were at the forest already at 6.45, right before dawn. We waited and waited, and nothing much happened, when we suddenly had a *Pileated Woodpecker* flying above us. The pine wood was still covered in fog when Robert discovered a couple of *Wood Ducks* on a branch almost in the top of a tree. Then it was calm again. A couple of other birders arrived searching the trees and waiting just like us. We split up when the sun started to break through the fog, and we both noticed that the activity had started with singing *Carolina Chickadees*, *Brown-headed Nuthatches* and *Pine Warblers*.

Suddenly one of the newly arrived birders shouted. We started to run hoping for the *Red-cockaded Woodpecker*, but we were not disappointed when the man showed us a brightly colored *Red-headed Woodpecker* exposing closely on an open branch. We kept on looking at the bird until it flew away. Then the waiting kept on again and a nature guide met up with us telling us that



W.G. Jones State Forest, 070421

the easiest way to find an active *Red-cockaded Woodpecker* nest is to search the tree for sap under the hole, because this woodpecker is unique by digging so far into the tree that it

reaches its sap, which only drops when the tree is newly attacked, just like a bleeding wound. Then the guide told us that he had to walk again to make us able to see the bird, because it never showed up when he was around. We laughed a little bit about his superstition, but we did not have to stand a long while under a nest before we heard the other man shout again. We ran against his voice and when we arrived he was thrilled, because he had seen it. A little bit bitter over missing the bird we started to wait, when it suddenly exposed on the stem of a close tree. Suddenly we heard the noise of another one and in a minute there were three of them moving around together with a *Redheaded-* and a *Red-bellied Woodpecker*. It felt like a world championship of woodpeckers! We moved after the woodpeckers who were extremely active flying from tree to tree. The woodpeckers left and so did we, but almost at the beginning of the wood we first had a fast moving beautifully colored male *Eastern Bluebird* and then two *American Crows* on a branch. When we ate breakfast on the tables in the park just by the feeders we saw two more *Eastern Bluebirds*, a nice view for hungry hardcore birders.

We both felt really good when we summarized the morning, but it did not feel as exciting driving away from the forest towards Houston and the airport. When we landed on Landvetter Airport a night later we both felt awful when we walked out of the plane to a temperature of 6° Celsius and rain ... We wish to be able to return to Texas soon again!

List of bird-species

Species marked with * new ABA-ticks for the compiler

Common Loon *Gavia immer* (Svartnäbbad islom)

Observed in small numbers in the Rockport area 7/4-9/4.

Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* (Svarthalsad dopping)

2 seen during Whooping Cranes boat tour 9/4 and 4 at Tyrrell Park 20/4.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* (Tjocknäbbad dopping)

Common; observed eleven days.

Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus* (Dvärgdopping)

4 at Sabal Palm 11/4.

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* (Hornpelikan)

300 + flying north, north of Brownsville 11/4, 2500 flying north at Santa Ana 12/4 and 25 at Rollover Pass 17/4.

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* (Brun pelikan)

Common along the coast; observed eight days.

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus* (Öronskarv)

Common; observed ten days.

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (Amazonskarv)

Seen at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, and seen daily in low numbers on the Upper Texas Coast 17/4-20/4.

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* (Amerikansk ormhalsfågel)

2 at Bentsen 11/4, 2 at Santa Ana 12/4, and seen in small numbers on the Upper Texas Coast 16/4 and 17/4.

American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus* (Amerikansk rördrom)

1 at Attwater 15/4, 1 at Anahuac 15/4 and 16/4, and 2 at Anahuac 17/4.

Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis* (Amerikansk dvärgrördrom)

1 at South Padre Island Convention Center 10/4 and 3 at Anahuac 17/4.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* (Amerikansk gråhäger)

Common; observed nine days.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* (Ägretthäger)

Common; observed twelve days.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* (Snöhäger)

Common; observed ten days.

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens* (Rosthäger)

Observed in small numbers in the Rockport Area 7/4-9/4 and on the Upper Texas Coast 17/4 and 19/4.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* (Trefärgad häger)

Common; observed nine days.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (Blåhäger)

Common; observed ten days.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (Kohäger)

Common; observed eleven days.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* (Grönryggad häger)

Common; observed ten days.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (Natthäger)

Common; observed eight days.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* (Gulkronad natthäger)

3 at Paradise Pond, Port Aransas 8/4, 1 at Attwater 15/4, 2 at Patterson Road and 5 at Liberty Municipal Park 20/4.

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* (Vit ibis)

Common; observed nine days.

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi* (Maskibis)

Common; observed eight days.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (Bronsibis)

3 at Anahuac 17/4 and 1 at Anahuac 19/4.

Roseate Spoonbill *Ajaia ajaja* (Rosenskedstork)

Common; observed ten days.

Greater White-fronted Goose* *Anser albifrons* (Bläsgås)

1 at Anahuac seen 15/4-17/4 and 19/4.

Snow Goose* *Chen caerulescens* (Snögås)

1 at La Tina 9/4 and 3 at Anahuac (1 of them dark) 15/4-17/4 and 19/4.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* (Svartbukig visseland)

Common; observed nine days.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck* *Dendrocygna bicolor* (Brun visseland)

1 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, 110 at La Tina 9/4, 25 at Anahuac 15/4, 7 at Anahuac 16/4 and 22 at Anahuac 17/4.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* (Brudand)

5 at Patterson Road 18/4 and 4 at W.G. Jones State Forest 21/4.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (Gräsand)

Surprisingly uncommon; seen in the Rockport area 7/4 and on South Padre Island 10/4.

Mottled Duck *Anas fulvigula* (Fläckand)

Common; observed seven days.

Gadwall *Anas strepera* (Snatterand)

4 in the King Ranch area 13/4 and 2 at Anahuac 15/4.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* (Stjärtand)

5 at La Tina 9/4.

American Wigeon *Anas americana* (Amerikansk bläsand)
10 south of Rockport 8/4 and 20 in the King Ranch area 13/4.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* (Skedand)
Common; observed nine days.

Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera* (Kanelårta)
2 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* (Blåvingad årta)
Common; observed twelve days.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* (Amerikansk kricka)
Observed in the Rockport/Port Aransas area 8/4-9/4, in the King Ranch area 13/4 and at Attwater 15/4.

Redhead *Aythya americana* (Amerikansk brunand)
Observed in small numbers in the Rockport area 7/4-9/4.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* (Ringand)
1 female at Pipit Corner, Kingsville 9/4 and 13/4.

Black Scoter* *Melanitta nigra* (Amerikansk sjöorre)
1 female south of High Island 19/4.

Common Goldeneye* *Bucephala clangula* (Knipa)
2 seen during Whooping Cranes tour 9/4.

Masked Duck* *Nomonyx dominicus* (Vitvingad kopparand)
1 female at Pipit Corner, Kingsville 13/4. Thanks Måns and Tomas!

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* (Amerikansk kopparand)
15 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, 10 south of Rockport 9/4, 2 at Sabal Palm 11/4 and 20 at Tyrrell Park 20/4.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* (Kalkongam)
Very common; seen daily.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus* (Korpgam)
Seen in small numbers daily 13/4- 20/4.

Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus* (Blå kärhök)
Observed nine days.

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus* (Vitstjärtad glada)
1 at Sabal Palm 11/4, 1 at Anahuac 15/4, 1 at Anahuac 17/4, 1 at Sea Rim State Park 18/4 and 1 at Anahuac 19/4.

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* (Svalstjärtsglada)
7 at South Padre Island 10/4 and 1 at Sabal Palm 11/4.

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus* (Amerikansk sparvhök)
1 at Santa Ana 12/4, 2 in the King Ranch area 13/4, 2 in Lost Maples 14/4 and 1 at Attwater 15/4.

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii* (Coopers hök)

1 at Goose Island State Park 7/4, 1 at Santa Ana 12/4 and 1 at Attwater 15/4.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus* (Kaktusvråk)

1 along Hwy 1420 9/4, 2 at Santa Ana 12/4 and 4 in the King Ranch area 13/4.

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus* (Bandstjärtad vråk)

1 at Lost Maples 14/4.

Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus* (Bandvingad vråk)

1 at Attwater 15/4.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* (Bredvingad vråk)

2 at La Tina 9/4, 4 at Santa Ana 12/4, 3 in the King Ranch area 13/4 and 1 at Attwater 15/4.

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* (Prärievråk)

50 at La Tina 9/4, 20 at Santa Ana 12/4, 5 in the King Ranch area 13/4, 1 at Lost Maples 14/4 and 5 at Attwater 15/4.

White-tailed Hawk* *Buteo albicaudatus* (Vitstjärtad vråk)

2 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, 1 at Santa Ana 12/4, 7 in the King Ranch area 13/4 and 1 at Attwater 15/4.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* (Röd-stjärtad vråk)

1 at La Tina 9/4, 1 at Pipit Corner, Kingsville 13/4, 2 between Lost Maples and Kerrville 14/4 and 2 at Attwater 15/4.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (Fiskgjuse)

Seen in small numbers in the Rockport/Port Aransas area 7/4-9/4, on South Padre Island 10/4 and on the Bolivar Peninsula 19/4.

Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway* (Tofscaracara)

Pretty common; observed eight days.

Merlin* *Falco columbarius* (Stenfalk)

1 seen during Whooping Cranes tour 9/4, 1 at Anahuac 15/4 and 1 at Bolivar Flats 19/4.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* (Sparvfalk)

3 south of Kingsville 9/4 and 1 in Boy Scout Wood 18/4.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (Pilgrimsfalk)

1 seen during Whooping Cranes tour 9/4, 1 on South Padre Island 10/4 and 1 at Santa Ana 12/4.

Plain Chachalaca* *Ortalis vetula* (Nordlig chachalaca)

~10 at Sabal Palm and 4 at Bentsen 11/4 and 10 at Santa Ana 12/4.

Northern Bobwhite* *Colinus virginianus* (Vitstrupig vaktel)

3 in the King Ranch area 13/4, 5 at Attwater 15/4 and 1 at Anahuac 19/4.

Greater Prairie-Chicken* *Tympanuchus cupido* (Större präriehöna)

1 at Attwater 15/4.

Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo* (Kalkon)

1 at Pipit Corner, Kingsville 9/4 and 30 in the King Ranch area 13/4.

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica* (Amerikansk sultanhöna)
2 at Anahuac 17/4 and 1 at Willow Pond, Sea Rim State Park 18/4.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* (Rörhöna)
Observed seven days.

American Coot *Fulica americana* (Amerikansk sothöna)
Common; observed eleven days.

Clapper Rail* *Rallus longirostris* (Kustrall)
1 at South Padre Island Convention Center 10/4, 1 at Anahuac 16/4, 2 at Yacht Basin Road 17/4, 1 at Yacht Basin Road 19/4 and 2 in the Sea Rim State Park 20/4.

King Rail* *Rallus elegans* (Kungsrall)
1 at Attwater and 1 at Anahuac 15/4, 2 in marsh area across the road from Sabine Woods 18/4 and 1 at Yacht Basin Road 19/4.

Sora *Porzana carolina* (Karolinasumphöna)
1 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, 6 at South Padre Island Convention Center 10/4, 1 at Sabal Palm 11/4, 1 at Pipit Corner, Kingsville 13/4, 2 at Attwater and 1 at Anahuac 15/4, 2 at Anahuac 17/4 and 1 at Anahuac 19/4.

Yellow Rail* *Coturnicops noveboracensis* (Amerikansk gulrall)
2 at Anahuac 15/4.

Whooping Crane* *Grus americana* (Trumpetartrana)
11 seen during Whooping Cranes tour 9/4.

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* (Kustpipare)
Common; observed seven days.

American Golden-Plover *Pluvialis dominica* (Amerikansk tundrapipare)
1 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, 3 at Anahuac 15/4 and 16/4, 2 at Anahuac 17/4 and 19/4.

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* (Flöjtstrandpipare)
4 at Rollover Pass 17/4 and 4 at Bolivar Flats 19/4.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* (Flikstrandpipare)
Common; observed eight days.

Snowy Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* (Svartbent strandpipare)
1 at Rollover Pass 17/4 and 1 at Bolivar Flats 19/4.

Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia* (Wilsonstrandpipare)
2 south of Rockport 8/4, 2 seen during Whooping Cranes tour 9/4, 2 in the King Ranch area 13/4 and 2 at Bolivar Flats 19/4.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* (Skrikstrandpipare)
Common; observed ten days.

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* (Amerikansk strandskata)
2 at Rockport Beach State Park, 3 at Goose Island State Park and 2 at Oystercatcher Point 7/4, 6 seen during Whooping Cranes tour 9/4 and 2 at Rollover Pass 17/4.

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana* (Amerikansk skärfläcka)

Observed in good numbers in the Rockport/Port Aransas area 7-9/4, on South Padre Island 10/4 and on the Bolivar Peninsula 17/4 and 19/4.

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* (Amerikansk stytlöpare)

Observed in the Rockport/Port Aransas Area 8/4-9/4, on South Padre Island 10/4 and at Anahuac 15-17/4 and 19/4.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* (Större gulbena)

Common, but in smaller numbers compared to Lesser Yellowlegs; observed eight days.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipeds* (Mindre gulbena)

Common; observed nine days.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* (Amerikansk skogssnäppa)

2 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, 2 at Anahuac 16/4 and 19/4.

Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* (Willetsnäppa)

Common; observed eight days.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* (Fläckdrillsnäppa)

1 at Rockport Beach State Park 7/4, 2 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, 1 seen during Whooping Cranes tour 9/4, 1 in Sea Rim State Park 18/4 and 1 at North Jetty, Bolivar Peninsula 19/4.

Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* (Piparsnäppa)

24 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, 20 at Pipit Corner, Kingsville 9/4, 2 on South Padre Island 10/4, 25 in the King Ranch area 13/4 and 1 at Anahuac 19/4.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* (Småspov)

1 at Rockport Beach State Park 7/4, 4 seen during Whooping Cranes tour 9/4, 2 in the King Ranch area 13/4, 15 at Anahuac 15/4, 25 at Anahuac 16/4, 10 at Rollover Pass 17/4 and 15 at Bolivar Flats 19/4.

Hudsonian Godwit* *Limosa haemastica* (Hudsonspov)

1 at Anahuac 19/4.

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa* (Präriespov)

2 at Rockport Beach State Park 7/4, 3 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, 20 at Rollover Pass 17/4 and 40 at Bolivar Flats 19/4.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* (Roskarl)

10 at Rockport Beach State Park and 9 at Oystercatcher Point 7/4, 12 at Port Aransas South Jetty 8/4, 5 seen during Whooping Cranes tour 9/4, 15 at Rollover Pass 17/4 and 20 at Bolivar Flats 19/4.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus* (Kustsnäppa)

1 at Rollover Pass 17/4 and 2 at Bolivar Flats 19/4.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* (Sandlöpare)

1 at Rockport Beach State Park and 1 at Oystercatcher Point 7/4, ~150 at Port Aransas South Jetty 8/4, 12 seen during Whooping Cranes tour 9/4, 20 at Rollover Pass 17/4 and ~80 at Bolivar Flats 19/4.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* (Kärrensnäppa)

1 south of Rockport and 10 at Port Aransas 8/4, 3 seen during Whooping Cranes tour 9/4, 15 at Rollover Pass 17/4 and ~60 at Bolivar Flats 19/4.

Pectoral Sandpiper* *Calidris melanotos* (Tuvsnäppa)

5 south of Rockport and ~100 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, 5 at Pipit Corner, Kingsville and 2 at La Tina 9/4, 1 at South Padre Island Convention Center 10/4, 7 at Anahuac 15/4, 20 at Anahuac 16/4 and 17/4 and 4 at Anahuac 19/4.

White-rumped Sandpiper* *Calidris fuscicollis* (Vitgumpsnäppa)

1 at Anahuac 16/4, 5 at Anahuac 17/4 and 15 at Anahuac 19/4.

Baird's Sandpiper* *Calidris bairdii* (Gulbröstad snäppa)

2 at Port Aransas South Jetty 8/4, 1 in the King Ranch area 13/4 and 2 at Anahuac 19/4.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* (Tundrasnäppa)

40 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4 and 20 at Anahuac 19/4.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* (Sandsnäppa)

1 at Rockport Beach State Park 7/4, ~60 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4 and ~40 at Anahuac 15-17/4 and 19/4.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* (Dvärgsnäppa)

Common; observed nine days, for example ~100 at Anahuac.

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus* (Styltsnäppa)

1 at Rockport Beach State Park 7/4, ~150 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, 1 at La Tina 9/4, ~50 at Anahuac 15/4-17/4.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* (Större beckasinsnäppa)

19 at Rockport Beach State Park 7/4, ~50 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, ~60 at La Tina 9/4 and ~100 at Anahuac 15-17/4 and 19/4.

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* (Mindre beckasinsnäppa)

8 at Bolivar Flats 19/4.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper* *Tryngites subruficollis* (Prärielöpare)

4 at Pipit Corner, Kingsville 9/4 and 1 at Anahuac 15/4.

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata* (Wilsonbeckasin)

1 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4 and 1 at La Tina 9/4.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* (Wilsonsimsnäppa)

1 at Anahuac 17/4 and ~20 at Anahuac 19/4.

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia* (Trädårs)

1 at Port Aransas South Jetty 8/4 and 2 at Rollover Pass 17/4.

Franklin's Gull* *Larus pipixcan* (Präriemårs)

2 at Goose Island State Park and 2 at Oystercatcher Point 7/4, 18 flying north south of Rockport and 4 at Port Aransas South Jetty 8/4, 4 seen during Whooping Cranes tour 9/4, 25 flying north at South Padre Island Convention Center 10/4, 30 flying north at Sabal Palm 11/4 and 1 at Rollover Pass 17/4.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* (Sotvingad mås)

Common in suitable habitat; observed nine days.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* (Ringnäbbad mås)

Seen in small numbers four of the days (Rockport/Port Aransas and Bolivar Peninsula).

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* (Gråtrut)

Seen in small numbers six of the days (Rockport/Port Aransas and Bolivar Peninsula).

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* (Skräntärna)

Seen in small numbers six of the days (Rockport/Port Aransas, Anahuac and Bolivar Peninsula).

Royal Tern *Sterna maxima* (Kungstärna)

Common in suitable habitat (Rockport/Port Aransas, South Padre Island and the Bolivar Peninsula); seen seven of the days.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* (Kentsk tärna)

Common in suitable habitat (Rockport/Port Aransas, South Padre Island and the Bolivar Peninsula); seen seven days.

Common Tern* *Sterna hirundo* (Fisktärna)

1 at Port Aransas South Jetty 8/4, 2 at Rollover Pass 17/4 and 3 at Bolivar Flats 19/4.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* (Kärrtärna)

Common in suitable habitat (Rockport/Port Aransas, Sea Rim State Park, Anahuac and Bolivar Peninsula); observed eight days.

Least Tern *Sterna antillarum* (Amerikansk småtärna)

4 at Goose Island State Park and 1 at Oystercatcher Point 7/4, 1 at Port Aransas South Jetty 8/4, ~10 at Rollover Pass 17/4 and ~20 seen on Bolivar Peninsula 19/4.

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica* (Sandtärna)

2 at Goose Island State Park and 1 at Oystercatcher Point 7/4, 1 at Port Aransas South Jetty 8/4, 2 seen during Whooping Cranes tour 9/4, 5 seen in the King Ranch area 13/4, 5 at Rollover Pass 17/4 and 4 at Bolivar Flats 19/4.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* (Svarttärna)

1 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, 1 at Anahuac and ~100 at Rollover Pass 17/4.

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* (Amerikansk saxnäbb)

Common in suitable habitat (Rockport/Port Aransas, South Padre Island and Bolivar Peninsula); observed eight days.

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura* (Spetsstjärtad duva)

Very common; seen every day.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* (Vitvingad duva)

Seen in small numbers seven days.

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (Turkduva)

Common; observed ten days.

White-tipped Dove* *Leptotila verreauxi* (Vitpannad duva)

~10 at Sabal Palm 11/4 and 5 at Santa Ana 12/4.

Inca Dove *Columbina inca* (Inkaduva)

4 at Goose Island State Park 7/4, 1 on South Padre Island 10/4, 1 in Boy Scout Wood 18/4 and 19/4.

Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerina* (Nordlig markduva)

6 seen in the King Ranch area 13/4.

Rock Dove *Columba livia* (Klippduva/Tamduva)

Common; observed eight days.

Red-billed Pigeon* *Columba flavirostris* (Rödnäbbad duva)

2 at Roma Bluffs 12/4.

Red-crowned Parrot* *Amazona viridigenalis* (Amazonpapegoja)

5 in Harlingen 9/4.

Green Parakeet* *Aratinga holochlora*

12 in Brownsville 11/4.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus* (Gulnäbbad regngök)

4 on South Padre Island 10/4 and 2 in Sabine Woods 20/4.

Greater Roadrunner *Geococcyx californianus* (Större tuppgök)

2 seen in the King Ranch area 13/4.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* (Tornuggla)

2 at Anahuac 16/4.

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus* (Virginiau)

1 at Bentsen 11/4 and 1 in Utopia 14/4.

Barred Owl *Strix varia* (Kråsuggla)

2 at Patterson Road 18/4 and 20/4.

Elf Owl *Micrathene whitney* (Kaktusuggla)

1 at Bentsen 11/4.

Eastern Screech-Owl* *Otus asio* (Östlig skrikdvärguv)

4 at Bentsen 11/4.

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl* *Glaucidium brasilianum* (Rostsparvuggla)

1 at Bentsen 11/4 and 1 in the King Ranch area 13/4.

Common Pauraque* *Nyctidromus albicollis* (Azteknattskärre)

3 at Bentsen 11/4.

Chuck-will's-widow *Caprimulgus carolinensis* (Karolinanattskärre)

1 at Rockport Beach State Park and 2 at Rockport Demo Bird Garden 7/4 and 7 at Rockport Demo Bird Garden 8/4.

Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor* (Större falknattskärre)

1 at Pipit Corner, Kingsville 13/4, 1 in Boy Scout Wood and 2 at Anahuac 16/4, 2 in Boy Scout Wood 18/4 and 1 in Boy Scout Wood 19/4.

Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis* (Mindre falknattskärre)

1 on South Padre Island 10/4, ~20 at Bentsen 11/4 and 1 at Zapata Library Pond 12/4.

Chimney Swift* *Chaetura pelagica* (Skorstensseglare)

Observed eight days, for example ~200 in Rockport 7/4, ~20 in Harlingen 9/4 and 5 at Roma Bluffs 12/4.

Buff-bellied Hummingbird* *Amazilia yucatanensis* (Beigebukig kolibri)

1 in Goose Island State Park 7/4, 1 along Hwy 1420 9/4, 2 at Sabal Palm 11/4 and 2 at Santa Ana 12/4.

Black-chinned Hummingbird *Archilochus alexandri* (Svarthakad kolibri)

1 at Goose Island State Park 7/4, 1 on South Padre Island 10/4 and ~10 at Lost Maples 14/4.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris* (Rubinkolibri)

Observed in small numbers in the Rockport/Port Aransas area 7-9/4, on South Padre Island 10/4, in the King Ranch area 13/4 and in Boy Scout Wood 18/4.

Belted Kingfisher *Ceryle alcyon* (Bälteskungsfiskare)

Observed seven days.

Ringed Kingfisher* *Ceryle torquata* (Ringkungsfiskare)

2 at Sabal Palm and 1 at Bentsen 11/4.

Green Kingfisher* *Chloroceryle americana* (Grön kungsfiskare)

1 at Sabal Palm 11/4.

Red-headed Woodpecker* *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (Rödhuwad hackspett)

2 at W.G. Jones State Forest 21/4.

Golden-fronted Woodpecker* *Melanerpes aurifrons* (Gulpannad hackspett)

1 along Hwy 1420 and 6 in Harlingen 9/4 and common in the Lower Rio Grande and in the King Ranch area.

Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus* (Karolinaspett)

Observed at Attwater and common on the Upper Texas Coast.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker* *Sphyrapicus varius* (Gulbröstad savspett)

1 at Paradise Pond and 2 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, 3 on South Padre Island 10/4, 1 in Boy Scout Wood 16/4, 18/4 and 19/4 and 1 in Sea Rim State Park 20/4.

Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens* (Dunspett)

1 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, 1 at Anahuac 15/4 and 2 in Sabine Woods 18/4, 1 at Patterson Road and 2 in Sabine Woods 20/4.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker* *Picoides borealis* (Tallspett)

3 at W.G. Jones State Forest 21/4.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Picoides scalaris* (Bandryggig hackspett)

Observed in the Lower Rio Grande, in the King Ranch area and at Lost Maples.

Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus* (Amerikansk spillkråka)

1 at W.G. Jones State Forest 21/4.

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma imberbe* (Nordlig dvärgtyrann)

1 in the King Ranch Area 13/4.

Eastern Wood-Pewee* *Contopus virens* (Östlig pivi)

1 on South Padre Island 10/4, 1 in Boy Scout Wood 19/4 and 1 in Sabine Woods 20/4.

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* (Svart fibi)

1 at Roma Bluffs 12/4.

Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe* (Grå fibi)

1 along Acadia Loop between Lost Maples and Kerrville 14/4.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (Rubintyrann)

4 in the King Ranch area 13/4.

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens* (Gråstrupig topptyrann)

1 in Lost Maples 14/4.

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus* (Brunhättad topptyrann)

1 in the King Ranch area 13/4.

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus* (Större topptyrann)

Seen in good numbers in the Rockport/Port Aransas area 7-9/4 and in small numbers in the High Island area 18/4 and in the Sabine Woods area 20/4.

Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus* (Östlig kungstyrann)

Common; observed ten days.

Couch's Kingbird* *Tyrannus couchii* (Mayakungstyrann)

Common on South Padre Island, in the Rio Grande Valley and in the King Ranch area.

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis* (Västlig kungstyrann)

2 at South Padre Island Convention Center 10/4, 3 at Roma Bluffs 12/4 and 3 at Attwater 15/4.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher* *Tyrannus forficatus* (Saxstjärtstyrann)

Common; observed eleven days.

Great Kiskadee* *Pitangus sulphuratus* (Större kiskadi)

1 at Pipit Corner, Kingsville and 2 seen during a stop along Hwy 1420 9/4, ~10 at Sabal Palm and 4 in Bentsen 11/4, 2 at Santa Ana 12/4 and 3 in the King Ranch area 13/4.

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus* (Amerikansk törnskata)

Common; observed ten days.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* (Rödögd vireo)

4 on South Padre Island 10/4, 2 in Boy Scout Wood 16/4, 1 in Boy Scout Wood 18/4, 2 in Boy Scout Wood 19/4 and 1 in Sabine Woods 20/4.

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus* (Sångvireo)

1 at Paradise Pond 8/4, 2 on South Padre Island 10/4, 1 at Anahuac 15/4, 1 in Sabine Woods 18/4 and 20/4.

Philadelphia Vireo* *Vireo philadelphicus* (Kanadavireo)

1 in Sabine Woods 20/4.

Black-capped Vireo* *Vireo atricapillus* (Svarthuvad vireo)

3 at Lost Maples 14/4. Best place to see the bird in Texas is Kerr WMA, close to Kerrville.

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus* (Vitögd vireo)

Common; observed thirteen days.

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* (Gulstrupig vireo)

1 in Goose Island State Park 7/4, 7 on South Padre Island 10/4, 2 at Lost Maples 14/4 and 1 in Boy Scout Wood 16/4.

Blue-headed Vireo *Vireo solitarius* (Glasögonvireo)

1 seen during stop along Hwy 1420 9/4, 1 in the King Ranch area 13/4, 1 in Boy Scout Wood 17/4 and 2 in Sabine Woods 18/4.

Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata* (Blåskrika)

Seen daily on the Upper Texas Coast 15/4-20/4.

Green Jay* *Cyanocorax yncas* (Grönskrika)

2 at Pipit Corner, Kingsville and 1 along Hwy 1420 9/4 and common in the Rio Grande Valley 11-13/4.

Common Raven *Corvus corax* (Korp)

Seen west of San Antonio 14/4, for example at Lost Maples.

Chihuahuan Raven *Corvus cryptoleucus* (Chihuahuakorp)

A few seen between McAllen and Zapata 12/4.

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos* (Amerikansk kråka)

Observed west of San Antonio 14/4 and in W.G. Jones State Forest 21/4.

Fish Crow *Corvus ossifragus* (Fiskkråka)

1 flying over Patterson Road and 5 at Tyrrell Park 20/4.

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris* (Berglärka)

2 seen during Whooping Cranes tour 9/4.

Purple Martin *Progne subis* (Blå storsvala)

Common; observed ten days.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* (Nordlig kamvingesvala)

Common; observed nine days.

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia* (Backsvala)

Common; observed eight days.

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* (Trädsvala)

Common; observed ten days.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* (Stensvala)

Observed in small numbers five days.

Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva* (Grottsvala)

Observed at Anahuac 15/4 and in Sea Rim State Park 18/4.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (Ladusvala)

Very common; observed fourteen days.

Tufted Titmouse *Baeolophus bicolor* (Östlig gråmes)

2 at Attwater 15/4.

Black-crested Titmouse* *Parus atricristatus* (Svarttofsad gråmes)

2 at Rockport Demo Bird Garden 7/4 and 8/4, 2 seen during stop along Hwy 1420 9/4, 2 at Sabal Palm 11/4, 4 at Santa Ana 12/4, ~10 in the King Ranch area 13/4 and 6 at Lost Maples 14/4.

Carolina Chickadee* *Poecile carolinensis* (Karolinatita)

6 at Lost Maples 14/4, 1 in Boy Scout Wood 19/4, 2 at Patterson Road 20/4 and 4 in W.G. Jones State Forest 21/4.

Brown-headed Nuthatch *Sitta pusilla* (Brunhuvad nötväcka)

~10 in W.G. Jones State Forest 21/4.

Carolina Wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus* (Karolinagärdsmyg)

1 in the King Ranch area 13/4, 5 at Lost Maples 14/4, 1 in Boy Scout Wood 17/4 and 19/4 and 1 in Tyrrell Park 20/4.

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii* (Snårgärdsmyg)

1 seen during stop along Hwy 1420 9/4.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* (Husgärdsmyg)

1 at Sabal Palm 11/4 and 1 at Santa Ana 12/4.

Sedge Wren* *Cistothorus platensis* (Starrgärdsmyg)

2 at Anahuac 15/4 and 1 at Anahuac 19/4.

Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris* (Kärrgärdsmyg)

5 at Anahuac 17/4 and 2 opposite the road from the parking lot in Sabine Woods 20/4.

Cactus Wren *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus* (Kaktusgärdsmyg)

1 at Pipit Corner, Kingsville 9/4.

Canyon Wren *Catherpes mexicanus* (Kanjongärdsmyg)

4 at Lost Maples 14/4.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet* *Regulus calendula* (Rödkronad kungsfågel)

1 at Goose Island State Park 7/4, 2 on South Padre Island 10/4, 2 at Lost Maples 14/4, 6 totally in Boy Scout Wood and Smith Oaks 16/4, 4 in Boy Scout Wood 17/4, 2 in Boy Scout Wood and 3 in Sabine Woods 18/4 and 2 in Boy Scout Wood 19/4.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea* (Blågrå myggsnappare)

1 in Rockport and 4 at Goose Island State Park 7/4, 2 in the King Ranch area 13/4, 3 at Lost Maples 14/4, 3 in Sabine Woods 18/4 and 2 in Sabine Woods 20/4.

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia mexicana* (Östsialia)

4 in W.G. Jones State Forest 21/4.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius* (Vandringstrast)

1 in Utopia 14/4 and 1 in Boy Scout Wood 18/4.

Clay-colored Robin* *Turdus grayi* (Lerfärgad trast)

1 in Santa Ana 12/4.

Wood Thrush* *Hylocichla mustelina* (Fläckskogstrast)

1 on South Padre Island 10/4, ~10 in Boy Scout Wood 16/4, 2 in Boy Scout Wood 17/4, 3 in Boy Scout Wood and 2 in Sabine Woods 18/4, 3 in Boy Scout Wood 19/4 and 2 in Sabine Woods 20/4.

Veery* *Catharus fuscescens* (Rostskogstrast)

1 in Sabine Woods 18/4 and 20/4.

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* (Beigekindad skogstrast)

3 at South Padre Island Convention Center 10/4, 1 in Boy Scout Wood 16/4 and 17/4, 2 in Sabine Woods 18/4, 3 in Boy Scout Wood 19/4 and 5 in Sabine Woods 20/4.

Gray-cheeked Thrush* *Catharus minimus* (Gråkindad skogstrast)

1 at South Padre Island Convention Center 10/4 and 1 in Boy Scout Wood 19/4.

Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus* (Eremitskogstrast)

1 at Lost Maples 14/4.

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis* (Grå kattfågel)

Common; observed eight days.

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos* (Nordlig härmtrast)

Very common; seen every day.

Brown Thrasher *Toxostoma rufum* (Rödbrun härmtrast)

1 at South Padre Island Convention Center 10/4, 1 in Boy Scout Wood 16/4, 2 in Boy Scout wood 17/4, 1 in Boy Scout Wood 19/4 and 1 in Sabine Woods 20/4.

Long-billed Thrasher* *Toxostoma longirostre* (Långnäbbad härmtrast)

3 at Sabal Palm 11/4.

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (Stare)

Very common; observed every day, except on South Padre Island 10/4.

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum* (Indiansidensvans)

120 at Roma Bluffs and 15 at Zapata Library Pond 12/4 and 1 at Smith Oaks 16/4.

Tropical Parula* *Parula pitiayumi* (Tropisk messångare)

2 in the King Ranch area 13/4.

Northern Parula *Parula americana* (Messångare)

Observed in small numbers nine days.

Orange-crowned Warbler *Vermivora celata* (Orangekronad skogssångare)

1 seen during a stop along Hwy 1420 9/4, 4 at Lost Maples 14/4, 2 in Boy Scout Wood 16/4, 1 in Boy Scout Wood 17/4 and 1 in Sabine Woods 18/4.

Tennessee Warbler* *Vermivora peregrine* (Tennesseeskogssångare)

1 at Paradise Pond 8/4, and the most common warbler species on South Padre Island 10/4 and on the Upper Texas Coast 16/4-20/4.

Blue-winged Warbler* *Vermivora pinus* (Blåvingad skogssångare)

3 at South Padre Island Convention Center 10/4.

Nashville Warbler *Vermivora ruficapilla* (Nashvilleskogssångare)

1 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, 1 on South Padre Island 10/4, 3 at Santa Ana 12/4, 1 at Attwater 15/4 and 2 in Sabine Woods 18/4.

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* (Gul skogssångare)

1 at South Padre Island Convention Center 10/4, 1 at Sabal Palm 11/4, 1 at Anahuac 15/4, 1 in Boy Scout Wood 16/4 and 1 in the Sea Rim State Park 20/4.

Chestnut-sided Warbler* *Dendroica pensylvanica* (Brunsidig skogssångare)

1 in Sabine Woods 18/4. The most beautiful bird of the trip!

Cerulean Warbler* *Dendroica cerulea* (Blåvit skogssångare)

1 in Sabine Woods 18/4.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata* (Gulgumpad skogssångare)

5 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, 3 on South Padre Island 10/4, 1 at Anahuac 15/4, 3 at Boy Scout Wood and 1 at Anahuac 16/4, 2 in Boy Scout Wood 17/4, 3 in Boy Scout Wood and 2 in Sabine Woods 18/4 and 1 in Sabine Woods 20/4.

Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica virens* (Grönryggad skogssångare)

1 at Paradise Pond 8/4, 2 on South Padre Island 10/4, 1 at Sabal Palm 11/4, 1 in Boy Scout wood 16/4, 18/4 and 19/4.

Golden-cheeked Warbler* *Dendroica chrysoparia* (Gulkindad skogssångare)

~10 at Lost Maples 14/4.

Prairie Warbler *Dendroica discolor* (Prärieskogssångare)

2 at Rockport Demo Bird Garden 7/4.

Pine Warbler *Dendroica pinus* (Tallskogssångare)

~30 in W.G. Jones State Forest 21/4.

Yellow-throated Warbler* *Dendroica dominica* (Gulstrupig skogssångare)

1 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, 1 on South Padre Island 10/4 and 1 on Patterson Road 20/4.

Worm-eating Warbler* *Helmitheros vermivora* (Beigebrynad skogssångare)

2 on South Padre Island 10/4 and 1 in Sabine Woods 18/4.

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea* (Gyllenskogssångare)

1 in Rockport 7/4, 2 at Paradise Pond and 1 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, ~20 on South Padre Island 10/4, 1 in Sabine Woods 18/4 and 4 at Patterson Road and 1 in Sabine Woods 20/4.

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* (Svartvit skogssångare)

1 in Goose Island State Park 7/4, 2 at Paradise Pond and 1 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, 1 seen during stop along Hwy 1420 9/4, 1 on South Padre Island 10/4, 2 at Lost Maples 14/4, 1 in Boy Scout Wood 16/4 and 18/4 and 1 in Sabine Woods 20/4.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* (Rödstartad skogssångare)

1 male on South Padre Island 10/4 and 1 female in Sabine Woods 18/4.

Swainson's Warbler* *Limnothlypis swainsonii* (Swainsons skogssångare)

1 at Patterson Road 20/4.

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapillus* (Rödkronad piplärksångare)
2 in Boy Scout Wood 16/4, 1 in Boy Scout Wood 17/4 and 19/4.

Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis* (Nordlig piplärksångare)
1 in Rockport Demo Bird Garden 7/4, 2 at Sabal Palm 11/4, 1 in Sabine Woods 18/4 and 1 at Anahuac 19/4.

Louisiana Waterthrush* *Seiurus motacilla* (Sydlig piplärksångare)
2 at Paradise Pond and 1 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, 1 on South Padre Island 10/4 and 1 at Smith Oaks 16/4.

Kentucky Warbler* *Oporornis formosus* (Kentuckyskogssångare)
4 on South Padre Island 10/4, 1 in Boy Scout Wood 16/4, 17/4 and 19/4.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* (Gulhake)
Seen in small numbers nine of the days.

Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla* (Svartkronad skogssångare)
1 on South Padre Island 10/4.

Hooded Warbler *Wilsonia citrina* (Kapuschongskogssångare)
1 at Paradise Pond 8/4, 12 on South Padre Island 10/4, 3 in Boy Scout Wood 16/4, 2 in Sabine Woods 18/4, 1 in Boy Scout Wood 19/4 and 1 in Sabine Woods 20/4.

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens* (Trastskogssångare)
1 in Boy Scout Wood 16/4 and 1 at Anahuac 19/4.

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* (Sommartangara)
Common; observed eleven days.

Scarlet Tanager* *Piranga olivacea* (Scharlakanstangara)
~20 in Boy Scout Wood/Smith Oaks 16/4, 2 in Boy Scout Wood 17/4, 1 in Sabine Woods 18/4, 2 in Boy Scout Wood 19/4 and 6 in Sabine Woods 20/4.

Pyrrhuloxia *Cardinalis sinuatus* (Ökenkardinal)
2 in the King Ranch area 13/4.

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis* (Röd kardinal)
Common; observed thirteen of the days.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak* *Pheucticus ludovicianus* (Brokig kardinal)
1 at South Padre Island Convention Center 10/4, 4 in Boy Scout Wood 16/4, 1 in Sabine Woods 18/4, 2 in Boy Scout Wood 19/4 and 5 in Sabine Woods 20/4.

Blue Grosbeak *Guiraca caerulea* (Blåtjocknäbb)
2 in Goose Island State Park 7/4, 1 on South Padre Island 10/4, 1 in Sea Rim State Park 18/4, 1 in Boy Scout Wood 19/4 and 2 in Sea Rim State Park 20/4.

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* (Indigofink)
Common; observed ten days.

Varied Bunting *Passerina versicolor* (Brokfink)
1 on South Padre Island 10/4.

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* (Påvefink)

2 on South Padre Island 10/4, 3 in Boy Scout Wood/Smith Oaks 16/4, 1 in Boy Scout Wood 17/4, 2 in Sea Rim State Park 18/4 and 20/4.

Dickcissel* *Spiza americana* (Dickcissel)

8 at Anahuac 19/4.

White-collared Seedeater* *Sporophila torqueola* (Vithalsad frösparv)

1 male at Zapata Library Pond 12/4.

Eastern Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (Brunsidig busksparv)

1 in Sabine Woods 20/4.

Olive Sparrow* *Arremonops rufivirgatus* (Olivsparv)

3 at Sabal Palm 11/4 and 4 in the King Ranch area 13/4.

Field Sparrow* *Spizella pusilla* (Åkersparv)

5 at Lost Maples 14/4.

Clay-colored Sparrow *Spizella pallida* (Lerfärgad sparv)

~15 on South Padre Island 10/4.

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina* (Tjippsparv)

~25 in Goose Island State Park 7/4.

Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum* (Gräshoppsparv)

1 at Attwater 15/4.

Le Conte's Sparrow* *Ammodramus leconteii* (Le Contes sparv)

1 at Anahuac 15/4.

Seaside Sparrow *Ammodramus maritimus* (Kustsparv)

2 seen during Whooping Cranes tour 9/4.

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis* (Gulbrynad grässparv)

Pretty common; observed seven days.

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* (Lärksparv)

Pretty common; observed seven days.

White-throated Sparrow* *Zonotrichia albicollis* (Vitstrupig sparv)

2 in Goose Island State Park 7/4, 2 in Boy Scout Wood 16/4 and 19/4 and 8 in Sabine Woods 20/4.

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys* (Vitkronad sparv)

1 at Anahuac 15/4 and 19/4.

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia* (Sångsparv)

1 seen during stop along Hwy 1420 9/4, 2 on South Padre Island 10/4 and 1 at Anahuac 15/4.

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolnii* (Lincolnsparv)

Pretty common; observed seven days.

Swamp Sparrow* *Melospiza georgiana* (Träsksparv)

1 at Port Aransas Birding Center 8/4, 2 at Anahuac 15/4, 3 at Anahuac 17/4, 3 in Sea Rim State Park 18/4, 3 at Anahuac 19/4 and 2 in Sea Rim State Park 20/4.

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna* (Östlig ängstrupial)

Common in suitable habitat; observed eight of the days.

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater* (Brunhuvad kostare)

Common; observed ten days.

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus* (Bronskostare)

6 in Goose Island State Park 7/4 and ~10 in the King Ranch area 13/4.

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* (Gulhuvad trupial)

2 in Sea Rim State Park 18/4.

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* (Rödvingettrupial)

Common; observed thirteen days.

Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula* (Mindre båtstjärt)

Common, especially on the Upper Texas Coast; observed ten days.

Boat-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus major* (Större båtstjärt)

Common on the Upper Texas Coast; observed six days.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus* (Mexikobåtstjärt)

Very common; observed every day.

Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii* (Bullocktrupial)

~10 on South Padre Island 10/4.

Baltimore Oriole* *Icterus galbula* (Baltimoretrupial)

3 in Boy Scout Wood 16/4, 2 in Boy Scout Wood 17/4, 1 in Boy Scout Wood 18/4 and 19/4 and 2 in Sea Rim State Park 20/4.

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus* (Palmtrupial)

1 male at Santa Ana 12/4 and 5 in the King Ranch area 13/4.

Orchard Oriole* *Icterus spurius* (Trädgårdstrupial)

1 in Goose Island State Park 7/4, ~40 on South Padre Island 10/4, and observed daily in good numbers on the Upper Texas Coast 16/4-20/4.

Altamira Oriole* *Icterus gularis* (Altamiratrupial)

3 in Santa Ana 12/4.

Scott's Oriole *Icterus parisorum* (Scotts trupial)

1 at Lost Maples 14/4.

House Finch *Carpodacus mexicanus* (Husrosenfink)

2 at Zapata Library Pond 12/4 and 4 at Lost Maples 14/4.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (Gråsparv)

Common; observed twelve days.

For any questions write to: robert.tuveson@comhem.se