

ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO USA - TEXAS
Five Star Birding in the Lone Star State

12 - 22 April 2013



Leaders: Richard Coomber and Paul Rogers

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A Personal Diary

Friday, 12 April

On a damp, grey morning the 2013 Ornitholidays' party to Texas left Heathrow's Terminal 5 on the British Airways flight to Houston, which departed more or less on time. At least the weather wasn't cold, but we hoped it would be warmer in Texas and over the coming days that we would see more migrant birds than at home, for there had been precious few as the result of our 'extended' winter.

With a flying time of 10 hours, and a six hour time difference, we landed at Houston more or less on time, but unfortunately just after a Lufthansa double-decker A380 Airbus had disgorged its passengers, so immigration formalities took even longer than usual, so long in fact that the baggage carousel had ceased rotating. Once all the paperwork involved with hiring the two vehicles was completed we hit the road. Unfortunately so had a lot of Texans, for even at 16:30 all four lanes of the northbound interstate were clogged during the early stages of the drive north to Conroe.

By the time we reached the hotel in Conroe, just over 30 miles from the airport, well over four hours had elapsed since we landed. It's a number of years since either Paul or I had been in Texas, so there is a chance that the Eurasian Collared Doves around the hotel might have been the first we had seen in the Lone Star State! A good dinner was had later at a Mexican restaurant across the street, before we headed for a well-deserved night's rest.

Saturday 13 April

Warm and mainly sunny with a stiff breeze especially later in the day near the coast. 80°F

After breakfast and checking out of the hotel we headed for the nearby W.G. Jones State Forest, where we had a pleasant walk on one of the tracks in the sunshine. Pine Warblers were singing as we passed beneath pines and there were two or three mobile flocks of Cedar Waxwings in the same area. A few Yellow-rumped Warblers were also seen, but it was the woodpeckers we were after and woodpeckers we saw. The first was a smart Red-headed and then Paul found the much sought-after Red-cockaded and a Downy in the same tree! In fact over the next half an hour we had very good views of the Red-cockaded including three together at one time! Some of the party also saw a Red-bellied Woodpecker. Other species seen in the area included Carolina Wren, Carolina Chickadee, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and a splendid singing male Summer Tanager, whilst two female Scarlet Tanagers were found as we returned to the car-park. A few raptors were noted including both the vultures - Black and Turkey, Mississippi Kite and Sharp-shinned and Broad-winged Hawks.

With time in hand we took a cross-country route to Katy, where there should have been some rice fields to the north of the small town, or rather there used to be, but everything looked so dry. We stopped for lunch in the grounds of a church that displayed a notice saying "Visitors welcome" – well *we* were visitors weren't we? Several new birds were seen in the area including several Purple Martins that presumably were nesting somewhere beyond the church buildings, a pair of Loggerhead Shrikes that very determinedly drove away the local Red-tailed Hawk, and amongst the trees just outside the church was an Eastern Bluebird. During the search for the rice fields we passed a couple of small ponds that produced Northern Shoveler, Blue-winged Teal, Black-necked Stilt, Savannah Sparrow and really good views of Black-bellied Whistling Duck.

Sightings of Laughing Gulls increased as we neared the coast and, before we reached our base for the next two nights at Rockport, herons were seen going to roost. Dinner was at a restaurant in town.

Sunday, 14 April

Hot and sunny, with some cloud. 85°F

Following an early breakfast at the hotel we drove along Rockport's waterfront to join a cruise on *m.v.Skimmer* to the shores of Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and by some of the barrier islands that protect those vitally important salt marshes. The main objective was to see the endangered Whooping Cranes that winter on those marshes from their breeding grounds in Wood Buffalo National Park, Canada. The cruise was a success for we saw 15 in total, pairs with their young of last season, couples and singles, although over the last two weeks or so the greater percentage have already begun their northward migration. Our knowledgeable skipper filled us in on the successful conservation story of the cranes over recent decades.

The cruise offered a lot more than cranes for another of the highlights was the heron, egret and spoonbill rookery on a small bushy island. There Great Blue Herons, Great and Reddish Egrets and Roseate Spoonbills were busy displaying and nesting. We spent a wonderful half hour or more enthralled as birds came and went from the thriving colony.

Throughout the voyage there was always something to look at whether it was fishing terns, shorebirds, wildfowl or just pelicans. We saw Least, Royal, Caspian, Forster's and Sandwich Terns. The latter has been split by the European authorities, but not by the Americans yet. Europe now calls the Nearctic form Cabot's Tern. Over the marsh there were displaying Willet, a Hudsonian Whimbrel, Marbled Godwits and American Avocets flew by. American Oystercatchers stood piping on shingle banks and a Long-billed Curlew was also seen. We found Spotted Sandpipers in breeding plumage and Phil had a flyby Stilt Sandpiper. Wintering birds lingering in the area included Common Loon, Northern Shoveler, Blue-winged Teal Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead and Red-breasted Merganser. We were able to compare Double-crested with the smaller Neotropic Cormorants, the latter shows a small tuft of white feathers on the side of the head when in breeding plumage. There were great views of an Osprey eating a fish whilst perched on a navigation post. Seaside Sparrows sang on the edge of the salt marshes, whilst Andrew and Phil also heard a Marsh Wren.

There was more to the trip than a splendid array of birds. Great Southern White butterflies flitted across the marshes, where in the far distance we could see some of the feral pigs that haunt parts of Aransas. They grow hairier and much larger than their domestic ancestors and are now known as Wild Hogs. In the salty water we saw Bottle-nosed Dolphins, which were to be expected, but a swimming venomous Western Cottonmouth was perhaps less so. We had great views of the snake a quite close range, although our skipper was very careful not to let us get too close!

Once ashore later in the morning the group had a coffee whilst Paul and I refuelled the vehicles at a nearby filling station, where later we bought the picnic that we would eat in the shade of Live Oaks at Memorial Park, a site dedicated to the memory of legendary Rockport ornithologist, Connie Hagar. In the trees above us were a Black-crested Titmouse, Indigo Buntings, Prothonotary Warbler and Red-eyed Vireo. Nearby along a boardwalk an Eastern Kingbird perched alongside a Western one and we saw our first hummingbirds, this time Black-chinned. A small area was planted with shrubs, such as *Lantana*, to attract butterflies such as a large Palamedes Swallowtail, a Gulf Fritillary and a skipper that remains unidentified. That quiet corner was also home to a Green Anole.

After lunch we drove north to see some of Aransas NWR from *terra firma*. Birding was quiet until we neared the refuge, but that changed when an adult Bald Eagle was found near a drainage ditch along with several Crested Caracaras and vultures. Along the ditch fed a Solitary Sandpiper. Nearer the refuge entrance a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher posed for the cameras on a roadside fence. The land side of the refuge was very dry, so much so that the habitat suitable for American Alligators was rather limited compared with the last time Paul and I were here together. Also seen were Common Gallinule, (formerly treated as a race of our Moorhen) and from one of the viewing platforms we watched Blue-winged Teal, Lesser Yellowlegs and Short-billed Dowitcher. There were more Great Southern White butterflies over grassy areas and a Common Buckeye was noted.

We returned to the hotel afterwards, seeing the Bald Eagle again on the way back and nearer the bridge leading back to Rockport we found Semipalmated Plover, along with several Least and Western Sandpipers on an area of tidal flats beside the road. Later, after dinner, the checklist was brought up-to-date.

Monday, 15 April

Hot and mainly sunny. 95°F

After breakfast at our Rockport hotel we loaded up and headed towards the Rio Grande Valley by way of Corpus Christi, where amongst other waterbirds we saw a group of Black Skimmers resting on a shingle bank along with gulls and terns.

Heading south-west, the long, and mainly straight road took us through King Ranch country, although that part of the drive produced little more than a few migrating Swainson's Hawks and a number of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. At the rest area south of Sarita we found a Black-crested Titmouse and the first of several Hooded Orioles that appeared to be nesting in palm trees near the visitor services buildings. Brewer's Blackbirds and Bronzed Cowbird were about, but interest waned when a pair of Green Jays put in an appearance just before we left to continue our journey, although it took a bit longer than we had anticipated to reach Laguna Atascosa.

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, where we had our lunch, was quite productive during the afternoon for in addition to the Green Jays and Plain Chachalacas we saw around the picnic area, White-tipped Dove, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Long-billed Thrasher and Olive Sparrow were seen around the visitor centre's feeders. After the break we followed the 15 mile Bayview Drive, where the first bird of note was a Greater Roadrunner, seen by those with Paul. Another was seen briefly further on, but the best views came as we were leaving the area to begin the final leg of our journey. Other highlights included fishing Ospreys and shorebirds, especially pleasing were the Wilson's Plovers and White-rumped Sandpipers along with our first, and only, Horned Larks feeding on a beach.

From Laguna Atascosa we had a good run across to the Lower Rio Grande Valley and our hotel at Mercedes, which thankfully had a good restaurant within easy walking distance.

Tuesday 16 April

Hot, humid with sunny periods at times 89°F

Today began with a Denny's breakfast before heading along the Rio Grande Valley to Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, where we spent the morning birding along some of the trails that run from the visitor centre. On the quieter road leading down from Alamo (not *the* Alamo of the Davy Crockett saga) we were able to stop to witness a large passage of Broad-winged Hawks heading up from Mexico with a lesser number of Turkey Vultures.

On arrival at Santa Ana we added Couch's Kingbird to the list and Andrew found a Ladder-backed Woodpecker on the other side of the car park. At the visitor centre a number of Plain Chachalacas were around the feeding areas along with a Green Jay, whilst Buff-bellied Hummingbirds patronised the sugar-filled bottles hung up for that purpose. Along the trails Golden-fronted Woodpeckers were common, a Northern Beardless Tyrannulet was seen by some as was a Yellow-breasted Chat. We all saw the Brown-crested Flycatcher and a singing male Common Yellowthroat. The first pond we reached held a variety of wildfowl with excellent views being enjoyed of Blue-winged Teal and Mottled Ducks. Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs gave good comparisons as they fed side-by-side and scopes showed the scalloping on the breast of the flock of Long-billed Dowitchers in breeding plumage. On the next pond we found a lone Short-billed Dowitcher, with a spotted breast, along with yellowlegs and at least two Solitary Sandpipers (not so solitary then!), but it was the third and larger pond that held some special birds including Least Grebe (two pairs) and a number of White-faced Ibis. The terns were mainly Forster's with a few Gull-billed thrown in for good measure.

Along with the birds several species of butterfly were noted including Phaon and Texas Crescents, White Peacock, Mexican Silverspot (spotted by Andrew), Barred Yellow and Reakirt's Blue.

By the time we were back at the vehicles it was well and truly time for lunch, so at nearby Alamo a fast-food restaurant provided sustenance mainly in the form of pizzas and salads, before we paid an afternoon visit to Quinta Mazatlan, one of nine sites in the area that come under the pretentious umbrella of 'World Birding Centre'. In the quiet and peaceful grounds of a former mansion we enjoyed some good birding. Without doubt the highlight was the Eastern Whip-poor-will discovered by Paul as he searched for it, or another, which had been flushed near our trail. So trusting was it in its camouflage that we were able to stand only a matter of 12-15 feet away to take photos. Elsewhere Geoff found a Kentucky Warbler, an Ovenbird was seen nearby, as were Black-and-White Warbler, Bewick's Wren and Long-billed Thrasher.

We returned to the hotel along the interstate and later went out to dinner.

Wednesday 17 April

Hot, humid and cloudy early morning, brighter mid-morning onwards. 92°F

Following breakfast at Denny's and collecting lunch from Subway's we headed for Bentsen State Park, formerly a wonderful birding area, but now sadly as we discovered today not even a shadow of its former self. Long gone is the caravan and RV park within the park where formerly guests fed the birds in good numbers. Now a smart new visitor centre and a tram service takes visitors around the park; a service we were glad to use for today was extremely hot and with the effects of the three year long drought taking effect there were precious few birds. With a mixture of walking and riding the tram we birded our way around during the morning as the day got hotter and hotter.

Green Jays were watched displaying by Paul and those catching the first tram, whilst those walking to the next stop were delighted to see a Peregrine and a Cooper's Hawk passing over, along with a few Turkey Vultures and Broad-winged Hawks. Along the edge of a large lagoon a distant Ringed Kingfisher was located shortly before Phyl spotted a large brown bird rising from the reeds in the same area. It was an American Bittern and, as luck would have it, it flew towards us, but passed along the opposite side of lake from our vantage point. Passerines were at a premium, certainly no migrants, but we did see a goodie as we were about to leave the park – Clay-colored Thrush, a rather plain thrush that recalled a pallid female Common Blackbird. This species is a relatively recent colonist to USA, being a rare winter visitor from Mexico when we were last in this corner of the state.

We thought we'd have lunch at the nearby National Butterfly Centre, but as they wanted to charge an arm and a leg for the privilege we opted to stray no further than their car park. By all accounts everything was so dry there were few butterflies about except for the Little Sulphurs that flitted across the lawn. Birdwise Geoff took up the challenge of photographing a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher posing on the perimeter fencing, where our first Lark Sparrows were also seen perching later.

If everything was so dry, we needed to find somewhere by the river and, as McAllen Sewage works are no longer suitable for birders, Anzalduas County Park was a reasonable choice. It's now an area very much geared to family activities, but being a weekday, today was relatively quiet. A drake Redhead shared a ditch with an American Coot by the approach road and out on the river itself were more coot, Forster's Terns and a flock of Ruddy Ducks. Ashore we found a Ladder-backed Woodpecker in small riverside trees before David discovered a cracking male Vermilion Flycatcher on the edge of a lightly wooded area. We all had great views of this and another that was present in the area, as well as finding some more Lark Sparrows.

Back at the hotel we patronised our usual eatery for dinner.

Thursday 18 April

Becoming sunny later. 79°F at breakfast time rising to 101.5°F in the shade in the early afternoon, then with a north-easterly blowing dropping to 75° by dinner time.

A prompt start after a continental breakfast at the hotel found us heading south to South Padre Island and Sheepshead Road, where several vacant lots had been bought and set aside for birds and other wildlife. Soon we were watching and comparing Gray-cheeked Thrush with the larger and more rufous Wood Thrush on one side of the road and looking at grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds feeding on scattered seed on the other. Our first wood-warbler of the day was a smart male Blackpoll, which provided some good photo

opportunities as well as the chance of seeing this trans-Atlantic vagrant to the UK really well. A Whip-poor-will was seen briefly by some of the party when flushed, but a Common Nighthawk that flew round was seen by more of us, especially when it landed on the utility wires, albeit only briefly.

After some time in the area we drove further north to explore the area around the Convention Centre, which was preparing for a huge motor bike fest tomorrow. Unlike Bentsen that had been modernised and in our opinion ruined, the complete opposite had taken place. Plenty of trees and bushes had been planted to shelter tired migrants, some of which fed on fruit skewered onto branches, and a small artificial stream ran down a short boulder and stone lined watercourse that gave birds a place to drink and bathe. New birds started to appear immediately as with the rising northerly wind a fall was taking place. Northern Parula, Prairie Warbler, Northern Waterthrush and Willow Flycatcher were amongst the early additions, but there was more to follow with great views of many species. Ruby-throated and Black-chinned Hummingbirds visited the sugar feeders, Orchard Orioles and Prothonotary Warblers visited the halves of oranges, whilst several species such as Nashville Warbler and Swainson's Thrush came to the stream, in addition to the 'resident' waterthrush. Before we left we had also seen Clay-colored and Lincoln's Sparrows and Summer Tanager.

The migrant trap was just part of this diverse area for there were reedbeds, accessed by boardwalks, and mudflats viewed from the back of the convention centre. So the day's total of species rose steadily with various herons, Roseate Spoonbills, two White-faced Ibis, and wildfowl that included Blue-winged Teal, Mottled Duck, Redhead and Lesser Scaup. Sora and Marsh Wren were heard, but not seen. The mudflats had shorebirds on offer including Marbled Godwit, Lesser Yellowlegs and Willet in addition to the usual Laughing Gulls and Royal Terns.

After lunch at the local Pizza Hut, we had a last look at the Sheepshead area before driving across to Sabal Palm Audubon's Sanctuary, seeing a few Chihuahuan Ravens and two Harris's Hawks on the way to the reserve, which actually lies on the Mexican side (although still in USA) of the huge anti-immigrant border fence.

We might only have had an hour at Sabal Palm before they closed, but from the platform outside the office we had great views of Green Jays, Tufted Titmouse, Bewick's Wren and Altamira's Oriole before watching Golden-fronted Woodpecker on the fruit set out for the birds. It was the last opportunity to see Buff-bellied Hummingbird for those who missed it the other day and thank goodness they weren't disappointed. The feeding area has attracted a major rarity for the last few weeks – a female Crimson-collared Grosbeak. Our time was nearly up when Phil and a couple of others saw it when it flew in briefly, only to be disturbed by a particularly violent gust of wind that had been increasing in strength from the north or north-east for the past couple of hours or more. The volunteer at the visitor centre had said with today's wind we couldn't expect to see much if we wandered further afield.

The change in wind direction brought the temperature rapidly down by 25°F in just a few hours, so by the time we went to dinner near the hotel later there was a distinct edge to the wind. A wind chill factor in Texas in April? It was just what we wanted for the promised weather forecast two or three days ago suggested we could expect a fall of migrants on Friday. Things were falling into place.

Friday, 19 April

Cool and breezy in the morning with sunshine in afternoon. 68°F

The bike event at South Padre Convention Centre was getting underway when we arrived having had the continental breakfast offered at our hotel. We were unable to park as we did yesterday, but on the positive side we could hail a courtesy golf cart, provided by the biker's fest organisers, to get up to the centre and thus to the birding area.

Migration had, or was taking place, and the most noticeable newcomers were the thousands of noisy Franklin's Gulls that had arrived since yesterday afternoon. All were in pristine breeding plumage and the majority showed a delicate pink flush to the breast feathers, something that will fade in a matter of weeks. Many were roosting on the mudflats along with numbers of terns that included three American Black Terns and dozens of Black Skimmers. The numbers of shorebirds there had also increased with Dunlin feeding alongside Sanderlings, Pectoral and Semipalmated Sandpipers as well as yellowlegs and Short-billed

Dowitchers. A Wilson's Phalarope put in a brief appearance and later in the morning we saw Least and Baird's Sandpipers from one of the boardwalks, where Sora and Clapper Rails were seen by some of the party.

It was, however, the landbirds that commanded most attention, and in the course of the day collectively we were to see no less than 18 species of wood-warblers. Some such as the Northern Waterthrush, Hooded, Nashville and Tennessee Warblers were still hanging around from yesterday, but today's additions were Yellow-rumped (a smart male of the western Audubon's race), American Redstart, Hooded Warbler, Kentucky and, perhaps best of all was Phil's Worm-eating Warbler. Only Andrew saw a female Orange-crowned, a species missed by the 'local' birders, who were out in force today. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo showed well at the Convention Centre as well as later at Sheepshead Road, where there were good numbers of Indigo Buntings and several Dickcissels. Both sites also had Painted Buntings and Yellow-headed Blackbirds, but the flock of hundreds of Brown-headed Cowbirds was probably the same moving between both sites. At the convention centre the Willow Flycatcher seemed to have moved on only to be replaced by a very confiding Acadian Flycatcher, the one *Empidonax* flycatcher with a particularly long primary extension.

It was a full-on day's birding and the best day of the tour for migrants, and thankfully when we did break for a quick lunch just after mid-day, we didn't miss anything, well nothing important anyway!

Back at the hotel there was time for packing before or after dinner, for tomorrow we begin heading back towards Houston and our flight home on Sunday.

Saturday 20 April

Fine and sunny all day. 75°F

We left the hotel promptly this morning and headed back along the interstate. Birdwise little was noted except for the Wild Turkey seen by Paul's party when a backlit male displayed with his fanned tail to a female near the roadside. A number of White-tailed Deer were logged, but when we stopped at the rest area near Sarita just one Green Jay and one or two Hooded Orioles were seen.

We didn't hang around on the drive, which would see us covering some 300 miles before reaching the hotel in the early evening, for with anticipated increased security at the airport tomorrow after a bombing in Boston last weekend, we wanted to fit Brazos Bend State Park this afternoon and not tomorrow. We made it and enjoyed a leisurely stroll around a large lake, in spite of it being busy on a Saturday afternoon.

Around the lake were American Coot and Common Gallinules, no doubt keeping a healthy distance from the American Alligators hauled out along the bank in places. We had great views of birds such as Pied-billed Grebe, Yellow-crowned Night-Herons and Green Heron. A birder guiding some scouts on a nature walk pointed out to some of our party Boat-tailed Grackle. He was uncertain of the identity of a large black and orange banded snake being harassed by a group of people before it slithered away beneath a log. It turned out to be a harmless Broad-banded Water Snake when Paul and I checked the field guide later. A number of butterflies were enjoying the warm sunshine including Black Swallowtail, Broad-winged Skipper and Northern Cloudywing (another skipper). In the woodland areas White-eyed Vireo was seen and singing in the background were Northern Cardinals and Carolina Wren. Just as we were returning to the car park David and I saw a Red-shouldered Hawk and watched it back to a large nest decorated with Spanish Moss, where it fed its two well-grown chicks, who were showing well and looking quite stuffed by the time the rest of the party came across to see them.

Our final hotel was not far away at Rosenberg and we had our final dinner at Denny's.

Sunday 21 April

Warm and sunny. 75°F

The sat-nav has been a mixed blessing on this trip for when it was good, it was very, very good, but at other times its choice of routes just caused frustration all round. We left the hotel at 08:00, with the sat-nav taking

us right through downtown Houston, not something we would have chosen to do if we had depended solely on a paper map. It was Sunday and the roads were relatively quiet, so we got away with it.

Just over an hour after leaving the hotel we rolled into Jessie Jones State Park for a couple of hours birding along the quiet trails in warm sunshine. It is, or was, a good site for Swainson's Warbler, but the sightings board show that one was last heard on 5th April and with no playback being allowed in Texas state parks it was going to be a case of hit or miss. As it was, it was a miss.

When we arrived there were Cedar Waxwings feeding in trees near the car park and a stunning male American Goldfinch on a fence beside a pond. Nearby we saw a female and along our chosen trail was a pair of Eastern Bluebirds. A bit further on and there was a serious woodpecker calling. It turned out to be a Pileated, America's largest now that Ivory-billed is presumed extinct in spite of rumours over the last few years, but it was rather wary flying off whenever we got it in view. A Downy Woodpecker was drumming and seen by some of the party. Along a side trail a Tufted Titmouse fed its fledged youngsters and there was also a pair of Carolina Chickadees in the same trees and bushes. Nearby we watched a Yellow-throated Vireo feeding in the trees above the path and in the taller pine trees the song of Prairie Warbler filtered down. Carolina Wren was also heard, although not seen today. A Giant Swallowtail basking in the spring sunshine by the path attracted the cameras as did a rather worn Pipevine Swallowtail when it settled on a sunlit bush. The commonest butterfly in the woodland was Little Wood-Satyr, but some looked slightly different on the underwings and were identified from photos later as Gemmed and Carolina Satyrs.

Our two hours of relaxed birding soon passed, which meant that it was time to head for the airport, returning the vehicles and then waiting for the BA check-in desk to open. The formalities went smoothly and we had lunch after we'd passed through security. Our flight to London was some 40 minutes late departing.

Monday 22 April

We landed at Heathrow more or less on time, having been stacked for a while. By the time we reached the baggage carousel the bags were already arriving. With farewells said we set-off on the last legs of our respective journeys home.

Acknowledgments

First and foremost we must thank you all for coming and being such great company. It was great fun and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. We saw some great birds, even if the landscape was not so memorable. Your help in navigating, spotting and in other ways was greatly appreciated. A personal thank you to Paul for his support and advice as always and then his patience when the sat-nav took on a will of its own! We hope your pictures all came out, at least films don't get lost these days, and that our paths will cross again on another Ornitholidays' tour before too long. Nigel and Sandy are working on the 2014 programme – see you then, if not before! Thank you to Geoff Sharp, Phyl England and Phil Sharp for allowing me to use their photographs in this report.

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July 2013

ITINERARY & WEATHER

- 12 April** Dept. London Heathrow for Houston, afternoon arrival. Transfer to hotel in Conroe, dinner & overnight.
- 13 April** Morning visit to W G Jines State Forest, then drive to Rockport via Katy.
Warm and mainly sunny with stiff breeze near coast. 80°F.
- 14 April** Superb morning boat trip to see Whooping Cranes etc. Picnic in Rockport. Pm visit to Aransas NWR. Fine and sunny with some cloud. 85°F
- 15 April** Drive down to Mercedes in Lower Rio Grande Valley visiting Laguna Atascosa en route.
Hot and sunny. 95°F
- 16 April** Morning exploration of Santa Ana NWR, p.m. to Quinta Mazatlan.
Hot and humid with sunny periods. 89°F
- 17 April** Morning to Bentsen SP, p.m. to Anzalduas County Park.
Hot as sunny. 92°F
- 18 April** Morning and early afternoon on South Padre Island, late afternoon to Sabal Palm Sanctuary.
Overcast, becoming sunny for a while. Increasing wind coming from n.e. 79°F early a.m. 101.5°F early p.m., then dropping to 75°F by early evening.
- 19 April** Day on South Padre Island. Migrants.
Cool, overcast and breezy in morning, calmer and sunny p.m. 68°F.
- 20 April** Transfer to Rosenberg via Brazos Bend SP.
Warm and sunny. 75°F
- 21 April** Morning in Jessie Jones SP before driving to Houston Airport for late afternoon flight to London.
Fine and sunny 75°F
- 22 April** Early morning arrival at Heathrow.

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN DURING TOUR

No of days recorded	Locations	Abundance Scale
1 2h means seen on	H = Houston and environs including Conroe, W G Jones State Forest, Katy, Brazos Bend and Jessie Jones State Parks	1 = 1 – 4
1 day and heard on		2 = 5 - 9
2 other days	C = Coastal including Aransas NWR, Rockport and Laguna Atascosa, but <i>not</i> South Padre Island	3 = 10 - 99
	R = Lower Rio Grande Valley including Santa Anna NWR, Quinta Mazatlan, Bentsen SP, Anzalduas County Park, South Padre Island and Sabal Palm Audubon Sanctuary	4 = 100 – 999
		5 = 1,000- 9,999
		6 = 10,000+
	> / < = seen on transfer to >, or back to <	

The sequence for birds follows National Geographic *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (6th. ed.) with subsequent revisions.

Species	No of Days Recorded	Locations	Abundance Scale	Scientific Name
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	8	H C	R 3	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>
Muscovy Duck	1		R 1	<i>Cairina moschata</i>
Mottled Duck	6	C	R 2	<i>Anas fulvigula</i>
Gadwall	1		R 2	<i>Anas strepera</i>
Green-winged Teal	1		R 1	<i>Anas crecca</i>
American Wigeon	3	C	R 1	<i>Anas americana</i>
Northern Shoveler	4	H C	R 3	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Blue-winged Teal	6	H C	R 3	<i>Anas discors</i>
Cinnamon Teal	1		R 3	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>
Redhead	1		R 3	<i>Aythya americana</i>
Lesser Scaup	4	H C	R 1	<i>Aythya affinis</i>
Bufflehead	1	C	1	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>
Red-breasted Merganser	4	C	2	<i>Mergus serrator</i>
Ruddy Duck	2		R 3	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>
Plain Chachalaca	4	C	R 3	<i>Ortalis vetula</i>
Wild Turkey	1	<H	1	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>
Common Loon	2	C	R 1	<i>Gavia immer</i>
Least Grebe	1		R 1	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>
Pied-billed Grebe	5	H	R 3	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>
Neotropic Cormorant	3	C	R 3	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>
Double-crested Cormorant	4	C	R 3	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>
Anhinga	3	H C	R 1	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>
American White Pelican	2	C	R 1	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>
Brown Pelican	5	C	R 4	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>
American Bittern	1		R 1	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>
Least Bittern	1		R 1	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>
Great Blue Heron	7	H C	R 3	<i>Ardea herodias</i>
Western Cattle Egret	8	H C	R 3	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Great Egret	9	H C	R 3	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Snowy Egret	5	C	R 3	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Tricolored Heron	5	C	R 3	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>
Little Blue Heron	6	H C	R 3	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>
Reddish Egret	4	C	R 3	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>
Green Heron	3	H	R 3	<i>Butorides virescens</i>
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	1	H	3	<i>Nycticorax violacea</i>
White-faced Ibis	6	H C	R 3	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>
White Ibis	5	H C	R 3	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>
Roseate Spoonbill	5	C	R 3	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>
Turkey Vulture	10	H C	R 3	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
Black Vulture	6	H C	R 4	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>
Osprey	5	C	R 3	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Mississippi Kite	4	H C	>R 3	<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>
Bald Eagle	1	C	1	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>

Northern Harrier ¹	4	H	C	R	2	<i>Circus (cyaneus) hudsonius</i>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	H		R	1	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>
Cooper's Hawk	1			R	1	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>
Harris's Hawk	1			R	1	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>
Broad-winged Hawk	6	H		R	4	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	H	C		1	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>
Swainson's Hawk	7	H	C	R	3	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>
White-tailed Hawk	1		C		1	<i>Buteo albicaudatus</i>
Red-tailed Hawk	4	H	C		2	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>
Crested Caracara	4		C	R	2	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>
American Kestrel	2	H<		>R	1	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
Peregrine Falcon	1			R	1	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Sora	1	1h		R	1	<i>Porzana carolina</i>
Clapper Rail	1			R	1	<i>Rallus longirostris</i>
Common Gallinule ²	4	H	C	R	2	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>
American Coot	7	H	C	R	3	<i>Fulica americana</i>
Whooping Crane	1		C		3	<i>Grus americana</i>
Black-bellied Plover	4		C	R	3	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
American Golden Plover	1		C		1	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>
Killdeer	7	H	C	R	2	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>
Wilson's Plover	2		C	R	2	<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>
Semipalmated Plover	3		C	R	3	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>
Piping Plover	1			R	1	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>
American Oystercatcher	1		C		3	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>
Black-necked Stilt	5	H	C	R	3	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>
American Avocet	2		C	R	3	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>
Willet	4		C	R	3	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>
Greater Yellowlegs	2			R	2	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs	4		C	R	3	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
Solitary Sandpiper	2		C	R	1	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>
Spotted Sandpiper	3	H	C	R	1	<i>Actitis macularius</i>
Upland Sandpiper	1		>C		1	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>
Hudsonian Whimbrel ¹	3	H<		R	3	<i>Numenius (phaeopus) hudsonicus</i>
Long-billed Curlew	2		C		2	<i>Numenius americanus</i>
Marbled Godwit	4		C	R	3	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	4		C	R	3	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Sanderling	4		C	R	3	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1			R	1	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>
Western Sandpiper	3		C	R	1	<i>Calidris mauri</i>
Least Sandpiper	3		C	R	3	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>
White-rumped Sandpiper	1		C		3	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>
Baird's Sandpiper	1			R	1	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>
Dunlin	2			R	3	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Stilt Sandpiper	1		C		1	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>
Pectoral Sandpiper	1			R	3	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>
Short-billed Dowitcher	4		C	R	3	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>
Long-billed Dowitcher	2	H		R	3	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>
Wilson's Phalarope	1			R	1	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>
Franklin's Gull	1			R	5	<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>
Laughing Gull	9		C	R	4	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>
Ring-billed Gull	3		C	R	1	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>
American Herring Gull ¹	3		C	R	2	<i>Larus (argentatus) smithsonianus</i>
Least Tern	3		C	R	3	<i>Sternula antillarum</i>
Black Tern	1			R	1	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>
Common Tern	1			R	1	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Gull-billed Tern	3		C	R	2	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
Forster's Tern	5		C	R	3	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>
Cabot's (Sandwich) Tern ¹	3		C	R	3	<i>Sterna (sandvicensis) aculeata</i>
Caspian Tern	5		C	R	3	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Royal Tern	5		C	R	3	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>
Black Skimmer	4		C	R	4	<i>Rynchops niger</i>
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	10	H	C	R	3	<i>Columba livia</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	10	H	C	R	3	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>

Mourning Dove	10	H	C	R	3	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>
White-winged Dove	9	H	C	R	3	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>
Common Ground-Dove	2		C	R	1	<i>Columbina passerina</i>
Inca Dove	5		C	R	1	<i>Columbina inca</i>
White-tipped Dove	3			R	2	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>
Green Parakeet	1			R	1	<i>Aratinga holochlora</i>
Red-crowned Parrot	1			R	1	<i>Amazona viridigenalis</i>
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1			R	1	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>
Greater Roadrunner	1		C		1	<i>Geococcyx californianus</i>
Lesser Nighthawk	1			R	1	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>
Common Nighthawk	3			R	2	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>
Eastern Whip-poor-will	2			R	1	<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>
Chimney Swift	7	H	C	R	2	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>
Buff-bellied Hummingbird	2			R	1	<i>Amazilia yucatanensis</i>
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	3	H		R	3	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>
Black-chinned Hummingbird	3		C	R	1	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>
Ringed Kingfisher	1			R	1	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	H			1	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	4			R	1	<i>Melanerpes aurifrons</i>
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3	H			1	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	3		C	R	1	<i>Picoides scalaris</i>
Downy Woodpecker	2	H			1	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	1	H			1	<i>Picoides borealis</i>
Pileated Woodpecker	1	H			1	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>
Northern Beardless Tyrannulet	1			R	1	<i>Camptostoma imberbe</i>
Eastern Wood Pewee	2	H		R	1	<i>Contopus virens</i>
Acadian Flycatcher	1			R	1	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>
Willow Flycatcher	1			R	1	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>
Black Phoebe	1			R	1	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>
Vermilion Flycatcher	1			R	1	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>
Brown-crested Flycatcher	2			R	1	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>
Great Crested Flycatcher	1			R	1	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>
Western Kingbird	5	H	C	R	2	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>
Couch's Kingbird	2			R	3	<i>Tyrannus couchii</i>
Eastern Kingbird	3		C	R	2	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	9	H	C	R	3	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>
Great Kiskadee	2			R	1	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>
Loggerhead Shrike	8	H	C	R	3	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>
White-eyed Vireo	3	H		R	1	<i>Vireo griseus</i>
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	H			1	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>
Red-eyed Vireo	3		C	R	2	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
Green Jay	5			R	3	<i>Cyanocorax yncas</i>
Blue Jay	3	H			1	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>
American Crow	3	H			1	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchus</i>
Chihuahuan Raven	1			R	1	<i>Corvus cryptoleucus</i>
Horned Lark	1		C		1	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>
Purple Martin	4	H	C	R	2	<i>Progne subis</i>
Tree Swallow	6	H	C	R	3	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>
Barn Swallow	9	H	C	R	4	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	7	H	C	R	3	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>
Bank Swallow	1			R	1	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Cliff Swallow	7	H	C	R	3	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>
Tufted Titmouse	1	H			1	<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>
Black-crested Titmouse	5		C	R	1	<i>Baeolophus atricristatus</i>
Carolina Chickadee	3	H			1	<i>Poecile carolinensis</i>
Brown-headed Nuthatch	1	H			1	<i>Sitta pusilla</i>
House Wren	- 1h	H			1	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
Bewick's Wren	2			R	1	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>
Carolina Wren	1 2h	H			1	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>
Marsh Wren	1 2h		C	R	1	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1 1h	H			1	<i>Regulus calendula</i>
Eastern Bluebird	2	H			2	<i>Sialia sialis</i>
Gray-cheeked Thrush	2			R	1	<i>Catharus minimus</i>

Swainson's Thrush	2			R	1	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>
Wood Thrush	1			R	1	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>
American Robin	2	H			1	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>
Clay-colored Thrush	1			R	1	<i>Turdus grayi</i>
Gray Catbird	3			R	2	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>
Northern Mockingbird	9	H	C	R	3	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>
Brown Thrasher	1		C		1	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>
Long-billed Thrasher	4		C	R	1	<i>Toxostoma longirostre</i>
Curve-billed Thrasher	2			R	1	<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>
European Starling	10	H	C	R	3	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Cedar Waxwing	3	H			3	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>
Tennessee Warbler	2			R	1	<i>Oreothlypis peregrina</i>
Orange-crowned Warbler	1			R	1	<i>Oreothlypis celata</i>
Nashville Warbler	3			R	1	<i>Oreothlypis ruficapilla</i>
Northern Parula	2			R	1	<i>Setophaga americana</i>
Yellow Warbler	2			R	1	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)	2	H		R	1	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)	1			R	1	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>
Yellow-throated Warbler	2			R	1	<i>Setophaga dominica</i>
Prairie Warbler	2			R	1	<i>Setophaga discolor</i>
Blackpoll Warbler	2			R	1	<i>Setophaga striata</i>
Pine Warbler	2	H			1	<i>Setophaga pinus</i>
American Redstart	1			R	1	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>
Black-and-White Warbler	4	H		R	1	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>
Worm-eating Warbler	1			R	1	<i>Helmitheros vermivorus</i>
Prothonotary Warbler	3		C	R	1	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>
Ovenbird	3			R	1	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>
Northern Waterthrush	2			R	1	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>
Hooded Warbler	1			R	1	<i>Cardellina citrina</i>
Kentucky Warbler	2			R	1	<i>Geothlypis formosus</i>
Common Yellowthroat	4			R	1	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>
Yellow-breasted Chat	3			R	1	<i>Icteria virens</i>
Olive Sparrow	4		C	R	1	<i>Arremonops rufivirgatus</i>
Chipping Sparrow	1			R	1	<i>Spizella passerina</i>
Clay-colored Sparrow	2			R	1	<i>Spizella pallida</i>
Lark Sparrow	2			R	1	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>
Savannah Sparrow	3	H	C	R	1	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>
Seaside Sparrow	1		C		2	<i>Ammodramus maritimus</i>
Lincoln's Sparrow	3	H		R	1	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>
Summer Tanager	2	H		R	1	<i>Piranga rubra</i>
Scarlet Tanager	2	H		R	1	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>
Western Tanager	1			R	1	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>
Crimson-collared Grosbeak	1			R	1	<i>Rhodothraupis celaeno</i>
Northern Cardinal	9	H	C	R	3	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>
Pyrrhuloxia	1		C		1	<i>Cardinalis sinuatus</i>
Dickcissel	1			R	2	<i>Spiza americana</i>
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2		C	R	1	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>
Blue Grosbeak	1			R	1	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>
Painted Bunting	3		C	R	1	<i>Passerina ciris</i>
Indigo Bunting	3		C	R	3	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>
Eastern Meadowlark	6	H	C	R	2	<i>Sturnella magna</i>
Red-winged Blackbird	7	H	C	R	3	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1			R	1	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>
Brewer's Blackbird	3		C>	R	3	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>
Common Grackle	5	H	C	R	3	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>
Boat-tailed Grackle	1	H			2	<i>Quiscalus major</i>
Great-tailed Grackle	9	H	C	R	3	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>
Brown-headed Cowbird	2		C	R	4	<i>Molothrus ater</i>
Bronzed Cowbird	6		C>	R	1	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>
Orchard Oriole	2			R	2	<i>Icterus spurius</i>
Hooded Oriole	4	H<	C>	R	2	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>
Altamira Oriole	3			R	1	<i>Icterus gularis</i>
Baltimore Oriole	1			R	2	<i>Icterus galbula</i>

House Finch	1	H			1	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>
American Goldfinch	1	H			1	<i>Spinus tristis</i>
Pine Siskin	1	H			1	<i>Spinus pinus</i>
House Sparrow	10	H	C	R	3	<i>Passer domesticus</i>

TAXONOMIC NOTES

- 1 Split by European authorities, but not yet by AOU
- 2 Common Gallinule – a recent split by AOU from Common Moorhen of the Old World



Whooping Crane family (RC)

MAMMALS

- Eastern Gray Squirrel
- Fox Squirrel
- Eastern Cottontail
- White-tailed Deer
- Atlantic Bottle-nosed Dolphin
- Feral Pig (Wild Hog)

- Sciurus carolinensis*
- Sciurus niger*
- Sylvilagus floridanus*
- Odocoileus virginianus*
- Tursiops truncatus*
- Sus scrofa*

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

- American Alligator
- Red-eared Slider
- Green Anole
- Whiptail sp
- Western Cottonmouth
- Texas Indigo Snake
- Broad-banded Water Snake

- Alligator mississippiensis*
- Trachemys scripta*
- Anole carolinensis*
- Cnemidophorus sp*
- Agkistrodon piscivorus*
- Drymarchon melanurus*
- Nerodia fasciata*

BUTTERFLIES

12 Apr	Houston	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Seen, not photographed
13 Apr	W G Jones State Forest	Little Wood Satyr Common Checkered Skipper	<i>Megisto cymela</i> <i>Pyrgus communis</i>	During woodpecker walk During woodpecker walk
14 Apr	Aransas boat trip Rockport Aransas – pm trip	Great Southern White Palamedes Swallowtail Southern Cloudywing Gulf Fritillary Black Swallowtail Common Buckeye	<i>Ascia monuste</i> <i>Papilio palamedes</i> <i>Thorybes bathyllus</i> <i>Agraulis vanilla</i> <i>Papilio polyxenes</i> <i>Junonia coenia</i>	Over Salt marsh At lunchtime At lunchtime Seen, not photographed Seen, not photographed Near drying Alligator Pond
16 Apr	Santa Ana NWR Quinta Mazatlan	Black Swallowtail White Peacock Phaon Crescent Texan Crescent Mexican Silverspot Reakirt's Blue Barred Sulphur Texan Crescent	<i>Papilio polyxenes</i> <i>Anartia jatrophae</i> <i>Phyciodes phaon</i> <i>Phyciodes texana</i> <i>Dione moneta</i> <i>Echinargus isola</i> <i>Eurema दौर</i> <i>Phyciodes texana</i>	Some photographed this Photographed on path Photographed on log Spotted by Andrew Photographed on path Along paths
17 Apr	Bentsen-Rio Grande Butterfly Centre car park	Giant Swallowtail Western Pygmy-Blue Reakirt's Blue Mexican Silverspot White-striped Longtail Little Yellow	<i>Papilio cressphontes</i> <i>Brephidium exile</i> <i>Echinargus isola</i> <i>Dione moneta</i> <i>Chionodes catillus</i> <i>Pyrisitia lisa</i>	Seen at bittern view point On paths Seen, not photographed Seen at tram stop Around lawns at lunchtime
19 Apr	South Padre	Clytie Ministreak	<i>Ministrymon clytie</i>	Seen with Mike
20 Apr	Brazos Bend State Park	Giant Swallowtail Palamedes Swallowtail Little Wood-Satyr Monarch Northern Cloudywing Broad-winged Skipper	<i>Papilio cressphontes</i> <i>Papilio palamedes</i> <i>Megisto cymela</i> <i>Danaus plexippus</i> <i>Thorybes pylades</i> <i>Poanes viator</i>	Seen, not photographed Seen, not photographed Seen, not photographed On evening-primrose by path On evening-primrose by path
21 Apr	Jessie Jones State Park	Pipevine Swallowtail Giant Swallowtail Gemmed Satyr Carolina Satyr Little Wood-Satyr	<i>Battus philenor</i> <i>Papilio cressphontes</i> <i>Cyllopsis gemma</i> <i>Hermeuptychia sosybius</i> <i>Megisto cymela</i>	The battered one with blue hindwings The big one on path Unmarked upper wings Different hindwing pattern from commoner Little Wood-Satyr

These are listed in this form to aid i.d. of photographs taken during the tour. Some i.d. changes made after seeing images on a larger screen

These lists represent those birds and other animals seen by party members of this tour.



Green Jay (RC)



Painted Bunting (RC)



Altamira Oriole (GS)



Greater Roadrunner (RC)



Hooded Warbler (RC)



Long-billed Thrasher (PS)



Northern Cardinal (RC)



Northern Waterthrush (RC)



Indigo Bunting (RC)



Prothonotary Warbler (RC)



Yellow-throated Warbler (PE)



Ovenbird (RC)



Roseate Spoonbill (RC)



Yellow-headed Blackbird (RC)



Whip-poor-will (RC)



Red-eyed Vireo (PS)



Black Skimmer (RC)

Front cover: Worm-eating Warbler (RC)

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