

FIELD REPORT

ROCKPORT, TEXAS: A BONANZA OF WINTERING BIRDS

FEBRUARY 16–20, 2023



Family of Whooping Cranes seen from the Whooping Crane boat tour, 18 Feb 2023, ©Brad McKinney

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The Central Texas Coast offers incredible birding in all seasons, and the region was especially productive during our 2023 Rockport, Texas: A Bonanza of Wintering Birds tour. Our group of enthusiastic birders enjoyed an amazing diversity of birdlife during the five days we spent exploring the expansive coastal beaches, prairies, marshes, and brushlands of this special region of Texas. The weather started off chilly and windy with the passage of a cold front on our first afternoon, but the birds were in abundance. Our first afternoon started off with a bang at Indian Point, with excellent views of Clapper Rail, Reddish Egret, Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned night-herons, American Oystercatcher, Long-billed Curlew, and best of all, two Snowy Plovers! The weather remained cool throughout the tour, yet the winds diminished each day, making for pleasant weather and wonderful birding.



Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, 16 Feb 2023 ©Brad McKinney

Our first morning of the tour began at the boardwalk at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, and what a great spot it was. Our group was afforded close-up views of a multitude of wetland species that were truly impressive. Some highlights included both white and dark morph Reddish Egrets entertaining us with their animated raised-wing antics, an unexpected adult Lesser Black-backed Gull loafing in the nearby waters, and extended views of Wilson's Snipe, Sora, and Virginia Rail in the marsh below the boardwalk. After warming up with some hot cocoa, we walked along the beach near the Port Aransas jetty studying the large concentrations of terns and gulls, including good numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls. We then headed down Mustang Island towards Mustang Island State Park and got great looks at Roseate Spoonbill, Northern Harrier, White-tailed Hawk, and nice scope views of an Aplomado Falcon on the nesting platform. The Aplomado Falcon flew out over the coastal savanna, allowing us all great flight views of its long, banded tail and long, silvery upperwing. While on Mustang Island we tallied five falcon species, and all before lunch! Great bird activity continued into the afternoon with visits to Mustang Island State Park, Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge, and Aransas Woods. A Great Kiskadee greeted us briefly as we entered the Hans Suter boardwalk on the edge of the Cayo del Oso estuary. The bay here was teeming with waterbirds, with great scope views of numerous species in beautiful afternoon light. With a Peregrine Falcon high in the sky, the enormous flock of gulls, terns, pelicans, waders, ducks, and shorebirds erupted off the water before settling back down. What an incredibly productive wetland this was. We capped off the day with a walk through Aransas Woods where we added several new trip birds, including Least Grebe, Ring-necked and Ruddy ducks, and Cedar Waxwing. The Least Grebe was a life bird for several members of our group. What a great start to the Rockport tour!



Green-winged Teal, Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, 17 Feb 2023, ©Brad McKinney

Dawn broke with a beautiful sunrise over Rockport with cool temperatures and a moderate north wind. Expectations were high as we boarded the *Skipper* to see one of North America's most sought-after birds, the majestic Whooping Crane. Captain Jay motored our boat across the expansive Aransas Bay to the productive marshes bordering Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, passing several Common Loons and a small flock of Common Goldeneyes along the way. Just moments after entering the mouth of the waterway, we had our first family of three Whooping Cranes, a good omen. A few minutes later we had a lone bird, then a distant family of four before we struck pay dirt. As Captain Jay slowly brought the boat to the edge of the marsh, we couldn't believe our eyes. At a mere 15 yards away were two majestic snow-white adults and a caramel-colored juvenile, seemingly oblivious to our presence in the nearby shallow waters. For the next 20 minutes our group was speechless, as we watched this close-knit family of three feeding gracefully for blue crabs, as this species has done for centuries.



Family of Whooping Cranes dining on blue crabs along Aransas NWR, 18 Feb 2023, ©Brad McKinney

We felt so privileged during this boat ride to have seen a total of 23 of these magnificent birds feeding, resting, and occasionally displaying. It was icing on the cake to hear their trumpeting calls as they flew low across the marshland in rhythmic, pulsating wingbeats. We are thankful that these regal birds have returned from the brink of extinction to relatively healthy numbers of about 600 birds in 2023.

Just before heading back across Aransas Bay, a Bald Eagle was spotted in the tall grasses of a nearby spoil island being harassed by two Ospreys. What a sight! After a celebratory lunch at the Apple Dumpling Café, our group headed over to nearby Goose Island State Park. Just before entering the park, we spotted a Couch's/Tropical Kingbird on a telephone wire. Although Couch's Kingbird would be the more likely of the two, Tropical Kingbird is certainly a possibility,



Couch's Kingbird, at the entrance to Goose Island State Park, 18 Feb 2023, ©Brad McKinney

having occurred in the area before. I initially thought that the bird might be a decent candidate for a Tropical (based on apparent bill length and structure), but it wasn't long before the bird belted out a clear, breezy "kip, kip, breeeer," the signature song for Couch's Kingbird. After extended scope views, we left this tropical beauty as we found it, quietly perched on the telephone wire. Another lifer for several in our group! Once in the state park, we picked up Inca Dove, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Black-crested Titmouse, and Clay-colored, Field, and Song sparrows. Next

we made the short drive over to the Big Tree—a 1,000-year-old Texas State Champion Virginia Live Oak—and Lamar Beach. As we pulled up to the Big Tree, we spotted a male Vermilion Flycatcher perched on a fence line across the street, quickly flying to an outer branch of a nearby live oak. What great scope views we had of this dazzling bird! We finished the day watching several more Whooping Crane families and a dozen Sandhill Cranes in this small wetland tract at Lamar Beach. In the late afternoon, several of these majestic birds bugled and took to the air, crossing the street to a roost. What amazing views! We ended up with 36 Whooping Cranes for the day, and celebrated again with a delicious seafood dinner at Latitude 28°02', one of many wonderful meals on this tour.

Our last full day of birding took us 50 minutes southwest of Rockport to the renowned Hazel Bazemore Hawk Watch platform in nearby Robstown. Here, we would meet up with Joel Simon, a local expert and Hawk Watch International counter, who was instrumental in the design of the hawk watch tower and has led the Corpus Christi HawkWatch every fall since 1997. As we entered the park, we already had dazzling Green Jays and Northern Cardinals in a mesquite tree just outside the van. As we marveled at their stunning plumages, we were sure that these two species alone could complete the color wheel from crimson to violet! Our group then walked to the hawk tower, which provided great views of the park and surrounding lands. We could see how this spot in late September/early October has tallied an impressive 400,000 hawks in a single day! Although the spring raptor migration wouldn't begin for over a month, we were treated to great looks at



Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Hazel Bazemore, 19 Feb 2023, ©Brad McKinney

Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk (resident *texana* race), Red-tailed Hawk, Crested Caracara, and American Kestrel. At the water feature we added White-tipped Dove and Long-billed Thrasher, both regional specialties, to our trip list. A small herd of comical Javelinas made regular appearances around the bird feeding grounds in search of corn, and appeared to be only a minor annoyance to the birds. While walking down to the ponds below the hawk watch platform, we passed "Kiskadee Korner" and, as if on cue, we had a very vocal Great Kiskadee perched in the open for amazing scope views—its bright yellow underparts, zebra-striped head, and rufous wings were ablaze against the clear blue sky. Shortly thereafter, while walking along the grassy edges of the pond, we got satisfying looks at a skulking Sedge Wren, and White-eyed Vireo and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in the nearby thorn scrub thickets. Before heading out to lunch we had brief glimpses of a Common Pauraque that had flushed off the ground in the roadside leaf litter. Common Pauraque is a tropical member of the Goatsucker family, which reaches the northernmost limit of its range at Hazel Bazemore. After a delicious Mexican lunch at El Tapatio restaurant, we headed over to the backyard of Clay Taylor of Swarovski Optik, where we had brief looks at a female Black-chinned Hummingbird. On our way back to the coast, we had several Monk Parakeets in the parking lot of a Corpus Christi Jack in the Box (not that anyone had an appetite after El Tapatio!). We then



Javelina, Hazel Bazemore, 19 Feb 2023, ©Brad McKinney



Snowy Plover, Indian Point, 19 Feb 2023, ©Brad McKinney

made a return trip to Indian Point, which allowed for prolonged shorebird study. Here, we had great looks at three more Snowy Plovers, as well as Black-bellied Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Dunlin, and Least and Western sandpipers. It was then off to Cape Valero Drive via FM 1069, where we came across two very productive ponds, the first of which held our first White-faced Ibis of the trip. The second pond was even better with three Ross's Geese found amongst the 150 plus Snow Geese, several waterfowl species

including our first Mallard, Sandhill Crane, many waders, and more White-faced Ibis. We finished the day driving the famed Cape Valero Drive, which is a beautiful, winding road through extensive shallow marshes. Here the marshlands were brimming with waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, and our first Loggerhead Shrike of the trip. The cherry on top was six Roseate Spoonbills feeding in unison in beautiful afternoon light. What a spectacular way to end the day!

On our last day, we returned to Cape Valero Drive and a nearby wetland to enjoy final looks at some of the amazing birds found along this beautiful stretch of the Texas coast. It was such an enjoyable experience sharing this adventure with such wonderful and enthusiastic people!



What a spectacular spot! Snow Geese and other waterbirds at FM 1069 ponds near Cape Valero Drive, 19 Feb 2023, ©Brad McKinney

THREE FAVORITE BIRDS OF THE TOUR

1. Whooping Crane
2. Snowy Plover
3. Least Grebe

HONORABLE MENTION BIRDS

Vermilion Flycatcher
Virginia Rail
Wilson's Snipe

ITINERARY

Day 1- Pickup from the airport, birding at Indian Point Park. Dinner at Charlotte Plummer's

Day 2- Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, Port Aransas jetty, Mustang Island, lunch at Scuttlebutt's, Mustang Island State Park, Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge, and Aransas Woods, dinner at Old Fulton Seafood Café and Deli

Day 3- Whooping Crane boat tour with Captain Jay, lunch at Apple Dumpling Deli, Goose Island State Park, Lamar Beach, dinner at Latitude 28°02'

Day 4- Corpus Christi HawkWatch/Hazel Bazemore Park, lunch with Joel Simon at El Tapatio, Clay Taylor's House, Indian Point, Cape Valero Drive, dinner at Moondog Seaside Eatery

Day 5- Cape Valero Drive, drive back to airport

Common Name	Scientific Name	
Waterfowl	Anatidae	
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	Flocks of 12-15 seen in flight at Aransas Woods and Hazel Bazemore
Snow Goose	<i>Anser caerulescens</i>	Three flyovers at Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge, 150+ at ponds on FM 1069 near Cape Valero Drive
Ross's Goose	<i>Anser rossii</i>	Three birds mixed in with Snow Geese on FM 1069 ponds
Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Three flyovers at Mustang Island
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>	Many seen daily in various wetland habitats
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	Many seen daily in various wetland habitats
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	Several at Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge
American Wigeon	<i>Mareca americana</i>	Near daily- many seen at Indian Point, Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, and Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	small flock seen at FM 1069 ponds
Mottled Duck	<i>Anas fulvigula</i>	Seen well each day in many locations
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Seen daily; stunning to see in large flocks
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Seen well in several locations including incredibly close views at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center
Redhead	<i>Aythya americana</i>	Common with large flocks at Indian Point, Mustang Island, and Cape Valero Drive
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	Four females at Aransas Woods
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	Indian Point
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	One flock of males and females seen briefly on Whooping Crane boat tour while crossing Aransas Bay
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Indian Point and a few on Whooping Crane boat tour
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	Six birds at Aransas Woods
Grebes	Podicipedidae	
Least Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>	Great looks at this unexpected find at Aransas Woods
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Seen daily in a variety of wetland habitats
Pigeons and Doves	Columbidae	
Rock Pigeon (I)	<i>Columba livia</i>	Daily sighting at Rockport, Aransas Pass, and other towns
Eurasian Collared-Dove (I)	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Commonly seen at Rockport, Indian Point, Goose Island, and Hazel Bazemore
Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>	a few seen at Goose Island State Park and Hazel Bazemore
White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	several at Hazel Bazemore
White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	Seen daily in scattered locations; seen well in Rockport, Goose Island State Park, and Hazel Bazemore
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Common, seen daily
Nightjars	Caprimulgidae	
Common Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>	one bird seen briefly by some at Hazel Bazemore by first picnic area down from the HawkWatch
Hummingbirds	Trochilidae	
Black-chinned Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>	one female briefly seen at Clay Taylor's back yard hummingbird feeder
Rails, Gallinules & Coots	Rallidae	
Clapper Rail	<i>Rallus crepitans</i>	One seen fairly well from Indian Point boardwalk and another

Virginia Rail
Sora
Common Gallinule

American Coot
Cranes

Sandhill Crane

Whooping Crane
Stilts & Avocets

Black-necked Stilt

American Avocet
Oystercatchers

American
Oystercatcher
**Plovers and
Lapwings**

Black-bellied Plover
Killdeer

Snowy Plover
Sandpipers & Allies

Long-billed Curlew
Ruddy Turnstone
Sanderling
Dunlin
Least Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper

Short-billed Dowitcher
Long-billed Dowitcher
Wilson's Snipe

Greater Yellowlegs

Willet
Lesser Yellowlegs
**Gulls, Terns &
Skimmers**

Bonaparte's Gull
Laughing Gull
Ring-billed Gull

Herring Gull

Rallus limicola
Porzana carolina
Gallinula galeata

Fulica americana
Gruidae

Antigone canadensis

Grus americana
Recurvirostridae
Himantopus
mexicanus
Recurvirostra
americana

Haematopodidae
Haematopus palliatus

Charadriidae
Pluvialis squatarola
Charadrius vociferus
Charadrius nivosus

Scolopacidae
Numenius
americanus
Arenaria interpres
Calidris alba
Calidris alpina
Calidris minutilla
Calidris mauri

Limnodromus griseus
Limnodromus
scolopaceus
Gallinago delicata

Tringa melanoleuca
Tringa semipalmata
Tringa flavipes

Laridae
Chroicocephalus
philadelphia
Leucophaeus atricilla
Larus delawarensis
Larus argentatus

heard at Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge

One seen well while bathing in small pool below boardwalk at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center

Seen well from boardwalk at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center
Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center and Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge
Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, Mustang Island, Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge, and Aransas Woods

Good numbers at Goose Island State Park/Lamar Beach and FM 1069 ponds, two flyovers at Aransas Woods
A whopping 23 birds seen on the Whooping Crane boat tour and 13 more at Lamar Beach!

Common at Indian Point, Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge, and Hazel Bazemore
Sizeable flocks seen at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge, and Whooping Crane boat tour

Indian Point and nesting pair on Whooping Crane boat tour

Indian Point and Whooping Crane boat tour
Goose Island State Park and Hazel Bazemore
Great looks at 4-5 birds along Indian Point bayshore

Indian Point, Whooping Crane boat tour, and FM 1069 ponds
Indian Point, Mustang Island, and Whooping Crane boat tour
Indian Point and Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center
Indian Point bayshore and Whooping Crane boat tour
Indian Point bayshore
Indian Point bayshore
Indian Point, Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge, and Whooping Crane boat tour

Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center
Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center
Seen daily in numerous locations, including Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center and Cape Valero Drive
Seen daily in numerous locations, including Indian Point, Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center and Cape Valero Drive
Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center and Cape Valero Drive

Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, Port Aransas beach and jetties
Seen daily along the coast
Widespread from open beaches to inland bays
Indian Point, Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, Mustang Island State Park, and Whooping Crane boat tour

Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Great looks at an adult bird at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center One bird on Whooping Crane boat tour feeding over land along intercoastal waterway
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge and on Whooping Crane boat tour
Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	Seen daily along the coast Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge, and Whooping Crane boat tour
Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge
Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>	
Loons	Gaviidae	
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Two leaving the dock at the Whooping Crane boat tour and crossing Aransas Bay
Cormorants	Phalacrocoracidae	
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>	Common along waters, seen daily
	<i>Nannopterum brasilianum</i>	
Neotropic Cormorant		Well observed along coastal waterways and marshes throughout
Pelicans	Pelecanidae	
American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	Seen daily in larger bodies of water along the coast
	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	
Brown Pelican		Seen daily along beaches and bays throughout
Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns	Ardeidae	
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Well seen each day in a variety of wetland habitats
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Well seen each day in a variety of wetland habitats
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Well seen in smaller numbers in a variety of wetland habitats Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge, and Cape Valero Drive
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Well seen each day in a variety of wetland habitats
Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	Well studied in many coastal locations, including close views of both color morphs at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center
Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>	Indian Point, Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge, and Whooping Crane boat tour
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	Indian Point and Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge
Ibises & Spoonbills	Threskiornithidae	
White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	Common daily sight in fields and marshes throughout Small numbers seen at two ponds on FM 1069 near Cape Valero Drive
White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	Mustang Island, Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge, and Cape Valero Drive
Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>	
New World Vultures	Cathartidae	
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	Seen daily throughout, especially in and around Rockport and Hazel Bazemore
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Common daily sight throughout our travels
Osprey	Pandionidae	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Good numbers seen daily from the open coast to inland bays
Hawks, Eagles & Kites	Accipitridae	
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	Well observed at Mustang Island, Cape Valero Drive, and

Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Hazel Bazemore
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Hazel Bazemore
White-tailed Hawk	<i>Geranoaetus albicaudatus</i>	One adult bird on Whooping Crane boat tour, mostly hidden in tall grasses after being harassed by two Ospreys
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Three birds on Mustang Island near the state park entrance
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	A resident pair at the entrance of Hazel Bazemore Park
Kingfishers	Alcedinidae	Observed daily, including Indian Point, Rockport, Goose Island State Park, and Hazel Bazemore
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>	Indian Point, Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge, Whooping Crane boat tour, and pond on FM 1069
Woodpeckers	Picidae	
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes aurifrons</i>	Corpus Christi HawkWatch/Hazel Bazemore
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates scalaris</i>	Goose Island State Park and Hazel Bazemore
Falcons & Caracaras	Falconidae	
Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>	Mustang Island, Hazel Bazemore, and Cape Valero Drive
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	Widespread; seen daily in open fields and telephone lines
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center and Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge
New World Parrots	Psittacidae	
Monk Parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>	Corpus Christi
Tyrant Flycatchers	Tyrannidae	
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	Goose Island State Park and Hazel Bazemore
Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	Goose Island State Park
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge and Hazel Bazemore
Couch's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus couchii</i>	Goose Island State Park
Vireos, Shrike-Babblers & Erpornis		
Vireonidae		
White-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	Hazel Bazemore
Shrikes	Laniidae	
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Cape Valero Drive
Crows, Jays & Magpies	Corvidae	
Green Jay	<i>Cyanocorax yncas</i>	Hazel Bazemore
Tits, Chickadees, & Titmice	Paridae	
Black-crested Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus atricristatus</i>	heard only at Goose Island State Park and seen briefly at Hazel Bazemore
Swallows	Hirundinidae	
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Three flyovers at Indian Point
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	One male soaring along Cape Valero Drive
Kinglets	Regulidae	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Corthylio calendula</i>	Aransas Woods, Goose Island State Park, and Hazel Bazemore

Waxwings	Bombycillidae	
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	flock of 60 birds at Aransas Woods
Gnatcatchers	Poliopitidae	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliopitila caerulea</i>	Hazel Bazemore
Wrens	Troglodytidae	
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge, Goose Island State Park, and Hazel Bazemore
Sedge Wren	<i>Cistothorus stellaris</i>	Hazel Bazemore
Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center
Carolina Wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	Hazel Bazemore
Mockingbirds & Thrashers	Mimidae	
Long-billed Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma longirostre</i>	Hazel Bazemore Seen in Rockport, Hans Suter Wildlife Refuge, Goose Island State Park, and Hazel Bazemore
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	
Starlings	Sturnidae	
European Starling (I)	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Seen sporadically in and around Rockport, Aransas Pass, Mustang Island and other cities we visited
Thrushes & Allies	Turdidae	
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	One brief look from the van of a bird along the highway near Rockport
Old World Sparrows	Passeridae	
House Sparrow (I)	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Rockport, Mustang Island, and Hazel Bazemore
Wagtails & Pipits	Motacillidae	
American Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	Annie photographed a lone bird at Indian Point
New World Sparrows	Passerellidae	
Clay-colored Sparrow	<i>Spizella pallida</i>	Goose Island State Park
Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	Goose Island State Park
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Mustang Island State Park, Indian Point
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Goose Island State Park Goose Island State Park and Hazel Bazemore
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>	
Troupials & Allies	Icteridae	
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	Lamar Beach and Cape Valero Drive Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, Goose Island State Park, and Cape Valero Drive
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	Winter flocks seen daily in wetlands and ponds throughout
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Hazel Bazemore
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	One bird at Hazel Bazemore
Boat-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus major</i>	One on Whooping Crane boat tour along intercoastal waterway Seen daily and common around towns and coastal areas throughout
Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	
New World Warblers	Parulidae	
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i>	Goose Island State Park
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center and pond edges of Hazel

Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Bazemore
Cardinals & Allies	Cardinalidae	Seen daily in many locations, including Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, Goose Island State Park, and Hazel Bazemore
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Locally common at Goose Island State Park and Hazel Bazemore

MAMMALS
Squirrels, Prairie Dogs & Marmots
Sciuridae

Eastern Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>	Goose Island State Park
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Peccary		
Collared Peccary (Javelina)	<i>Pecari tajacu</i>	Corpus Christi HawkWatch/Hazel Bazemore

Deer	Cervidae	
	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	Goose Island State Park

Dolphins	Delphinidae	
Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Port Aransas ferry and Whooping Crane boat tour