

**Field Trip to the Colorado River Delta, Sonora  
and Baja California, Mexico**

**October 17-19, 2010**

**Western Field Ornithologists**

**35th Annual Meeting - October 2010**

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WFO Oct 2010 Delta Field Trip Narrative and Annotated Species List.doc



## Field Trip Narrative

Note: see site locations described below on the attached map.

### October 17

The group departed from Palm Desert, CA on October 17 at 5 AM. We parked in Calexico (AA Parking) and walked across the border to Mexicali, Baja California, where a rented van was waiting for the group. We immediately went to the Andrade Mesa Wetlands (Baja California, Site 1), 25 miles east from Mexicali, arriving there at about 8:30 AM. These marsh wetlands are located between the Algodones Dunes in the Mexican side, very close to the US-Mexico border. The wetlands were created and maintained by seepage from the All American Canal. Since the lining of the AAC, water levels have been decreasing, and the wetlands might disappear in a few years.

Our next stop was Las Arenitas Wetland (Baja California, Site 2), arriving near 11 AM. This constructed wetland is located 20 miles south of Mexicali, on the West side of Cerro Prieto, adjacent to the Las Arenitas Wastewater Treatment Plant, from which it receives its water.

Finally, from about 2:30 to 5 PM we visited 3 sites in the mainstem of the Colorado River near the San Felipe Bridge (Baja California, Site 3): 1-the old road crossing, 2- under the San Felipe Bridge, and 3- Laguna Grande, 1.3 miles downstream from the San Felipe Bridge.

We drove to San Luis Río Colorado, Sonora to spend the night at Hotel San Antonio. We had dinner at Restaurant El Herradero, conducted our evening checklist session, and turned in shortly thereafter.

### October 18

The first stop was at the Cienega de Santa Clara (Sonora, Site 4), from 7 to 11:30 AM. First the group birded along a trail on the western edge of the marsh, and then we did a canoe trip through several of the lagoons. The Cienega is a large marsh (12,000 acres) maintained with agricultural drainage from the Welton / Mohawk Irrigation District in Arizona. The canoe trip and lunch was organized by the local ecotourism enterprise of the community of Ejido Johnson.

We then went to the eastern edge of the Cienega de Santa Clara, to the location known as Flor del Desierto (Site 5, between 12:30-2 PM). Next we went directly to El Golfo de Santa Clara (Upper Gulf of California, Sonora), to the Hotel Las Conchas. The boat trip in the Upper Gulf was cancelled due to bad weather, and the group birded along the coast (Site 6) for several hours until sunset.

We had dinner at El Delfin Amigable and spend the night in El Golfo (Hotel Las Conchas)

### October 19

The group birded in El Golfo de Santa Clara, heading NW along the coast, towards a little estuary close to the hotel (Site 6, between 7:00 and 8:30 AM).

Next we went to a site known as "La Pila" (15 miles NW from El Golfo de Santa Clara, Site 7), which is part of the string of oases wetlands located between the Gran Desierto escarpment and the Colorado Delta floodplain, supported by the desert aquifer as it comes to the surface in the Cerro Prieto fault (between 9:00 and 10:30 AM).

Continuing on to El Doctor (10 miles NW from La Pila, Site 8), which is also a part of the same wetland system, we birded at this conservation easement and a restoration site between 11 AM and 12 PM and had a picnic lunch under some tall trees.

Finally, we headed back to border in Mexicali, where the participants walked back across the border into the US.



## Annotated Species List

### Abbreviations used for birding locations:

AMW - Andrade Mesa Wetlands, Baja California, MX  
AW - Arenitas Wetland, Baja California, MX  
SFB - San Felipe Bridge, Baja California and Sonora, MX  
CSC - Cienega de Santa Clara, Sonora, MX  
FD - Flor del Desierto, Sonora, MX  
EGSC - El Golfo de Santa Clara, Sonora, MX  
LP - La "Pila", Sonora, MX  
ED - El Doctor, Sonora, MX

### ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera* Uncommon throughout, but we did see a high of 15 at AMW on 17 October 2010.

**American Wigeon** *Anas americana* Uncommon, with two seen at CSC on 18 October 2010 while birding the wetlands and on the boat trip.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* Fairly common in wetlands and irrigation canals throughout the trip. A high of at least one-thousand were at AW on 17 October 2010.

**Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors* Only seen at one site on the trip, when we counted a minimum of 20+ at the AW on 17 October 2010.

**Cinnamon Teal** *Anas cyanoptera* Fairly common at wetlands and along irrigated fields and canals. We recorded a high of at least 60+ individuals at AW on 17 October 2010.

**Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata* Common at AW on 17 October 2010 where we estimated a minimum of 200 on the open water.

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta* Fairly common to the wetlands and irrigation systems in the northern portion of the Delta. We found them at four sites on the first two days, with a high of five individuals at AW on 17 October 2010.

**Green-winged Teal** *Anas crecca* Uncommon, with four seen at AW on 17 October 2010, and one more at ED on 19 October 2010.

**Redhead** *Aythya americana* Seen in low numbers at AMW and CSC, we recorded at least 30 on the large open water at AW on 17 October 2010.

**Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis* Four were at CSC on 18 October 2010 for the only sighting for the trip.

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis* Recorded from AW, where we had a minimum of 2500 birds on 17 October 2010, and at CSC on 18 October 2010 when we counted ca. 15 birds.

**GALLIFORMES: Odontophoridae**

**Gambel's Quail** *Callipepla gambelii* Uncommon to fairly common to most riparian habitats with adequate cover, we recorded them daily. A high of 25+ were along the Rio Colorado and in the adjacent agricultural fields at SFB on 17 October 2010.

**GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae**

**Ring-necked Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus* Surprisingly common in this hot and arid environment, we found them along the roads in the agricultural regions on the first two days. A high of at least twelve birds were seen on the way to CSC on 18 October 2010.

**PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae**

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* Fairly common at all of the wetland-associated stops and along agricultural ditches with water, we recorded a high of twelve at AW on 17 October 2010.

**Eared Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis* Common at AW where we recorded a minimum of 50+ on the open waters of the reservoir on 17 October 2010.

**Western Grebe** *Aechmophorus occidentalis* Uncommon in most wetland habitats, we recorded a high of eight at AW of 17 October 2010.

**PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae**

**American White Pelican** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* A lone individual was located at CSC while we toured the estuary by boat and canoe on 18 October 2010.

**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis* Uncommon at the inland sites, we recorded three at CSC on 18 October 2010. Of course much more common along the coast, where we counted a minimum of 150+ while birding the beach and estuary at EGSC on 18 and 19 October 2010.

**PELECANIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae**

**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus* Uncommon to fairly common resident (?) or migrant to the larger bodies of water throughout the trip, with a high count of seven birds at CSC on 18 October 2010 and probably at least that many along the coast at EGSC on 18 and 19 October 2010.

**CICONIIFORMES: Ardeidae**

**Least Bittern** *Ixobrychus exilis* As frustrating as this species can be to observe, some actually were spotted on 18 October 2010 while in the boats at CSC. We estimated a total of six were seen or heard during the morning excursion.

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* Fairly common to common in all wetland-associated habitats of the trip, we recorded a high of six while driving through the agricultural habitats near AMW and also at the AMW site itself on 17 October 2010.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* Common to all wetland-associated habitats of the trip, we recorded a high of twenty-five while driving through the agricultural habitats near AMW and also at the AMW site itself on 17 October 2010.

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* Fairly common to all wetland-associated habitats of the trip (less common than the previous species), we recorded a high of five while driving through the agricultural habitats near AMW and also at the AMW site itself on 17 October 2010.

**Reddish Egret** *Egretta rufescens* A highlight for some of the participants, one reddish form was located on the beach and at the estuary while at EGSC on 18 and 19 October 2010. We noted that it was banded and we attempted to get the number on the band with marginal success. Krueper submitted some photos to Eduardo Palacios, the researcher who has been banding this species in western Mexico for the past several years, and he reported that the individual that we found was banded near Guerrero Negro in Baja California Sur on 4 July 2008. A quick Google Earth check resulted in determining that this egret had moved 425 kms northeast from where it was originally banded. Here is Eduardo's note that he sent when we notified him of the sighting:

**Gracias Dave.**

**We had other re-sightings and yours support our assumptions. Several of us examined the pictures sent by Dave and we agreed that the band number is A22, from Isla Piedra, Laguna Ojo de Liebre, BCS**

175769524    RED A22    Isla Piedras    04-Jul-08    Male

During the period of postnesting dispersal (July through October), most young remain in the area and are commonly found in hypersaline flats and ponds of the solar saltwork of Guerrero Negro. Up to 275 individuals are usually observed feeding in one of the cells of the Guerrero Negro saltworks (Pond S-1A). In this pond we observed two young females that were banded in July 2008. One young (A78) was re-sighted on 30 October, 2008 and 7 July 2009 in the same pond. Another young female banded in 2008 (A42) was re-sighted on 26 January 2009. One male individual banded as young (A75) in Laguna Ojo de Liebre, Baja California Sur on 4 July 2008, was sighted by a tourist in Nuevo Vallarta, Nayarit on early March 2009. Based on this preliminary data it seems that postbreeding dispersal might involve mostly male immature and those young females would be essentially residents. The bird observed in Nuevo Puerto Vallarta is about 1,125 km from natal area. Also, it is known that in Texas some individuals move north to Florida post-breeding dispersal.

My bet would be that the El Golfo bird that you found moved north along the coast, then across the península to Bahía de Los Angeles, then north to the Colorado River Delta. I have observed thousands of pelicans, cormorants, Heermann's Gull, and other birds crossing the peninsula from Bahía de Los Angeles to Santa Rosalillita in the Pacific side. There is a natural pass that REEG could also use. But who knows... Then, birds from the Delta can visit the Salton Sea.

Thanks again y seguimos en contacto  
Eduardo

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* Common to abundant in all of the agricultural habitats in the Delta area. We estimated a minimum of several hundred seen at and in the vicinity of AMW, AW, and SFB on 17 October 2010.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* A single individual was discovered at CSC on 18 October 2010.

#### **CICONIIFORMES: Threskiornithidae**

**White-faced Ibis** *Plegadis chihi* Abundant in the agricultural fields south of the border crossing, we estimated several thousand were in the air moving from night roosts to flooded agricultural fields in the early morning hours on 17 October 2010. We sighted smaller numbers throughout the trip, particularly near AMW, AW, SFB, and CSC.

#### **FALCONIFORMES: Cathartidae**

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* Fairly common to all habitats throughout the trip, with a high of thirty estimated on 17 October 2010 while birding AMW, AW and SFB.

#### **FALCONIFORMES: Accipitridae**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* Uncommon winter visitant to the larger bodies of water that we visited on 17 and 18 October 2010, with single or multiple individuals seen at each site. A high of three individuals were observed at both SFB and CSC.

**Northern Harrier** *Circus cyaneus* Fairly common migrant and winter resident to the agricultural habitats in the region, we recorded them at all sites daily. A high count of five estimated at AW and in the agricultural habitats adjacent to the large wetland complex on 17 October 2010.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** *Accipiter striatus* Uncommon migrant and winter resident (?) to the area, we recorded single individuals at AW, SFB, CSC, and FD on 17 and 18 October 2010.

**Cooper's Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii* Uncommon migrant and winter resident to the area, we recorded single individuals at AMW, SFB, CSC, and FD on 17 and 18 October 2010.

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis* Fairly common resident and/or migrant throughout the trip, with small numbers of up to three individuals seen in all habitats.

#### **FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae**

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* Common resident and probable migrant throughout the trip, with up to four individuals seen in the agricultural habitats near AW and an additional four at SFB in the late afternoon on 17 October 2010.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius* One at AW and one at SFB on 17 October 2010 were the only ones that we recorded on the trip.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* One at SFB on 17 October 2010 was seen by most of the group, and photos later confirmed our identification while at the bridge site.

**Prairie Falcon** *Falco mexicanus* Uncommon migrant and winter resident, we recorded single individuals on each day of the trip. One bird was discovered at each of the following sites: AW, CSC, and LP.

#### **GRUIFORMES: Rallidae**

**Clapper Rail** *Rallus longirostris* Uncommon at the wetland sites, although we did detect one at AW on 17 October 2010 and an additional three while at CSC on 18 October 2010.

**Virginia Rail** *Rallus limicola* Fairly common to the wetland sites, we heard or saw between one and six at AMW, AW, SFB, CSC, FD, LP and ED (recorded on each of the three days in the field).

**Sora** *Porzana Carolina* Not quite as common as the previous species, we detected between one and two at most wetland sites, with the high (2) recorded at CSC on 18 October 2010.

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* Fairly common on 17-18 October, with a high of six observed while at CSC and on the boat trip.

**American Coot** *Fulica americana* Common at AMW, AW and CSC, with a high count of several thousand at the latter site on 18 October 2010.

#### **CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae**

**Black-bellied Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* Between three and four were located on the beach at EGSC on 18 and 19 October 2010.

**Snowy Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus* One seen at EGSC on 18 and 19 October 2010 just to the north of the hotel at the estuary that we walked to.

**Wilson's Plover** *Charadrius wilsonia* One seen at EGSC on 18 and 19 October 2010 just to the north of the hotel at the estuary. Most participants were able to get onto the individual, but it proved sneaky and difficult to get good scope views.

**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus* Six were seen at EGSC on 19 October 2010 just to the north of the hotel at the estuary.

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferous* Common to all wetland and flooded agricultural sites throughout the trip. We recorded a high count of twenty at AW, and an additional twelve at both AMW and EGSC.

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae**

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* Fairly common at AMW, AW and CSC on 17 and 18 October 2010, with a high count of sixteen at AW.

**American Avocet** *Recurvirostra americana* Fairly common at AMW, AW and CSC on 17 October 2010, with a high count of ten at AW.

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae**

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* Uncommon passage migrant and winter resident, we recorded two at AW on 17 October 2010 and one at CSC on 18 October 2010 just before the boat trip departed.

**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* Fairly common passage migrant and winter resident, we recorded at least one at almost all suitable wetland sites and had a high of six at AW on 17 October 2010.

**Willet** *Tringa semipalmata* Common winter resident along the coast where we had up to ten birds at EGSC on 18 October 2010.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* Uncommon passage migrant and/or winter resident, we found one bird at EGSC on 19 October 2010 at the lagoon to the north of the hotel.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* Fairly common passage migrant and/or winter resident, we found one bird at EGSC on 18 October 2010 along the beach and an additional twelve at the lagoon to the north of the hotel on 19 October 2010.

**Long-billed Curlew** *Numenius americanus* Fairly common to common at EGSC, we found three there on 18 October 2010 and at least ten there the following morning on 19 October 2010 before departing for the wetlands to the north.



**Marbled Godwit** *Limosa fedoa* Fairly common passage migrant and winter resident along the coast, we counted six at EGCS on both 18 and 19 October 2010.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* Three were found in the lagoon to the north of the hotel at EGCS on the morning of 19 October 2010.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba* Common along the coastal habitats, we recorded a high of twenty-five on 18 October 2010 while at EGSC.

**Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri* Surprisingly uncommon along the coast and at the wetland sites, we found only a single individual at EGSC on 18 October 2010.

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla* Common at AMW and AW on 17 October 2010, we recorded a high of 65 at the latter site. Interesting in that we only had this species at interior wetland sites at the beginning of the trip and none along the coastal habitats, while we did not record the previous species until we got to the coastal habitats.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos* A good find while at EP on 19 October 2010, we located one on the brackish marsh to the south of the access area.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* Fairly common to large wetlands and along the coast, we found two at AW on 17 October 2010 and two to three at EGSC on 18 and 19 October 2010.

**Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* Common passage migrant and winter resident to all wetland sites and along the coast, we found a high of seventy-five at AW on 17 October 2010 and up to ten while at EGSC on 19 October 2010.

**Wilson's Snipe** *Gallinago delicata* Uncommon winter resident (no doubt we overlooked this secretive species), we found one at AW on 17 October 2010 and another individual at CSC on 18 October 2010.

**Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor* A late passage migrant, one was located and studied extensively while at AMW on 17 October 2010.

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus* A passage migrant, we recorded an estimated 1500 individuals (fifteen hundred!) while at AW on 17 October 2010, yet none at any of the other sites that we visited. Some great photographs of the foraging birds were obtained by the photographers in the group.



**CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae**

**Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla* Fairly common along the coast, we found sixteen while on the boat trip at CSC on 18 October 2010 and up to ten at EGSC on 18 and 19 October 2010.

**Heermann's Gull** *Larus heermanni* Common along the coast, we counted at least three hundred at EGSC on 18 October 2010 with some very nice photos obtained of various plumages.

**Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis* Uncommon at inland wetland sites yet common along the coast, we found this species daily and recorded a high count of several hundred while at EGSC on 18 and 19 October 2010.

**Western Gull** *Larus occidentalis* Uncommon along the coast, we counted a high of two while at EGSC on 18 October 2010.

**Yellow-footed Gull** *Larus livens* An endemic to northwestern Mexico, we found at least ten individuals while at EGSC along the beach on 18 and 19 October 2012.



**California Gull** *Larus californicus* Common along the coast at EGSC, we counted several hundred there on both 18 and 19 October 2010.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus* Fairly common while at EGSC, our high count of fifteen was near the hotel along the beach on 18 October 2010.

**Thayer's Gull** *Larus thayeri* Rare in Sonora, we found one individual at EGSC on the beach on 18 October 2010. I wish that I had been able to get some photos of this individual!

**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* Uncommon, we located at least five while at EGSC on 19 October 2010 at the lagoon to the north of the hotel for the only sighting of the trip.

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia* Uncommon, we found six while on the boat trip at CSC on 18 October 2010 and another three while at EGSC on 19 October 2010.

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger* A rather dapper species, we found a total of seven passage migrants along the coast in the surf at EGSC on 18 October 2010.

**Forster's Tern** *Sterna forsteri* Common at CSC where we found twenty-two birds while on the boat trip on 18 October 2010, some of which posed nicely for photographs on buoys.

**Elegant Tern** *Thalasseus elegans* Relatively common along the coast, we recorded a high of eleven birds on 18 October 2010 while at EGSC.

**Black Skimmer** *Rynchops niger* Recorded only at EGSC just before sunset on 18 October 2010, some of us saw six birds flying over the surf.

#### **COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae**

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* Common to all urban areas while on the trip, seen in good numbers daily.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* Once considered a rarity in Sonora, this species has established itself in nearly all urban and suburban habitats within the last five years. Several to many were seen daily in appropriate habitat.

**White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica* Surprisingly uncommon on the trip, we recorded only two in total, with one at CSC on 18 October 2010 just before the boat trip, and another individual on 18 October 2010 at EGSC on the walk to the restaurant for dinner.

**Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura* Common permanent and winter resident, we recorded up to thirty daily in a variety of habitats.

**Inca Dove** *Columbina inca* Uncommon resident to the area, we recorded single individuals on 17 October 2010 at AMW and on 18 October 2010 at CSC.

**Common Ground-Dove** *Columbina passerine* Uncommon to rare (possibly overlooked?), we found one individual at AW on 17 October 2010.

#### **CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae**

**Greater Roadrunner** *Geococcyx californianus* Fairly common permanent resident to the Lower Colorado River Delta, we observed between one and two daily at most habitats visited on 17 and 18 October 2010.

#### **STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae**

**Burrowing Owl** *Athene cunicularia* A good find was one which flushed while at the AMW on 17 October 2010. Most or all participants were able to view this individual at leisure.

#### **CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae**

**Lesser Nighthawk** *Chordeiles acutipennis* One flushed out of the trees where it was roosting during the day while at FD on 18 October 2010.

#### **APODIFORMES: Trochilidae**

**Anna's Hummingbird** *Calypte anna* Surprisingly uncommon on the trip, we recorded one at AW and another one at SFB on 17 October 2010.

**CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae**

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon* A single individual was at CSC on 18 October 2010 just before we departed on the boat trip through the cienega.

**PICIFORMES: Picidae**

**Gila Woodpecker** *Melanerpes uropygialis* Uncommon in the Lower Colorado River Valley, we found two at AW on 17 October 2010 and one on 18 October 2010 at FD.

**Ladder-backed Woodpecker** *Picoides scalaris* Uncommon in the Valley, we found one at AW and on one at SFB on 17 October 2010.

**Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus* Uncommon on the trip, we recorded between one and two on 17 and 19 October 2010 at AW, SFB, EGSC, and LP.

**Gilded Flicker** *Colaptes chrysoides* One calling individual and then seen at SFB on 17 October 2010 was the only bird seen for the trip.

**PASSERIFORMES: Tyrannidae**

**Pacific-slope Flycatcher** *Empidonax difficilis* A great find was one bird at ED which several people were able to get on to.

**Black Phoebe** *Sayornis nigricans* Common throughout the trip, with birds seen at almost all habitats where water was present, between one and six birds seen at each location.

**Say's Phoebe** *Sayornis saya* Common throughout the trip, with birds seen at almost all habitats in small numbers (between one and three birds seen at each location).

**Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus* Seen only at CSC on 18 October 2010, we estimated a total of three individuals were in the area.

**PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae**

**Loggerhead Shrike** *Lanius ludovicianus* Fairly common in most agricultural and edge habitats throughout the trip, we recorded this species daily in numbers of between one and two at nearly all sites and while driving between sites.

**PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae**

**Common Raven** *Corvus corax* The only sightings for the trip were on 19 October 2010 when we recorded two at LP and an additional two near ED.

**PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae**

**Horned Lark** *Eremophila alpestris* Fairly common winter resident to the agricultural and wetland sites that we visited on 17-18 October 2010, with a high count of ten at CSC on the latter date.

**PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae**

**Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor* Fairly common winter resident to the Rio Colorado Delta, we recorded between one and four daily at nearly all sites that we birded.

**Violet-green Swallow** *Tachycineta thalassina* Uncommon passage migrant or winter resident, we found three at AMW on 17 October 2010, and one each at EGSC and LP on 19 October 2010.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* Uncommon passage migrant or winter resident, we found one at AMW on 17 October 2010, and one at LP on 19 October 2010.

**Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* With some careful searching at AMW on 17 October 2010 we were able to find seven birds in the large mixed-species swallow flock foraging over the wetlands.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* By far the most common of the swallow species, we saw good numbers daily and recorded a high of several hundred while at AMW on 17 October 2010.

**PASSERIFORMES: Remizidae**

**Verdin** *Auriparus flaviceps* Fairly common to common permanent resident to the scrub habitats throughout the trip. We found between one and three daily while scouring the landscape.

**PASSERIFORMES: Troglodytidae**

**Cactus Wren** *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus* Fairly common permanent resident to the arid scrublands in the Gulf region, we surprisingly recorded only a single individual while at FD on 18 October 2010.

**Rock Wren** *Salpinctes obsoletus* Common permanent resident to rocky scrublands in the region, we recorded between one and three daily in appropriate habitat.

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon* Uncommon passage migrant and winter resident, we recorded single individuals at AMW, SFB, and FD on 17 and 18 October respectively.

**Marsh Wren** *Cistothorus palustris* Common permanent resident and winter resident to the wetland sites throughout the trip, we recorded a high of several dozen while at CSC on 18 October 2010.

**PASSERIFORMES: Regulidae**

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus calendula* Surprisingly rare for such a common winter resident, we recorded only a single individual while at LP on 19 October 2010.

**PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae**

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila caerulea* Uncommon passage migrant and winter resident, we recorded single individuals on 17 and 19 October 2010 while at AW, SFB, LP and ED.

**Black-tailed Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila melanura* Uncommon permanent resident to the Gulf region, we recorded small numbers daily with a high of two at FD on 18 October 2010.

**PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae**

**Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus* Uncommon (possibly overlooked?) winter resident to the area, we located a single individual while birding at LP on 19 October 2010.

**PASSERIFORMES: Mimidae**

**Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos* Common permanent resident and winter resident, we found between two and three at every site daily while on the trip.

**Crissal Thrasher** *Toxostoma crissale* Uncommon permanent resident to the region, we found one individual while birding at FD on 18 October 2010.

**PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae**

**European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* Common permanent resident throughout the trip, we recorded between two and several dozen daily in most of the agricultural and urban habitats that we visited.

**PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae**

**American Pipit** *Anthus rubescens* Fairly common passage migrant and winter resident to most agricultural and wetland sites, we recorded between one and three daily (mostly vocal fly-overs).

**PASSERIFORMES: Ptilonotidae**

**Phainopepla** *Phainopepla nitens* Fairly common permanent resident in the Gulf region, we recorded between one and four daily in most habitats that we birded.

### **PASSERIFORMES: Parulidae**

**Orange-crowned Warbler** *Oreothlypis celata* Fairly common passage migrant and winter resident to the area, we found between one and two at almost all sites that we visited.

**Nashville Warbler** *Oreothlypis ruficapilla* An uncommon passage migrant, we found one at LP on 19 October 2010.

**Yellow Warbler** *Dendroica petechia* An uncommon passage migrant, we were fortunate to locate one at LP on 19 October 2010.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Dendroica coronata* Common passage migrant and winter resident to the area, we recorded between one and ten at all sites that we visited throughout the trip. To the best of my knowledge we did not record a "Myrtle" warbler while on the trip.

**Black-throated Gray Warbler** *Dendroica nigrescens* Uncommon passage migrant, we found one at AW on 17 October 2010, and two while at LP on 19 October 2010.

**Hermit Warbler** *Dendroica occidentalis* One of the rarest species recorded on the trip because of the location (coastal lowlands rather than mountains), we found one at LP on 19 October 2010. Good photos were obtained by Bill Hopson to document the discovery.

**MacGillivray's Warbler** *Oporornis tolmiei* Uncommon to fairly common passage migrant in the area, we found one at LP on 19 October 2010.

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas* Fairly common to common permanent resident and passage migrant, we recorded between two and twenty-five daily at most wetland sites, with the high number at CSC on 18 October 2010 while on the boat trip and birding the fringe habitats at that site.

**Wilson's Warbler** *Wilsonia pusilla* Uncommon to common passage migrant in the region, we found a single individual at LP on 19 October 2010.

### **PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae**

**Abert's Towhee** *Melospiza aberti* Rare permanent resident in Baja California and uncommon permanent resident in Sonora along the Colorado River, we managed to locate one bird at SFB (vocal) on 17 October 2010 and up to two birds at LP on 19 October 2010. For those keeping Mexico lists, the only locations for this species in Mexico are within the Delta region (both Baja California and Sonora), and then also along the Santa Cruz River near Nogales, Sonora and along the San Pedro River to the south of Sierra Vista, AZ within Sonora.

**Brewer's Sparrow** *Spizella breweri* Uncommon to fairly common winter resident in the region, we located three individuals at AMW on 17 October 2010 for the only sightings of the trip.

**Vesper Sparrow** *Pooecetes gramineus* Uncommon to fairly common winter resident, we found six while at LP on 19 October 2010.

**Sage Sparrow** *Amphispiza belli* A truly beautiful sparrow, we were fortunate to find nine individuals at AMW on 17 October 2010 and an additional two birds at CSC on 18 October 2010.

**Savannah Sparrow** *Passerculus sandwichensis* Fairly common winter resident to the region, we recorded up to four daily on each of the days in the field.

**Song Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia* Fairly common passage migrant and winter resident to the region, we recorded up to fifteen daily on each of the days in the field at most of the wetland sites.

**White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys* Fairly common winter resident to the area, we recorded between two and six birds at most site during the trip.

#### **PASSERIFORMES: Cardinalidae**

**Western Tanager** *Piranga ludoviciana* Uncommon passage migrant to the area, we found one at LP on 19 October 2010.

#### **PASSERIFORMES: Icteridae**

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus* Common to abundant to the wetland sites at the beginning of the trip, we recorded a high count of 250+ at SFB on 17 October 2010.

**Western Meadowlark** *Sturnella neglecta* Surprisingly uncommon for the area, we found only a single individual at AW on 17 October 2010.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* Uncommon to common winter resident to the region, we found three at AW and at least twenty-five at SFB on 17 October 2010.

**Brewer's Blackbird** *Euphagus cyanocephalus* Uncommon winter resident to the region, we found twenty-five at FD on 18 October 2010.

**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus* Common permanent resident to almost all wetland and urban habitats throughout the trip.

**Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater* Uncommon resident (?), passage migrant or winter resident to the area, we recorded up to four daily in a wide variety of wetland and agricultural habitats.

#### **PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae**

**House Finch** *Carpodacus mexicanus* Surprisingly uncommon, we only recorded this species on two occasions. Two were at AMW on 17 October 2010 and another two were at EGSC on 18 October 2010.

**Lesser Goldfinch** *Spinus psaltria* Almost missed for the trip, we stumbled across two birds at ED while eating lunch on 19 October 2010.

**PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* While I do not like ending the trip list with an introduced species... it must go on the list. House Sparrows were seen throughout the trip in almost all habitats, especially near agricultural and urban habitats....

**TOTAL 147 SPECIES**

**Field Trip Co-leaders:**

Osvel Hinojosa Huerta  
Carol Beardmore  
Dave Krueper

**Delta Field Guides (Pronatura):**

Juan Butrón  
Cecilia Fischer

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Larry Allen  
Buford Crites  
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Connor Limont  
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Larry Sansone  
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