

First large flock of blackbirds or grackles (2-3000). The grackles seem to be the common grackles. 53.7 sp. hawk. at Los Angeles. Just moving across field. sp. hawk. 59.4 80 egrets on shoulder of road 20 feet away. 61.5 sp. hawk. 61.9 sp. hawk. ~~63.0~~ 63.8 Harris hawk. 65.0 sp. hawk, opossum rd. kill. 65.3 sp. hawk, Harris hawk. 66.4 first coast. 66.6 large lake to left. 79.0 sp. hawk. 73.5 sp. hawk. 76.2 snow geese? flying E. 77.2 Harris hawk. 78.9 Harris hawk. Many snowy and cattle egrets in fields. 79.4 6<sup>th</sup> striped skunk road kill since first one observed earlier, sp. hawk 80.7 sp. hawk. 84.6 2000 crows and largest seen on trip. 47200.0 at Matamoros at 2:30 P.M. Shopped in market and left at 6:30 P.M. There are at least 150 market type stores in a restricted area that sell Mexican articles of all descriptions from all states of Mexico. There is considerable repetition of material. Prices are approx 40% higher than actual final bargaining price. This is one of the best ways to see the items sold in Mexico although they say that some articles from Japan are sold here. Left at 6:30 P.M. at 47201 and crossed into the U.S. No problem with U.S. Customs and 50¢ Texas tax on qt of Tequila. Camp in Brownsville in Chamber of Commerce parking lot. Many cars stopped here to adjust purchases made in Matamoros. Would recommend a special trip to Brownsville to shop in Matamoros, Mexico. No problems with customs. Day visit requires no pass.

### Brownsville, Texas

Jan 11, 1972

Left 47203 at 8:00 A.M. 222.1 2 long-billed curlew on way to Boca Chica near mouth of Rio Grande. They inhabit short grasses bordering marsh areas. They called twice. A local informant said these birds raise young in the area but I believe they nest much further to the N. The dominant bird is meadowlark of 2 species (by call) and since Brownsville have observed approx. 30. 262 at end of road and now on beach. Extent for 3 cars (fishermen) the beach is untouched or inhabited and to this extent is a good place to camp. The surrounding land is low and would be hazardous in case of storms. Bird life may be better represented to S toward river but in any case the area is limited in extent and variation of habitat. It is surprising that Boca Chica is not used by inhabitants of Brownsville. Had breakfast here and returned to Brownsville and thence to Port Isabel. At 3:28.2 observed 3 long-billed curlew along side of road.