In spite of the fact that it was August, the sky was completely overcast and the water was a ruffled grayish-green color, but the plumage of the birds stood out well against this gray background making the browns and grays more saturated in color and the white of the egrets stand out more prominently. The air temperature was quite cool, even necessitating our wearing our warm jackets most of the trip. Of course, the birds didn’t mind the cool temperature; they’re used to that sort of thing. Along with all the shorebirds which had recently returned from their nesting grounds up north, we had 4 fake Great Horned Owls on boat decks, house chimneys, and even perched on a boat dock. Since those plastic “owls” never move and are a uniform plastic gray color, I doubt that they have any effect on live birds which frequent the area. There were a number of Black-bellied Plovers scattered around on the mudflats and on top of one of the islands, and a few of them still possessed their black bellies. On these trips, we normally see only one Spotted Sandpiper if we are lucky, but today we saw three of them walking along the shore, none of which were bobbing. Black Skimmers flew past our boat in small groups of one or two birds, each skimming the water as they flew. One of the skimmers flew quite high in the air like a soaring raptor. Among the shorebirds feeding on the mudflats, we found a total of 6 Long-billed Curlews but no Whimbrels. The birds were very quiet, so when a lone Killdeer called out once, he was immediately answered by a Black-bellied Plover. On our return trip, the sun began to partially come out at 10:20. We saw a few Barn Swallows swooping over the pickleweed, a Red-tailed Hawk on top of a tall palm tree, a distant Red-shouldered Hawk, and a Northern Harrier flying over the hill. We also saw 2 crews of men practicing rescue maneuvers on a couple of steep dirt slopes with a stretcher and a cloth dummy. When we neared the Seabase, a nesting Rock Pigeon hastily flew out from below deck, heading toward land.