

Texas Hill Country Birding & Nature Species List | April 25-30, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Bryan Calk. Our clients included Mary, Jane, Lois, Adrienne, and Karen.

The trip kicked off in San Antonio, where five participants met Bryan Calk for a journey through South Texas and the Hill Country. Highlights early on included many Scissor-tailed Flycatchers along the roadsides, colorful Painted Buntings, Gray and Black-capped Vireos singing at Kickapoo Cavern, and bright Vermilion Flycatchers left and right. Northern Bobwhites called from the roadside, and a few Hooded Orioles made their first appearance, flashing their glowing bright orange.

Fort Clark Springs brought a nice mix of birds, with Great Kiskadees building a nest in a magnolia, Mississippi Kites migrating overhead, and a Cactus Wren spotted in a brushy woodpile near the creek. Clay-colored Sparrows were easy to spot, and Painted Buntings kept reminding us just how gorgeous they are with plenty of great views. Cook's Slough was also full of classic South Texas sights, with Green Jays, Audubon's Orioles, and Olive Sparrows calling from the thick brush. The wetland trails were alive with sound and color, especially in the early morning.

As the group headed north into the Hill Country, Neal's Lodges in Concan offered a perfect mix of oak groves, juniper ridges, and spring-fed river access. Indigo Buntings were seen glowing against the bright green pecan leaves, singing their sweet song from the canopy, and after one breakfast, a group of Cedar Waxwings flew through giving us great looks. But the whole property was so good to us, with a dozen different warblers, perfect weather, and such friendly staff.

A visit to Lost Maples gave us more beautiful scenery and plenty of bird action. A fledgling Golden-cheeked Warbler begged near the visitor center as mom and dad hurriedly found the next caterpillar, while a Black-capped Vireo sang from the hills. The area's bigtooth maples shaded the trails, and the slower pace gave everyone time to take it all in.

Evenings were filled with exciting moments too. At Frio Bat Cave, millions of Mexican Free-tailed Bats took flight, while Red-tailed Hawks circled above, hunting in the dusk. Later, Chuck-will's-widows called from the trees, and a pair of Eastern Screech-Owls made a brief appearance, perched eye level along the trail.

The last morning brought a chorus of songbirds as the group packed up. More than just checking birds off a list, this trip was a chance to reconnect—to birds, landscapes, and that inner naturalist we all carry with us. A full week of great sights, new discoveries, and plenty of shared moments.

BIRDS (133):

We recorded 133 species of which two were heard only, one was a breeding endemic and four were introduced. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 133 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Texas Hill Country Birding & Nature | April 25-30, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

MAMMALS (7):

Eastern Fox Squirrel *Sciurus niger* – seen at Memorial Park in Uvalde, around Neal's Lodges, and at Lost Maples

Eastern Cottontail *Sylvilagus floridanus* – seen at Cook's Slough and Neal's Lodges

Nutria *Myocastor coypus* – observed at Memorial Park in Uvalde

Mexican Free-tailed Bat *Tadarida brasiliensis* – observed during the Frio Bat Flight

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus* – seen at Fort Clark, Cook's Slough, and around Neal's Lodge

Axis Deer *Axis axis* – seen at Fort Clark, Neal's Lodge, and Cook's Slough

Barbary Sheep *Ammotragus lervia* – spotted on the bluffs at Lost Maples

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (8):

Blanchard's Cricket Frog *Acris blanchardi* – mostly heard along the river at Neal's Lodge, but also seen by some of the group

Texas Spiny Lizard *Sceloporus olivaceus* – seen around the cabins at Neal's Lodges

Ornate Tree Lizard *Urosaurus ornatus* – observed in one of the bird feeding areas at Neal's Lodge

Texas Spotted Whiptail *Aspidoscelis gularis* – seen almost every day along paths while walking

Rough Greensnake *Opheodrys aestivus* – seen at Lost Maples and at the lodge at Neal's

Diamondback Water Snake *Nerodia rhombifer* – seen sunning on branches over one of the ponds at Cook's Slough

Red-eared Slider *Trachemys scripta elegans* – observed at Memorial Park in Uvalde

Rio Grande Cooter *Pseudemys gorzugi* – seen in the spring at Fort Clark Springs

BUTTERFLIES (12):

Two-tailed Tiger Swallowtail *Papilio multicaudata* – seen drifting lazily along the path in the canyon at Lost Maples

Pipevine Swallowtail *Battus philenor* – seen almost every day, often flitting over flowers and trailsides

Large Orange Sulphur *Phoebis agarithe* – seen at Fort Clark and Cook's Slough

Lyside Sulphur *Kricogonia lyside* – seen daily, sometimes in impressive numbers when the sun was out and the air warm

Sleepy Orange *Abaeis nicippe* – seen at Lost Maples and Neal's Lodge, but never pausing on any blooms

Variiegated Fritillary *Euptoieta claudia* – seen in a grassy field at the Frio Bat Flight property just before we entered the ranch

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* – seen basking on sunny path briefly at Cook's Slough in Uvalde

Texan Crescent *Anthanassa texana* – seen fluttering low through the brush at Fort Clark Springs

Empress Leilia *Asterocampa leilia* – seen perched on the path at Cook's Slough, often flying ahead of us

Queen *Danaus gilippus* – seen gliding through the Pecan Grove at Neal's Lodge

Mournful Duskywing *Erynnis tristis* – seen puddling along the river edge at Neal's Lodge

Fiery Skipper *Hylephila phyleus* – seen darting around the lawn edges and flowering plants at Cook's Slough