

Texas Hill Country: Birding & Nature | Species List

April 13 – 18, 2021 | Compiled by Pat Lueders



With Guides Pat Lueders & Steve Shunk

And 6 participants: David, Susan, Don, Terry, Marty & Brian

Compiled by Pat Lueders

(HO)= Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only

(I)= Introduced

Summary: We achieved our goals of seeing the endangered Black-capped Vireo and Golden-cheeked Warbler and experiencing the natural wonder of millions of Mexican Free-tailed Bats emerging at sunset from the Rio Frio Bat Cave. This sociable and friendly group worked together to help find all of the species seen in the beautiful Texas Hill Country.

BIRDS (125 species recorded, of which 14 were heard only):

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae (7)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*—Nice looks at one swimming & many fly overs at Cook's Slough

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* (I)—A pair on the levee at Cook's Slough

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*—Pairs of this beautiful duck seen together at Cook's Slough

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*—Great lighting on many pairs at Cook's Slough

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*—Seen twice; at Cook's Slough & flying at the Pecan Grove

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*—Pair seen in pond at Cook's Slough

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*—One lone female at Cook's Slough

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS, AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (1)

Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo*—Seen while traveling & close looks at a male at the Pecan Grove

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (6)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* (I)—Spotted while traveling thru various towns

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (I)—great looks at one calling & poised on a pole at Chalk Bluff Park

Inca Dove *Columbina inca*—Pair under the feeders at Lost Maples

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* (HO)—Heard distinctive vocalization during hike at Lost Maples

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*—Most common dove seen often at all locations

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*—Seen at feeders & on utility lines while traveling

CUCKOOS: Cuculidae (1)

Greater Roadrunner *Geococcyx californianus*—Crossed the road at the entrance to Fort Inge

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (1)

Eastern Whip-poor-will *Antrostomus vociferous* (HO)—Heard in the morning across the Frio River from Neal's

SWIFTS: Apodidae (1)

Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica*—Seen & heard often at many locations

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (2)

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*—Male seen with Black-chinned at Neal's Café feeders

Black-chinned Hummingbird *Archilochus alexandri*—Seen often at feeders & flowers at many locations

RAILS, COOTS, AND ALLIES: Rallidae (1)

American Coot *Fulica americana*—Large group seen at Cook's Slough

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (1)

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*—On rocks at Nueces River at Chalk Bluff Park

TERNs AND SKIMMERS: Laridae (1)

Least Tern *Sternula antillarum*—Surprise sighting at Cook's Slough

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (1)

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*—Perched on dead tree at Cook's Slough

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (4)

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*—At Cook's Slough & pair at Pecan Grove at tree top

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*—Seen flying at Lost Maples

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*—Seen by Brian at pond on drive to Ingram

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*—Seen by clients nesting on the San Antonio river walk

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (2)

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*—Seen daily at all locations

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*—Seen daily at all locations

OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*—Seen twice; two soaring along the Guadalupe River

HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (3)

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*—Pair spotted by Steve on utility pole in route to Chalk Bluff Park; pair feeding on emerging bats at Frio Rio Bat Flight

Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus* (HO)-Distinctive call heard at Chalk Bluff & the Pecan Grove

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*—Pair seen well at Lost Maples; nest nearby on cliff

OWLS: Strigidae (1)

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus* (HO)—Heard "hooting" during mornings at Neal's Lodges

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (2)

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*—We heard & then saw a pair flying up the Rio Frio River

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*—Steve remembered a past location on the Rio Frio River & we were treated to good looks at a female of this rarer specialty

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (2)

Golden-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes aurifrons*—Found in pairs at Chalk Bluff Park

Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Dryobates scalaris*—Seen & heard often at most locations

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (3)

Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway*—Seen on drives, a pair on road kill with a raven on the drive to Kerr

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*—Seen hawking bats at the Rio Frio Bat Cave

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*—Seen by both vans flying across the road during the drive to Kerr

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (8)

Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe*—Pairs seen at most locations near water

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*—Numerous sightings especially at Chalk Bluff & Pecan Grove

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens*—Nice looks often at many locations

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*—Seen at Neal's & heard at Cook's Slough

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*—Very northern edge of this species' boundary, seen at Ft. Inge, Cook's Slough, & Chalk Bluff

Couch's Kingbird *Tyrannus couchii*—Identified by vocalization at Chalk Bluff Park

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis*—Seen on drive to Neal's & at the Pecan Grove

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*—Always a thrill, seen often along highways in large numbers

VIREOS: Vireonidae (6)

Black-capped Vireo *Vireo atricapilla*—**TARGET SPECIES**- We had good looks at this endangered species at Lost Maples & large numbers at Kerr

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus*—Heard & seen often at all locations

Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii*—This species is doing well, heard & seen often at Ft. Inge & many locations

Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni*—Found by vocalization, nice views at the Pecan Grove

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*—Heard & seen often at all locations

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*—Largest numbers at Lost Maples during the hike

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (2)

Chihuahuan Raven *Corvus cryptoleucus*—Ravens that were seen on trip to Chalk Bluff Park

Common Raven *Corvus corax*—Ravens that were seen on trip to Lost Maples & Kerr

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (2)

Carolina Chickadee *Poecile carolinensis*—Seen & heard often at all locations

Black-crested Titmouse *Baeolophus atricristatus*—Seen & heard often at all locations & at feeders

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (6)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*—Seen often over the Rio Frio River

Purple Martin *Progne subis*—Heard & quick looks over the Rio Frio River

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*—Identified over the Nueces River at Chalk Bluff Park

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*—Seen daily at all locations

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*—Seen over the Rio Frio River near the bridge

Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva*—Approximately 2000 roost in the bat cave; seen entering as the bats departed

KINGLETS: Regulidae (1)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula*—Seen well at Chalk Bluff, Lost Maples, & Pecan Grove

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae (1)

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis (HO)*— A real surprise! Heard by both guides at the same time & then again later at the Pecan Grove

GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae (1)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea*—Seen & heard daily all locations

WRENS: Troglodytidae (6)

Rock Wren *Salpinctes obsoletus* (HO)—Heard on the visit to Chalk Bluff Park

Canyon Wren *Catherpes mexicanus* (HO)—Heard often at all location with cliffs

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* (HO)—Heard often, especially at Lost Maples

Carolina Wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus*—Heard daily & good looks nest building at Chalk Bluff

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii*—Heard at all locations & good looks at Kerr

Cactus Wren *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*—An unusual location, seen nest building in open area at Chalk Bluff

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (1)

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (I)—Seen at various locations, especially in towns

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (3)

Curve-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma curvirostre*—Poor looks at one skulking & vocalizing at Ft. Inge

Long-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma longirostre* (HO)—Heard during a visit to the Pecan Grove

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*—Seen almost daily at all locations

THRUSHES: Turdidae (4)

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis*—Beautiful male & female in Bluebird House at Pecan Grove

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*(HO)—Distinctive vocalization heard in the Pecan Grove

Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus*— Quick look on the last day in the road at Pecan Grove

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*—Our only sighting, on the ground at Chalk Bluff

WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae (1)

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*—Seen twice, at Neal's Lodges & the Pecan Grove

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (I)—Nice population around the headquarters of Neal's Lodges

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (3)

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus*—Seen & heard often, many around Neal's Lodges feeders

Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus*—A surprise, large group of 40 along a street in Leakey

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria*—Nice looks at the feeders at Neal's

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (13)

Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum*—Good scope looks at this surprise species found by Pat in the field at the Pecan Grove

Olive Sparrow *Arremonops rufivirgatus*—Vocalizing & close looks at Cabin 61 at Neal's

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*—Seen often at most locations

Clay-colored Sparrow *Spizella pallida*—Frequently heard & seen at all locations

Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla*—Close looks at more than one singing on territory at the Pecan Grove

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus*—Large population of this beautiful sparrow seen at the Pecan Grove

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* (HO)—Heard at entrance to Kerr, known wintering location of this species

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* (HO)—Distinctive chip heard around the feeders at Neal's

Vesper Sparrow *Pooecetes gramineus*—Quite a few spotted at the Pecan Grove

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis*—Nice looks at this sparrow with yellow lores at the Pecan Grove

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolni*—Seen at Kerr & on the trail at the Pecan Grove

Rufous-crowned Sparrow *Aimophila ruficeps*—Seen only once, at the feeders at Cabin 61

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*—Heard & finally seen well on the trip to Kerr

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Icteriidae (1)

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens*—This species loves Texas! Seen & heard often at most locations

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (8)

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*—Six found with a mixed group of blackbirds at the entrance to Cook's Slough

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna*—Seen on a fence while traveling & heard vocalizing at the Pecan Grove Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius*—Heard & then seen well at Chalk Bluff Park

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus*—Pair in a tree at while we ate lunch in Concan

Scott's Oriole *Icterus parisorum*—Heard & then found on territory at Lost Maples

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*—Seen in flocks while traveling & large flock at Cook's Slough

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*—Heard & seen often including Cook's Slough & Chalk Bluff

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*—Large numbers in San Antonio & during traveling

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (11)

Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla*—Heard & seen at Lost Maples & at cabin at Neal's

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*—Finally seen on Rio Frio River walk after hearing the vocalization at numerous locations

Orange-crowned Warbler *Oreothlypis celata*—Seen & heard often at many locations

Nashville Warbler *Oreothlypis ruficapilla*—Seen & heard often with mixed warbler flocks

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*—Female seen with mixed flock around the hide at Lost Maples

Northern Parula *Setophaga americana* (HO)—Heard at Chalk Bluff & Lost Maples

Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitayumi*—Nice find with good looks by all of a Parula without an eye ring

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata*—Seen at Lost Maples, Audubon male seen at Pecan Grove

Yellow-throated Warbler *Setophaga dominica*—Probably warbler seen & heard the most often at all locations

Golden-cheeked Warbler *Setophaga chrysoparia*—**TARGET SPECIES**-Many heard & seen on territory at Lost Maples

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*—Spotted with mixed feeding flock of migrating warblers at Lost Maples

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (5)

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*—Another species frequently heard & seen at all locations

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*—Seen in large numbers at all locations

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*—Seen best at the Pecan Grove vocalizing from a utility wire

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*—Seen best on our hike at Lost Maples

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* (HO)—Quick glimpse by Steve & heard but not seen at the Pecan Grove

MAMMALS (7 species recorded):

Nine-banded Armadillo *Dasypus novemcinctus*—Seen by one of the vans while traveling

Black-tailed Jackrabbit *Lepus californicus*—Seen by Marty & Terry near Neal's

Fox Squirrel *Sciurus niger*—Many seen at Chalk Bluff Park

Muskrat *Ondatra zibethicus*---Seen in the ponds at Cook's Slough

Mexican Free-tailed Bat *Tadarida brasiliensis*—Millions left at sunset from the Rio Frio Bat Cave

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*—Seen at the Pecan Grove & while traveling

Axis Deer *Axis axis*---Small spotted deer seen at the Pecan Grove

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (3 species recorded):

Red-eared Slider *Trachemys scripta elegans*—Seen sunning at the Rio Frio River

Green Anole *Anolis carolinensis*—Spotted by Steve

Blanchard Cricket Frog *Acris crepitans blanchardi*—Heard around ponds at Neal's

BUTTERFLIES (12)

PIPEVINE SWALLOWTAIL

CABBAGE WHITE

ORANGE SULPHUR

DAINTY SULPHUR

GRAY HAIRSTREAK

SPRING AZURE GROUP

VARIEGATED FRITILLARY

SILVERY CHECKERSPOT

TEXAN CRESCENT

RED ADMIRAL

LITTLE WOOD-SATYR

MONARCH