

Texas Hill Country | Trip Summary & Species List

April 11 – 16, 2022 | with Naturalist Journeys



With Guide Steve Shunk and participants Kathleen, David, Chris, Marc, Frank, and Anne

Compiled by Steve Shunk

Tour Summary:

I've never seen such a hustle and bustle of nesting birds! One of the big highlights of April birding in the Texas Hill Country is the season itself. The migratory breeders have arrived and they have joined the resident avifauna in a bird nesting bonanza. This trip does not boast a long species list, but it does boast an amazing diversity and density of special nesting songbirds. Our group was fortunate to experience four full days in this beautiful limestone canyon country. We went up and down between watersheds each day exploring the rivers and hillsides. We birded along the Nueces, the Frio, the Sabinal, and the Guadalupe Rivers, among others. Here are a few highlights from an outstanding tour, featuring some of our premiere destinations. NOTE: *All of the site headers below are linked to eBird lists from our trip for those locations.*

[Cook's Slough, City of Uvalde](#)—Cook's is a slough off the Leona River, at the southern edge of the Texas Hill Country. The Leona flows through Uvalde Memorial Park and itself is a tributary of the Frio River. Among birders, however, the name 'Cook's Slough' refers to the Cook's Slough Sanctuary, a nicely-developed and managed bird habitat between the slough and the Uvalde water treatment plant. The treated wastewater supports a nice array of aquatic and riparian birds, and the surrounding mesquite woodland just adds to the bird diversity. When you arrive here, you walk out a short boardwalk to a beautiful viewing platform that overlooks two of the main ponds on the property. A trail system crisscrosses among the ponds and leads out along the actual Cook's Slough. It's easy to kill a few hours birding here.

When we got out of the van, we were drawn to two Olive Sparrows singing in the trees right next to the parking lot. They can be loud but visually elusive, and we eventually enjoyed some good looks before we headed out to the platform. Overlooking the ponds, we could see the regular snag full of Neotropic Cormorants on a small island. Waterfowl were surprisingly absent, but the two duck species we did find get marks for creativity: Wood Duck and Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. Likewise with the flycatchers; we saw a handful of really charismatic species: Vermilion and Brown-crested Flycatchers, Great Kiskadee, and Couch's Kingbird. The latter two of these are typically considered South Texas specialty birds, but they have expanded right up to and into the Edwards Plateau. Also expanding northward in Texas is the handsome Audubon's Oriole. We found two vocal birds along the edge of the slough.

In the willows along the trails, we found both 'Audubon's' and 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warblers, and we enjoyed excellent looks at Lincoln's and Clay-colored Sparrows. We encountered many species that would become common on the trip, such as White-eyed Vireo, Black-crested Titmouse, and Carolina Wren. A Ladder-backed Woodpecker gave us a nice territorial show. In all, we tallied 36 species here in about two hours; a nice haul for our first main birding spot.

[Chalk Bluff Park, Uvalde County](#)—We sought to match the great morning birding experience at Cook's Slough with an afternoon along a big bend in the Nueces (pron. "new-aces") River. We headed into a private recreation area known as Chalk Bluff Park. As just a small sample of the relief we encounter in the Texas Hill Country, the chalk bluff here refers to a 362-m (1,187-ft.) wall of limestone that rises above the crystal-clear Nueces River.

Despite the fact that the park is heavily developed for recreation, the dense riparian habitat on the opposite side of the river remains intact, as does much of the flood plain on the downstream end of the park. This is typically a great place for kingfishers, though we got skunked on all three species on this trip. However, the highlights of our visit were many.

Jumping ahead to later in the afternoon, a pair of Green Jays topped the list and became a major highlight of the entire tour. We watched them for a while moving through the trees between rows of cabins. It was a four-vireo stop, with White-eyed, Bell's, Hutton's, and Yellow-throated all seen and heard singing through most of the afternoon. Eclipsing vireos were our seven flycatchers, including both Eastern and Black Phoebes. Vermilions seemed to be around every corner, and we had great looks at Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Golden-fronted Woodpeckers put on a good show, with some foraging low in the cottonwoods for our viewing pleasure.

Other Chalk Bluff highlights included a few regular nesting species found here, like Summer Tanager, Yellow-throated Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Canyon Wren, which sang incessantly from the cliff across the river. Chipping, Clay-colored, and Lark Sparrows gave us great study opportunities, and Northern Mockingbirds repeatedly teased us into thinking we had heard Curve-billed Thrasher. Another very productive birding site, with 38 species seen or heard.

[Lost Maples State Natural Area](#) – If there is one single location that epitomizes the Texas Hill Country, it's Lost Maples. The birding experience here is always a major highlight of any tour, with so many birds singing and lots of nesting behavior observed. We typically spend an entire morning hiking just a mile or two into the upper watershed of the Sabinal River. The canyon bottom is filled with willows, oaks, and the namesake big-toothed maples, and the hillsides harbor a mix of oak and juniper. And the big highlight at Lost Maples is always the Golden-cheeked Warbler.

As anticipated, the canyons were filled with bird song, including a steady succession of Golden-cheeked Warblers. But we didn't just hear the Golden-cheeked; we saw several, and we found and watched a female building and tending her nest near the first pond. In the mix were the incessant Red-eyed Vireos, which we finally did see well, and likewise with a very vocal Carolina Wren. We found a couple members of the isolated nesting population of Louisiana Waterthrush; what a lovely song echoing up the canyon.

In all, we tallied seven warbler species, all nesting here except a single Wilson's still working its way north. Black-and-white Warblers were vocal and conspicuous, and we watched a Northern Parula attending a nest hidden inside a cluster of *Tillandsia* bromeliads in a juniper that hung over the trail. We found White-tipped Dove—yet another 'tropical' bird at the northern limit of its range—as well as singing Scott's Oriole and Rufous-crowned Sparrow. The weather was gorgeous, the walk was easy, and the habitat was lush and productive; the perfect recipe for a morning of world-class birding.

[Kerr Wildlife Management Area](#) – If Lost Maples is a stronghold for Golden-cheeked Warblers, then Kerr Wildlife Area serves as the same for Black-capped Vireos. These two are the primary species for any birding visit to the Hill Country. Both species can be found at both these locations, but each site supports an abundance of its respective specialty bird. At Kerr, it's all about the vireos.

After a scenic drive through the upper Frio and Guadalupe watersheds, we entered the scrubby encinal habitat of the Black-capped Vireo. And no sooner than turning off the van, we could hear a couple of vireos singing along the road. The m.o. for finding these vireos entails patience and persistence. They are skulkers, singing from deep inside the trees and shrubs, just barely popping into the open for the attentive birder. If you turn your back, you may miss the bird. But, if one bird eludes that 'better view desired', you move on to the next one. They quite literally line the roadway at Kerr—territory after territory. And this day we practiced both patience and persistence, and we all got excellent looks at this charismatic little songbird. We found at least 8 distinctive territories, all without ever leaving the roadside.

Apropos for the season, our quest for the Black-capped Vireo was continuously interrupted by several other bird songs coming from all directions in this beautiful oak woodland. Field and Rufous-crowned Sparrows were common, and we got good looks at Spotted Towhee. A Swainson's Hawk—our only one of the trip—flew low

overhead while we searched for vireos, and further distractions came from a steady succession of Yellow-breasted Chats along the road.

[Frio River Bat Cave](#) – As is typical for a Naturalist Journeys tour, we enjoy interpreting all aspects of the natural world—not just the birdlife—and the Hill Country hosts one of the most spectacular non-bird wildlife phenomena in the world. Just a few minutes from Concan and slightly upslope from the Frio River, there is a hole in the ground that serves as the entrance to the Frio River bat cave. Limestone caves abound across the Edwards Plateau, but this one is superlative: more than 10 million Mexican free-tailed bats return here every spring to raise their little pups. This ranks the Frio River cave as the second ‘largest’ bat cave in the world, behind only the Bracken Cave, which is less than 100 miles to the east. There is *nothing* like the experience of watching 10 million bats exit the mouth of the cave at sunset. They emerge in a steady plume, forming an aerial ‘river’ of sorts, flowing and undulating southward to feed over the agricultural fields of rural south Texas. The Frio Bat Cave never fails to impress, and needless to say, it is one of the top highlights of a trip to the Hill Country.

This year was no exception. Upon arriving at the parking area, we exited the van to the sounds of Black-throated Sparrow and Curve-billed Thrasher. Hundreds of Cave Swallows swarmed overhead in their last feeding bout before trading places with the bats and roosting for the night in the cave. We heard the distinctive songs of both Canyon and Rock Wrens, and the Canyon Wren used the last hour of light to feed around the mouth of the cave. As the bats emerged, the waiting raptors launched from the ridgetops, and we watched three Harris’s Hawks and a Red-tailed Hawk alternately diving through the bat swarms for an evening meal.

We sat in awe as the millions of bats continued to stream out of the cave. The sounds of their wingbeats and vocal ticking alternated with the sound of the wind and the last few bird songs. I can’t wait to return!

[Neal’s Lodges and Property](#) – One final highlight from the tour actually comprises several bouts of quality birding. We stay in cabins at a property known as Neal’s Lodges, sitting on the bank of the Frio River in the town of Concan. Birds abound here, despite the high level of human activity occurring in and around the property. And besides the more obvious public areas—the store, restaurants, and the cabins themselves—Neal’s maintains three different bird feeding stations. In addition, guests have access to a broad meadow and pecan grove that provide excellent habitat for a variety of birds.

Eating at the restaurant always involves the hummingbird distractions (see below), and we typically heard and saw Chimney Swifts overhead at all times of day. The ‘cattle guard’ feeders were especially productive, with regular Clay-colored, Chipping, Lincoln’s, and White-crowned Sparrows. We watched a bathing Summer Tanager here, as well as our only Orchard Oriole of the tour. In the shrub-lined meadows, Yellow-breasted Chats were singing everywhere, and we were excited to watch a singing Cassin’s Sparrow as it performed its skylarking mating display. In a fitting end to the trip, one of the last birds we found was the stunning male Painted Bunting at the cattle guard feeders.

Below is a list of birds and other wildlife we encountered during the trip.

(HO) = Distinctive enough to be counted by guides and clients as heard only

(GO) = Heard and/or seen by guide only

(#) = Number of days each species was encountered, among 4 full days of birding on the trip

BIRDS (117 species recorded, of which 5 were HO and 3 were GO):

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*—(1) A dozen seen and heard ‘whistling’ at Cook’s Slough; also a pair on the small island at Uvalde Memorial Park.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*—(2) A half-dozen at Cook’s Slough and then a pair on the Guadalupe River.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*—(1) Two ‘real’ Mallards seen among several domestic/Mallard-types at Uvalde Memorial Park.

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS, AND ALLIES: Phasianidae

Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo*—(2) HO in the meadows above the pecan grove, and then seen in the hills at Kerr Wildlife Area.

GREBES: Podicipedidae

Pied-billed Grebe *Meleagris gallopavo*—(1) Two birds at Cook's Slough.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*—(1) Seen only in urban Uvalde.

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*—(3) First seen at Uvalde Memorial Park, downtown Uvalde, then at Chalk Bluff and in agricultural areas along the highways.

Inca Dove *Columbina inca*—(2) First at Uvalde Memorial Park then HO at Lost Maples.

Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerina*—(2) GO at Chalk Bluff and then seen at Neal's.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi* — (1) One bird found at Lost Maples; this is another 'tropical' species that reaches the northern limit of its range here.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*—(4) The most common dove, seen at most birding spots.

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*—(4) Almost as common as White-winged.

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae

Common Poorwill *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*—(1) Heard after dark at the Frio bat cave.

SWIFTS: Apodidae

Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica*—(2) Seen & heard overhead at Neal's.

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*—(4)

Black-chinned Hummingbird *Archilochus alexandri*—(4) Every day, we delighted in watching these two hummingbirds mix it up around the dining room at Neal's Lodges. There were dozens of hummers there and they were very active. We were able to pick out at least a couple of male Ruby-throats from among the far more abundant Black-chinned. Black-chinned were seen elsewhere on our daily birding journeys throughout the week, including at Chalk Bluff and Lost Maples.

RAILS, COOTS, AND ALLIES: Rallidae

American Coot *Fulica americana*—(1) Only two seen at Cook's Slough.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*—(1) One at Cook's Slough.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*—(1) The same Neotropic Cormorants we see every year continue to roost on snag in the middle of the main pond at Cook's Slough; 15 seen on this trip.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*—(3) One at Cook's Slough and a handful of others seen in our riverine journeys, from the Frio to the Sabinal and the Guadalupe.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*—(1) Nice prize for visiting the Uvalde Memorial Park in the heart of Uvalde.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*—(1) HO flushing overhead at Cook's Slough.

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*—(4) Common and widespread, many at Chalk Bluff.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*—(4) Common and widespread, throughout the region.

OSPREY: Pandionidae

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*—(1) One bird seen at Kerr, likely cruising the Guadalupe River canyon.

HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*—(1) We watched three birds at the bat cave 'hawking' for bats as they poured out of the cave.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*—(1) One bird seen by GO at Lost Maples.

Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus*—(1) HO from the meadows above Pecan Grove.

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni*—(1) One intermediate-morph adult seen well by all at Kerr.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*—(3) Seen at the Pecan Grove and along the highways, but also hunting bats at the bat cave.

OWLS: Strigidae

Barred Owl *Strix varia*—(1) HO by one client around Neal's Lodges

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*—(1) One bird found along the Guadalupe River.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae

Golden-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes aurifrons*—(4) Widespread, first at Uvalde Memorial Park, then good looks at Chalk Bluff; heard at Lost Maples and the Pecan Grove.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Dryobates scalaris*—(4) Widespread and vocal; heard often but only seen well at Cook's Slough.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae

Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway*—(2) Seen twice alongside the highway, feeding on road kill.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*—(1) One bird flew quickly over the Frio River near Neal's.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*—(1) Seen by one client at Chalk Bluff.

Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe*—(2) Seen at Chalk Bluff and Lost Maples.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*—(4) How wonderful to have such an amazing bird be so widespread! We saw or heard them daily at the Neal's properties, as well as Cook's Slough, Chalk Bluff, and the Bat Cave.

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens*—(4) Most widespread flycatcher, with good looks at Chalk Bluff, Lost Maples, and Kerr.

Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*—(3) Distinctive vocalizations HO at Cook's Slough and the Pecan Grove.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*—(1) HO at Cook's Slough.

Couch's Kingbird *Tyrannus couchii*—(1) Pair seen at Cook's Slough.

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis*—(1) Seen only on the first day, first near the golf course at Uvalde Memorial Park and then at Chalk Bluff.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*—(3) A few great looks, including Uvalde Memorial Park and Chalk Bluff, as well as a couple roadside views.

VIREOS: Vireonidae

Black-capped Vireo *Vireo atricapilla*—(3) First seen briefly near one of the Neal's feeding stations, then HO at Lost Maples; several seen and heard by all at Kerr.

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus*—(4) The most widespread vireo, with birds vocally conspicuous in many locations

and seen well at Cook's Slough, Chalk Bluff, Neals, and Lost Maples.

Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii*—(2) The distinctive vocalizations of Bell's Vireo came only on our first two days, with birds seen at Cook's Slough and Chalk Bluff and then again near the Pecan Grove.

Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni*—(2) Seen at Chalk Bluff and then HO at Lost Maples.

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*—(4) Widespread and common on along all the rivers, with birds singing and seen at Chalk Bluff and Neal's, and then a bird building a nest along the Guadalupe River, near Kerr.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*—(1) Very vocal at Lost Maples, and we worked hard to finally get a visual.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae

Green Jay *Cyanocorax yncas*—(1) We were excited to encounter two of these Mexican specialty birds at Chalk Bluff.

Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay *Aphelocoma woodhouseii*—(1) One bird seen from the highway in Kerr County.

Chihuahuan Raven *Corvus cryptoleucus*—(1) Seen feeding on road kill in appropriate habitat in Kerr County.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*—(4) Fairly widespread, with birds seen well at Chalk Bluff, Lost Maples, and Kerr.

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae

Carolina Chickadee *Poecile carolinensis*—(4) Seen and heard daily in small numbers.

Black-crested Titmouse *Baeolophus atricristatus*—(4) Seen at nearly all birding locations.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*—(3) Birds typically seen along rivers at Chalk Bluff (Nueces R.), Lost Maples (Sabinal R.), and at Neals (Frio R.).

Purple Martin *Progne subis*—(1) Seen overhead at Cook's Slough.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*—(4) Widespread and common.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*—(4) Seen daily, especially at river crossings that host nesting colonies on the bridges.

Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva*—(1) Hundreds (or more?) seen feeding over the bat cave around sunset and then diving into the cave entrance as the bats emerged.

KINGLETS: Regulidae

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula*—(3) Migrating individuals seen at Neal's, Lost Maples, and Kerr.

GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea*—(4) One of the most common songbirds, widespread throughout.

WRENS: Troglodytidae

Rock Wren *Salpinctes obsoletus*—(1) HO at the Frio Bat Cave.

Canyon Wren *Catherpes mexicanus*—(4) The limestone cliffs and outcrops in the Hill Country make excellent habitat for Canyon Wren; we saw or heard them daily, including at Chalk Bluff, Neals, and Lost Maples.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*—(1) One bird seen at Cook's Slough.

Carolina Wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus*—(3) Fairly widespread, seen well at Cook's Slough and Lost Maples.

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii*—(4) Widespread in shrubby habitats throughout.

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*—(1) Only found at Uvalde Memorial Park.

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae

Curve-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma curvirostre*—(1) One bird signing near the Bat Cave.

Long-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma longirostre*—(1) One bird singing on the highway near the bat cave.

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*—(4) Widespread, common, and conspicuous. Texas state bird!

THRUSHES: Turdidae

Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus*—(2) Seen only twice, at Neal's and Lost Maples.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*—(1) GO, seen near the Pecan Grove while moving the vehicle.

WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*—(4) Widespread and vocal, still working their way north.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*—(4) Seen daily at Neal's and in most other developed areas.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus*—(4) Another of the most common songbirds of the trip; widespread, vocal, and conspicuous.

Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus*—(1) One bird found at Neal's, near the Pecan Grove.

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria*—(4) Common and widespread; abundant at Neal's feeding stations.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (13)

Cassin's Sparrow *Peucaea cassinii*—(1) Great show put on near the Neal's Pecan Grove with multiple birds singing and one performing its skylarking display flight.

Olive Sparrow *Arremonops rufivirgatus*—(2) First seen at Cook's Slough, then around the Neal's property.

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*—(4) Common and widespread.

Clay-colored Sparrow *Spizella pallida*—(4) Common and widespread, lingering late before heading north.

Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla*—(2) Singing birds seen at the Pecan Grove and Kerr.

Black-throated Sparrow *Amphispiza bilineata*—(1) One singing bird on territory at the cattle-guard feeding station.

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus*—(4) Widespread and quite vocal, with singing birds at Chalk Bluff, the Pecan Grove, and Kerr.

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*—(2) Seen only at the Neal's feeding stations.

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolni*—(3) Seen regularly at Neal's feeding stations; also found at Cook's Slough and Lost Maples.

Rufous-crowned Sparrow *Aimophila ruficeps*—(2) Elusive but found twice, at Lost Maples and Kerr.

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*—(1) One bird seen at Kerr.

Canyon Towhee *Melospiza fusca*—(2) Seen well at Neal's cattle-guard feeding station.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Icteriidae

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens*—(3) Chats never fail to entertain, and we had singing birds in various places at Neal's, as well as at Lost Maples and Kerr.

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius*—(2) First HO and then a bright male seen well at Neal's cattle guard area.

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus*—(1) One pair found at Cook's Slough.

Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii*—(1) Two birds seen near the golf course at Uvalde Memorial Park.

Audubon's Oriole *Icterus graduacauda*—(1) Pair of birds singing and seen well at Cook's Slough.

Scott's Oriole *Icterus parisorum*—(1) HO in the canyon at Lost Maples.

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*—(2) Several at Cook's Slough, then GO along the roadside.

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus*—(1) GO, fleeting glimpse at Chalk Bluff.

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*—(4) Common and widespread throughout.

Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula*—(1) A couple of flyovers seen well at Cook's Slough.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*—(1) Only seen at Uvalde Memorial Park.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae

Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla*—(1) At least two singing birds—one seen well—at Lost Maples.
Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*—(2) Heard frequently and a couple of good looks at Lost Maples.
Orange-crowned Warbler *Oreothlypis celata*—(2) Seen in mixed flocks at Cook’s Slough, Chalk Bluff, and Neal’s.
Nashville Warbler *Oreothlypis ruficapilla*—(3) Seen among mixed flocks at Chalk Bluff and the Pecan Grove, and heard singing at Lost Maples.
Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*—(1) Only found at Cook’s Slough.
Northern Parula *Setophaga americana*—(4) Frequently heard along the rivers, typically singing high in the canopy; one bird actively tending a nest site at Lost Maples.
Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata*—(1) Both ‘Audubon’s’ and ‘Myrtle’ subspecies seen among mixed flocks at Cook’s Slough.
Yellow-throated Warbler *Setophaga dominica*—(4) Maybe the most common nesting warbler of the region, especially along the rivers, with birds seen well at Chalk Bluff, Pecan Grove, and Lost Maples.
Golden-cheeked Warbler *Setophaga chrysoparia*—(3) Common in the right habitats, especially juniper slopes; first seen well at Garner State Park, then several at Los Maples, including one female at an active nest.
Wilson’s Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*—(1) One bird seen in a mixed flock at Lost Maples.

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*—(4) One of the most common of the nesting Neotropical migrants, seen well at Cook’s Slough, Chalk Bluff, Pecan Grove, Bat Cave, and Lost Maples.
Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*—(4) Common and widespread, with best looks at Chalk Bluff, Neals, Lost Maples, and Kerr.
Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*—(2) HO at Chalk Bluff, then seen well above the Pecan Grove.
Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*—(1) One handsome male seen at the 11th hour at Neal’s cattle guard feeding station.

MAMMALS

Nine-banded Armadillo *Dasyus novemcinctus*—One seen at Neal’s.
Fox Squirrel *Sciurus niger*—Seen daily in developed and wild habitats.
Mexican Free-tailed Bat *Tadarida brasiliensis*—We watched in awe as millions of bats departed the Frio Bat Cave.
White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*—Seen daily, especially along highways.
Axis Deer *Axis axis*—The most common and widespread of the exotic deer species.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Green Anole *Anolis carolinensis*
Cottonmouth *Agkistrodon piscivorus*
Red-eared Slider *Trachemys scripta*

BUTTERFLIES

Spicebush swallowtail *Papilio troilus*
Two-tailed Swallowtail *Papilio multicaudata*
Monarch *Danaus plexippus*
Queen *Danaus gilippus*
Texan crescentspot *Anthanassa texana*
Little Wood Satyr *Megisto cymela*