



## Naturalist Journeys' Texas Hill Country Birding and Nature Tour April 15 - 20, 2018 Species List



Guide Bob Behrstock, with participants Dwayne and Marj, Don and Ann, Terry and Susan, Judy, and Karen

Compiled by Bob Behrstock  
with butterfly sightings from Terry Peterson and plants  
from Karen LeMay

Photo: Golden-cheeked Warbler, by Tom Dove

Note: No "leader only" birds are included.  
"Heard only" (3) and introduced (5) birds are noted.

### BIRDS:

**Emu** (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*)—(Introduced) Seen during the drive to Kerr WMA.

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)—A few at the feedlot just west of Sabinal and small groups at the fish hatchery in Uvalde

**Wood Duck** (*Aix sponsa*)—One was found by Karen at Cook's slough.

**Gadwall** (*Anas strepera*)—A few were present at the fish hatchery in Uvalde.

**American Wigeon** (*Anas americana*)—Several pair were noted at Cook's Slough and at the fish hatchery in Uvalde.

**Blue-winged Teal** (*Anas discors*)—A few pair were at the fish hatchery in Uvalde

**Cinnamon Teal** (*Anas cyanoptera*)—Several were seen at the fish hatchery in Uvalde

**Northern Bobwhite** (*Colinus virginianus*)—One was heard at Park Chalk Bluff.

**Wild Turkey** (*Meleagris gallopavo*)—A few while driving to Kerr WMA and a few more at Kerr

**Neotropic Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)—One fly-by at Cook's Slough

**Great Blue Heron** (*Ardea herodias*)—Singles at Cook's Slough and on the Kerr WMA day

**Green Heron** (*Butorides virescens*)—A few were seen in Uvalde at Cook's Slough and the fish hatchery.

**Black Vulture** (*Coragyps atratus*)—Seen throughout the trip; large groups on roadkill

**Turkey Vulture** (*Cathartes aura*)—Numerous and seen throughout the trip

**Cooper's Hawk** (*Accipiter cooperii*)—One or two was seen from the van not far from Lost Maples SNA

**Red-shouldered Hawk** (*Buteo lineatus*)—One was seen by a few of us at the city park in Utopia.

**Swainson's Hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*)—Seen two days; a small flock was noted west of Sabinal

**Red-tailed Hawk** (*Buteo jamaicensis*)—One was seen between Vanderpool and Utopia

**American Coot** (*Fulica americana*)—Several at the fish hatchery in Uvalde

**American Golden-Plover** (*Pluvialis dominica*)—Nine were at a farm pond NW of Sabinal. This is a sparse migrant through the Hill Country.

**Killdeer** (*Charadrius vociferus*)—One or two were present at the feedlot pond just W of Sabinal

**Spotted Sandpiper** (*Actitis macularius*)—Individuals were seen on a farm pond NW of Sabinal and on the Nueces River at Park Chalk Bluff.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** (*Tringa flavipes*)—One was at a pond at the feedlot just W of Sabinal

**Least Sandpiper** (*Calidris minutilla*)—Two were at a pond at the feedlot just W of Sabinal

**Rock Pigeon** (*Columba livia*)—(Introduced) Noted on two days—mostly around towns

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** (*Streptopelia decaocto*)—(From an introduced population) Seen four days; common at the stock yards in Sabinal

**White-winged Dove** (*Zenaida asiatica*)—Small numbers were seen on five days; common at Neal's Lodge where heard almost constantly

**Mourning Dove** (*Zenaida macroura*)—Common on fence wires; seen throughout the trip

**Inca Dove** (*Columbina inca*)—Seen at Kerr WMA

**Common Ground-Dove** (*Columbina passerina*)—Noted on Day 1 near Sabinal

**White-tipped Dove** (*Leptotila verreauxi*)—One was present at a feeding station at Lost Maples SNA and one was heard at Park Chalk Bluff. This species is a relatively new addition to the avifauna of the Texas Hill Country.

**Greater Roadrunner** (*Geococcyx californianus*)—Heard at Kerr WMA; spotted by Judy and seen by folks in the front of the van near Lost Maples SNA

**Great Horned Owl** (*Bubo virginianus*)—Heard several mornings at Neal's

**Barred Owl** (*Strix varia*)—Two were seen well during the late afternoon at the city park in Utopia.

**Chimney Swift** (*Chaetura pelagica*)—Seen the first and second days of the trip in Hondo and Uvalde

**Black-chinned Hummingbird** (*Archilochus alexandri*)—Numerous on feeders at Neal's and Lost Maples SNA

**Golden-fronted Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes aurifrons*)—Encountered several days especially at Neal's and Park Chalk Bluff

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (*Sphyrapicus varius*)—One was seen near the Nueces River at Park Chalk Bluff.

**Ladder-backed Woodpecker** (*Picoides scalaris*)—Seen at Park Chalk Bluff.

**Crested Caracara** (*Caracara cheriway*)—Seen five days as fly-bys, on roadkill with vultures, and on fence posts

**Merlin** (*Falco columbarius*)—One was seen briefly at the Frio Bat Cave.

**Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*)—One nearly brushed us with its wings at the Frio Bat Cave.

**Acadian Flycatcher** (*Empidonax vireescens*)—One was heard only in dense vegetation along the Maples Trail at Lost Maples SNA.

**Eastern Phoebe** (*Sayornis phoebe*)—Seen four days. A couple pair nesting at Neal's

**Black Phoebe** (*Sayornis nigricans*)—Two were on the Frio River at Neal's.

**Vermilion Flycatcher** (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)—Encountered on four days; numerous at Park Chalk Bluff and readily seen at Neal's

**Ash-throated Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)—Seen well at Kerr WMA and heard two other days

**Brown-crested Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*)—A couple were seen at Park Chalk Bluff.

**Great Kiskadee** (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)—Two were found at Cook's slough in Uvalde.

**Couch's Kingbird** (*Tyrannus couchii*)—Two were in the Pecan Grove at Park Chalk Bluff.

**Western Kingbird** (*Tyrannus verticalis*)—A few were seen in agricultural land during the first two days of the trip.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus forficatus*)—Numerous throughout the trip, especially in agricultural land

**Loggerhead Shrike** (*Lanius ludovicianus*)—Small numbers the first two days of the trip in agricultural land

**White-eyed Vireo** (*Vireo griseus*)—Seen well at Neal's and Lost Maples SNA

**Bell's Vireo** (*Vireo bellii*)—Heard at a number of locations; best looks at Park Chalk Bluff.

**Black-capped Vireo** (*Vireo atricapilla*)—Three were seen and perhaps four more heard at Kerr WMA.

**Yellow-throated Vireo** (*Vireo flavifrons*)—Nice looks at Neal's and Park Chalk Bluff; heard elsewhere

**Hutton's Vireo** (*Vireo huttoni*)—Encountered at Kerr WMA and Lost Maples SNA. Numbers of this species in the Hill Country have increased during recent times.

**Red-eyed Vireo** (*Vireo olivaceus*)—Several seen well at Park Chalk Bluff, a few heard at Lost Maples SNA

**Green Jay** (*Cyanocorax yncas*)—A couple were feeding quietly in the Pecan Grove at Park Chalk Bluff. This is another rather recent addition to the avifauna of the Hill Country.

**Blue Jay** (*Cyanocitta cristata*)—Several were at the city park in Utopia.

**Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay** (*Aphelocoma woodhouseii*)—Two high fly-overs at Lost Maples were seen by Bob and Susan.

**Common Raven** (*Corvus corax*)—Seen four days; typically the default raven in the higher portions of the Hill Country.

**Purple Martin** (*Progne subis*)—Seen the first two days of the trip, numerous at the feedlot outside Sabinal

**Barn Swallow** (*Hirundo rustica*)—Numerous and noted on five days

**Cliff Swallow** (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)—Numerous; there are colonies on all the large bridges

**Cave Swallow** (*Petrochelidon fulva*)—Numerous at the Frio Bat Cave

**Carolina Chickadee** (*Poecile carolinensis*)—Found at a number of locations; easily seen at Neal's

**Black-crested Titmouse** (*Baeolophus atricristatus*)—Frequently seen and heard throughout the trip

**Verdin** (*Auriparus flaviceps*)—One was seen during a late afternoon walk at Neal's.

**Canyon Wren** (*Catherpes mexicanus*)—Seen two days and heard two more; a pair were at the headquarters at Kerr WMA and another on the old guano oven at the Frio Bat Cave.

**Bewick's Wren** (*Thryomanes bewickii*)—Small numbers seen at Neal's, Park Chalk Bluff, and Kerr. Frequently heard.

**Carolina Wren** (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*)—Found throughout the tour; good looks at Neal's and Lost Maples

**Cactus Wren** (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*)—A couple were present at the Ft. Inge entrance gate.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** (*Poliophtila caerulea*)—Small numbers were seen at Kerr WMA and Lost Maples SNA.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** (*Regulus calendula*)—One was seen on the Maples Trail at Lost Maples SNA.

**Eastern Bluebird** (*Sialia sialis*)—A male was noted in the Pecan Grove at Neal's.

**Hermit Thrush** (*Catharus guttatus*)—Found on two days; several were noted in the understory at Lost Maples SNA.

**American Robin** (*Turdus migratorius*)—One was seen at Lost Maples SNA

**Gray Catbird** (*Dumetella carolinensis*)—One was noted by Marj, Dwayne and Judy at a water feature at Neal's.

**Northern Mockingbird** (*Mimus polyglottos*)—Seen on five days; many on utility lines and rooftop antennae

**European Starling** (*Sturnus vulgaris*)—(Introduced) Seen on lawns in Uvalde and at the feedlot just outside Sabinal

**Cedar Waxwing** (*Bombycilla cedrorum*)—Flocks were encountered on four days.

**Nashville Warbler** (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*)—Seen at Cook's Slough, Park Chalk Bluff and Lost Maples SNA. **NB:** There is a proposal to split Nashville Warbler into two species. Nashvilles migrating through the Texas Hill Country belong to the eastern race *O. r. ruficapilla*. Genetic studies suggest that the western race of Nashville Warbler (*O. r. ridgwayi*) is more closely related to Virginia's Warbler than to eastern Nashvilles. Stay tuned.

**Northern Parula** (*Setophaga americana*)—A singing male was observed on the bank of the Frio River at Neal's.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** (*Setophaga coronata*)—Both eastern (Myrtle) and western (Audubon's) races were noted on multiple occasions. Small flocks were seen at Neal's, Cook's Slough, Utopia city park, and Lost Maples SNA. **NB:** Watch for a possible re-splitting of this species into as many as four entities.

**Yellow-throated Warbler** (*Setophaga dominica*)—Noisy and easily seen, a characteristic species in oaks, cypress and pecan bottomlands.

**Golden-cheeked Warbler** (*Setophaga chrysoparia*)—Two were seen at Kerr WMA and one at Lost Maples SNA.

**Yellow-breasted Chat** (*Icteria virens*)—We enjoyed nice views of several of these attractive birds at Park Chalk Bluff-where numerous. A few were heard elsewhere.

**Olive Sparrow** (*Arremonops rufivirgatus*)—Near the northern edge of its range; we encountered it on three days with good looks at Cook's Slough

**Spotted Towhee** (*Pipilo maculatus*)—One was present at a water feature at Neal's.

**Rufous-crowned Sparrow** (*Aimophila ruficeps*)—A single bird was seen at a feeding station at Lost Maples SNA.

**Cassin's Sparrow** (*Peucaea cassinii*)—One or two unresponsive individuals were heard in open scrub NW of Park Chalk Bluff.

**Chipping Sparrow** (*Spizella passerina*)—Noted on four days; numerous, usually in small flocks in woodland edge and at feeders

**Clay-colored Sparrow** (*Spizella pallida*)—One was in the understory at Lost Maples SNA

**Field Sparrow** (*Spizella pusilla*)—One singing bird was seen well at Kerr WMA.

**Vesper Sparrow** (*Pooecetes gramineus*)—Two or three in a fence road a bit west of Sabinal

**Lark Sparrow** (*Chondestes grammacus*)—Seen five days; numerous at roadsides and in scrubby and agricultural habitat

**Black-throated Sparrow** (*Amphispiza bilineata*)—Seen several days; best views at the Cattleguard Feeder at Neal's

**Lincoln's Sparrow** (*Melospiza lincolni*)—Found on three days; usually a few around feeders

**White-crowned Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)—Lingering birds were encountered two days; best views were at the headquarters at Kerr WMA.

**Summer Tanager** (*Piranga rubra*)—Found on five days; singing males frequently heard and seen chasing females

**Northern Cardinal** (*Cardinalis cardinalis*)—Numerous, noisy; encountered pretty much throughout the trip

**Pyrrhuloxia** (*Cardinalis sinuatus*)—One male was singing at the Ft. Inge entrance gate.

**Blue Grosbeak** (*Passerina caerulea*)—Seen three days; good looks at the Lost Maples' feeders and at Cook's Slough.

**Indigo Bunting** (*Passerina cyanea*)—One was seen at the end of the Pecan Grove at Park Chalk Bluff

**Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*)—Singles three days (all males); stunning looks at the Ft. Inge entrance gate

**Red-winged Blackbird** (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)—Seen in agricultural land  
the first two days of the trip

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)—We saw a couple dozen at the feedlot just W of Sabinal.

**Great-tailed Grackle** (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)—Found on three days in urban or agricultural areas

**Bronzed Cowbird** (*Molothrus aeneus*)—One or two on utility or fence wires around Ft. Inge and Cook's Slough

**Brown-headed Cowbird** (*Molothrus ater*)—Seen five days; numerous at the stock yard outside Sabinal, some of Neal's feeders, and at Kerr WMA

**Orchard Oriole** (*Icterus spurius*)—Singing males at Park Chalk Bluff and Garven Store bathroom stop en route to Kerr WMA

**Hooded Oriole** (*Icterus cucullatus*)—One at Neal's and a number of males at Park Chalk Bluff

**Scott's Oriole** (*Icterus parisorum*)—One or two at Lost Maples SNA

**House Finch** (*Haemorhous mexicanus*)—Found on four days; common at feeding stations

**Lesser Goldfinch** (*Spinus psaltria*)—Found on five days; feeders and "in the wild"

**House Sparrow** (*Passer domesticus*)—(Introduced) Seen five days; common around towns and feedlots

## MAMMALS:

Mexican Free-tailed Bat  
 Elk (Introduced)  
 White-tailed Deer  
 Axis Deer (Introduced)  
 Barbary Sheep (Introduced)  
 Black Buck (Introduced)  
 Wildebeest (Introduced)  
 Eastern Cottontail  
 Eastern Fox Squirrel

## REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS:

Cricket frog (Heard)  
 Bullfrog (Heard)

Red-eared Slider  
Diamondback Watersnake  
Coachwhip (probably western race)

## **BUTTERFLIES:**

Pipevine Swallowtail  
Black Swallowtail  
Western Giant Swallowtail  
Checkered White  
Orange Sulphur  
Sleepy Orange  
Lyside Sulphur  
Southern Dogface  
Dainty Sulphur  
"Spring" Azure  
Gray Hairstreak  
Juniper Hairstreak  
Reakirt's Blue  
American Snout  
Gulf Fritillary  
Variegated Fritillary  
Bordered Patch  
Graphic (Vesta) Crescent  
Texan Crescent  
Red Admiral  
American Lady  
Red-spotted Purple  
Question Mark  
Tawny Emperor  
Empress Leilia  
Little Wood-Satyr  
Monarch  
Common Checkered-Skipper  
Northern Cloudywing  
Dun Skipper  
Sachem  
Bronze Roadside-Skipper

## **DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES:**

Blue-fronted Dancer  
Blue-ringed Dancer  
Prince Baskettail  
Common Whitetail  
Thornbush Dasher  
Black Saddlebags  
Red Saddlebags  
Roseate Skimmer  
Blue Dasher  
Eastern Amberwing



**PLANTS: (Extracted from a list prepared for the 2017 tour by Arthur Goodman)**

ACANTHACEAE

*Justicia americana*: Water-willow

ACERACEAE

*Acer grandidentatum*: Bigtooth maple

AGAVACEAE

*Dasyilirion texanum*: Sotol

*Manfreda maculosa*: American aloe

*Yucca rupicola*: Twist-leaf yucca

ANACARDIACEAE

*Rhus virens*: Evergreen sumac

APIACEAE

*Bifora americana*: Bishop's-weed

*Hydrocotyle umbellata*: Water pennywort

*Torilis* sp. Hedge-parsley

ASCLEPIADACEAE

*Asclepias asperula*: Antelope horns

*Matelea reticulata*: Green milkweed vine

ASTERACEAE

*Ambrosia trifida*: Giant ragweed

*Carduus nutans*: Nodding thistle

*Centaurea americana*: Basket-flower

*Centaurea melitensis*: Malta star-thistle

*Chaptalia nutans*: Silverpuff

*Chrysactinia mexicana*: Damianita

*Cirsium texanum*: Texas thistle

*Dyssodia pentachaeta*: Parralena

*Gaillardia pulchella*: Indian blanket

*Gaillardia suavis*: Pincushion plant

*Helianthus annuus*: Common sunflower

*Hymenopappus scabiosaeus*: Woolly-white

*Pinaropappus roseus*: White rock-lettuce

*Ratibida columnaris*: Mexican hat

*Verbesina virginica*: Frostweed

BERBERIDACEAE

*Berberis trifoliata*: Agarita

BROMELIACEAE

*Tillandsia recurvata*: Ball moss

CACTACEAE

*Opuntia engelmannii*: Texas prickly-pear

*Opuntia leptocaulis*: Pencil cactus

COMMELINACEAE

*Commelinantia anomala*: False dayflower

*Tradescantia occidentalis*: Spiderwort

CONVOLVULACEAE

*Convolvulus equitans*: Texas bindweed

*Cuscuta* sp.: Dodder

*Ipomoea trichocarpa*: Purple bindweed

CYPERACEAE

*Dichromena colorata*: White-top sedge

EBENACEAE

*Diospyros texana*: Texas persimmon  
 EUPHORBIACEAE  
*Acalypha lindheimeri*: Three-seeded mercury  
*Acalypha radians*: Cardinal feather  
*Euphorbia roemeriana*: Roemer's spurge  
*Jatropha dioica*: Leather stem  
 FABACEAE  
*Astragalus* sp.: Milkvetch  
*Cercis canadensis* var. *texensis*: Texas redbud  
*Leucaena retusa*: Golden ball tree  
*Lupinus texensis*: Bluebonnet  
*Parkinsonia aculeata*: Retama  
*Prosopis glandulosa*: Mesquite  
*Senegalia berlandieri*: Guajillo  
*Senna roemeriana*: Two-leaved senna  
*Sophora secundiflora*: Texas mountain laurel  
 FAGACEAE  
*Quercus buckleyi*: Texas red oak  
*Quercus laceyi*: Lacey oak  
*Quercus muhlenbergii*: Chinquapin oak  
*Quercus virginiana*: Live oak  
 FUMARIACEAE  
*Corydalis curvisiliqua*: Scrambled eggs  
 GERANIACEAE  
*Erodium texanum*: Stork's bill  
 HIPPOCASTANACEAE  
*Aesculus pavia* var. *flavescens*: Yellow dwarf buckeye  
 HYDROPHYLLACEAE  
*Phacelia congesta*: Blue-curls  
 JUGLANDACEAE  
*Carya illinoensis*: Pecan  
*Juglans microcarpa*: Texas walnut  
 LAMIACEAE  
*Hedeoma acinoides*: Annual pennyroyal  
*Marrubium vulgare*: Horehound  
*Salvia ballotaeiflora*: Blue sage  
*Salvia coccinea*: Tropical sage  
*Salvia farinacea*: Mealy sage  
*Salvia roemeriana*: Cedar sage  
*Scutellaria drummondii*: Drummond's skullcap  
 LILIACEAE  
*Allium drummondii*: Wild garlic  
 MALVACEAE  
*Callirhoe involucrata*: Winecup  
*Sphaeralcea* sp.: Globe mallow  
 MELIACEAE  
*Melia azedarach*: Chinaberry  
 MORACEAE  
*Morus rubra*: Red mulberry  
 NYCTAGINACEAE  
*Mirabilis* sp.: Four o'clock

OLEACEAE

*Fraxinus* sp.: Ash

ONAGRACEAE

*Calylophus drummondianus*: Square-bud primrose

*Gaura coccinea*: Scarlet gaura

*Oenothera missouriensis*: Missouri primrose

*Oenothera speciosa*: Showy primrose

PAPAVERACEAE

*Argemone albiflora*: White prickly poppy

*Argemone mexicana*: Mexican poppy

PHYTOLACCACEAE

*Rivina humilis*: Pigeon berry

PLANTAGINACEAE

*Plantago (helleri?)*: (Heller's?) plantain

PLATANACEAE

*Platanus occidentalis*: Sycamore

POLEMONIACEAE

*Phlox roemeriana*: Golden-eye Phlox

PTERIDACEAE

*Adiantum capillus-veneris*: Maidenhair fern

RANUNCULACEAE

*Clematis drummondii*: Texas virgin's bower

*Clematis texensis*: Scarlet leatherflower

ROSACEAE

*Prunus mexicana*: Mexican plum

*Prunus serotina* var. *eximia*: Escarpment black cherry

RUBIACEAE

*Galium* sp.: Bedstraw

SCROPHULARIACEAE

*Leucophyllum frutescens*: Cenizo

*Maurandya antirrhiniflora*: Snapdragon vine

*Penstemon cobaea*: Foxglove

*Penstemon triflorus*: Scarlet penstemon

*Verbascum thapsis*: Common mullein

SMILACACEAE

*Smilax bona-nox*: Greenbrier

SOLANACEAE

*Solanum dimidiatum*: Western horse-nettle

*Solanum elaeagnifolium*: Silver-leaf nightshade

TAMARICACEAE

*Tamarix* sp.: Tamarisk

TAXODIACEAE

*Taxodium distichum*: Baldcypress

ULMACEAE

*Celtis laevigata*: Hackberry

*Ulmus crassifolia*: Cedar elm

VERBENACEAE

*Aloysia gratissima*: Bee-brush

*Lantana horrida*: Lantana

*Phyla nodiflora*: Frog-fruit

*Verbena bipinnatifida*: Dakota vervain



*Verbena halei*: Texas vervain

*Vitex agnus-castus*: Chaste tree

VISCACEAE

*Phoradendron tomentosum*: Mistletoe

VITACEAE

*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*: Virginia creeper

*Vitis* sp.: Wild grape