

TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

Species List 2019



April 14 - 19, 2019

Texas Hill Country: Birding & Nature Tour
Guides Pat Lueders & Carlos Sanchez

And 11 participants: Martha, Rob, John, Joan, Lyn, Ron, Joann, Sidney, Cliff, Marsha, & Joe

Compiled by Pat Lueders

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

(I)= Introduced

Summary: Our main goals on this springtime trip to the Texas Hill Country were to enjoy the scenery of the Edwards Plateau region, to see the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo, and to experience the natural wonder of the emergence of millions of Mexican Free-tailed Bats from the Rio Frio Bat Cave. With delightful weather and energetic participants, all of these goals were achieved as we soaked in the area and its wide array of species and habitats.

BIRDS (127 species recorded, of which 4 were heard only):

ANATIDAE: DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS (6)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*—Great looks at the Uvalde Fish Hatchery & flying in pairs at Frio Bat Cave

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*—Seen in a pond at Cook's Slough Nature Center

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*—In the ponds at the Fish Hatchery & nice looks at them flying

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*—With other ducks in some of the ponds at the Fish Hatchery

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*—Possibly Mexican sub-species seen with ducks at the Fish Hatchery

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*—A nice surprise to find 5 of this beautiful duck at Cook's Slough

PHASIANIDAE: PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS, AND ALLIES (1)

Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo*—Individuals seen daily at many locations while driving

PODICIPEDIDAE: GREBES (1)

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*—Two found diving in ponds at Cook's Slough

COLUMBIDAE: PIGEONS AND DOVES (6)

Rock Pigeon (I) *Columba livia*—Seen in all towns while driving

Eurasian Collared-Dove (I) *Streptopelia decaocto*—Seen best at the Fish Hatchery perched on electric lines

Inca Dove *Columbina inca*—In the driveway at Neal's, at Kerr WMA, & Lost Maples' feeders

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*—A nice find, now expanding north from South Texas, under a tree at the Lost Maples' feeders

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*—Seen daily at many locations, most common dove species in the area

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*—Seen daily at many locations in small numbers

CAPRIMULGIDAE: NIGHTJARS (2)

Common Poorwill *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*—One individual seen on the Frio Bat Cave road, others heard vocalizing
Chuck-will's-widow *Anrostomus carolinensis* (HO)-- At least 3 heard on a night walk around Neal's Lodges

APODIDAE: SWIFTS (1)

Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica*—Seen & heard after dinner outside Lost Maples Cafe

TROCHILIDAE: HUMMINGBIRDS (2)

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*--One was seen visiting flowers when we stopped To identify and photograph wildflowers along the roadside

Black-chinned Hummingbird *Archilochus alexandri*—Seen daily at feeders around Neal's

RALLIDAE: RAILS, COOTS, AND ALLIES (2)

Sora *Porzana carolina*—One seen at close range running in the reeds at Uvalde Fish Hatchery, other individuals heard in the same area

American Coot *Fulica americana*—A few individuals seen at Cook's Slough & at the Fish Hatchery

CHARADRIIDAE: PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS (1)

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferous*—Vocalizing loudly & flying around the ponds at the Fish Hatchery

SCOLOPACIDAE: SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES (6)

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*—One individual seen in a puddle from the large van in route to Neal's

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*—Two individuals in the puddle with the Baird's in route to Neal's Lodges

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata*—Many individuals flushed while we walked at the Fish Hatchery

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*—Seen on the sand bar on our walk at the Frio River

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*—Nice looks at 4 individuals in the pond with the ducks at the Fish Hatchery

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*—Two seen near the Ibis at the Fish Hatchery

PHALACROCORACIDAE: CORMORANTS (1)

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*—A group of six were found at Cook's Slough

ARDEIDAE: HERONS, IBIS, AND EGRETS (4)

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*—Seen at Cook's Slough & flying at other locations

Great Egret *Ardea alba*—One individual flying & near the ibis at the Fish Hatchery

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*—Good looks at one on the shore at Cook's & another at the Fish Hatchery

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*—Found feeding on the shore at the Fish Hatchery

CATHARTIDAE: NEW WORLD VULTURES (2)

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*—Seen in good numbers daily at all locations

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*—Seen in good numbers daily at all locations

ACCIPITRIDAE: HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES (4)

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii*—Quick look at one individual flying at Chalk Bluff Park

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni*—One seen flying at Cook's Slough & another seen while driving

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus*—Nice spotting of a soaring individual at Garner State Park

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*—Watched two individuals feeding on bats at the Frio Bat Cave

STRIGIDAE: OWLS (1)

Barred Owl *Strix varia*—A favorite bird on the trip, pair watched for a length of time at Utopia City Park

ALCEDINIDAE: KINGFISHERS (2)

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*—Seen by Rob & Ron on the Frio River at Neal's Lodges
Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*—Good looks at two at Cook's & another at the Pecan grove

PICIDAE: WOODPECKERS (3)

Golden-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes aurifrons*—Best seen at Garner State Park feeding on the ground
Downy Woodpecker *Dryobates pubescens* (HO)—Heard at Utopia City Park, a known location for this species
Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Dryobates scalaris*—Seen well on our Frio River walk at Neal's

FALCONIDAE: FALCONS AND CARACARAS (1)

Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway*—Very nice looks at 2 individuals flying over the road at Chalk Bluff Park

TYRANNIDAE: TYRANT FLYCATCHERS (10)

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*—Fun, we saw an individual daily on the picnic table by our cabins at Neal's
Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe*—Seen and heard daily at all locations
Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*—Always a group favorite, males & females seen often
Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens*—We had individuals around Neal's & Chalk Bluff
Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus*—Nice looks at one individual at Utopia City Park
Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*—Seen at Neal's, Kerr WMA, & Lost Maples
Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*—Very northern edge of this species' boundary, quick looks at one at Cook's, great looks at one at Chalk Bluff Park
Couch's Kingbird *Tyrannus couchii*—Identified this kingbird by its distinct vocalization at the Fish Hatchery
Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis*—Seen around the San Antonio hotels, at Fort Inge & Fish Hatchery
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*—We lost count of the number seen on wires in route to Neal's

VIREONIDAE: VIREOS (7)

Black-capped Vireo *Vireo atricapilla*—A target bird for the trip, good looks at Cabin 61 at Neal's, additional looks at Kerr WMA
White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus*—Seen & heard daily at all locations
Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii*—Many individuals at Chalk Bluff vocalizing, good looks eventually achieved by all
Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni*—Seen with a mixed flock at Garner State Park & at Lost Maples
Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*—Heard & then good looks with a mixed flock on Frio River walk
Blue-headed Vireo *Vireo solitaries* (HO)—Heard vocalizing on our walk at Lost Maples
Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*—Seen with a mixed feeding flock on Frio River walk & at Lost Maples

CORVIDAE: CROWS AND JAYS (3)

Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata*—Seen around San Antonio hotels
Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay *Aphelocoma woodhouseii*—Fun to see this species coming to feeders at Lost Maples
Common Raven *Corvus corax*—A nest was spotted in the cliffs along the Frio River, others seen daily

HIRUNDINIDAE: SWALLOWS AND MARTINS (5)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*—Best looks flying over the Frio River
Purple Martin *Progne subis*—A few seen flying at Fort Inge
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*—Seen flying over fields daily at most locations
Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*—Best seen & identified at Uvalde Fish Hatchery
Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva*—Seen entering the Frio Bat Cave before the bats emerged

PARIDAE: TITS AND CHICKADEES (2)

Carolina Chickadee *Poecile carolinensis*—Seen daily at all locations & around Neal's
Black-crested Titmouse *Baeolophus atricristatus*—Great looks at many around Neal's Lodges

REMIZIDAE: PENDULINE TITS (1)

Verdin *Auriparus flaviceps*—Seen best at Fort Inge, also seen at the Frio Bat cave location

AEGITHALIDAE: BUSHTITS (1)

Bushtit *Psaltriparus minimus*—Quick looks at only one individual in a tree behind the Lost Maples feeders

TROGLODYTIDAE: WRENS (5)

Canyon Wren *Catherpes mexicanus*—One of those magical birding moments, we watched an individual vocalize only a few feet from where we were all standing!

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*—Nice looks at an individual at the Lost Maples' feeders

Carolina Wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus*—Watched this species feeding babies in a nest in the Lost Maples' blind

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii*—Heard & seen almost daily at all locations

Cactus Wren *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*—Vocalizing & finally seen well on road to Fort Inge

POLIOPTILIDAE: GNATCATCHERS (1)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila caerulea*—Seen & heard at Kerr WMA & Lost Maples

REGULIDAE: KINGLETS (1)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula*—Seen at Kerr, another species often found with a mixed feeding flock

TURDIDAE: THRUSHES (2)

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis*—Seen at Neal's & Garner State Park

Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus*—Pale individual seen at Utopia City Park

MIMIDAE: MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS (3)

Curve-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma curvirostre*—Quick look from the van at an individual flying across the road

Long-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma longirostre*—Seen & heard around cabin 61 at Neal's Lodge

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*—Seen daily while traveling to all locations

STURNIDAE: STARLINGS AND MYNAS (1)

European Starling (l) *Sturnus vulgaris*—Seen in towns & while traveling

BOMBYCILLIDAE: WAXWINGS (1)

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*—Seen in good numbers daily at all locations

FRINGILLIDAE: FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS (3)

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus*—Seen daily, often around the lodges at Neal's

Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus*—Coming to feeders at Neal's & Lost Maples

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria*—Seen at feeders at Neal's, Kerr WMA, and Lost Maples

PASSERELLIDAE: NEW WORLD SPARROWS (10)

Olive Sparrow *Arremonops rufivirgatus*—A memorable close, long look in the open of this skulker at Cook's

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*—Seen daily, always at Neal's feeders

Clay-colored Sparrow *Spizella pallida*—Lovely sparrow, seen at Kerr WMA & Neal's pecan grove

Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla*—Many heard, a few seen at Kerr WMA

Black-throated Sparrow *Amphispiza bilineata*—Wow, what great looks at this singing male along the road at Chalk Bluff Park. Stunning!

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus*—Another beautiful sparrow, many seen well at Fort Inge

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis*—Seen along the road when entering Fort Inge

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolni*—Best seen at the feeders at Lost Maples

Rufous-crowned Sparrow *Aimophila ruficeps*—Close looks at one coming to the feeders at Lost Maples

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Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus* (HO)--Heard vocalizing at cabin 61 at Neal's

ICTERLIDAE: YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (1)

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens*—Perched up for good views near cabin 61 at Neal's

ICTERIDAE: NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS (7)

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius*—Good scope views of a male at Chalk Bluff Park

Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii*—Two seen by all at Fort Inge

Scott's Oriole *Icterus parisorum*—We waited at the Lost Maples' host feeders to get good looks at this beauty

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*—Seen daily at all locations & while traveling

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*---Being captured at Kerr WMA to assist nesting Golden-cheeked Warblers

Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula*—Seen around the San Antonio hotel area

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*—Seen in large numbers on drive to Neal's Lodges

PARULIDAE: NEW WORLD WARBLERS (9)

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*—Seen on the walk at Lost Maples SNA

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*—Rare sighting, in a tree by the cabins at Neal's

Orange-crowned Warbler *Oreothlypis celata*—With mixed feeding flocks at Kerr WMA & Lost Maples

Nashville Warbler *Oreothlypis ruficapilla*—Seen with mixed feeding flocks at Neal's & Kerr WMA

Northern Parula *Setophaga americana*—Seen on our walk on the Frio River near Neal's

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechial*—Quick looks at one individual at Chalk Bluff Park

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronate*—Seen often at many locations

Yellow-throated Warbler *Setophaga dominica*—This beautiful warbler was seen & heard daily at all locations

Golden-cheeked Warbler *Setophaga chrysoparia*—**Target bird for this trip**, we had good looks at Kerr & even better looks at Lost Maples where we heard a number of individuals vocalizing. What a treat!

CARDINALIDAE: CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES (7)

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*—Seen & heard daily, great looks at Kerr, Garner, & Lost Maples

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*—Heard & seen daily at all locations

Pyrrhuloxia *Cardinalis sinuatus*—Our only encounter was along the road & on wires at Fort Inge

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea*—On a feeder at Garner SP, perched singing at the pecan grove

Lazuli Bunting *Passerina amoena*—Very far east, we were surprised to see this species at the feeders at Lost Maples, one of the birds of the trip!

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*—First seen at Garner SP, good looks at Lost Maples

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*—Found the last morning singing perched in a tree at the pecan grove at Neal's

PASSERIDAE: OLD WORLD SPARROWS (1)

House Sparrow (l) *Passer domesticus*—Seen daily at Neal's & in the nearby towns

MAMMALS (10 species recorded):

Nine-banded Armadillo *Dasypus novemcinctus*—Seen by two of our group at dawn in Neal's parking area

Black-tailed Jackrabbit *Lepus californicus*—Running in the field at Chalk Bluff Park

Fox Squirrel *Sciurus niger*—Most common squirrel seen almost daily

Mexican Free-tailed Bat *Tadarida brasiliensis*—Estimated we saw 3-11 million flying out of the Frio Bat cave

Striped Skunk *Mephitis mephitis*—Seen by ½ the group driving from Kerr WMA

Common Raccoon *Procyon lotor*—Seen crossing the road near Kerr WMA

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*—Seen in the grassy fields while driving

Blackbuck Antelope *Antilope cervicapra*—Seen from the vans while driving on the Edward's Plateau; released in Texas on the Edward's Plateau (Kerr Co.) in 1932.

Barbary Sheep *Ammotrogus lervis*—Scope views on the cliffs above Chalk Bluff Park; Introduced in Texas in 1957-58 & now firmly established in the Edwards Plateau

Scimitar-Horned Oryx *Oryx dammah*—Seen from van in fields on the Edward's Plateau; bred on exotic animal ranches in the Texas Hill Country.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (6 species recorded):

Green Anole *Anolis carolinensis*—Seen at Cook's slough

Texas Spiny Lizard *Sceloporus olivaceus*—Seen at Lost Maples WMA

Black-necked Garter Snake *Thamnophis cyrtopsis*—Seen at Cook's Slough

Red-eared Slider *Trachemys scripta elegans*—Seen at Cook's Slough

Blanchard Cricket Frog *Acris crepitans blanchardi*—Heard & one found in pond on night walk at Neal's Lodges

Striped Bark Scorpion *Centruroides vittatus*—Three found with ultraviolet light on night walk at Neal's