

Texas Hill Country Birding & Nature Species List | April 26 – May 1, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



Guides Lena Moser and Bryan Calk with guests Dianne, Bob, Arlana, Arden, Carol, Gisela, Judy, Betsy, Ray, Michelle, and Marie

An amazing week of exploring one of Texas's most unique regions, the Hill Country, was made better by sharing it with such a lovely group of people! We started at the very western edge of the region where the hills blend into the chihuahuan desert and south Texas brush country, where some of our highlights included Black-capped and Gray Vireos, Painted Buntings, Green Jays, Audubon's Oriole, and a handful of neotropical migrants. The variety of habitats and confluence of ecoregions here leads to surprises around every corner while walking the trail, from porcupines and raccoons to snakes and toads. And of course, our trip featured one of the most impressive natural spectacles - the emergence of millions of Mexican Free-tailed Bats from their underground colony. And walking through a place like Lost Maples, the birds feel almost secondary to the overwhelming natural beauty of this region, with a variety of rare plants and blooming wildflowers, many beautiful butterflies, and the near-constant droning of Golden-cheeked Warblers along the path! Even on our last dinner together, we were given one last treat as a Barred Owl came in to tell us goodnight.

Birds (127 species):

The eBird link below details the 127 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 26 – May 1, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

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

Mammals (10 species):

Rock Squirrel *Otospermophilus variegatus* – Seen in the Concan area and Lost Maples, most often around rocky hillsides or around buildings

Mexican Ground Squirrel *Ictidomys mexicanus* – At Kickapoo Cavern State Park and Fort Clark Springs, running around open grassy areas

Eastern Fox Squirrel *Sciurus niger*— Seen daily, usually where there were lots of live oaks

Eastern Cottontail *Sylvilagus sp.*— Seen along the trails at Cook's Slough and Lost Maples

North American Porcupine *Erethizon dorsatum* – Seen at Neal’s Lodge on a couple separate occasions

Nutria *Myocaster coypus* – Seen in the pond at Cook’s Slough and the pond at Neal’s

Mexican Free-tailed Bat *Tadarida brasiliensis*– We took in the spectacle of their evening mass emergence at the Rio Frio Cave right outside of Concan

Common Raccoon *Procyon lotor* – Seen along the Frio River at Neal’s Lodges during a night walk and a bird walk

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*— Seen pretty much daily at various locations

Axis Deer *Axis axis* – Seen at Fort Clark Springs and along the road in the Uvalde area

Reptiles and Amphibians (13 species):

Rio Grande Cooter *Pseudemys gorzugi* – At the water’s edge in the water remaining at Fort Clark Springs

Red-eared Slider *Trachemys scripta*— In the pond at Lost Maples SNA

Texas Spiny Lizard *Sceloporus olivaceus* – In an oak tree at Lost Maples SNA

Green Anole *Anolis carolinensis* – One hanging out at Hippy Chic’s restaurant in Concan and another at Neal’s

Texas Spotted Whiptail *Aspidoscelis gularis* – Seen most days along the trails and paths

Mediterranean Gecko *Hemidactylus turcicus* - Seen around the building windows at Neal’s

Great Plains Ground Snake *Sonora episcopa* – One seen crossing a path while walking along the river at Neal’s - appeared in the same moment as a porcupine!

Diamondback Watersnake *Nerodia rhombifer* – Swimming and around the edges of the ponds at Cook’s Slough

Texas Blind Snake *Leptotyphlops dulcis* – One found at Neal’s

Blanchard’s Cricket Frog *Acris blanchardi* – One seen during a walk at Neal’s and heard often when we were near water at Neal’s, Lost Maples, etc.

American Bullfrog *Lithobates catesbeianus* – One seen at Fort Clark Springs

Plains Narrow-mouthed Toad *Gastrophryne olivacea* – One found under some tin at Neal’s Lodge

Gulf Coast Toad *Incilius nebulifer* – Found during a night walk at Neal’s around one of the ponds and in the paths

Butterflies (and a moth) (24 species):

Pipevine Swallowtail *Battus philenor* - Seen commonly throughout the tour

Gulf Fritillary *Euptoieta claudia* - Seen at Cook’s Slough and Lost Maples SNA

Variegated Fritillary *Euptoieta hegesia* - Seen at Cook’s Slough

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* - Seen commonly throughout the tour

Lyside Sulphur *Kricogonia lyside* - Seen almost daily throughout the trip

Tawny Emperor *Asterocampa clyton* - One seen at the gas station on the first day, and also seen at Cook’s Slough and Lost Maples

Texan Crescent *Anthanassa texana* - Seen at Cook’s Slough

Queen *Danaus gilippus* - A few seen at Kickapoo, Fort Clark, and Neal’s

Black Swallowtail *Papilio polyxenes* - At Kickapoo Cavern State Park

Reakirt's Blue *Echinargus isola* - Seen puddling at Cook’s Slough

American Snout *Libytheana carinenta* - A few seen at Cook's Slough
Empress Leilia *Asterocampa leilia* - A few seen at Cook's Slough
Question Mark *Polygona interrogationis* - One seen at Neal's in a cypress
Dainty Sulphur *Nathalis iole* - Seen while walking around Neal's
Checkered White *Pontia protodice* - Seen while walking around Neal's
Sleepy Orange *Eurema nicippe* - Seen while walking around Neal's and many at Lost Maples SNA
Common Checkered Skipper *Pyrgus communis* - Seen while walking around Neal's
American Lady *Vanessa virginiensis* - Seen while walking around Neal's
Juniper Hairstreak *Callophrys gryneus* - Several feeding on an antelope horns milkweed at Lost Maples SNA
Orange Sulphur *Colias eurytheme* - Seen along the trail at Lost Maples
Two-tailed Tiger Swallowtail *Papilio multicaudata* - Seen flying down the trail and nectaring on thistle at Lost Maples SNA
Dun Skipper *Euphyes vestris* - One along the trail at Lost Maples SNA
Red Satyr *Caligo belti* - Seen along the trail at Lost Maples SNA
White-lined Sphynx *Hyles lineata* - Seen feeding on the flowers outside the restaurant at Neal's