



Texas: Spring Migration & Hill Country

April 15th - 25th, 2019

Trip Report and Photos: Stephan Lorenz



One of several Black-capped Vireos that showed well in the Hill Country Photo Stephan Lorenz

April 15th, 2019

We all assembled at the Houston International airport and immediately started our three hour drive towards San Antonio. We arrived in the Seguin area in time for a quick dinner at a local BBQ and then continued to our comfortable accommodations to get some rest. The anticipation was high for our first full day of birding.



Seaside Sparrows were wonderfully common on the coast and showed well Photo Stephan Lorenz

April 16th, 2019

We left the hotel after breakfast and drove to the Kerr Wildlife Management area, fortunately negotiating San Antonio traffic rather efficiently. The Kerr WMA is dominated by scrub oak and mature juniper forest, ideal habitat for two iconic Texas Hill Country species, the endangered Black-capped Vireo and Golden-cheeked Warbler, the latter being a breeding endemic. In the cool morning air, the dawn chorus was still in full swing and we set out to find the occasionally skulky Black-capped Vireo. We soon heard one, but this individual proved very shy. After two more attempts, we eventually found a very confiding pair near the headquarters that offered extended views in the open. Further into the refuge, we continued with the vireo theme seeing Hutton's, Yellow-throated, Red-eyed, and even found the secretive Bell's Vireo building a nest. The bold Black-crested Titmouse came in and a singing Bewick's Wren perched in the

open. The colorful Vermilion Flycatcher sallied out from a fence line while Ladder-backed and Golden-fronted Woodpeckers passed through. Best of all though were two Golden-cheeked Warblers that came in several times by the roadside and sang from the tops of their favored junipers. We enjoyed a field lunch back at the headquarters area while migrating Swainson's Hawks passed overhead and we found the locally uncommon Canyon Towhee. We then carried on south to the Concan area and Neal's Lodge, checking in upon arrival and getting situated in our comfortable cabins right on the Rio Frio. The lodge grounds were busy with bird song and we added a few species during our walk to dinner, including a single Ruby-throated Hummingbird among the many Black-chinned swarming the feeders. Lesser Goldfinches were visiting a feeder and among a few Yellow-rumped Warblers we found both the Myrtle and Audubon's subspecies. Then it was off to bed for a well deserved rest.



Greater Roadrunners were seen in a few locations this year Photo Stephan Lorenz

April 17th, 2019

This morning, we left Neal's Lodge early and drove north for about 45 minutes to reach the Lost Maples State Natural Area. This jewel of a reserve tucked in among precipitous

limestone cliffs and hills harbors a remnant population of maple trees and is one of very few places in the state to witness fall colors. For us it held exciting opportunities for some rare bird species and an excellent overall variety. In this region of Texas, east meets west and north meets south, with Lost Maples being home to White-tipped Doves, Scott's Orioles, and breeding Yellow-throated Vireos, an unusual combination indeed. During our full morning on the trails here, as we wandered along a tree filled canyon, we nabbed many specialties and ended with an incredibly diverse list of birds. We first checked the main trailhead area where a productive feeder setup entertained us for an hour or so. Here we saw Inca and Mourning Doves, feisty Black-chinned Hummingbirds, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Carolina Chickadees, Black-crested Titmouse, Chipping and Lincoln's Sparrows, and best of all the localized Rufous-crowned Sparrow. The Indigo Buntings and Blue Grosbeaks visiting the feeders added some vivid blues. A flash of color in a bare tree revealed a single Scott's Oriole, while the shy White-tipped Dove require a bit more effort. After a patient wait, a single Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay flew in, a difficult bird on this itinerary. During our walk along the trail, we found more Black-capped Vireos that showed briefly, plenty of White-eyed Vireos, the locally rare Hutton's Vireo, and Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos, an unbelievable diversity. Yet, it was not all vireos and we saw a Canyon Wren well that had descended from its lofty cliffs to forage among some boulders right in front of us, while Carolina and Bewick's Wrens rounded out the family, offering another example of east meets west.



Golden-cheeked Warblers nest only in the Hill Country of Texas Photo Stephan Lorenz

A single Ruby-crowned Kinglet was a late migrant while multiple Olive Sparrows were surprising, revealing more northward expansion of some south Texas species. Warblers were in full song and we had great views of a territorial Louisiana Waterthrush, nesting Black-and-white Warbler, and migrant Orange-crowned, Wilson's and Nashville Warblers. At one point, we enjoyed eye level views of a Yellow-throated Warbler, while the endemic Golden-cheeked Warbler proved common and easy to see. During the drive back towards the lodge a suspicious looking bird had us pulling over quickly and we all managed to get onto the Zone-tailed Hawk before it drifted out of sight, an uncommon raptor in the Hill Country. Arriving back at the lodge, we took a break and then started midafternoon to see what we could find around the lodge area. We enjoyed repeated views of some of the species seen earlier and the day before, but some of the best additions included a Red-shouldered Hawk calling, stunning Vermilion Flycatchers, excellent views of the sulky Bell's Vireo, and a singing Verdin perched on a wire, another western species at the limit of its range here. A careful check of the thickets revealed the Long-billed Thrasher on its traditional territory. We drove to the pecan grove and the open grassland held Eastern Bluebirds, Field Sparrows, and even better at least two Clay-colored Sparrows, uncommon migrants in the area.



The spectacle of bats emerging from the world-famous Rio Frio Bat Cave is not to be missed Photo Stephan Lorenz

The pecan grove itself held Cedar Waxwings, surprise American Goldfinches, and more Nashville Warblers. After an early dinner, we drove to the nearby Rio Frio Bat Cave, a natural history spectacle not to be missed. We arrived well before sunset and during our wait for the bats to emerge, we added several species to our list. Best of all was a male Painted Bunting that sat up fully in the open, an improbable combination of colors in front of a perfect backdrop of Hill Country landscape. We also found our first Cactus Wrens here while a distant Pyrrhuloxia was scoped. The entrance of the cave was busy with nesting Cave Swallows and soon the first bats started to emerge. Up to ten million bats use the cave and we stood in awe as huge streams of fluttering wings poured from the opening. Several raptors are known to take advantage of this mass exodus and we again saw Cooper's, Harris's, Red-tailed and Swainson's Hawks go after the bats, but most surprisingly was a Crested Caracara that swept in briefly to grab a bat, a first for me. After dark, some of us continued to try some owling and we walked away with close views of a gray morph Eastern Screech-Owl. What an incredible day it had been.



A gray morph Eastern Screech-Owl showed well after dark at Neal's Lodge Photo Stephan Lorenz

April 18th, 2019

This morning, we headed further south to bird Chalk Bluff Park, an interesting location where the Texas brush country meets the western desert. Due to the variety of habitats here we racked up quite a list with more than 70 species found, a good total given that there are no wetlands. Some of the best finds in the morning included a Greater Roadrunner that eventually walked out onto, well, the road of course, and a Pyrrhuloxia showed again perched on a wire. Along the river, we found the locally uncommon Ringed Kingfisher that offered great views as it flew upriver. The riparian scrub held a single House Wren, another migrant that usually departs Texas early. Both Golden-fronted and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers were present, while the hefty Brown-crested Flycatcher patrolled the mesquites and a Couch's Kingbird made a brief appearance. The open desert flats held Western Kingbirds, a Curve-billed Thrasher perched on a windmill, and a Grasshopper Sparrow showed well sitting on a fence. Chipping, White-crowned, Black-throated, Lark, Savannah, and Lincoln's Sparrows all showed well in the roadside brush. The open pasture held a flock of Yellow-headed Blackbirds, a welcome surprise and unusual number for the location and date. A pair of Chihuahuan Ravens flew above, performing some cartwheels and the introduced Aoudad Sheep were present in their favored location across the river. We carefully checked the oak stands finding Blue-headed Vireos, Eastern Wood-Pewee, and had excellent views of some warblers seen earlier. We left the park after a picnic lunch and headed further west to try for some desert species, but gusty winds prevented us from finding anything else. As we were driving east towards Kingsville in very windy conditions we did locate a Bullock's Oriole almost at the last chance for the species. It took some time, but eventually it showed briefly for everyone. We drove to Kingsville to check in and enjoy an earlier dinner.



Painted Bunting is a stunning bird breeding in Texas Photo Stephan Lorenz

April 19th, 2019

Today we visited the very birdy Norias Unit of the King Ranch and our full morning and early afternoon here yielded all the hoped for species plus a few surprises. We met our local guide at 6 am and then drove south along the main highway before turning down a gravel track that led into the expansive grasslands and oak mottes of the ranch. Several displaying Bronzed Cowbirds greeted us at the gate and the puffed up male looked quite bizarre in the bright sunlight. The King Ranch harbors the largest population of Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls in the United States and although it took some patient waiting and maneuvering, we eventually secured lengthy scope views for all. At our first stop at the headquarters we again found a pair of vocal Tropical Kingbirds and the more common Great Kiskadees. We also tracked down singing Cassin's Sparrows in the grassland and, even better, had repeated views of the localized Botteri's Sparrow. The raptors were also active on the ranch with a perched Harris's Hawk, a soaring White-tailed Hawk right overhead, many Crested Caracaras, and a Swainson's Hawk perched on the ground. We then continued further into the oak woodlands in search of two more King Ranch specialties, the Tropical Parula and Northern Beardless Tyrannulet. The Tropical Parula was singing when we arrived and we soon had a male perch right above us. The tyrannulet took a bit more patience, but eventually we spotted a silent bird and it even stayed long enough for scope views. We enjoyed a delicious field lunch at a small ranch house and even picked up a Buff-bellied Hummingbird there. We can't forget the pair of Green Jays that finally came in either. Before leaving the ranch, we drove through the grasslands one last time and found a single Sprague's Pipit that was seen well be all, this late staying individual was definitely a bonus bird. After leaving the ranch, we turned north again towards Port Aransas and our accommodations for the night. Dinner took a bit longer than planned, but the food was very good.



The Tropical Kingbird is an uncommon resident in south Texas Photo Stephan Lorenz

April 20th, 2019

After breakfast, we stopped at the Ivy Lane Birding Site in Rockport and quickly found a Pied-billed Grebe and an Anhinga. It took a few more minutes before a Least Grebe swam in closely, the main reason we stopped at the spot. We then carried on to Goose Island State Park and the wetlands and bays held Black-bellied and Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, Mottled Duck, and surprise Greater Scaup. A single American Oystercatcher flew by while Black-bellied, Wilson's and Semipalmated Plovers, Killdeer, Ruddy Turnstone, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitcher, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, and Willet all showed well. We wandered down to the marsh to lure a Marsh Wren from the reeds, but by far the best find here was a single Nelson's Sparrow that sat up just long enough for everyone to have a good view. We walked past the grassy pastures and into the woodland, adding Sedge Wren and a late staying White-throated Sparrow. We stopped at the "Big Tree", one of the oldest and largest live oak trees in Texas, and found a Great Crested Flycatcher here among more widespread species. An impromptu stop along the way at some busy wetlands yielded the only Baird's Sandpiper of the tour and dozens of Stilt Sandpipers. We headed north up the coast, enjoying the scenery of beaches and marshes, eventually reaching the Quintana Neotropical Migrant Sanctuary. We stopped here for the late afternoon and found some of the first warblers with Hooded, Tennessee, a brief Blue-winged and more all being welcome additions. With many birds and a long day behind us we carried on to Winnie for the night.



Yellow-throated Warblers are a stunning breeding warbler in Texas Photo Stephan Lorenz

April 21st, 2019

This morning, we headed early to Anahuac NWR, one of the most productive birding sites on the Upper Texas Coast and it definitely lived up to its reputation. First, we added a Northern Shoveler to our waterfowl list and then had excellent views of White and White-faced Ibis with a locally rare Glossy Ibis flying past. Herons and egrets were out in full force highlighted by a several showy Least Bitterns, a Green Heron, and roosting Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. We drove the loop around Shoveler Pond where showy Purple Gallinules walked about and a Sora showed well with pink Roseate Spoonbills flying in the distance. Along the entrance road we enjoyed the aerial prowess of a Merlin and Peregrine Falcon. In the reedy marsh, displaying Boat-tailed Grackles replaced the more common Great-tailed Grackles and Marsh Wrens were in full song. We carried on further into the open prairies and marshes, finding Northern Harrier, lots of Eastern Kingbirds, Swamp Sparrow, and Orchard Oriole. A walk into the prairie yielded no rails, except for elusive King Rails that sounded off a few times, refusing to show. Along the entrance road and back along the main highway we located some flooded fields that held countless shorebirds, including Black-necked Stilt, Whimbrel, Stilt, Least, Pectoral and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Long-billed Dowitcher, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet, and best of all, two Hudsonian Godwits.



Snowy Egret at rookery Photo Stephan Lorenz

During the afternoon, we visited the famous vagrant traps of High Island, starting at the rookery located in the Smith Oaks sanctuary. Here breeding activity was in full swing with Great Egrets already tending chicks, Snowy Egrets in full display, and Roseate Spoonbills awkwardly carrying nesting materials to platforms. A few Tricolored and Little Blue Herons were mixed in. Migration was a bit slow, but we still noted our first Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Swainson's and Wood Thrushes, Scarlet Tanager, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. We then made a dash to the north of Winnie to follow up on a report of a pair of Whooping Cranes. It didn't take long until we found the stately white birds gracing a big wetland. We watched the pair for as long as we wanted and these particular birds were part of a reintroduction effort in Louisiana, wandering into Texas a few weeks before. We returned to Winnie for dinner and a good night's rest.



Brown-crested Flycatcher Photo Stephan Lorenz

April 22nd. 2019

We started the morning at the Intercoastal Bridge, admiring the busy Cliff Swallow colony and then carried on to the Bolivar Peninsula. Our first stop at Rollover Pass was packed with birds and we didn't know where to look first. We systematically scoped American Avocet, American Oystercatcher, Black-bellied, Semipalmated and Piping Plovers, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Dunlin, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitcher, Willet, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Laughing, Franklin's, Ring-billed and Herring Gulls, Least, Caspian, Black, Common, Forster's, Royal and Sandwich Terns, Black Skimmer, Neotropic Cormorant,

American White and Brown Pelicans all from one spot! Along Tuna Road we found no less than ten Seaside Sparrows with many offering great photographic opportunities. In the afternoon, we arrived at the Bolivar Flats shorebird sanctuary, one of the most famous birding places on the peninsula and it lived up to its reputation. The spectacle of migrant shorebirds was quite a sight to behold and we spent two hours combing through sandpipers, plovers, stilts and more. Species we had excellent scope studies of included Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Black-bellied, Snowy, Wilson's, Semipalmated, and Piping Plovers, Killdeer, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, hundreds of Sanderlings, Dunlins, Least, Pectoral, Semipalmated, and Western Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitchers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, and both forms of Willets. Some of the rarer shorebirds included two White-rumped Sandpipers and a dozen Red Knots. Gulls and terns were also present and we picked out a Glaucous Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull, both uncommon at this time of year. Terns were represented by no less than five species. The dry sand along the beach also held the only Horned Lark of the tour, an uncommon nesting species in coastal Texas, while the vegetated flats held the active Reddish Egret. After our time on the flats we continued to the ferry landing where a few minutes of scanning soon revealed a single Magnificent Frigatebird and a dedicated search along a salt marsh turned up three Clapper Rails, which eventually walked right onto the road. Along the Bolivar Peninsula Road we found the only White-tailed Kite of the tour. We returned to Smith Oaks in High Island for the late afternoon and experienced our first influx of migrant warblers. We stayed until late in the evening to take advantage of this small fall out, adding Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Gray-cheeked, Swainson's and Wood Thrushes, Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Blue-winged, Black-and-white, Tennessee, Kentucky and Hooded Warblers, American Redstart, Cerulean, Magnolia, Yellow and Chestnut-sided Warblers. A fantastic tally for an evening's birding and we all returned to Winnie elated that we had stuck it out and enjoyed a delicious Vietnamese dinner.



Prothonotary Warbler singing in the Big Thicket Photo Stephan Lorenz

April 23rd, 2019

We checked out and started the morning by driving east towards Port Arthur. We birded Sabine Woods for the morning, but it was quickly apparent that migrants were thin on the ground and we only found Swainson's and Wood Thrushes, Northern Waterthrush, Black-and-white and Hooded Warblers, but the only Brown Thrashers of the tour were a welcome addition. We carried on to Sabine Pass Battleground and carefully searched the marshes for birds, turning up Seaside and Nelson's Sparrows, one of the former sat up close for fantastic photo opportunities. The best find here though was a Virginia Rail that flushed from the marsh, giving pretty good flight views. We swung through the outskirts of Port Arthur and added Chimney Swift and a single American Robin, which is a scarce breeder in the area. A brief stop at Tyrrell Park yielded the localized Fish Crow with several calling birds flying over and also added great views of Sora, Pied-billed Grebe, Common and Purple Gallinules, White-faced Ibis, and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. We then carried on to some turf farms on our way to the Big Thicket to search for "grasspipers" and succeeded in finding several Upland Sandpipers, Whimbrel, and Pectoral Sandpipers, but the sought-after Buff-breasted Sandpipers would have to wait for another day. When we reached the Big Thicket area, we pulled onto a side road to start the search for some of the more secretive species of this habitat. It took a few tries, but we soon heard a Swainson's Warbler, but the first one showed only briefly. The second bird was much more cooperative and everyone enjoyed point blank views of this much wanted warbler as it sang from an open perch right at eye level. A true surprise here was a calling Eastern Towhee, eventually the bird emerged from the dense pines to perch right on top to sing, this is an uncommon species in the spring in the region. We then checked into our accommodations in Jasper and enjoyed a delicious dinner at a locally famous restaurant.



The secretive Swainson's Warbler showed well several times during the tour Photo Stephan Lorenz

April 24th, 2019

Our final morning started before sunrise in Jasper as we made our way to the productive Big Thicket, particularly the Boykin Springs area, with a long list of target species. The morning was absolutely flawless from the Chuck-will's-widow before first light to the flock of Buff-breasted Sandpipers on our way back to Houston. In between, we found Red-cockaded Woodpeckers at a nest and in a small feeding group, scoped singing Bachman's Sparrow, saw plenty of Brown-headed Nuthatches, enjoyed close and colorful Red-headed Woodpeckers, added more views of Swainson's Warblers, got close looks at the localized Prairie Warbler, and just for fun scoped another Painted Bunting. A stop at Martin Dies Junior State Park added singing Prothonotary Warbler, a last minute Mississippi Kite, and locally rare Northern Flicker. Our final stop yielded the hoped for Buff-breasted Sandpipers in a large field with Whimbrels, the flock of Buff-breasted Sandpipers numbered at least sixty, a respectable number. From here we carried on to Houston where we celebrated our successful adventure at an excellent French restaurant.



We enjoyed multiple great views of the Brown-headed Nuthatch a Pineywood specialty Photo Stephan Lorenz

Bird List:

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

Black-bellied Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna autumnalis fulgens

Observed 5 day(s) in total.

Widespread and common in coastal wetlands.

Fulvous Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna bicolor

(3) 15 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4 and 1 en route 23.4.

Usually the more common whistling duck on the Texas coast in summer.

Canada Goose

Branta canadensis canadensis

(1) 1 en route 16.4.

A long staying individual at a Hill Country stream crossing maybe resident.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

(1) 2 en route 16.4.

Introduced and apparently expanding in the Hill Country.

Blue-winged Teal

Spatula discors

(5) 2 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4, 6 en route 20.4 and 2 en route 24.4.

This warm weather duck is usually the most common migratory species in Texas in spring.

Northern Shoveler

Spatula clypeata

(1) 1 Anahuac NWR 21.4.

A single lingered at Anahuac.

Mottled Duck

Anas fulvigula maculosa

(4) 2 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4.

The most common nesting duck along the Texas coast.

Greater Scaup

Aythya marila nearctica

(1) 2 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4.

A surprise addition, but a pair seen well offshore at Goose Island.

New World Quail Odontophoridae

Northern Bobwhite (NT)

Colinus virginianus taylori

(3) 1 heard en route 18.4, 2 Kings Ranch 19.4 and 1 heard Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4.

Heard in several places and seen on the King Ranch.

Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies Phasianidae

Wild Turkey

Meleagris gallopavo merriami

(4) 1 heard Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4 and 12 Kings Ranch 19.4.

Most numerous on the King Ranch.

Grebes Podicipedidae

Least Grebe

Tachybaptus dominicus brachypterus

(1) 1 en route 20.4.

A single bird seen well at the Ivy Lane Birding and Nature Site in Rockport.

Pied-billed Grebe

Podilymbus podiceps podiceps

(4) 1 en route 20.4, 2 Anahuac NWR 21.4, 1 en route 22.4 and 1 en route 23.4.

A few seen in wetlands.

Ibises, Spoonbills *Threskiornithidae*

American White Ibis

Eudocimus albus albus

(3) 4 en route 22.4 and 2 en route 23.4.

Fairly common in coastal wetlands.

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

(1) 1 Anahuac NWR 21.4.

A single of this locally uncommon species seen in flight at Anahuac.

White-faced Ibis

Plegadis chihi

(4) 2 en route 20.4 and 2 en route 23.4.

Numerous with the best studies in Beaumont.

Roseate Spoonbill

Platalea ajaja

Observed 4 day(s) in total.

Seen well, especially at the Smith Oaks rookery at High Island where birds were nesting.

Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns *Ardeidae*

Least Bittern

Ixobrychus exilis exilis

(2) 3 Anahuac NWR 21.4 and 1 en route 23.4.

Great views of one stalking along the edge of the reed beds at Anahuac.

Black-crowned Night Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli

(2) 1 en route 20.4 and 2 en route 23.4.

A few seen on day roosts.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron

Nyctanassa violacea violacea

(4) 4 Anahuac NWR 21.4 and 2 en route 22.4.

Seen well along the coast.

Green Heron

Butorides virescens virescens

(4) 1 Anahuac NWR 21.4 and up to 1 en route 22-24.4.

Commonly recorded in coastal locations.

Western Cattle Egret

Bubulcus ibis

Observed 7 day(s) in total.

Abundant and widespread.

Great Blue Heron

Ardea herodias wardi

(3) 2 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4, 2 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4 and 2 en route 22.4.

Widespread and numerous.

Great Egret

Ardea alba egretta

(6) 1 en route 19.4 and 2 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4.

Nesting activity was in full swing with several birds feeding nestlings already.

Reddish Egret (NT)

Egretta rufescens rufescens

(1) 3 Bolivar Pen.--Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary 22.4.

Seen very well at the Bolivar Flats with one bird performing its distinctive foraging "dance".

Tricolored Heron

Egretta tricolor ruficollis

(6) 1 en route 19.4.

Common.

Little Blue Heron

Egretta caerulea

(5) 2 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4 and 1 en route 22.4.

Very common and nesting at the rookery.

Snowy Egret

Egretta thula thula

Observed 5 day(s) in total.

Birds in full display at the Smith Oaks rookery.

Pelicans *Pelecanidae*

American White Pelican

Pelecanus erythrorhynchos

(2) 40 en route 22.4.

Best seen along the Bolivar Peninsula where several large flocks were roosting.

Brown Pelican

Pelecanus occidentalis carolinensis

Observed 3 day(s) in total.

Common along the coast.

Frigatebirds *Fregatidae*

Magnificent Frigatebird

Fregata magnificens

(1) 1 en route 22.4.

A single seen in the scope at the Bolivar Peninsula ferry terminal.

Cormorants and Shags *Phalacrocoracidae*

Neotropic Cormorant

Phalacrocorax brasilianus mexicanus

Observed 4 day(s) in total.

Widespread and common.

Anhingas *Anhingidae*

Anhinga

Anhinga anhinga leucogaster

(3) 1 en route 20.4, 2 High Island 21.4 and 5 en route 24.4.

Many excellent views of this unique bird.

New World Vultures *Cathartidae*

Turkey Vulture

Cathartes aura septentrionalis

Observed 9 day(s) in total.

Abundant.

Black Vulture

Coragyps atratus

Observed 9 day(s) in total.

Abundant.

Osprey *Pandionidae*

Osprey

Pandion haliaetus carolinensis

(3) 1 en route 19.4, 1 en route 22.4 and 1 en route 24.4.

Only singles noted along the coast, this is an uncommon species in the spring.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles *Accipitridae*

White-tailed Kite

Elanus leucurus majusculus

(1) 1 en route 22.4.

Seen well hovering above the coastal grasslands on the Bolivar Peninsula.

Swallow-tailed Kite*Elanoides forficatus forficatus*

(1) 1 en route 23.4.

Great views in the Liberty area.

Cooper's Hawk*Accipiter cooperii*

(6) 1 en route 16.4, 1 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4, 1 en route 18.4, 1 Kings Ranch 19.4, 1 en route 20.4 and 1 en route 23.4.

Widespread and singles seen regularly.

Northern Harrier*Circus hudsonius*

(3) 1 Anahuac NWR 21.4 and up to 2 en route 21-23.4.

Seen well in coastal prairies.

Mississippi Kite*Ictinia mississippiensis*

(1) 1 en route 24.4.

Good views above the Big Thicket on our final day.

Harris's Hawk*Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi*

(2) 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4 and 2 Kings Ranch 19.4.

The best views we enjoyed at the King Ranch, but one was hunting bats at the Rio Frio Cave.

White-tailed Hawk*Geranoaetus albicaudatus hypospodius*

(1) 2 Kings Ranch 19.4.

Fantastic views of this beautiful hawk on the King Ranch.

Red-shouldered Hawk*Buteo lineatus alleni*

(4) 1 heard Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4, 1 en route 20.4, 1 en route 23.4 and 1 en route 24.4.

Fairly common.

Broad-winged Hawk*Buteo platypterus platypterus*

(3) 6 Kings Ranch 19.4, 1 en route 21.4 and 1 en route 23.4.

A small kettle migrating above the King Ranch.

Swainson's Hawk*Buteo swainsoni*

(7) 3 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4, 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4, 1 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4, 1 en route 18.4, 2 Kings Ranch 19.4, 1 High Island 21.4 and 1 en route 22.4.

Widespread with many great views, especially one perched on the ground at the King Ranch.

Zone-tailed Hawk*Buteo albonotatus*

(1) 1 en route 17.4.

An uncommon species and great find as we were driving out of Lost Maples.

Red-tailed Hawk*Buteo jamaicensis borealis*

(6) 1 en route 16.4, 1 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4, up to 1 en route 18-20.4 and 1 en route 24.4.

Widespread and common.

Rails, Crakes & Coots *Rallidae***Clapper Rail***Rallus crepitans saturatus*

(2) 1 heard Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4 and 3 Bolivar Pen.--Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary 22.4.

Finally they walked out onto the road at Frenchtown Rd.

King Rail (NT)*Rallus elegans elegans*

(1) 1+4 heard Anahuac NWR 21.4.

Seen briefly with more heard at Anahuac.

Virginia Rail*Rallus limicola limicola*

(1) 1 en route 23.4.

Good flight views of one flushed at Sabine Pass.

Sora*Porzana carolina*

(4) 1 heard en route 20.4, 1 Anahuac NWR 21.4, 2 en route 22.4 and 2 en route 23.4.

Excellent views of one at Anahuac and in Beaumont.

Purple Gallinule*Porphyrio martinica*

(3) 4 Anahuac NWR 21.4, 1 en route 23.4 and 1 en route 24.4.

This stunning bird was seen well at Anahuac.

Common Gallinule*Gallinula galeata cachinnans*

(4) 4 Anahuac NWR 21.4 and 1 en route 22.4.

Widespread and common.

American Coot*Fulica americana americana*

Observed 5 day(s) in total.

Widespread.

Cranes Gruidae**Whooping Crane (EN)***Grus americana*

(1) 2 en route 21.4.

A pair was seen north of Winnie, these were reintroduced birds that had wandered from Louisiana.

Oystercatchers Haematopodidae**American Oystercatcher***Haematopus palliatus palliatus*

(2) 1 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4 and 4 en route 22.4.

Best seen at Goose Island.

Stilts and Avocets Recurvirostridae**Black-necked Stilt***Himantopus mexicanus mexicanus*

Observed 3 day(s) in total.

Widespread and numerous.

American Avocet*Recurvirostra americana*

Observed 1 day(s) in total.

Big flocks on the Bolivar Peninsula were fun to watch as they foraged.

Plovers and Lapwings Charadriidae**Black-bellied Plover***Pluvialis squatarola cynosurae*

(2) 3 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4.

Fairly common along the coast.

Semipalmated Plover*Charadrius semipalmatus*

(2) 2 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4.

Seen well in coastal shorebird hotspots.

Wilson's Plover*Charadrius wilsonia wilsonia*

(2) 4 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4 and 1 Bolivar Pen.--Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary 22.4.

Excellent views at Goose Island and more nesting birds seen on Bolivar Flats.

Killdeer*Charadrius vociferus vociferus*

(6) 1 Kings Ranch 19.4 and 1 en route 20.4.

Fairly widespread.

Piping Plover (NT)

Charadrius melodus circumcinctus

(1) 6 Bolivar Pen.--Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary 22.4.

Numerous at Bolivar Flats with many great views.

Snowy Plover (NT)

Charadrius nivosus nivosus

(1) 10 Bolivar Pen.--Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary 22.4.

Unusually numerous at the Bolivar Flats.

Sandpipers and Allies Scolopacidae

Upland Sandpiper

Bartramia longicauda

(3) 2 Kings Ranch 19.4, 3 en route 23.4 and 3 en route 24.4.

Great views on the King Ranch and again at the turf farms near Nome.

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus

(4) 20 en route 21.4 and 2 en route 22.4.

Numerous along the coast.

Hudsonian Godwit

Limosa haemastica

(1) 2 Anahuac NWR 21.4.

Only two seen in a flooded field near Anahuac.

Marbled Godwit

Limosa fedoa fedoa

Observed 1 day(s) in total.

Good views at the Rollover Pass.

Ruddy Turnstone

Arenaria interpres morinella

(2) 2 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4.

Seen along the coast.

Red Knot

Calidris canutus rufa

(1) 10 Bolivar Pen.--Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary 22.4.

A great find of early a dozen on the Bolivar Flats.

Stilt Sandpiper

Calidris himantopus

(2) 25 en route 20.4.

We had excellent views of a migrating flock near Aransas NWR outside of Rockport.

Sanderling

Calidris alba rubida

Observed 1 day(s) in total.

Numerous along the coast.

Dunlin

Calidris alpina hudsonia

Observed 1 day(s) in total.

Many on the Bolivar Flats.

Baird's Sandpiper

Calidris bairdii

(1) 1 en route 20.4.

A single found among a large shorebird flock outside of Rockport.

Least Sandpiper

Calidris minutilla

(3) 5 en route 24.4.

Widespread, but never numerous.

White-rumped Sandpiper

Calidris fuscicollis

(1) 2 Bolivar Pen.--Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary 22.4.

Great and close views of two on the Bolivar Flats.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (NT) *Calidris subruficollis*

(1) 60 en route 24.4.

A great addition on the final day when we tried one last turf farm, a big flock.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

(3) 2 Anahuac NWR 21.4, 10 Bolivar Pen.--Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary 22.4 and 1 en route 23.4.

Widespread in small flocks.

Semipalmated Sandpiper (NT) *Calidris pusilla*

Observed 3 day(s) in total.

Common on the coast.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*

(1) 20 Bolivar Pen.--Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary 22.4.

A few mixed in on the Bolivar Flats.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

Observed 1 day(s) in total.

Flocks in freshwater wetlands.

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus griseus*

(2) 30 en route 20.4.

Common on the coast and Bolivar Flats.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*

(2) 2 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4 and 1 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4.

Singles on jetties and also along the Rio Frio.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria solitaria*

(1) 1 en route 21.4.

Only a single noted.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

(4) 2 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4 and 2 en route 23.4.

Widespread.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata*

(5) 1 en route 19.4, 5 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4 and 6 Anahuac NWR 21.4.

We recorded the nesting "eastern" subspecies in the coastal marshes and the migrating "western" subspecies on the beaches.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

(4) 2 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4.

Fairly common.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger niger*

(2) 2 en route 19.4 and 60 en route 22.4.

A big flock at Rollover Pass.

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla megalopterus*

Observed 5 day(s) in total.

Abundant on the coast.

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan*

(2) 20 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4 and 3 en route 22.4.

A large flock flew over us high at Rockport.

Ring-billed Gull

Larus delawarensis

Observed 1 day(s) in total.

A few observed on the Bolivar Peninsula.

Glaucous Gull

Larus hyperboreus leuceteretes

(1) 1 Bolivar Pen.--Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary 22.4.

A rare species on the Texas coast, but an immature was seen well Bolivar Flats.

Herring Gull

Larus smithsonianus

Observed 1 day(s) in total.

A few lingering birds noted along the coast.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus graellsii

(1) 1 Bolivar Pen.--Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary 22.4.

Rare but increasing this time of year on the Texas coast, one at Bolivar Flats.

Gull-billed Tern

Gelochelidon nilotica aranea

(2) 1 en route 21.4.

Several seen well especially the tip of Bolivar Peninsula.

Caspian Tern

Hydroprogne caspia

(1) 2 en route 22.4.

A few seen.

Royal Tern

Thalasseus maximus maximus

(3) 4 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4.

Common on the Texas coast.

Sandwich Tern

Thalasseus acuflavidus acuflavidus

(1) 10 en route 22.4.

Common and nesting along the coast.

Least Tern

Sternula antillarum antillarum

Observed 1 day(s) in total.

Nesting at Bolivar Flats.

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo hirundo

(1) 10 en route 22.4.

A common migrant on the coast.

Forster's Tern

Sterna forsteri

(3) 5 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4 and 1 en route 24.4.

The most common tern on the Texas coast and inland lakes.

Black Tern

Chlidonias niger surinamensis

Observed 1 day(s) in total.

Large numbers migrating especially at Rollover Pass.

Pigeons and Doves *Columbidae*

Rock Dove

Columba livia var. domestica

Observed 9 day(s) in total.

A widespread introduced species in towns and cities.

Eurasian Collared Dove

Streptopelia decaocto decaocto

(6) 1 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4.

Widespread nonnative.

Inca Dove

Columbina inca

(2) 1 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4 and 4 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4.

Uncommon in the western part of the route.

Common Ground Dove

Columbina passerina passerina

(2) 2 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4 and 1 Kings Ranch 19.4.

Best seen near Uvalde and again on the King Ranch.

White-tipped Dove

Leptotila verreauxi angelica

(1) 2 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4.

This south Texas specialty was again found at Lost Maples where we obtained great scope views.

Mourning Dove

Zenaida macroura carolinensis

Observed 9 day(s) in total.

Widespread and abundant.

White-winged Dove

Zenaida asiatica asiatica

(6) 1 en route 21.4 and 3 en route 23.4.

Widespread especially in the Hill Country.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

Greater Roadrunner

Geococcyx californianus

(3) 1 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4, 3 Kings Ranch 19.4 and 1 en route 24.4.

This year we had lots of luck with this iconic species with views at Chalk Bluff, on the King Ranch, and even in the Big Thicket where it has become rare.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Coccyzus americanus

(4) 1 High Island 21.4, 1 High Island 22.4, 1 en route 23.4 and 1 en route 24.4.

Good views of migrants at High Island.

Owls Strigidae

Eastern Screech Owl

Megascops asio mccallii

(1) 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4.

Great views of a gray morph after dark at Neal's Lodge

Great Horned Owl

Bubo virginianus virginianus

(1) 1 heard High Island 22.4.

Heard one evening at Smith Oaks High Island.

Barred Owl

Strix varia

(1) 1 heard en route 23.4.

Heard only during our owling session at Martin Dies Junior SP.

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl

Glaucidium brasilianum ridgwayi

(1) 2 Kings Ranch 19.4.

Great views of two in two different locations on the King Ranch.

Nightjars and Allies Caprimulgidae

Lesser Nighthawk

Chordeiles acutipennis texensis

(1) 1 High Island 21.4.

One perched on a limb at Boy Scout Woods High Island.

Chuck-will's-widow

Antrostomus carolinensis

(2) 2 heard Concan--Neal's Lodges 18.4 and 2 en route 24.4.
Seen well predawn near Boykin Springs.

Swifts *Apodidae*

Chimney Swift (NT)

Chaetura pelagica

(2) 4 High Island 21.4 and 2 en route 23.4.
Best seen in the neighborhood near Port Arthur.

Hummingbirds *Trochilidae*

Buff-bellied Hummingbird

Amazilia yucatanensis chalconota

(1) 2 Kings Ranch 19.4.
Brief but good views at our lunch spot on the King Ranch.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Archilochus colubris

(6) 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 16.4, 1 Kings Ranch 19.4 and 2 en route 20.4.
Common on the upper coast.

Black-chinned Hummingbird

Archilochus alexandri

(3) 20 Concan--Neal's Lodges 16.4.
Dozens swarming the feeders at Neal's Lodge.

Kingfishers *Alcedinidae*

Ringed Kingfisher

Megaceryle torquata torquata

(1) 1 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4.
Great views of a calling bird flying upstream at Chalk Bluff.

Woodpeckers *Picidae*

Red-headed Woodpecker (NT)

Melanerpes erythrocephalus

(1) 3 en route 24.4.
Great views in the Big Thicket of a family group coming close.

Golden-fronted Woodpecker

Melanerpes aurifrons

(4) 2 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4, 1 heard Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4, 1 heard Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4 and 2 Kings Ranch 19.4.
Common in the Hill Country and on the King Ranch.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Melanerpes carolinus

(2) 2 en route 23.4 and 2 en route 24.4.
Common in east Texas.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker

Dryobates scalaris cactophilus

(5) 2 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4, 1 heard Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4, 1 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4, 2 Kings Ranch 19.4 and 1 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4.
Regularly seen in the Hill Country.

Downy Woodpecker

Dryobates pubescens pubescens

(1) 2 en route 23.4.
Seen in east Texas.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker (NT)

Leuconotopicus borealis

(1) 4 Big Thicket National Preserve 24.4.

We enjoyed great views of this endangered species, first one emerged from its nest hole at dawn and then we found a family group foraging nearby.

Northern Flicker

Colaptes auratus auratus

(1) 1 en route 24.4.

A rare breeding species in east Texas but we found one peeking from a nesting cavity at Martin Dies Junior SP.

Pileated Woodpecker

Dryocopus pileatus pileatus

(1) 1 en route 24.4.

Best seen in the Big Thicket.

Falcons and Caracaras *Falconidae*

Northern Crested Caracara

Caracara cheriway

(6) 2 Anahuac NWR 21.4.

Common in the Hill Country and south Texas.

Merlin

Falco columbarius columbarius

(1) 2 Anahuac NWR 21.4.

Great views of perched and flying birds at Anahuac.

Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus

(1) 1 Anahuac NWR 21.4.

A bird flew past at Anahuac for good views.

Tyrant Flycatchers *Tyrannidae*

Northern Beardless Tyrannulet

Camptostoma imberbe

(1) 3 Kings Ranch 19.4.

Eventually we enjoyed great scope views of this miniscule flycatcher on the King Ranch.

Eastern Phoebe

Sayornis phoebe

(3) 6 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4.

Widespread in the Hill Country.

Olive-sided Flycatcher (NT)

Contopus cooperi

(1) 1 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4.

An uncommon migrant but one was seen well along the trail at Lost Maples.

Eastern Wood Pewee

Contopus virens

(4) 1 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4, 1 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4, 4 High Island 22.4 and 2 heard en route 24.4.

Seen in woodlands in south Texas and migrants in High Island.

Vermilion Flycatcher

Pyrocephalus obscurus mexicanus

(4) 2 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4 and 1 Kings Ranch 19.4.

Common in the Hill Country where we enjoyed many excellent studies.

Great Kiskadee

Pitangus sulphuratus texanus

(1) 2 Kings Ranch 19.4.

Vocal birds seen well on the King Ranch.

Tropical Kingbird

Tyrannus melancholicus satrapa

(1) 2 Kings Ranch 19.4.

We again found the pair on territory near the headquarters on the King Ranch and the vocal birds left no doubt to their identity.

Couch's Kingbird*Tyrannus couchii*

(2) 1 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4 and 6 Kings Ranch 19.4.

Numerous and vocal on the King Ranch.

Western Kingbird*Tyrannus verticalis*

(1) 2 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4.

Excellent views at Chalk Bluff.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*Tyrannus forficatus*

(7) 1 en route 16.4 and en route 21.4.

This beautiful species is pleasantly common in Texas.

Eastern Kingbird*Tyrannus tyrannus*

(5) 1 Kings Ranch 19.4.

Seen along the coast, fairly common.

Ash-throated Flycatcher*Myiarchus cinerascens cinerascens*

(3) 2 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4, 2 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4 and 2

Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4.

Widespread in the Hill Country.

Great Crested Flycatcher*Myiarchus crinitus*

(3) 1 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4, 2 heard en route 23.4 and 2 en route 24.4.

Good views along the coast.

Brown-crested Flycatcher*Myiarchus tyrannulus cooperi*

(2) 2 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4 and 2 Kings Ranch 19.4.

The best views were had at Chalk Bluff.

Shrikes Laniidae**Loggerhead Shrike***Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus*

(4) 3 Kings Ranch 19.4, 1 en route 20.4, 2 en route 22.4 and 1 en route 23.4.

Widespread.

Vireos, Greenlets Vireonidae**White-eyed Vireo***Vireo griseus micrus*

(9) 1 heard Concan--Neal's Lodges 16.4, 2 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4, 1 heard en route 18.4,

1 heard Kings Ranch 19.4, 1 heard Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4 and 2 heard en route 21.4.

The most common vireo of the tour.

Bell's Vireo (NT)*Vireo bellii bellii*

(3) 2 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4, 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4 and 2 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4.

Pleasantly vocal and abundant in the Hill Country.

Black-capped Vireo (VU)*Vireo atricapilla*

(2) 6 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4 and 2 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4.

We had fantastic views of multiple birds at Kerr WMA, some right out in the open and noted again at Lost Maples.

Yellow-throated Vireo*Vireo flavifrons*

(5) 1 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4, 1 High Island 22.4 and 1 heard en route 24.4.

Great views in the Hill Country.

Blue-headed Vireo*Vireo solitarius solitarius*

(2) 2 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4 and 1 en route 20.4.

A nice species to catch up with, two late migrants at Chalk Bluff.

Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni carolinae*

(2) 1 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4, 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4 and 1 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4.

Not uncommon in Hill Country locations where it seems to be increasing.

Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus*

(1) 2 High Island 22.4.

Only seen at High Island.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus olivaceus*

(7) 3 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4, 1 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4, 1 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4, 5 High Island 21.4 and 6 High Island 22.4.

A common breeding vireo in Texas.

Crows, Jays, and Magpies *Corvidae*

Green Jay *Cyanocorax luxuosus glaucescens*

(1) 3 Kings Ranch 19.4.

After several attempts, we finally saw them well in an oak motte on the King Ranch.

Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata cristata*

(4) 3 High Island 21.4 and 1 heard High Island 22.4.

Common in the east.

Woodhouse's Scrub Jay *Aphelocoma woodhouseii texana*

(1) 1 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4.

We found one at a regular stake out in Lost Maples, an uncommon species on this itinerary.

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*

Observed 2 day(s) in total.

Widespread in the east.

Fish Crow *Corvus ossifragus*

(1) 6 en route 23.4.

Several seen and heard well in Beaumont.

Common Raven *Corvus corax clarionensis*

Observed 2 day(s) in total.

Surprisingly numerous in the Hill Country.

Chihuahuan Raven *Corvus cryptoleucus*

(1) 2 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4 and 1 en route 18.4.

A pair seen at a distance in the Chalk Bluff area, uncommon on this itinerary.

Waxwings *Bombycillidae*

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*

(5) 50 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4, 3 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4 and 1 en route 23.4.

Widespread and unusually numerous this year.

Tits, Chickadees *Paridae*

Tufted Titmouse *Baeolophus bicolor*

(1) 2 en route 24.4.

Seen well in the Big Thicket.

Black-crested Titmouse

Baeolophus atricristatus sennetti

(4) 4 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4 and 4 Kings Ranch 19.4.

Common in the Hill Country and south Texas.

Carolina Chickadee

Poecile carolinensis agilis

(3) 2 en route 24.4.

Big Thicket area and also present in the Hill Country.

Penduline-Tits Remizidae

Verdin

Auriparus flaviceps ornatus

(1) 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4.

An excellent find at Neal's Lodge, another species on the edge of its range on this itinerary.

Larks Alaudidae

Horned Lark

Eremophila alpestris giraudi

(1) 1 Bolivar Pen.--Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary 22.4.

A single found at Bolivar Flats where it is a rare nesting species.

Swallows Hirundinidae

Tree Swallow

Tachycineta bicolor

Observed 4 day(s) in total.

Widespread.

Purple Martin

Progne subis subis

(4) 4 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4, 1 Anahuac NWR 21.4, 1 en route 23.4 and 1 en route 24.4.

Seen well in various locations.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Stelgidopteryx serripennis serripennis

(3) 4 Anahuac NWR 21.4 and 2 en route 22.4.

Uncommon but a few noted on the upper coast.

Barn Swallow

Hirundo rustica erythrogaster

(9) 20 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4.

Widespread and common.

Cliff Swallow

Petrochelidon pyrrhonota ganieri

(7) 100 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4.

Widespread, nesting under bridges and on the natural cliffs at Chalk Bluff.

Cave Swallow

Petrochelidon fulva pallida

(1) 30 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4.

Best seen at the Rio Frio Bat Cave.

Kinglets Regulidae

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Regulus calendula calendula

(5) 1 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4, 1 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4, 2 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4, 1 High Island 22.4 and 1 en route 24.4.

Widespread, usually they leave Texas early.

Wrens Troglodytidae

Cactus Wren*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus couesi*

(2) 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4 and 2 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4.

Seen well at the Rio Frio Bat Cave and even better at Chalk Bluff.

Canyon Wren*Catherpes mexicanus pallidior*

(1) 1 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4.

Excellent views of one that came down the canyon and foraged right in front of us along the trail at Lost Maples.

Sedge Wren*Cistothorus stellaris*

(4) 1 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4, 5 Anahuac NWR 21.4, 1 heard en route 22.4 and 1 en route 23.4.

Good views in coastal wetlands where it is a common migrant.

Marsh Wren*Cistothorus palustris marianae*

(4) 1 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4, 2 heard Anahuac NWR 21.4, 2 en route 22.4 and 1 en route 23.4.

Common in coastal wetlands.

Bewick's Wren*Thryomanes bewickii cryptus*

(3) 1 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4.

Excellent views of one singing from the top of a juniper at Kerr WMA.

Carolina Wren*Thryothorus ludovicianus lomitensis*

(6) 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 16.4, 1 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4, 1 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4 and 1 High Island 22.4.

Widespread and common from the Hill Country to the Big Thicket.

House Wren*Troglodytes aedon*

(1) 1 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4.

A late migrant found in the riverine thickets at Chalk Bluff.

Gnatcatchers *Poliptilidae***Blue-grey Gnatcatcher***Poliptila caerulea caerulea*

(4) 2 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4 and 1 heard en route 24.4.

A nesting pair found in the Hill Country.

Nuthatches *Sittidae***Brown-headed Nuthatch***Sitta pusilla pusilla*

(1) 6 en route 24.4.

Great views in the pineywoods during our final day with a family group right at eye level.

Mockingbirds, Thrashers *Mimidae***Grey Catbird***Dumetella carolinensis*

(5) 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4, 2 en route 20.4 and 10 High Island 21.4.

A common migrant in the woodlots at High Island.

Northern Mockingbird*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*

Observed 8 day(s) in total.

Abundant and widespread, the Texas state bird.

Brown Thrasher*Toxostoma rufum longicauda*

(1) 5 en route 23.4.

Seen well at Sabine Woods.

Long-billed Thrasher

Toxostoma longirostre sennetti

(1) 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4.

Excellent views of a responsive bird at Neal's Lodge.

Curve-billed Thrasher

Toxostoma curvirostre oberholseri

(2) 1 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4 and 1 heard Kings Ranch 19.4.

Great views of one sitting up on the windmill at Chalk Bluff.

Starlings *Sturnidae*

European Starling

Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris

Observed 7 day(s) in total.

A widespread introduced species.

Thrushes and Allies *Turdidae*

Eastern Bluebird

Sialia sialis sialis

(3) 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4, 2 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4 and 2 en route 24.4.

Widespread and fairly common.

Grey-cheeked Thrush

Catharus minimus

(2) 1 High Island 21.4 and 2 High Island 22.4.

Seen in low numbers at High Island.

Swainson's Thrush

Catharus ustulatus

(4) 1 en route 20.4, 4 High Island 21.4, 6 High Island 22.4 and 4 en route 23.4.

The most common migrant thrush.

Hermit Thrush

Catharus guttatus

(1) 1 en route 23.4.

One seen briefly on the coast.

Wood Thrush (NT)

Hylocichla mustelina

(4) 1 High Island 21.4 and 10 High Island 22.4.

Great views of many migrants at High Island and singing in the Big Thicket.

American Robin

Turdus migratorius

(2) 1 en route 23.4 and 1 heard en route 24.4.

Seen in a neighborhood outside of Port Arthur.

Old World Sparrows *Passeridae*

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus domesticus

Observed 9 day(s) in total.

Widespread introduced species.

Wagtails, Pipits *Motacillidae*

Sprague's Pipit (VU)

Anthus spragueii

(1) 1 Kings Ranch 19.4.

A fantastic addition to the trip list with a late staying individual seen exceedingly well in the grasslands just as we were leaving the King Ranch.

Finches *Fringillidae*

House Finch*Haemorhous mexicanus*

(3) 2 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4.

Widespread and common especially in the Hill Country.

American Goldfinch*Spinus tristis*

(1) 5 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4.

Another great addition of a few late staying birds at Neal's Lodge.

Lesser Goldfinch*Spinus psaltria*

Observed 4 day(s) in total.

Common in the Hill Country.

New World Buntings and Sparrows *Passerellidae***Lincoln's Sparrow***Melospiza lincolnii*

(3) 3 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4, 2 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4, 2 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4 and 1 en route 20.4.

Widespread in low numbers.

Swamp Sparrow*Melospiza georgiana*

(2) 2 Anahuac NWR 21.4 and 1 en route 23.4.

Seen in the Anahuac area, although skulky.

White-crowned Sparrow*Zonotrichia leucophrys*

(1) 2 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4.

Good views at Chalk Bluff.

White-throated Sparrow*Zonotrichia albicollis*

(1) 1 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4.

A late staying individual was found among the oaks at Goose Island.

Savannah Sparrow*Passerculus sandwichensis*

(4) 1 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4, 2 Kings Ranch 19.4, 20 Anahuac NWR 21.4 and 4 en route 22.4.

Widespread on the coast.

Seaside Sparrow*Ammodramus maritimus*

(3) 4 Anahuac NWR 21.4, 10 en route 22.4 and 4 en route 23.4.

Great views of nesting birds in the coastal marshes.

Nelson's Sparrow*Ammodramus nelsoni*

(2) 1 en route 20.4 and 2 en route 23.4.

Good views of the first at Goose Island and two more at Sabine Pass.

Grasshopper Sparrow*Ammodramus savannarum*

(2) 1 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4 and 1 Kings Ranch 19.4.

A singing bird perched on a fence at Chalk Bluff.

Chipping Sparrow*Spizella passerina*

Observed 3 day(s) in total.

Seen in the Hill Country.

Field Sparrow*Spizella pusilla*

(2) 4 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4 and 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4.

A common nesting species in the Hill Country, where seen well.

Clay-colored Sparrow*Spizella pallida*

(1) 2 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4.

Another great find at Neal's Lodge where it is an uncommon migrant.

Lark Sparrow*Chondestes grammacus*

(3) 3 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4.
Common nesting species in the Hill Country.

Black-throated Sparrow*Amphispiza bilineata*

(2) 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4 and 1 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4.
Great find at Rio Frio Bat Cave and seen again at Chalk Bluff, a great looking desert sparrow.

Cassin's Sparrow*Peucaea cassinii*

(2) 1 heard en route 18.4 and 2 Kings Ranch 19.4.
Good views of singing birds on the King Ranch.

Bachman's Sparrow (NT)*Peucaea aestivalis*

(1) 2 en route 24.4.
Fantastic scope views in the Boykin Springs area of this endangered sparrow.

Botteri's Sparrow*Peucaea botterii*

(1) 2 Kings Ranch 19.4.
Excellent scope studies of singing birds on the King Ranch.

Rufous-crowned Sparrow*Aimophila ruficeps*

(1) 2 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4.
Good views of birds coming to the feeders at Lost Maples.

Canyon Towhee*Melospiza fusca*

(1) 1 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4.
Another bird at the edge of its range, but seen well at the Kerr WMA.

Olive Sparrow*Arremonops rufivirgatus rufivirgatus*

(3) 5 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4, 1 heard Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4 and 1 heard Kings Ranch 19.4.
This species seems to be expanding its range with good first views at Lost Maples.

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteriidae***Yellow-breasted Chat***Icteria virens*

(4) 2 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4, 2 heard Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4, 1 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4, 1 Anahuac NWR 21.4 and 1 High Island 21.4.
Widespread and common in Texas with displaying birds right on the Neal's Lodge property.

Oropendolas, Orioles & Blackbirds *Icteridae***Yellow-headed Blackbird***Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*

(4) 20 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4, 1 Kings Ranch 19.4, 1 en route 20.4 and 1 en route 22.4.
Unusually numerous this year with a sizeable flock foraging in the pasture at Chalk Bluff and some seen on the King Ranch.

Eastern Meadowlark*Sturnella magna*

(5) 1 Kings Ranch 19.4.
Widespread and common in grasslands.

Scott's Oriole*Icterus parisorum*

(1) 1 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4.
Great views of a bird perched on a dead tree at Lost Maples, another uncommon species.

Audubon's Oriole*Icterus graduacauda audubonii*

(1) 2 Kings Ranch 19.4.

Good views of two at our first stop on the King Ranch, same place we had the first pygmy-owl.

Bullock's Oriole

Icterus bullockii

(1) 1 en route 18.4.

At the last possible moment we spotted one while driving towards Kingsville, the windy conditions made viewing difficult but we all got onto the bird eventually.

Baltimore Oriole

Icterus galbula

(4) 12 en route 20.4, 6 High Island 21.4 and 20 High Island 22.4.

A common migrant on the coast.

Hooded Oriole

Icterus cucullatus

(2) 1 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4 and 3 Kings Ranch 19.4.

Most numerous on the King Ranch but also seen well at Chalk Bluff.

Orchard Oriole

Icterus spurius

(5) 2 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4, 4 High Island 22.4 and 2 en route 24.4.

Common and widespread with birds on territory at Anahuac.

Red-winged Blackbird

Agelaius phoeniceus

Observed 7 day(s) in total.

Widespread and abundant.

Bronzed Cowbird

Molothrus aeneus aeneus

(2) 10 Kings Ranch 19.4 and 1 Anahuac NWR 21.4.

Displaying males at the entrance to the King Ranch.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Molothrus ater

(9) 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 16.4 and 4 Kings Ranch 19.4.

Widespread and common.

Brewer's Blackbird

Euphagus cyanocephalus

(1) 5 Kings Ranch 19.4.

Seen well while driving back towards Kingsville from the King Ranch, always in the same area along the highway.

Common Grackle

Quiscalus quiscula

(3) 2 en route 20.4 and 4 en route 24.4.

Fairly common.

Boat-tailed Grackle

Quiscalus major major

(1) 10 Anahuac NWR 21.4.

Displaying birds were active in the reeds at Anahuac.

Great-tailed Grackle

Quiscalus mexicanus

Observed 9 day(s) in total.

Abundant and noisy.

New World Warblers *Parulidae*

Ovenbird

Seiurus aurocapilla

(1) 4 High Island 22.4.

A few seen well at High Island.

Worm-eating Warbler

Helmitheros vermivorum

(2) 1 High Island 22.4 and 1 en route 23.4.

Glimpses at High Island, an uncommon migrant.

Louisiana Waterthrush

Parkesia motacilla

(1) 1 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4.

A bird on territory along the trail in Lost Maples.

Northern Waterthrush

Parkesia noveboracensis

(2) 1 High Island 22.4 and 1 en route 23.4.

Very low numbers in coastal migrant traps.

Blue-winged Warbler

Vermivora cyanoptera

(2) 1 en route 20.4 and 1 High Island 22.4.

Only noted at Quintana and High Island.

Black-and-white Warbler

Mniotilta varia

(6) 2 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4, 2 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4, 1 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4, 1 High Island 21.4, 1 High Island 22.4 and 1 en route 23.4.

Widespread.

Prothonotary Warbler

Protonotaria citrea

(1) 2 en route 24.4.

One perched on the railing of the boardwalk at Martin Dies Junior SP.

Swainson's Warbler

Limnithlypis swainsonii

(2) 3 en route 23.4 and 1 en route 24.4.

This sought after species was seen well at several territories in the Big Thicket with birds singing in full view.

Tennessee Warbler

Leiothlypis peregrina

(4) 5 en route 20.4, 2 High Island 21.4, 5 High Island 22.4 and 1 en route 24.4.

One of the more common migrant warblers along the coast.

Orange-crowned Warbler

Leiothlypis celata celata

(3) 1 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4, 2 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4 and 2 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4.

A few noted in the Hill Country were lingering birds.

Nashville Warbler

Leiothlypis ruficapilla

(2) 2 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4 and 1 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4.

This migrant was uncommon this year with a few seen in the Hill Country.

Kentucky Warbler

Geothlypis formosa

(1) 2 High Island 22.4.

Good views eventually of singles at High Island.

Common Yellowthroat

Geothlypis trichas

(3) 1 Rockport--Goose Island State Park 20.4 and 2 en route 20.4.

Singing and showing well at Goose Island.

Hooded Warbler

Setophaga citrina

(4) 2 en route 20.4, 3 High Island 22.4 and 1 en route 23.4.

Best seen at Quintana with more views at High Island, commonly heard in the Big Thicket.

American Redstart

Setophaga ruticilla

(2) 1 en route 20.4 and 2 High Island 22.4.

Seen well at High Island.

Cerulean Warbler

Setophaga cerulea

(1) 3 High Island 22.4.

A great find of no less than three including stunning males during the afternoon influx of migrants at High Island.

Northern Parula*Setophaga americana*

(4) 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 16.4, 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4 and 1 High Island 22.4.
Seen well in the Hill Country where it breeds and again briefly at High Island.

Tropical Parula*Setophaga pitiayumi nigrilora*

(1) 1 Kings Ranch 19.4.

A male sang right above our heads on the King Ranch.

Magnolia Warbler*Setophaga magnolia*

(1) 1 High Island 22.4.

One seen well during the evening influx at High Island.

Yellow Warbler*Setophaga aestiva*

(1) 3 High Island 22.4.

A few noted at High Island.

Chestnut-sided Warbler*Setophaga pensylvanica*

(1) 1 High Island 22.4.

A single seen well among the brief warbler influx at High Island.

Pine Warbler*Setophaga pinus pinus*

(2) 1 en route 23.4.

Seen well in the Big Thicket where a responsive bird perched in the open.

Myrtle Warbler*Setophaga coronata*

(3) 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 16.4, 2 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4 and 2 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4.

Good views in the Hill Country, still lumped as Yellow-rumped Warbler by Clements.

Audubon's Warbler*Setophaga auduboni auduboni*

(1) 2 Concan--Neal's Lodges 16.4.

Excellent views of at least two at Neal's Lodge, still lumped as Yellow-rumped Warbler by Clements.

Yellow-throated Warbler*Setophaga dominica*

(4) 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 16.4, 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4, 2 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4, 2 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4 and 1 heard en route 24.4.

Widespread in the Hill Country and Big Thicket with eye level views at Lost Maples.

Prairie Warbler*Setophaga discolor discolor*

(1) 2 en route 24.4.

Great views of a singing bird in the Big Thicket where they prefer pine plantations.

Golden-cheeked Warbler*Setophaga chrysoparia*

(2) 4 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4 and 8 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4.

Incredible views of this breeding endemic at Kerr and even more at Lost Maples.

Black-throated Green Warbler*Setophaga virens*

(2) 2 High Island 21.4 and 2 High Island 22.4.

Low numbers migrating through High Island.

Wilson's Warbler*Cardellina pusilla*

(1) 1 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4.

A single seen briefly at Lost Maples.

Cardinals, Grosbeaks and allies *Cardinalidae***Summer Tanager***Piranga rubra rubra*

(9) 2 Kerr Wildlife Management Area 16.4, 1 Kings Ranch 19.4, 1 en route 20.4 and 20 High Island 22.4.

Common and widespread.

Scarlet Tanager

Piranga olivacea

(2) 1 High Island 21.4 and 2 High Island 22.4.

Good views for all of a stunning male at High Island.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Pheucticus ludovicianus

(4) 1 en route 20.4, 2 High Island 21.4, 10 High Island 22.4 and 1 en route 24.4.

Numerous one evening at High Island.

Northern Cardinal

Cardinalis cardinalis magnirostris

Observed 9 day(s) in total.

Abundant and widespread in Texas.

Pyrrhuloxia

Cardinalis sinuatus sinuatus

(2) 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4 and 1 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4.

First seen well in the scope at the Rio Frio Bat Cave and then even better at Chalk Bluff.

Dickcissel

Spiza americana

(1) 2 Anahuac NWR 21.4.

Good views of singing birds near Anahuac.

Blue Grosbeak

Passerina caerulea interfusa

(5) 2 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4, 1 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4, 1 Kings Ranch 19.4, 1 en route 20.4 and 2 High Island 21.4.

Excellent studies of this colorful species in the Hill Country and on the upper coast.

Indigo Bunting

Passerina cyanea

(6) 1 Vanderpool--Lost Maples SNA 17.4, 2 en route 20.4 and 4 High Island 21.4.

Coming to feeders at Lost Maples and seen well in the High Island area where they often feed on mulberries.

Painted Bunting (NT)

Passerina ciris pallidior

(3) 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4, 1 en route 20.4 and 1 en route 24.4.

Great views of a singing male right next to the Rio Frio Bat cave and another seen well in the Big Thicket where they breed in low numbers.

Mammal List:

Armadillos *Dasypodidae*

Nine-banded Armadillo

Dasypus novemcinctus

(1) 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 17.4.

Rabbits, Hares *Leporidae*

Black-tailed Jackrabbit

Lepus californicus

Observed 1 day(s) in total.

Swamp Rabbit

Sylvilagus aquaticus

Observed 2 day(s) in total.

Eastern Cottontail

Sylvilagus floridanus

(2) 1 Uvalde--Chalk Bluff Park 18.4.

Squirrels *Sciuridae*

Mexican Flying Squirrel

Observed 1 day(s) in total.

Eastern Gray Squirrel

Observed 3 day(s) in total.

Bryant's Fox Squirrel

Observed 4 day(s) in total.

Rock Squirrel

(1) 1 en route 17.4.

Glaucomys volans

Sciurus carolinensis

Sciurus niger

Spermophilus variegatus

Deer Cervidae

White-tailed Deer

Observed 3 day(s) in total.

Odocoileus virginianus

Cattle, Antelopes, Sheep, Goats Bovidae

Aoudad

Observed 1 day(s) in total.

Nilgai

Observed 1 day(s) in total.

Ammotragus lervia

Boselaphus tragocamelus

Free-tailed Bats Molossidae

Brazilian Free-tailed Bat

(1) 1 Concan--Neal's Lodges 16.4.

Tadarida brasiliensis