

Migration Celebration

Sept 20-22, 2024

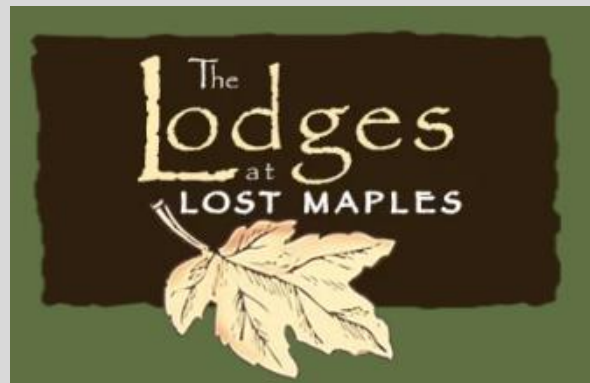


NATURE WALK

- Lost Maples State Natural Area
Vanderpool TX
- 3.2 miles round-trip stroll
from Day Use Area to Grotto
- Countless American Shout butterflies
- Tons of laughs and camaraderie
amidst nature's wonders

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Wildflowers, Grasses & Trees

Loved all the Texas Madrones along the trail approaching Monkey Rock. Surprised to see so many new leaves and even berries. Equally surprising was the neon red Carolina Snailseed berries and wine-worthy Spanish Grapes hanging in plain sight not already gobbled by a hungry bird! Certainly not a comprehensive list but here are a few standouts -

Ashe Juniper (Mountain Cedar)
Chinquapin Oak (Serrated Leaves)
Texas Madrone
Lindheimer's Silktassel
Caroline Snailseed
Dotted Gayfeather
Inland Sea Oats
Lindheimer's Senna
Maximilian Sunflower
Pearl Milkweed

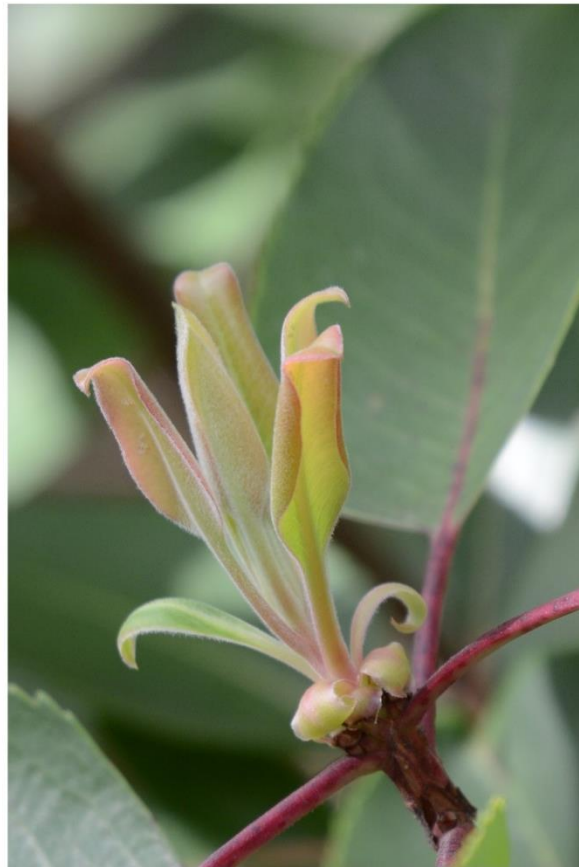
Flame-Leaf Sumac
Lacy "Blue" Oak
Scarlet Leather
Southwestern Bristlegrass
Spanish Grapes
Switchgrass
TX Black Senna
Tx Bush Clover
Wooly Ironweed



Seems like a strange time of the year for berries



... or new leaves



Such simple beauty



Pearl Milkweed : Nature's Jewelry



Spanish Grapes



Carolina Snailseed



Dotted Gayfeather on ledge
above Monkey Rock

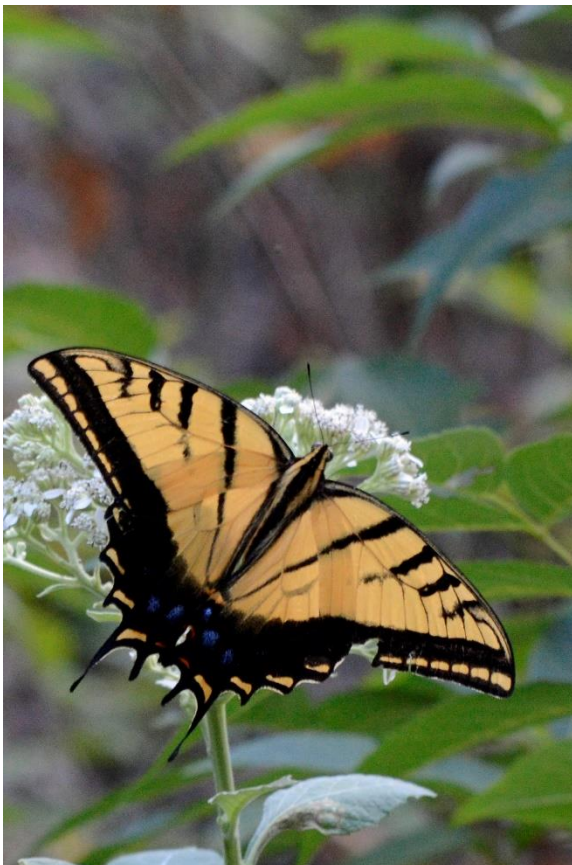
Butterflies – 15 Species

Typical of the last half-week or so, mid-day the America Snouts continued their mass search for windshields to sully. We also saw a number of Two-Tailed and Giant Swallowtails.

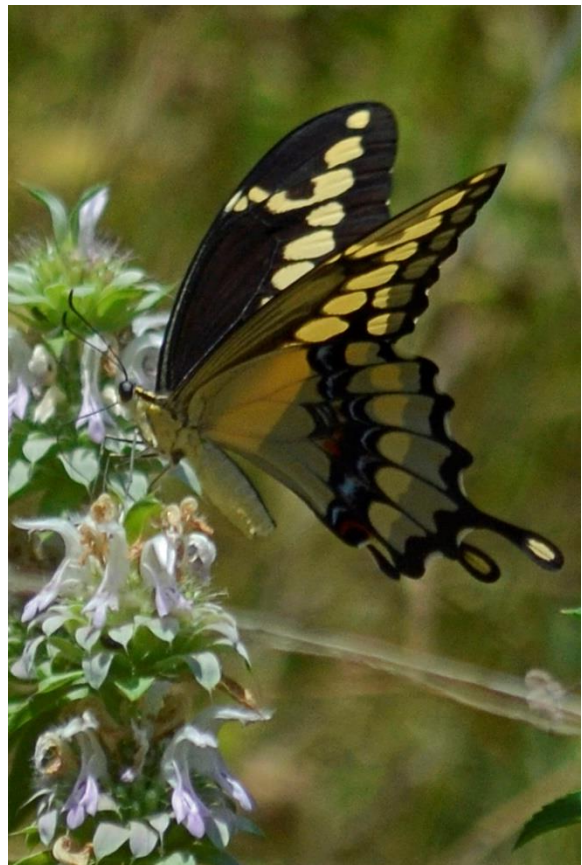
American Snouts !!!!!
Bronze Roadside-Skipper
Common Mestra
Giant Swallowtail
Green Skipper
Gulf Fritillary
Juniper Hairstreak
Large Orange Sulphur
Northern Cloudywing
Pipevine Swallowtail
Queen
Sleepy Orange
Southern Dogface
Two-tailed Swallowtail
Variegated Fritillary



Green Skipper



Two-Tailed Swallowtail, Oct '19



Giant Western Swallowtail, June '19

Birds (12 Species) and Others

White Eyed Vireos were heard throughout our walk and we 'ear-birded' many others species. Otherwise, it's been pretty bird-quiet lately. Many birds have or are preparing to leave. Except for the Ruby Throated Hummingbirds, most of the fall migrants are resting during the day for their night time travel. As we headed towards the Grotto, four Black Vultures did grace us with their presence but our binoculars were more for form (fashion accessory) than function. Mother Nature still showed us many of her great creatures.

As submitted to eBird.org

Lost Maples SNA (HOTW 061), Bandera, Texas, US

Sep 21, 2024 8:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Protocol: Traveling 3.2 mile(s)

Checklist Comments: Day Use Area to Grotto and return

Overcast clouds

Temperature: 75 - 88°F

Wind: Mostly calm - moderate breeze

Wind Direction: S - N

Cloud Cover: 93 - 95%

Humidity: 56 - 86%

Black Vulture 4

Turkey Vulture 2

Red-shouldered Hawk 1

Ladder-backed Woodpecker 1

Eastern Phoebe 1

White-eyed Vireo 6

Hutton's Vireo 1

Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay 1

Canyon Wren 1

Carolina Wren 4

Bewick's Wren 1

Northern Cardinal 2



It's a bird (not), it's a plane (not), it's a
Rio Grande Leopard Frog !



The not-at-all-shameful Scarlet Leather...or 2 pairs of tiny pink cowboy boots ?!?



Rio Grande Leopard Frog tadpole 'hiding' under a stick



Shaggy Bracket Fungi (a fun name!)



Texas Bush Clover



Shelf Fungi...is this where Vanilla Wafers come from?



Daddy Longlegs at our rock rest stop

The Migration Celebration at the Lodges was a hit! Who knew the migrating species we'd see would be American Snouts - not birds? The weekend was made special by a trio of sisters sharing quality time together and a daughter treating her mom to the 'birding' trip she always wanted. Come back in the spring and we'll have plenty more birds. A great nature walk at the always wonderful Lost Maples State Natural Area.

THANK YOU !!!!!

Parting 'Shot'
There's a private sister joke here about slugs!

