

Nature Getaway

Nov 29-Dec 1, 2024



NATURE WALK

- Lost Maples State Natural Area
Vanderpool TX
- 2.25 miles round-trip stroll
from Day Use Area to Ponds
- The peak of Texas's best Fall Colors

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Wildflowers & Trees

Lost Maples is famous for...well its maples.

The timing was perfect to see the beautiful fall colors of the maples, sycamores, oaks and sumacs.

American Sycamore (huge leaves)
Ashe Juniper ('Mountain Cedar')
Bald Cypress
Chinquapin Oak (Serrated Leaves)
Flame Leaf Sumacs
Hackberry
'Lost' Bigtooth Maples
Spanish (Red) Oak
Texas Madrone
Texas Mountain Laurel
Saw Greenbriar vine

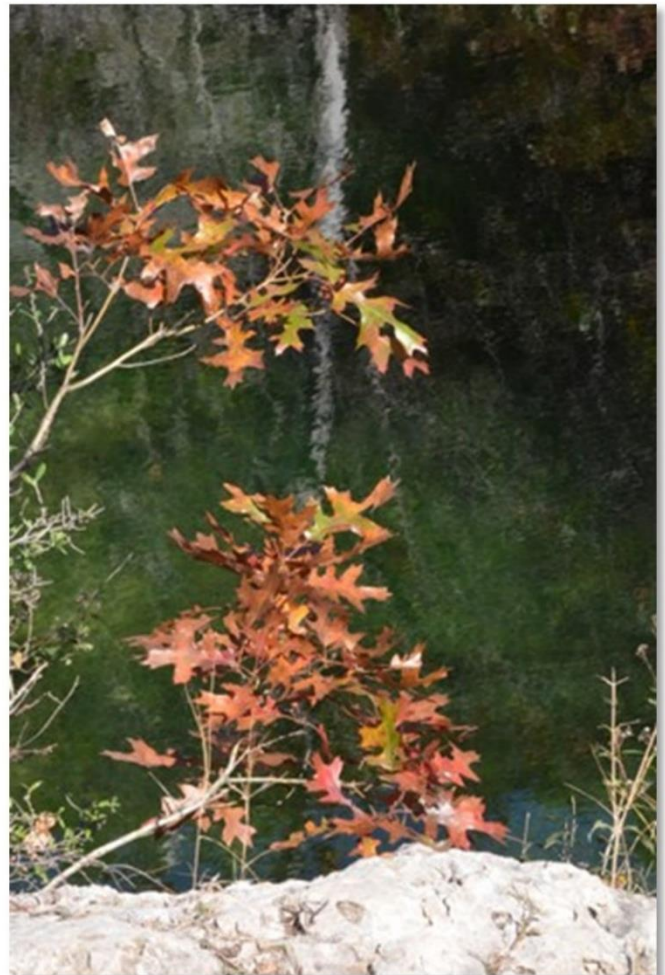
Pearl Milkweed vine
Snapdragon vine
Texas Snakeweed
Cedar Sage
Frostweed
Lindheimer's Senna
Maidenhair Fern
Prickly Pear Cactus
Silver Night Shade



Snapdragon vine



Texas Snakeweed



Buckley's Oak and reflections at the 2nd (even more beautiful) pond

Butterflies

The temperatures turned colder this week but once the sun came out, a wide variety of butterflies took flight. Most fluttering around were well-worn. The list is a small sampling of the ones seen at Lost Maples and the Native Plant Garden at the Courts.

American Snout
American Lady
Comon Buckeye
Common Mestra
Dainty Sulphur
Gulf Fritillary
Large Orange Sulphur
Pipevine Swallowtail
Queen
Red Admiral
Sleepy Orange



American Lady



Common Buckeye



Common Maestra w/ Heart-shape



Red Admiral

Birds

It's a quiet time of year for birds but there were still many nests (Ravens, Red Tail Hawk nests and Northern/Tropical hybrid Parula pair) to be seen and stories to be told.

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

Nov 30, 2024 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Checklist Comments: Day Use Area to 2nd Pond and return;

Broken clouds

Temperature: 53 - 64°F

Wind: Light breeze - moderate breeze

Wind Direction: SE - S

Cloud Cover: 62 - 81%

Humidity: 33 - 47%

Black Vulture 4

Ladder-backed Woodpecker 1

American Kestrel 1

Eastern Phoebe 2

Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay 3

Common Raven 3

Black-crested Titmouse 4

Ruby-crowned Kinglet 3

Carolina Wren 1

Bewick's Wren 1

American Robin 3

Northern Cardinal 4



OK, technically this is not a bird but this Cedar Sage sure looks like a hummingbird taking flight !



Birders have to 'Tuff' it out until Spring when migration brings many birds back to our Texas Hill Country
Photo credit : Scott Williams

In support of our mission to 'Nurture Your Love for Nature', Busy-Birding provides this report to recap the nature walk. Putting names to today's creatures opens the door for further discovery. Discover. Learn. Love.

THANK YOU !!!!! again for joining our Nature Getaway at the Courts and Lost Maples State Natural Area. See you in the Spring when the Turkey Vultures return. They'll soon be followed by the park's most famous winged celebrities, the Golden Cheeked Warblers.

Sincerely,

Laura M. Levy



Red Eared Sliders



Cracked Cap Polypore Fungus



Hanging Garden this previous July



Black Maidenhair Fern