

# Lost Maples + Uvalde

May 21-22, 2025



Black Capped Vireo, a most famous local



Bullock's Oriole – Such a cool dad, he needs to wear shades

## 84 + 2 Species TOTAL

- Lost Maples SNA : 48 + 1 species
- Uvalde National Fish Hatchery : 52
- Cool nests
- Local celeb species
- Loads of FUN and laughs!

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## Off to a great start

We were up with the birds as a full-on symphony greeted us at Lost Maples headquarters. Not only by ear, but through binoculars we found many of our singers including a colorful pair of **Summer Tanagers**. We ventured behind the Murphy House to check on the **Eastern Phoebe** nest. This led us to a flurry of activity where we found another new family – this time one of **Golden Cheeked Warblers**. Points for finding a target species while still in the parking lot; extra points for them being an endangered species. First listed in 1990, they are showing every sign of recovery.

We watched mom, dad and 3 newbie phoebes dash around the bird blind area along with many of the most common suspects for the day : **Northern Cardinal**, **Blue Gray Gnatcatcher**, **Yellow Breasted Chat**, and **White Eyed Vireos**. We passed the now-abandoned Red Tail Hawk nest and along **White Wing Dove** alley where we heard Mr. Zippy aka. the **Tropical Parula**. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year he and a Northern Parula have nested at the East-West Trail split. We saw the previous year's nest but not the actual birds themselves.



A young, fuzzy Golden Cheeked Warbler



1<sup>st</sup> of our day's Eastern Phoebe families

### We like our bird sightings rare

We witnessed an exciting array of that life cycle that defines spring migration. Near the Chinquapin Oak - incidentally two of the largest in the state- we wandered towards Can Creek to locate one of our many constantly calling **Acadian Flycatchers**. We were delighted to stumble upon a **White Tipped Dove** ambling through the understory. Watching it repeatedly flit up to the same branch, we concluded not only did we find this oft heard-but-not-seen bird, we discovered her on the nest!

White Tipped Dove – better named by the old name White Fronted Dove, in my opinion, are common further south in the Rio Grande Valley. Lost Maples, however, has hosted a sustained a population for at least 2 decades. Reports of these doves – or is it the number of birders listening for them? - have gradually expanded to Love Creek Preserve and the still under-development Kronkosky State Park.

Anyway, our observation of a *rarely* seen behavior of a *rarely* seen bird in a county where it is *rare*... yay for *birdwatching* rather than simply listing.



Not wishing to disturb mom, we were unable to get a photo with the nest we were confident she is 'expecting'



Note the lack of white on the wing. White Tipped Dove is also slightly larger than White Winged Dove

### **Nest building, incubating, hatchlings and fledglings ... Oh my!**

Almost through the forest-y stretch, we spied another **Acadian Flycatcher**. This one as not singing, but rather quietly starting her hammock-like nest. We watched as she made 3 trips to gather grasses and gently weave them into place.

We found our 2<sup>nd</sup> Eastern Phoebe family with the fledglings doing their best 'runway model poses' as we took multiple photos. Further down the trail, we saw the annual **Common Raven** nest. While we saw a parent perched nearby and another flying in the area, it was hard to make out if the nest was occupied. I walked by the same spot 2 days later and the babies were out of sight but obviously being fed by mom/dad on the adjacent ledge.



For this phoebe fledgling, preening looks just like the hokey-pokey



Our Acadian Flycatcher mom starting her nest



Mom's progress after 48 hours

## **Finally, to the Main and 2<sup>nd</sup> pond !**

Birding is certainly not hiking but our mile-long hike to the ponds was full of great discoveries, discussion and some serious laughter. We tentatively identified a bird quickly soaring over a ridge as a Peregrine Falcon. Mississippi Kite was choice # 2. Peregrine – despite no photo - made the cut on eBird what I saw matched an eBird photo posted on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Inevitably, not all birds will be identified. Although Ken Kaufmann says this is an inherent part of birding but it's still sometimes hard to accept. To make up for the falcon, we did have solid ID's on our Wood Duck, Wood Owl and Audubon Oriole pair. Yes, confidence in our birding skills is back on track!



Our Wood Duck



How can such a bright Audubon's Oriole sing such a mournful song ?



Our Wood Owl perched in the open not far from duck



Could the nest we saw belong to the juvenile Cooper's Hawk we saw soaring on our return trip



### A double header

On our return trip, we heard and then saw the park's other super star, the **Black Capped Vireo**. Like Golden Cheeks, Black Cappeds are commonly victim to brood parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbird, these vireos were first listed in 1987. While their numbers are certainly less at Lost Maples – and throughout the Texas Hill Country – than Golden Cheeks, they were delisted in 2017. Most interestingly, the way to see Black Cappeds was to climb the steep and loose trail up the East Ridge, listen for their sound, chase them from tree to tree and hope for good looks along the way. In 2019, the first Black Cappeds were seen by the pond. They are currently at both high and low elevations throughout the park – often nesting trailside as with the nest we discovered today. This nest was not here a week ago but we found it today in the same spot it was last season. Well concealed and high up enough that peering in was not an option, its possible mom was hunkered down in there. Dad (cover photo) was justifiably concerned as we approached the area. 2 days later, I saw mom enjoying the breeze as her nest rocked with the wind.



The nest as we saw it (left)

While I kept a respectable distance, mom's head and tail could still be seen peeking out (Photo from 2 days later)



## Lost Maples SNA (HOTW 061)

**48 species (+1 other taxa)**

**190 Individuals**

Bandera County, Texas, US

May 21, 2025 6:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Protocol: Traveling, 2.5 mile(s)

Quick look around headquarters then

bird blind to 2nd pond plus return

Overcast clouds - few clouds

Temperature: 71 - 90°F

Wind: Mostly calm - moderate breeze

Wind Direction: E - NE

Cloud Cover: 19 - 100%, Humidity: 37 - 49%



Common Raven with  
intriguing feather pattern  
4/15/2025 Day Use Area

Inca Dove 2

White-tipped Dove 2

*One seen sitting on nest*

White-winged Dove 15

Mourning Dove 2

Greater Roadrunner 2

Yellow-billed Cuckoo 1

Chimney Swift 3

Black-chinned Hummingbird 4

Black Vulture 1

Turkey Vulture 5

Cooper's Hawk 1

Red-shouldered Hawk 1

Red-tailed Hawk 1

Ladder-backed Woodpecker 3

falcon sp. 1

*Quick look as it soared over ridge by pond.*

*Fast flyer, light colored, long wings. Looked*

*much whiter, faster and different shape and*

*flight pattern than Cooper's Hawk seen later*

*above different ridge. Peregrine w/ photos*

*was seen recently at Lost Maples.*

*Alternate ID: Mississippi Kite?*

Eastern Wood-Pewee 3

Acadian Flycatcher 6

*Watched one building nest*

Eastern Phoebe 8

*4+ fledglings, one flying into this year's nest*

Ash-throated Flycatcher 3

Black-capped Vireo 4

White-eyed Vireo 12

Hutton's Vireo 3

Yellow-throated Vireo 3

Red-eyed Vireo 5

Common Raven 5

*Nest plus molting parent nearby*

Carolina Chickadee 4

Black-crested Titmouse 10

*Lots of fledglings being fed by parents*

Cliff Swallow 3

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 7

Canyon Wren 3

Carolina Wren 2

Bewick's Wren 4

House Finch 1

Lesser Goldfinch 4

Olive Sparrow 6

*2 seen up close. Many calling throughout park*

Chipping Sparrow 6

Yellow-breasted Chat 5

Audubon's Oriole 2

*Pair at pond*

*Been singing for weeks...finally found by eye !*

Scott's Oriole 2

Louisiana Waterthrush 2

Black-and-white Warbler 5

Tropical Parula 1

*Continuing bird. Calling on both first and return trips.*

Yellow Warbler 1

Yellow-throated Warbler 3

Golden-cheeked Warbler 6

*A few fledglings*

Summer Tanager 5

Northern Cardinal 8

*One male starting to molt*

Blue Grosbeak 3

Indigo Bunting 1

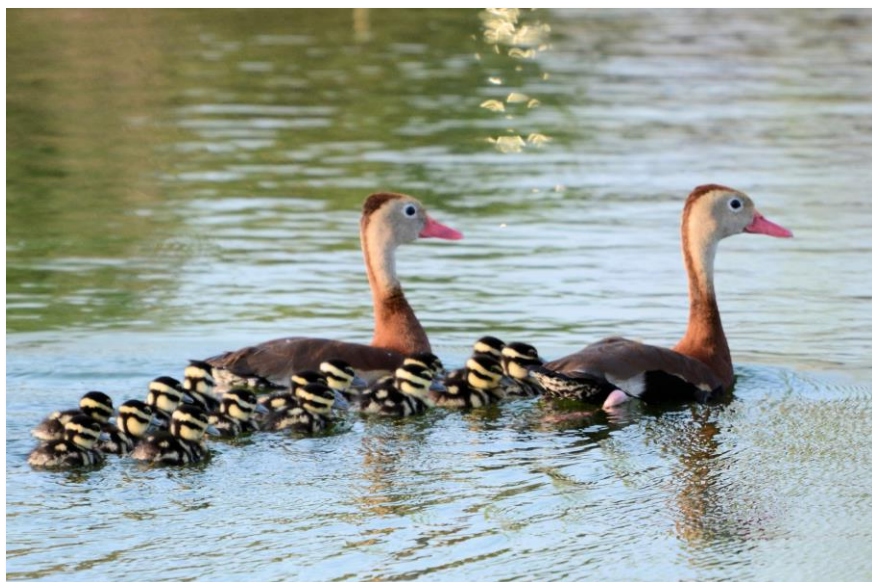
## Uvalde National Fish Hatchery

Where to look first? That is the most challenging part of arriving here. Birds on the utility lines, birds soaring overhead, birds in the nearby open pond and birds that beckon from the wooded pond – any birder's happiest dilemma. But we 'struggled' through it. We were welcomed by every dove possible (**Eurasian Collared, Ground, Inca, Morning and White Winged Doves**). **Chimney Swifts, Cliff Swallows** and **Purple Martins**, showed off their acrobatics. PS. Male PUMAs are all black, female and immature males duller with gray on head and chest. Numbers wise though, **Black Bellied Whistling Ducks** outnumbered all those doves. Who cannot coo-over all the 15+ count of ducklings?

Lured by a flash of oriole yellow, we were serenaded instead by a Long Billed Thrasher on the utility lines. The covered pond would wait while we did a lap to find – which we did successfully – a **Greater Roadrunner**. A pair of **Orchard Orioles**, **Northern Mockingbird** and a distant male Painted Bunting later, we were back near our starting spot.



Common Ground Dove, not 'scaly' like Inca Doves



Typically, 9-18 ducklings/clutch. Sometimes, multiple females will lay their eggs in the same nest, for clutches up to 60 eggs. That's a lot of kids to keep up with !



Long Billed Thrasher serenade

## The Ponds

The open pond yielded a **Great Kiskadee**, **Green Herons** and **Vermillion Flycatcher**. The shaded pond gave us a patient and beautifully plumed **Yellow Crowned Night Heron**, 2 **Mottled Ducks**, an **American Coot**, **Black Phoebe** and couple Black Bellied Duck families - one possibly guarding eggs. Along the back, more open fence line we saw **Lesser Goldfinch**, **Verdin** and heard a **Bell's Vireo** in a well-hidden nest. So well hidden, we got glimpses of the vireo but not its nest.

Back in the open, we heard another Bell's Vireo and did find this nest. Not far from there, we'd seen the profile of a low-flying disappear around curve of the pond's back side. It was near the same spot we heard a **Great Tailed Grackle** ruckus sounding the predator's presence to all who needed to be in the know.



American Coot, inset with a previously taken photo of its 4x4 feet for the mud flats



Female Mottled Duck

## The Far Side

No, it was not a Gary Larson experience. But had come more cool discoveries on Eagle Pass Rd side of the hatchery furthest from the main entry gate. A sedate **Lesser Nighthawk** that remained perched on the ground even as a staff member rolled up on his motorized 'mule' and visited with us. Decent looks at a shy **Curved Billed Thrasher**, **Swainson's Hawk**, **Lincoln Sparrow** and **Scissor Tailed Flycatchers**. We later found another perched on the road back to the Hwy 90.



Lesser Nighthawk



Mr. Lesser Goldfinch shops the same Sunglasses Hut as Mr. Bullock's Oriole



Curved Bill Thrasher : Put it on my bill



Bullock's Oriole mom bringing lunch to the kids

## **Non-Birds**

While Busy-Birding is obviously focused on birds, it is hard not to be drawn into all of nature's beauty. This is why our motto is "Nurture Your Love for Nature"



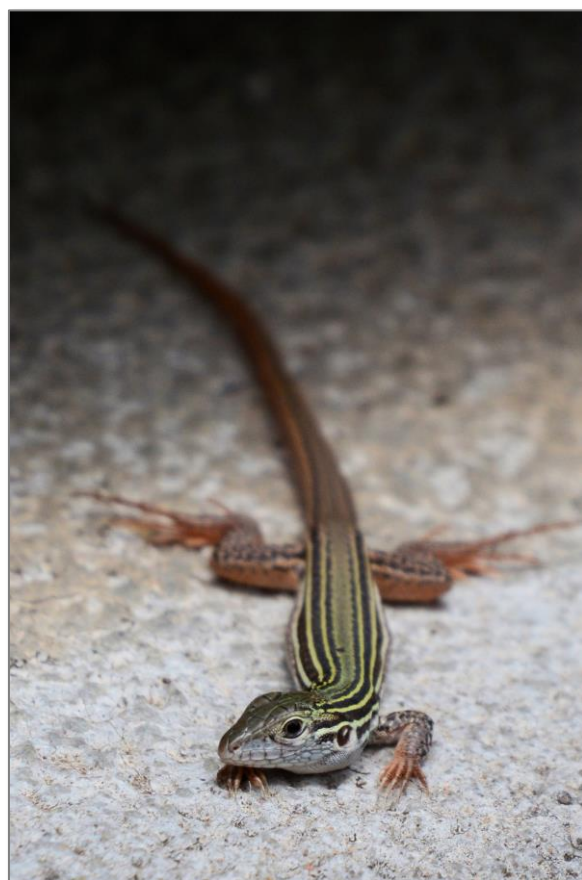
Red Eared Slider - Uvalde



A nest of a different sort – Uvalde



A swarm of bee flies on Musk Thistle – Lost Maples



6-Lined Whiptail Lizard – Lost Maples

**Uvalde Memorial Park, Uvalde, Texas, US**

**52 species**

**288 Individuals**

Uvalde Fish Hatchery (HOTW 027)

Uvalde, Texas, US

May 22, 2025 7:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Protocol: Traveling, 2.25 mile(s)

Overcast clouds - clear sky

Temperature: 77 - 88°F

Wind: Light breeze, Wind Direction: E - SE

Cloud Cover: 100%, Humidity: 51 - 100%

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck 60

*At least 25-30 ducklings*

Mottled Duck 2

Pekin Duck 1

Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) 1

Eurasian Collared-Dove 2

Inca Dove 6

Common Ground Dove 1

White-winged Dove 12

Mourning Dove 8

Greater Roadrunner 1

Yellow-billed Cuckoo 1

Lesser Nighthawk 1

Chimney Swift 3

American Coot 1

Killdeer 6

White-faced Ibis 3

Yellow-crowned Night Heron 1

Green Heron 2

Black Vulture 4

Turkey Vulture 8

Swainson's Hawk 1

Golden-fronted Woodpecker 4

Ladder-backed Woodpecker 3

Crested Caracara 1

Black Phoebe 1

Vermilion Flycatcher 6

Great Kiskadee 1

Western Kingbird 6

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 6

Bell's Vireo 6

*At least 2 on nest*

Verdin 1

Purple Martin 8

Cliff Swallow 3

Bewick's Wren 6

European Starling 6

Curve-billed Thrasher 1

Long-billed Thrasher 2

Northern Mockingbird 8

House Sparrow 16

House Finch 2

Lesser Goldfinch 5

Lark Sparrow 4

Lincoln's Sparrow 1

Yellow-breasted Chat 3

Orchard Oriole 6

Bullock's Oriole 6

Red-winged Blackbird 20

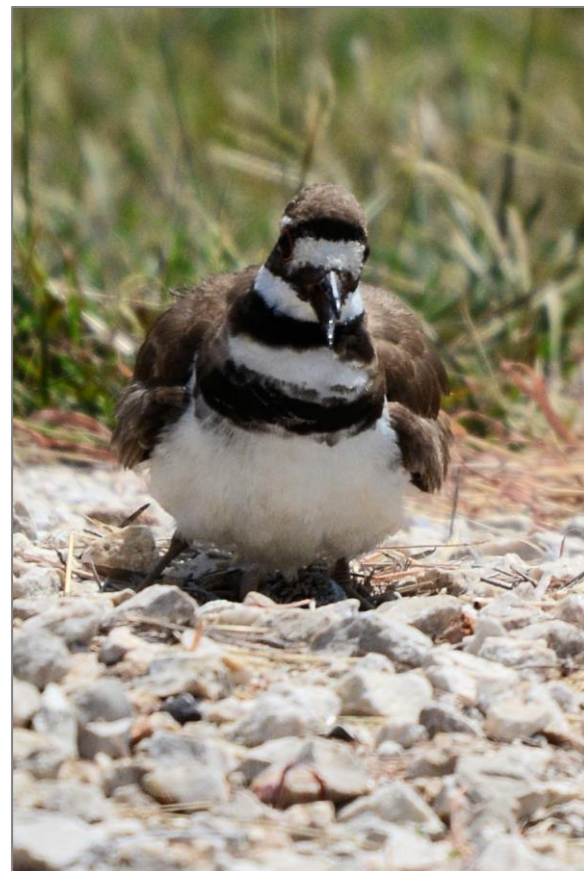
Brown-headed Cowbird 6

Common Grackle 4

Great-tailed Grackle 12

Northern Cardinal 8

Painted Bunting 1



Killdeer nesting in the open a couple of feet from our parking spots



Pekin Duck – its home place appears to be a plastic alligator placed to deter cormorants

**Combined Trip Total****478 birds of 84 + 2 species + a stuffed and mounted American Widgeon ‘>****L –Lost Maples SNA ; U – Uvalde National Fish Hatchery**

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Location</u>		<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Location</u>
Acadian Flycatcher	6	L		Inca Dove	8	L 2, U 6
American Coot	1	U		Indigo Bunting	1	L
Ash-throated Flycatcher	2	L		Killdeer	6	U
Audubon's Oriole	2	L		Ladder-backed Woodpecker	6	L 3, U 3
Bell's Vireo	6	U		Lark Sparrow	4	U
Bewick's Wren	4	L 4, U 6		Lesser Goldfinch	9	L 5, U 5
Black Phoebe	1	U		Lesser Nighthawk	1	U
Black Vulture	5	L 1, U 4		Lincoln's Sparrow	1	U
Black-and-white Warbler	5	L		Long-billed Thrasher	2	U
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	60	U		Louisiana Waterthrush	2	L
Black-capped Vireo	4	L		Mottled Duck	2	U
Black-chinned Hummingbird	4	U		Mourning Dove	10	L 2, 8 U
Black-crested Titmouse	10	L		Northern Cardinal	16	L 8, U 8
Blue Grosbeak	3	L		Northern Mockingbird	8	U
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	7	L		Olive Sparrow	6	L
Brown-headed Cowbird	6	U		Orchard Oriole	6	U
Bullock's Oriole	6	U		Painted Bunting	1	U
Canyon Wren	3	L		Pekin Duck	1	U
Carolina Chickadee	4	L		Purple Martin	8	U
Carolina Wren	2	L		Red-eyed Vireo	5	L
Chimney Swift	6	L 3, U 3		Red-shouldered Hawk	1	L
Chipping Sparrow	6	L		Red-tailed Hawk	1	L
Cliff Swallow	6	L 3, U 3		Red-winged Blackbird	20	U
Common Grackle	4	U		Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	1	U
Common Ground Dove	1	U		Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	6	U
Common Raven	5	L		Scott's Oriole	2	L
Cooper's Hawk	1	L		Summer Tanager	5	L
Crested Caracara	1	U		Swainson's Hawk	1	U
Curve-billed Thrasher	1	U		Tropical Parula	1	L
Eastern Phoebe	8	L		Turkey Vulture	13	L 5, U 8
Eastern Wood-Pewee	3	L		Verdin	1	U
Eurasian Collared-Dove	2	U		Vermilion Flycatcher	6	U
European Starling	6	U		Western Kingbird	6	U
Falcon sp	1	L		White-eyed Vireo	12	L
Golden-cheeked Warbler	6	L		White-faced Ibis	3	U
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	4	U		White-tipped Dove	2	L
Great Kiskadee	1	U		White-winged Dove	27	L 12, U 15
Greater Roadrunner	3	L 2, U 1		Yellow Warbler	1	U
Great-tailed Grackle	12	U		Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	L 1, U 1
Green Heron	2	U		Yellow-breasted Chat	8	L 5, U 3
House Finch	3	L 1, U 2		Yellow-crowned Night Heron	1	U
House Sparrow	16	U		Yellow-throated Vireo	3	L
Hutton's Vireo	3	L 1, U 2				

Thank you  
for allowing  
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# Nurture Your Love for Nature



The tiniest of the 5 tiny Red Eared sliders at Lost Maples



Heard many Bell's Vireos throughout the Hatchery  
and able to spy on this one through the brush

There's NO better way to bird than 2 adjacent but diverse habitats.  
Correction: The only thing better than the birds were the birders :>

Sincerest Regards,  
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