

# Uvalde Tour

March 11, 2026



Desert blooms are the best : Spanish Dagger



Green Jay : A truly tropical –colored bird

## **64 Species for the Day**

<https://ebird.org/tripreport/487163>

Uvalde Memorial Park - 24

Uvalde Natl Fish Hatchery – 51

Cook's Slough Sanctuary - 8

City of Uvalde Cemetery – 3

Utopia Park – 1 species

**Laura M. Levy**  
Laura@Busy-Birding.com  
www.Busy-Birding.com  
830-328-2662



## Uvalde Memorial Park

Amidst the urban development that is downtown Uvalde lies a totally unexpected bird sanctuary. Just past the feral cat colony is a secret world of nesting Green Jays, Great Kiskadees (who obviously rule the local roost – and species that has made inroads into the Rio Grande Valley at the southern tip of Texas. **Clay-colored Thrush** has been a seasonally ‘continuing species’ here the last few years. Our report was this year’s sighting of a pair rather than a single bird. We felt there was a 3<sup>rd</sup> but did not see them all in a single glance as the Kiskadees chased every bird in sight. The sound scape included a mournful **Audubon Oriole’s** whistle, **Yellow-breasted Chat’s** chatter and a **Green Jay**, two of which were located by eye on our return lunch time visit. Non-birds in the park included 3 nutria, the ever-present collection of turtles and domestic ducks and geese.



Not just a good Kiskadee but a Great Kiskadee



Clay-colored Thrush : One of a pair and possibly a trio



An interesting history but nutria are still ‘giant rats’



Red-eared Slider : A prolific but native Texas species

## Uvalde National Fish Hatchery

Entering the area's fifth year of drought, Uvalde and the surrounding counties received well over an inch of rain the night before. With CR203, the road into the hatchery, already torn up for a drainage and road-widening projects, we were treated to an unexpected mudding adventure to preface this part of our birding trip. Fortunately, all was well and we made it through without incident and sadly, without a photograph. But onto the birds. hatchery.

In and around the shaded pond were **Black Phoebes** and **Eastern Phoebes**, **Spotted** and **Solitary Sandpipers**, **Least Grebes**, **Mottled Duck** ... and more **Great Kiskadees**. One bird scurried into the vegetation before we could get a solid ID. Have no fear, we later came back and outsmarted that **Wilson's Snipe**.



A single Solitary Sandpiper



Numerous Savannah (above) and Vesper Sparrows came in from the adjacent open fields



For much of the time, migrating sandhills were overhead

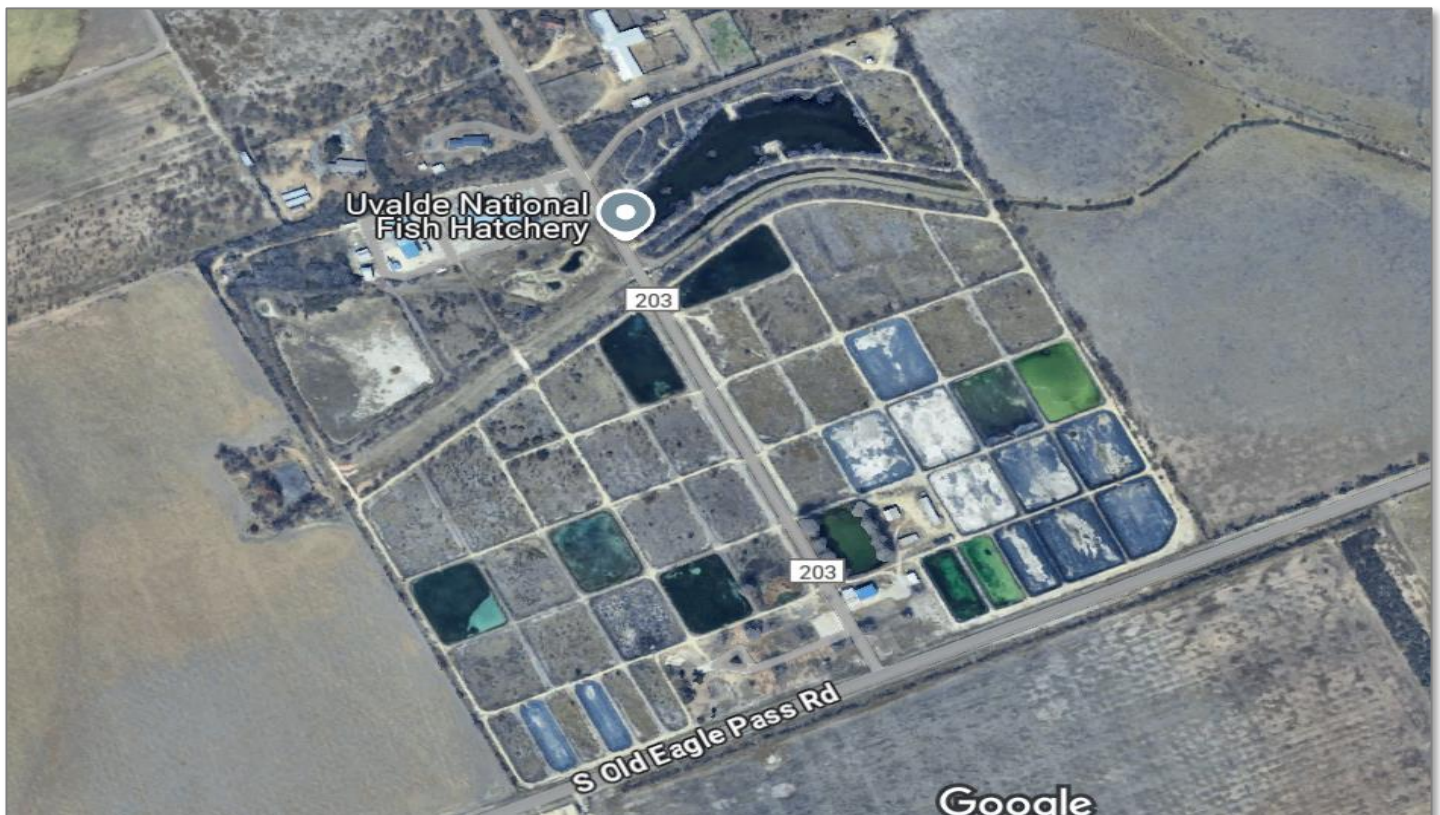


Wilson's Snipe : Good looks if not a good photo

Throughout our time at the hatchery, **Sandhill Cranes** were in full migration mode. At one point, the sounds was so loud, we situated ourselves ready to shoot photos of a sky covered in cranes. Much to our dismay and outside our line of vision the roar stopped short of us in a field across from our muddy entrance road.

Walking around the tanks, we got glimpses of a loud **Marsh Wren** as it hopped through the reeds. A **Neotropic Cormorant** (according to iNat/eBird) was perched atop a Bald Cypress. We did see a **Double-crested Cormorant** flying across the hatchery as well. Depending on if you were looking left or right, nice views of a **Common Yellowthroat** or **Lincoln's Sparrow** could be had. The sparrow made multiple appearance but the yellowthroat made for a one-chance opportunity,

Raptors were aplenty. Seen both flying and perched were **Red-tailed Hawks**, **Northern Harrier**, **American Kestrels** and last years' target bird, **Crested Caracara**. Strangely enough, despite being in the desert, not a single Common Raven was heard of seen all day. Note : Caracara was one of last year's target bird. Further north near Lost Maples SNA, they tend to appear weekly but in no predictable pattern. At the end of February, much like in the way of Swainson's Hawk, 75+ were seen harvesting the stirred-up bugs as the field adjacent to the hatchery was being tilled. Not 75, but many were seen on the morning's drive down to Uvalde and at the hatchery.



### City of Uvalde Cemetery

Our target species for here - **Cactus Wren** - did not make an appearance in its usual location near Jack Nance Garner's grave. This was not surprising. He usually makes his appearance much later in the day; we were too early. A **Loggerhead Shrike**, **Northern Mockingbird** (our Texas state bird) and another **Vermilion Flycatcher** did grace us with their presence.



Loggerhead Shrike, aka infamous Butcher Bird

### Cook's Slough Sanctuary

Getting into the slow part of the day, a quick foray here yielded more Double-crested Cormorants. A **Cooper's Hawk** flew over the pond as we sat on the shaded deck and contemplated the wonder that is Uvalde birding.



So much more to explore at Cook's Slough – but best first thing in the morning.

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

**24 species**

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S308418648>

Uvalde Memorial Park, Uvalde, Texas, US

Mar 11, 2026 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM

0.4 miles

Clear sky Temps: 64 - 69°F

Wind: Light breeze - moderate breeze

Wind Direction: W

Humidity: 63 - 81%; Dew point: 56 - 58°F

Sunrise: 7:53am Sunset: 7:44pm

Egyptian Goose 2

Muscovy Duck (Domestic type) 1

Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) 4

Inca Dove 4

White-winged Dove 1

Mourning Dove 6

Red-shouldered Hawk 2

Golden-fronted Woodpecker 1

Ladder-backed Woodpecker 1

Eastern Phoebe 1

Great Kiskadee 5

Green Jay 1

Black-crested Titmouse 2

Carolina Wren 2

Bewick's Wren 1

Hermit Thrush 1

Clay-colored Thrush 2

Single bird has been seen for a while. Multiple times today, both of us definitely saw a pair together. Strongly suspect a third was also being antagonized by the bullying Kiskadees.

Lesser Goldfinch 4

Yellow-breasted Chat 1 Heard but not seen.

Audubon's Oriole 1

Great-tailed Grackle 10

Black-and-white Warbler 1

Yellow-rumped Warbler 4

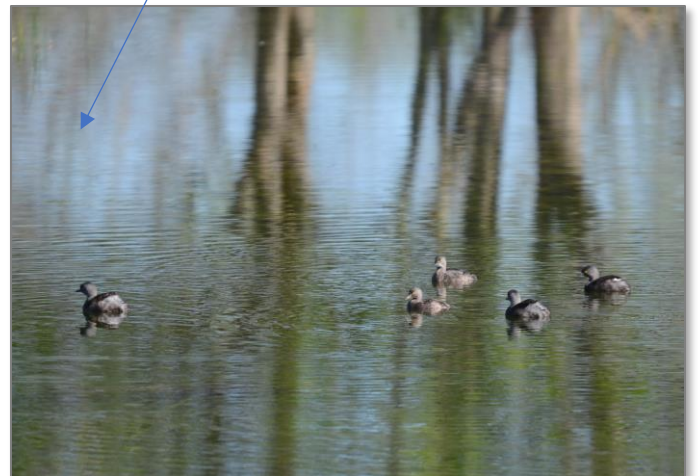
Northern Cardinal 4



Least Grebes – Do they take offense at being “least”?



Double-crested Cormorant on the move



Least Grebes – Do they take offense at being “least”?

Then on to the Hatchery...

## Uvalde Fish Hatchery

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

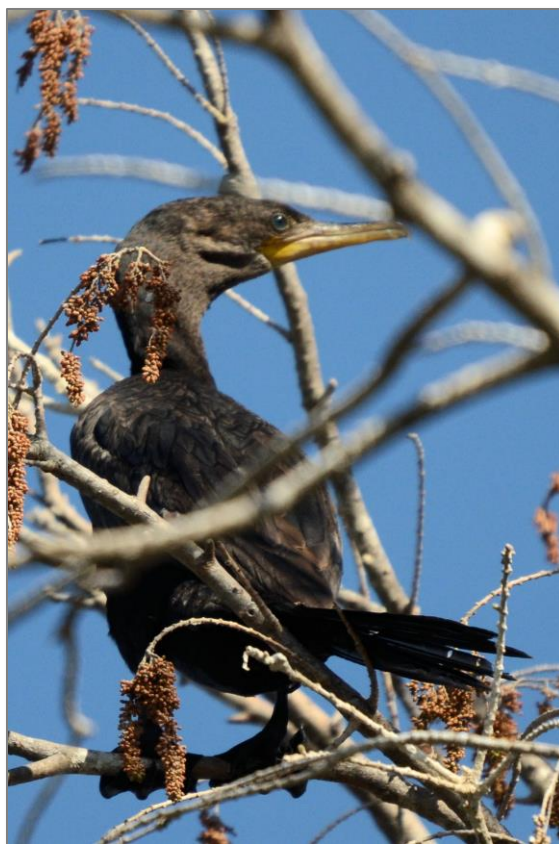
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S308421502>

HOTW 027, Uvalde, Texas, US  
Mar 11, 2026 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
2.5 miles

Clear sky; Temps: 69 - 76°F  
Wind: Gentle breeze - fresh breeze  
Wind Direction: W  
Humidity: 36 - 63%; Dew point: 47 - 56°F

Blue-winged Teal 20  
Cinnamon Teal 8  
American Wigeon 6  
Mottled Duck 2 Continuing  
Green-winged Teal 2  
Ring-necked Duck 1  
Eurasian Collared-Dove 1  
Inca Dove 4  
Mourning Dove 4  
American Coot 10  
Sandhill Crane 60  
Killdeer 1  
Wilson's Snipe 1  
Spotted Sandpiper 1  
Solitary Sandpiper 1  
Least Grebe 5  
Pied-billed Grebe 1  
Double-crested Cormorant 2  
Neotropic Cormorant 1  
Black Vulture 3  
Turkey Vulture 5  
Northern Harrier 1  
Red-tailed Hawk 4  
Golden-fronted Woodpecker 3  
Ladder-backed Woodpecker 2  
Crested Caracara 3  
American Kestrel 2  
Black Phoebe 2  
Eastern Phoebe 1  
Vermilion Flycatcher 5  
Great Kiskadee 4  
Green Jay 1  
Black-crested Titmouse 1

Purple Martin 8  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1  
Marsh Wren 1  
Bewick's Wren 1  
European Starling 6  
Northern Mockingbird 2  
House Sparrow 10  
House Finch 4  
White-crowned Sparrow 8  
Vesper Sparrow 5  
Savannah Sparrow 12  
Lincoln's Sparrow 2  
Western/Eastern Meadowlark 2  
Red-winged Blackbird 4  
Brown-headed Cowbird 1  
Great-tailed Grackle 6  
Common Yellowthroat 1  
Yellow-rumped Warbler 4  
Northern Cardinal 5



Neotropic Cormorant according to iNat and eBird

## **Cook's Slough Sanctuary**

**8 species**

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S308424152>

HOTW 025, Uvalde, Texas, US  
Mar 11, 2026 1:30 PM - 2:15 PM  
0.75 mile(s)

Clear sky Temps: 79 - 81°F;  
Wind: Fresh breeze - strong breeze  
Wind Direction: W - NW  
Humidity: 27 - 30%; Dew point: 44 - 45°F

Double-crested Cormorant 8  
Black Vulture 25  
Turkey Vulture 2  
Cooper's Hawk 1  
Ladder-backed Woodpecker 1  
Vermilion Flycatcher 1  
Great Kiskadee 2  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1



Beautiful Huisache blooms

## **City of Uvalde Cemetery, Uvalde, Texas, US**

< 30 minute stop with no eBird list submitted

Along fence line behind Garner memorial  
Loggerhead Shrike 1  
Northern Mockingbird 1  
Vermilion Flycatcher 1  
Cactus Wren (Target) – 0

## **Utopia City Park, Texas, US**

< 30 minute stop with no eBird list submitted  
Traversed length of park from near dam to “bird blind”

Great Blue Heron 1  
Barred Owls – 0  
Bald Cypress Trees (Target) – Many giants

Thank you for allowing Busy Birding to  
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for Nature**



Egyptian Goose : The name gives away that it is not native,  
but still pretty colors much like the back side of the Green Jay



**Y'all come back now, ya' hear !**

Sorry, couldn't resist but it was  
nice seeing you again this year.

THANK YOU!

Laura M. Levy  
830-328-2662  
[www.Busy-Birding.com](http://www.Busy-Birding.com)  
**Laura @ Busy-Birding.com**