

Lost Maples

April 6, 2026



White-tailed Hawk, a rare sighting for Uvalde



Lost Maples' most famous bird, the listed Golden-Cheeked Warbler

30 Species

Highlights

- Most accommodating male Golden-cheeked Warbler pair
- Grub-eating White-eyed Vireos
- Temperature perfect day amongst the beautiful Hill Country foliage, Can Creek and ponds

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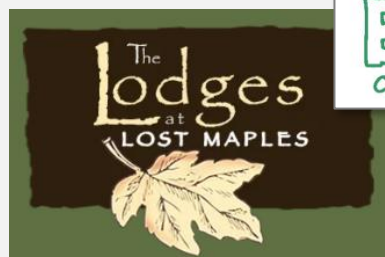
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Lost Maples State Natural Area (SNA)

Lost Maples is always a treat for the senses. We not only looked for birds but listened for their melodic songs which are most welcome after a long winter...especially for those from the North. We sample some pleasantly potent and garlic-y Drummond's Onions. A month earlier, TX Mountain Laurels perfumed the entire park with the scent of Grape Kool-Aid but the clean rural Texas air was still quite satisfying.

After a quick binocular basics lesson with Vortex's beginner but exceptional Triumph 10 x 42s, we were soon joined by the seasonal bird hosts, Les and Jane. Their brightly-colored regulars know exactly when the breakfast bell rings : **Lesser Goldfinch, House Finches Northern Cardinal and Black-chinned Hummers . Black-crested Titmice and Lincoln's Sparrows** (buffy jaw) rounded out the feeder list. A Red-tailed Hawk perched at the other end of the parking lot looking for a meal of its own. The soundscape included **Least Phoebe** (fee-bee), **Ash-Throated Flycatcher** (police whistle) and spring's ever-present La Cucaracha from the area's celebrity bird, the **Golden-cheeked Warbler**. Better views could not be had as 2 males tussled in an Ashe Juniper (aka Mountain Cedar) directly in front of us. All got GREAT looks as one worked his way to the sunlit treetop to show off his TRULY golden cheeks. Since that show could not be topped, we 'hit the trail.' We checked out the 20+ year-old Red-tailed Hawk nest. No longer in use due to : reaching its height limit, the loss of one or both mates or least likely, lost privacy after a new interpretive sign was installed. This season, a pair has been seen carrying nesting materials and occasionally dropping into the nest. Later that afternoon, the below hawk flew atop the nest and around the immediate area. All indications suggest a new nets nearby but its location remains a mystery.



A brilliantly colored red House Finch but orange and yellow ones are not uncommon



An interesting nest with an interesting history



Only time will show how this story ends

We also heard **White-eyed Vireos'** Artoo-D2 , **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers'** Spee!!!!, the **Canyon Wren** descending song and the ascending zippy **Tropical Parula'** song. Our nature walk sought out birds, but we also explored the local flora including Yellow Hill Country Buckeye (cover photo), TX Madrone's 'naked legs' trunk and Texas Redbud. Near the recently abandoned **Common Ravens** nest, we stumbled across the first of season's Pearl Milkweed vine mysteriously growing in an open field. Much like the red-tailed hawks, sightings suggest a new nest nearby. As we approached the pond, we found a few Gulf Fritillaries among the few Mock Vervain – Verbena blooms. Perhaps one of the biggest surprises about these butterflies is their shiny, silvered undersides. To round out our survey of the fauna, the wonderfully clear 2nd pond gave us good looks at some sizeable TX state fish - Guadalupe Bass and sunfish who at the other pond have already established redds, their nesting holes.



Pearl Milkweed : Nature's jewelry



A pile of Red-eyed Sliders



Ash-throated Flycatcher with his punky haircut



Mr. Ladder-backed Woodpecker looking for lunch

Lost Maples SNA (HOTW 061), Bandera, TX

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S318372270>

Apr 6, 2026 9:15 AM - 2:15 PM

~ 2.25 miles :Bird blind to 2nd pond plus return

Temperature: 55 - 71°F

Cloud Cover: 31 - 44%

Wind: Light breeze - moderate breeze

Wind Direction: NE

Humidity: 30 - 55%; Dew point: 38 - 40°F

Sunrise: 7:21am; Sunset: 7:59pm

30 species +1 other taxa

Inca Dove 2

White-tipped Dove 1

White-winged Dove 8

Black-chinned Hummingbird 4

Black Vulture 3

Turkey Vulture 6

Red-tailed Hawk 1

Ladder-backed Woodpecker 3

Eastern Phoebe 3

Ash-throated Flycatcher 3

Black-capped Vireo 3

White-eyed Vireo 10

Yellow-throated Vireo 1

Common Raven 4

Carolina Chickadee 4

Black-crested Titmouse 10

Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 6

Canyon Wren 1

Carolina Wren 1

Bewick's Wren 1

House Finch 6

Lesser Goldfinch 6

Chipping Sparrow 4

Lincoln's Sparrow 2

Rufous-crowned Sparrow 4

Louisiana Waterthrush 3

Black-and-white Warbler 5

Northern/Tropical Parula 1

Golden-cheeked Warbler 8

Northern Cardinal 8



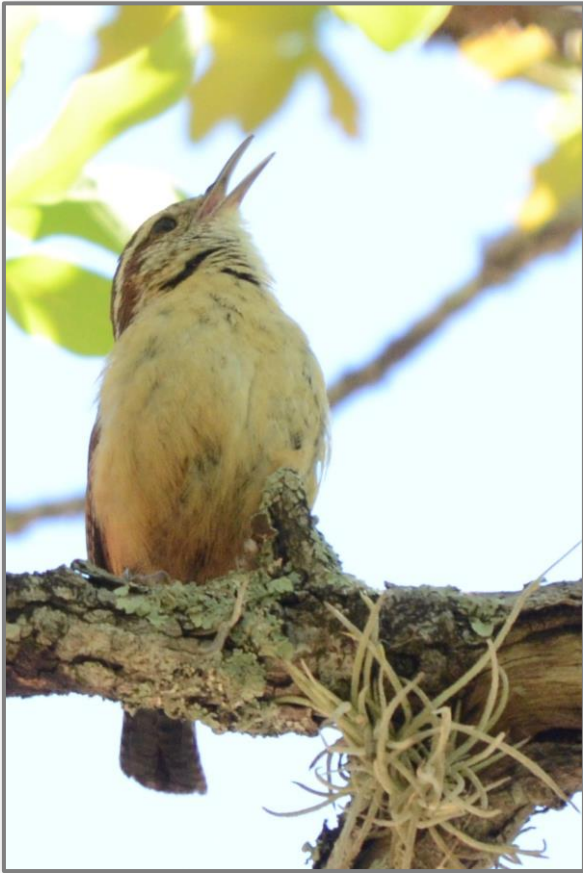
Complete with nectar guides (dark lines) to guide pollinators, penstemon defines 'Pretty in Pink'



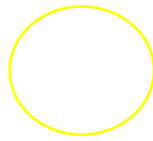
Born and bred EXCLUSIVELY in Texas !



Small but strongly flavored Drummond's Onions



Another small but potent. This Carolina Wren packs quite a volume and range of song.



Thank you for allowing
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The

END

Slug

Of the many, many White-eyed Vireos we heard, we finally got good views – and bad photos – of this one dining on a large juicy slug

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