

Target 100 Challenge

May 6 - 8, 2026



Green Herons have such personality !



What this Yellow-crowned Nigh Heron is so intent on?
... answer is in the trip report

T100 Challenge Total Species : 104

76 species for Uvalde County

Natl Fish Hatchery – 68

Cemetery – 23

Memorial Park – 19

36 species for Bandera County

Lost Maples SNA – 33

West Prong Cemetery – 1 additional sp.

50 species for Kerr County

Heart of the Hills Fish Hatchery,

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Target 100 Challenge : Mission *mostly* Accomplished

Our goal was to hit 100 bird species in 2 days.

- With Lost Maples 5/7 and Uvalde 5/8 we hit 94 species!
- Add in our birding at Heart of the Hills Fishery in Kerr County 5/6 and we hit 104 species

So....

- Mission of 100+ species : YES
- In 2 days : Well, not but it leaves us something to shoot for next time.
- Still, shared an EXCELLENT experience with so many great birds and birders across 3 counties. Besides a nice round number, 100 is a fun and appropriate target that requires both attentive birding and cooperative birds.

In the species list we marked species accordingly -

- **Bold** : Made us smile. Not necessarily rare but a day's favorite for whatever reason :>
- * : County firsts
- **"Misses"** - birds that we usually see there but were MIA when we needed them
- Note re: Merlin . AI often finds more birds than us. But the "A" stands for Artificial and we know (think? hope?) we are smarter than a computer. If we did not personally see or hear it, it was not included. Brown-Crested Flycatcher, Common Yellowthroat, Lazuli Bunting, Spotted Towhee and Chimney Swift (may have a bad photo of) were 'Merlin misses.'



Silent but still Eastern Wood PeWee
At Lost Maples SNA, Bandera County



These Canada Geese goslings' heads and necks bobbed to and fro when waddling in a straight line



Curved Bill Thrasher with its defining curved bill and yellow eye
at home in his arid habitat, the Uvalde Cemetery



Both birds and birders – including this Black Vulture spent time drying out after some much needed rain in Kerr County

Black Phoebe 2
Vermilion Flycatcher 5
Great Kiskadee 4 - Nest building + other nests from this year
Couch's Kingbird 2
Western Kingbird 5
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 4
White-eyed Vireo 2 - 2 juvenile
Bell's Vireo 6 - 2 at nest
Blue-headed Vireo 1
Common Raven 2
Black-crested Titmouse 6 - Feeding young
Purple Martin 8
Cliff Swallow 20
Bewick's Wren 2
European Starling 12
*** Gray Catbird 1**
Long-billed Thrasher 2
Northern Mockingbird 7
House Sparrow 10
House Finch 8
Lesser Goldfinch 9
Olive Sparrow 2
Lark Sparrow 12
Lincoln's Sparrow 1
Yellow-breasted Chat 3
Orchard Oriole 4
Bullock's Oriole 3
Red-winged Blackbird 80 - One large murmuration + others all around hatchery

Bronzed Cowbird 1
Brown-headed Cowbird 8
Common Grackle 10
Great-tailed Grackle 10
Nashville Warbler 1
Northern Yellow Warbler 5
Northern Cardinal 6
Blue Grosbeak 1
Painted Bunting 3
Dickcissel 1



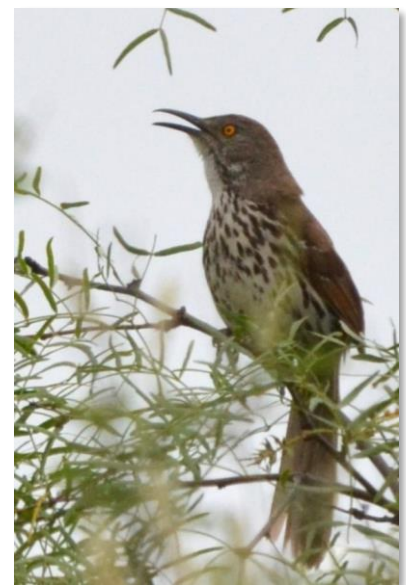
A hawk of sorts : a Variegated Meadowhawk dragonfly



Blue-headed Vireo, found next to A occupied Bell's Vireo nest



White-tailed Hawk with a Turkey Vulture for scale



Long-Billed Thrasher sounds similar to a Northern Mockingbird ... but not!

DAY 3 : UVALDE FISH HATCHERY (HOTW 027), UVALDE

I've hit 60+ species before here but some really awesome finds today including probably 5 county birds for me (*'d). Uvalde day was 3 of us: me and 2 great spotters!

Misses: Any Cormorant, Cactus Wren, Great Blue Heron ! , Indigo Bunting, Killdeer ! , Loggerhead Shrike, Road Runner, Summer Tanager, Swainson's Hawk. And one of these days, I'll find a Verdin and Harris Hawk again :<

May 8, 2026 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM

3.0 mile(s); 3 people

Temperature: 64 - 75°F

Overcast clouds; Cloud Cover: 100%

Wind: Light breeze - gentle breeze; Wind : E - SE

Humidity: 78 - 88%; Dew point: 61 - 68°F

Sunrise: 6:52am; Sunset: 8:19pm

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S334947674>

68 species

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck 15

Blue-winged Teal 2

Mexican Duck 2 - Continuing

Eurasian Collared-Dove 2

Inca Dove 4

White-winged Dove 8

Mourning Dove 16

Black-chinned Hummingbird 3

*** Sora 1**

*** Common Gallinule 1**

American Coot 6

Spotted Sandpiper 2

Solitary Sandpiper 1

Lesser Yellowlegs 1

Least Grebe 5

White-faced Ibis 5

Yellow-crowned Night Heron 2 - 1 adult + 1 juvenile

Black-crowned Night Heron 3 - 2 adults + 1 juvenile

*** Little Blue Heron 1**

Green Heron 2

Great Egret 8

Black Vulture 3

Turkey Vulture 8

Osprey 1

White-tailed Hawk 1

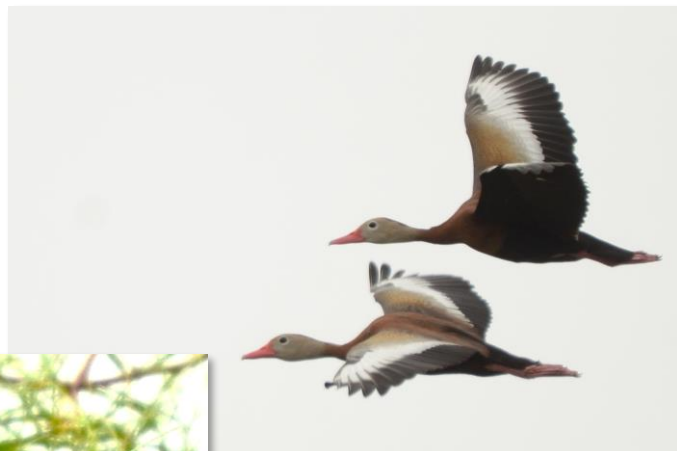
Red-shouldered Hawk 1

Red-tailed Hawk 1

Golden-fronted Woodpecker 4

Ladder-backed Woodpecker 3

Crested Caracara 2



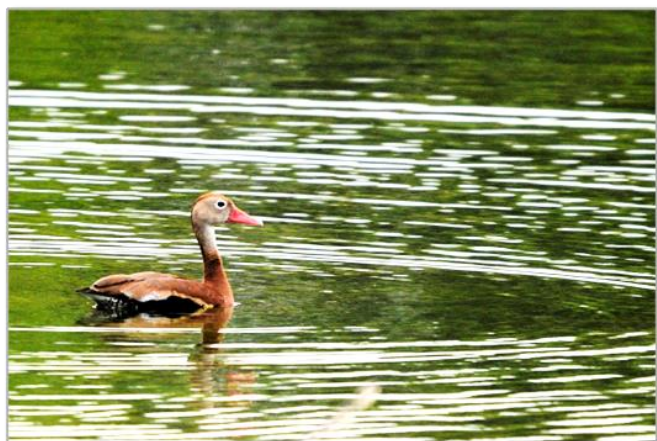
They look more like play toys than real birds (BBWD)



The most mis- or un-identified common bird : a FEMALE Red-winged Blackbird



Shaggy Mane mushroom in the Ink Cap family



A Black-bellied Whistling Duck in a whirlpool any phalarope would be proud of

CITY OF UVALDE CEMETERY, UVALDE

This stop was really to look for the Cactus Wren but alas, I never find him before 5 pm...seriously! WE should have changed the order of our stops. We were 'early' for the cemetery and 'late' for the park. Of course, the CBTH and PYRR made up for our misses at the cemetery.

Misses : Cactus Wren, Road Runner, Loggerhead Shrike

May 8, 2026 4:00 PM - 4:45 PM

0.5 mile(s); 3 people

Temperature: 77 - 79°F

Overcast clouds; Cloud Cover: 96 - 100%

Wind: Light breeze - gentle breeze; : SE

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S334949300>

23 species

Inca Dove 2

White-winged Dove 2

Mourning Dove 2

Black-chinned Hummingbird 3

Black Vulture 1

Turkey Vulture 2

Red-tailed Hawk 1

Golden-fronted Woodpecker 1

Ladder-backed Woodpecker 1

Crested Caracara 1

Vermilion Flycatcher 3

Ash-throated Flycatcher 1

Western Kingbird 3

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 5

Bell's Vireo 1

Barn Swallow 4

Curve-billed Thrasher 3

Northern Mockingbird 7

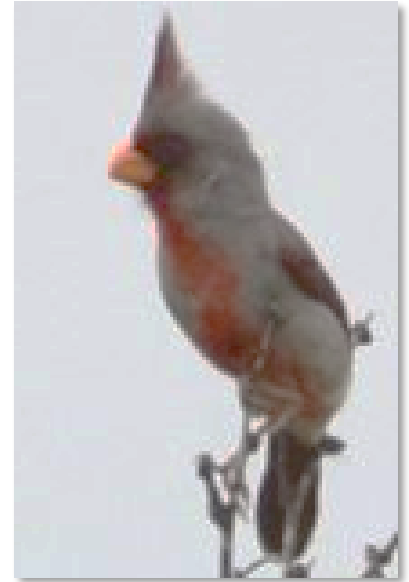
House Sparrow 4

House Finch 8

Lesser Goldfinch 4

Brown-headed Cowbird 1

Pyrrhuloxia 1



Clockwise :

1. If you can't pronounce Pyrrhuloxia, Desert Cardinal will suffice

2. Had a small herd of Yellow Warblers invade one corner of the fishery

3. Great-Tailed Grackles are ALWAYS a given in a Walmart town

4. Beautiful Double-striped Bluet damselfly on highly undesired Maltese Thistle



There were NO birds – or homeless people or debris - where the thrushes usually are. Most of our sightings were after cresting the hill. Was because we were there at 5 pm, too late in the day? This is the 1st time I've been there since the path was widened by cutting of trees and bull dozer clearing :<. This is a more likely impact on our birding for today and sadly, for the long-term.

Misses : Audubon Oriole, Green Jays, Clay-Colored Thrush, Green Kingfisher

May 8, 2026 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

1.0 mile(s); 3 people

Temperature: 77 - 78°F

Overcast clouds; Cloud Cover: 98 - 100%

Wind: Gentle breeze; Wind : SE – E

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S334950503>

19 species

Mallard (Domestic type) 12

Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) 6

Inca Dove 4

White-winged Dove 2

Black-chinned Hummingbird 1

Green Heron 1

Black Vulture 2

Turkey Vulture 2

Golden-fronted Woodpecker 2

Ladder-backed Woodpecker 1

Great Kiskadee 1

Black-crested Titmouse 4

Carolina Wren 1

European Starling 6

House Sparrow 6

Great-tailed Grackle 4

Northern Yellow Warbler 1

Black-throated Green Warbler 1

Northern Cardinal 2

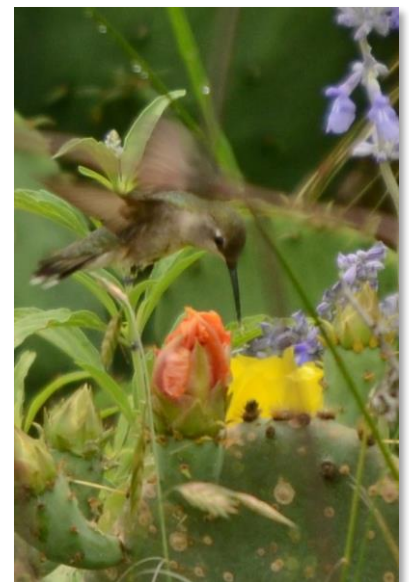
Clockwise :

1. Salsify Daisy

2. Black Chinned Hummer

3. European Starling,
another urban "specialty"

4. Marvel of Peru, probably not native
but we love the pink curly cue



DAY 2 : LOST MAPLES SNA (HOTW 061), BANDERA

It was eerily quiet most of the day with lots of regulars MIA. Since the bird hosts have migrated north, there are no longer feeders at the blind. Truly no surprise species seen except the Scrub Jay which has been conspicuously missing this year at Lost Maples.

Leading a beginning birder group meant we were not focused on exclusively on birds, but an overall nature walk. We split up for a short time as a few stayed by the main pond to photograph the Golden-Cheeked Warbler while the rest of us ambled up the 2nd pond and then rejoined the others 15 minutes later. They photographed the GCWA plus a Wilson's Warbler and a Chestnut-sided Warbler (which would have been a park bird for me!). I did not add them to the list since I did not see them :<

Other species : On the way home, had Eastern Bluebirds feeding young at West Prong Cemetery. I added that species that day even though I did not make an eBird list.

Misses : Acadian Flycatcher, Blue Grosbeak, Broad-winged Hawk, Chipping Sparrow, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Rough Winged Swallow, Scott's Oriole, Summer Tanager, Zone-tailed Hawk (known nest on other side of park).

May 7, 2026 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM
2.5 mile(s); 9 people
Temperature: 58 - 66°F
Overcast clouds, Cloud Cover: 100%
Wind: Moderate breeze - fresh breeze Wind : NE
Humidity: 60 - 78% Dew point: 51 - 52°F
Sunrise: 6:50am Sunset: 8:18pm

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S334257298>

33 species

White-tipped Dove 1
White-winged Dove 6
Mourning Dove 4
Black-chinned Hummingbird 3
Black Vulture 4
Turkey Vulture 6
Ladder-backed Woodpecker 2
Eastern Wood-Pewee 2
Eastern Phoebe 1
Ash-throated Flycatcher 2
Black-capped Vireo 3
White-eyed Vireo 5

Yellow-throated Vireo 2
Red-eyed Vireo 3
Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay 1
Common Raven 3
Carolina Chickadee 2
Black-crested Titmouse 5
Barn Swallow 2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 3
Canyon Wren 2
Carolina Wren 2
Bewick's Wren 3
Olive Sparrow 3
Lark Sparrow 1
Rufous-crowned Sparrow 1
Yellow-breasted Chat 5
Black-and-white Warbler 4
Northern/Tropical Parula 1 - Heard only
Yellow-throated Warbler 4
Golden-cheeked Warbler 4
Wilson's Warbler 1
Northern Cardinal 4
Indigo Bunting 2



Checkered Garter Snake swimming without arms or legs, quite a trick!

DAY 1: HEART OF THE HILLS FISHERIES CTR. (HOTW 069), KERR

Birding with 1 experienced and 1 beginning birder... in the rain for some parts. Ironically, RainCrow, where the weather data comes from, does not mention actual rainfall. Didn't know this was going to be part of my T100 Challenge until after the fact.

Everyone has reported a Protothony Warbler where I saw the Yellow Warbler. I hope I didn't flub that ID :<as it would be a Hill Country first for me. In my defense, I am familiar with both birds, seen PRWA in East TX many times, and thought I saw brown lines on chest for nYEWA.

Misses : Where are the ever-present Killdeer!?!)

May 6, 2026 9:15 AM - 11:45 AM

1.5 mile(s); ; 3 people initially, 2 after 1st hour

Temperature: 66 - 71°F

Overcast clouds; Cloud Cover: 99 - 100%

Wind: Mostly calm - gentle breeze; Wind : S - N

Humidity: 96 - 97%; Dew point: 65 - 70°F

Sunrise: 6:50am; Sunset: 8:17pm

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S333780959>

50 species

Canada Goose 13 - Including 3 goslings

Egyptian Goose 2

White-winged Dove 6

Mourning Dove 3

Black-chinned Hummingbird 2

Killdeer 1

Spotted Sandpiper 5

* **Baird's Sandpiper 1**

* **Franklin's Gull 1**

Yellow-crowned Night Heron 1

Snowy Egret 1

Green Heron 1

Western Cattle-Egret 1

Great Egret 10 - Rookery shared w/herons

Great Blue Heron 4 - Rookery shared w/egrets

Black Vulture 12

Turkey Vulture 4

Osprey 1

Red-tailed Hawk 1

Ladder-backed Woodpecker 5 - Family of mom, dad, 2 male and 2 female fairly sufficient fledglings

Eastern Phoebe 1

Vermilion Flycatcher 1

Ash-throated Flycatcher 1

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 5

White-eyed Vireo 1



Top: Baird's Sandpiper

Bottom: Initially we ID'd as a Laughing Gull, this Franklin's Gull might've been laughing at us

Bell's Vireo 1

Yellow-throated Vireo 3

Red-eyed Vireo 2

Common Raven 1

Carolina Chickadee 1

Black-crested Titmouse 6 - Feeding fledglings

Purple Martin 4

Barn Swallow 10

Canyon Wren 1

Carolina Wren 1

Bewick's Wren 1

Northern Mockingbird 3

House Sparrow 4

House Finch 8

Lesser Goldfinch 4

Lark Sparrow 3

Yellow-breasted Chat 1

Orchard Oriole 4 - 2 adult males, 1 immature male and a female in a group together

Red-winged Blackbird 4

Brown-headed Cowbird 3

Northern Yellow Warbler 1

Yellow-throated Warbler 2

Summer Tanager 1

Northern Cardinal 6

Painted Bunting 3

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No other word comes to mind other than 'mother' when you hear 'nurture?' We stayed back far enough not to disturb the Bell's Vireo parents at its nest but obviously mom...or is it dad?...had an eye o us. This trip was specifically to celebrate May 9th – Global Big Day and Global Migratory Bird Day. But it also Mother's Day, appropriate for all the seen active nests and fledglings.

DEEPEST GRATITUDE to the 11 wonderful birders ...and many birds...who joined in our nature walks ala **TARGET 100 CHALLENGE**.



Technically a this too is a much-desired bird. This was one of 3 Firebirds on display with a few more well-kept vintage vehicles we saw on our after-dinner stroll through Uvalde's 4th Friday shops event.



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Mystery solved! Can you see what this Yellow-crowned Night Heron was so focused on. If he would have jumped up on the wall, he could have easily grabbed lunch but this time, the prey got away.