

Uvalde Tour for Bird Club

May 2, 2025



Devil's Bouquet



Lesser Nighthawk *

76 Species for the Day

Uvalde National Fish Hatchery - 57

Uvalde Memorial Park - 14

Cook's Slough Sanctuary - 19

City of Uvalde Cemetery – 22 species

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Uvalde National Fish Hatchery

Turning off Hwy 90 towards our first stop, CR203 yielded multiple **Scissortail Flycatchers** and a **Crested Caracara**. Once parked, we were warmly welcomed by a flurry of activity along the utility lines including an appropriately named **Yellow Breasted Chat**, **Purple Martins'** and **Chimney Swifts'** aerial displays, the usual doves (**Mourning, White Wing and Eurasian Collared Doves**) and the requisite **Western and Couch's Kingbirds** and **Great Tailed and Common Grackles**. After recording over a dozen species, as we headed to the pond where a **Great Kiskadee** summoned us and a perched **Green Heron** was discovered in the further beyond.

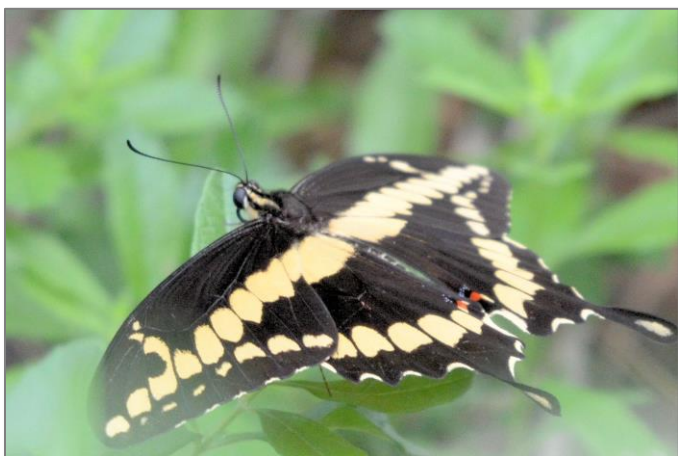
Soon after entering the pond area, a **Northern Waterthrush** was seen on the far bank. A **Marsh Wren** darted through the vegetation. Based on multiple glimpses and habitat clues, its ID was agreed upon by the group. Soon after, we got 3 **Yellow**, a single **Orange Crowned Warbler** and the first of the day's **Bell's Vireos**. After it flew out from a presumed nest area to a nearby tree, all got good looks. Following the short leg of the pond, a **Vermillion Flycatcher** graced our presence and a **Bewick's Wren** was on the utility line singing its heart out. On our next leg, an employee was picking up tree trimmings like those we had been side stepping along the way, so we cut back along the trail. Here we picked up the trail of a **Yellow Billed Cuckoo**. Soon, we'd follow a pair down the trail with multiple open –and not so open – looks. We were treated to many serenades of his unique kow-kow-kow chorus. And no, it did not sound like an American cuckoo clock! Both **Bullock's** and **Orchard Orioles** were seen before exiting the pond area. A pair of **Black Phoebe** bid us farewell.



Scissor Tailed Flycatcher



Western Kingfisher showing off his outer white tail feathers



Giant Swallowtail



Northern Bobwhite with a mohawk

After a brief break, we surveyed the trail along the utility lines but woefully failed to yield a Green Jay. (PS. They were found at Lost Maples on 5/4 – a rare but not impossible event.) Green Jays have been seen in multiple locations in Banders County- including Busy-Birding's own front yard. We did get a **Long-Billed Thrasher**, a beautiful Giant Swallowtail butterfly and – being near the office and various outbuildings, everyone's favorite **House Sparrows**. A left-hand turn headed us towards the far end of the hatchery where we saw a **Greater Roadrunner**. Beep! Beep! As we zigzagged along the grid of trails, another Bell's Vireo called. The back of the group found a **Dickcissel** while some up front found a pair of **Northern Bobwhites**.

At the far side of the hatchery along Eagle Pass Road, a male **Bronzed Cowbird** impressed us – and hopefully his mate – with his puffed-up neck feathers. The resident **Red winged Blackbirds**, more Vermillion Flycatchers and **Golden Fronted Woodpeckers** were all in their usual places. The cypress-lined pond held a colorful ribbon snake trying to find a place to exit the water. Other gifts included a Devil's Bouquet of flowers, and my much eluded to 'surprise bird'. We found not the expected one but **THREE (!) Lesser Nighthawks**. 2 were flying in formation for all to see. Of course, this begs the question: How many birds *does* it take to make a formation? 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** also spotted - in both senses of the word. Strolling back to our start point, a **Curved Billed Thrasher** was seen by few, a larger and smaller Diamondback Watersnakes – but extremely sedate – were seen by all. A final pass through the pond and then lunch that was a-calling.



Female and Male Bronzed Cowbirds



Ribbon Snake



Lesser Nighthawk



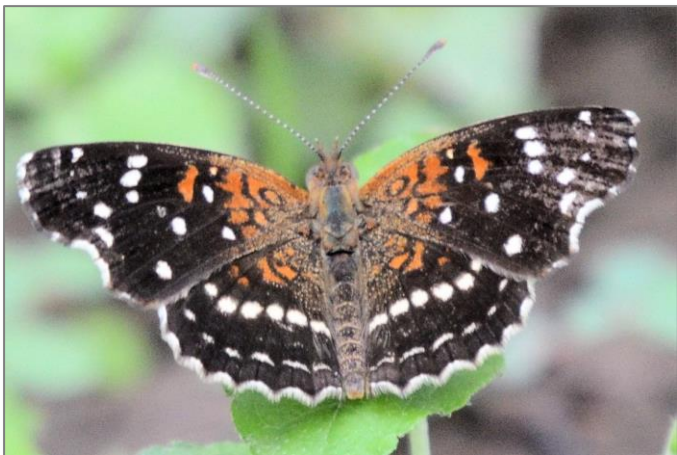
The Yellow Billed Cuckoos afforded us many clear views despite what this photo implies



Uvalde Memorial Park

Situated by HEB, Tractor Supply and every major fast-food chain, we were clearly in an urban environment. The pair of native **Inca Doves** and not-so native species (**Egyptian Geese**, **European Starlings** and domestic cats) joined us as we ate lunch. The hand-fed fox squirrels definitely blurred the definition of 'wildlife.' Next time, do we bring more grapes - or less?!?

After everyone refueled – including the squirrels - we sauntered past the park sentries (mallards) into the forested part of the park. **Audubon Oriole**, **Blue Headed Vireo** and **Brown Crested Flycatcher** made the muddy trek worthwhile. Micheal Jackson-style moonwalking across the bridge helped us get most of the gumbo-y mud off our shoes. Either way, our antics served as a source of amusement for the nearby **Green Herons** (2), Spiny Soft-shelled turtles (3) and endless Red Slider turtles.



Texan Crescent



Green Heron : very close and pose-friendly



Straight out of Dr. Seuss : Spiny Softshell Turtle.
I thought the turtle was by 2 similar looking rocks.
A different perspective showed those 'rocks' to also be turtles.



Brown Crested Flycatcher



Park Sentries



The wild beast has been park-domesticated

Cook's Slough Sanctuary

The classic Uvalde birding dilemma: start at the Fish Hatchery or Cook's Slough?

Solution : Bird 2 days to hit both first thing in the morning.

We walked the highlights at the Slough and found a baker's dozen of **Neotropic Cormorants**, 2 fleeing **Wood Ducks**, a couple of **Olive Sparrows**. Straight from an artist's palette, we got both male and female **Summer Tanagers** and **Painted Buntings**. And can anyone forget the hundreds? thousands? of Lyside Sulphur butterflies that were EVERYWHERE?



Olive Wren.....not!
Just an Olive Sparrow pretending to be a wren *



Great Kiskadee *
Proof that birds CAN hear the shutter click



The lay of the land at Cook's Slough

City of Uvalde Cemetery

To finish off a 5+ mile day, we headed to the fence line at the back of the cemetery. On a small side loop, Car #1 found a **Jungle Fowl** while Cars #2 and 3 got both a **Curved Bill Thrasher** and **Loggerhead Shrike**. Yet another Bell's Vireo called and showed off for us. The nearby nest was empty; it possibly could have been from last year. The same for 2 menacing-looking Curved Bill Thrasher nests constructed from thorny mesquite branches.

Our target species for here - **Cactus Wren** - did make an appearance in its usual location. Perhaps his spot near Jack Nance Garner's final resting spot is a nod to Garner's nickname – Cactus Jack. Also appropriate to the habitat - and by name – was a Mournful Duskywing butterfly. A single Bronzed Cowbird on the ground showed off his red eye; This one was truly single. No 'puffy head display' since there weren't any females in sight. And with that, we headed to dinner.

Hopefully the savory tale of the City Nature Challenge's story made up for the mediocre meal and worse service - my deepest apologies. The Local Fix's spot as the go to spot in town is now sealed. San Antonio Metro Area doubled both the number of observations and observers from 2024. Truly an amazing accomplishment that will place us near or possibly at the top of most categories GLOBALLY!

- <https://www.citynaturechallenge.org/live>
Results for the entire world
- https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?project_id=203096
Results for SA Metro Area does not include Uvalde County but does include Busy-Birding's Banderita County and 11 others
- <https://busy-birding.com/citizen-science>
We advocate the City Nature Challenge and any Citizen Science event that sparks a love of nature at any age.



Bell's Vireo Nest



Curved Bill Thrasher Nest



Cactus Jack's namesake wren trying to convince you he is a woodpecker

Trip Total

362 birds of 76 species

AM : H – Uvalde National Fish Hatchery

P – Uvalde Memorial Park

PM : S – Cook's Slough Sanctuary

C – City of Uvalde Cemetery

For an interactive trip report : <https://ebird.org/tripreport/361211>

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Location</u>		<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Location</u>
Acadian Flycatcher	1	H		House Sparrow *	6	H
Audubon's Oriole	2	S1 , P 1		Inca Dove	3	C 1, P 2
Barn Swallow	5	C 3, H 2		Indigo Bunting	1	H
Bell's Vireo	6	C 2, H 3, P1		Killdeer	2	H
Bewick's Wren	4	S 3, H 1		Ladder-backed Woodpecker	2	H
Black Phoebe	2	H		Lark Sparrow	1	C
Black Vulture	18	C 3, S 12, H 3		Lesser Goldfinch	2	H
Black Vulture	3	H		Lesser Nighthawk	3	H
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	8	H		Loggerhead Shrike	1	C
Black-chinned Hummingbird	1	C		Long-billed Thrasher	1	H
Black-crested Titmouse	2	S		Mallard	1	P
Blue Grosbeak	1	C		Mallard (Domestic type)	6	P
Blue-headed Vireo	1	P		Marsh Wren	1	H
Bronzed Cowbird	4	C 1, H 3		Mourning Dove	8	C 2, S 2 , H 4
Brown-crested Flycatcher	3	S 1, P 2		Neotropic Cormorant	13	S
Brown-headed Cowbird	5	C 2, H 3		Northern Bobwhite	2	H
Bullock's Oriole	3	H		Northern Cardinal	9	S 4, H 3, P 2
Cactus Wren	1	C		Northern Mockingbird	5	C 2, H 3
Carolina Wren	2	S		Northern Waterthrush	1	H
Chimney Swift	4	H		Olive Sparrow	3	C 1, S 2
Clay-colored Sparrow	2	H		Orange-crowned Warbler	1	H
Cliff Swallow	2	H		Orchard Oriole	1	H
Common Grackle	7	H 4, P 3		Painted Bunting	4	S 2, H 2
Common Raven	1	H		Purple Martin	6	H
Couch's Kingbird	4	C 2, H 2		Red Junglefowl (Domestic type) ** Escapee	1	C
Crested Caracara	1	H		Red-winged Blackbird	66	S 6, H 60
Curve-billed Thrasher	2	C 1, H 1		Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	8	H
Dickcissel	1	H		Spotted Sandpiper	2	H
Egyptian Goose ** provisional	2	P		Summer Tanager	3	S
Eurasian Collared-Dove *	3	H		Turkey Vulture	13	C 3, S 6, H 4
European Starling *	8	H 4, P 4		Vermilion Flycatcher	4	H
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	6	C 2, H 2, P 2		Western Kingbird	11	C 4, H 7
Gray Catbird	1	H		White-eyed Vireo	3	S
Great Blue Heron	1	S		White-faced Ibis	1	H
Great Kiskadee	3	S 2, H 1		White-winged Dove	8	C 4, H 2, S 2
Greater Roadrunner	1	H		Wood Duck	5	S 2, H 3
Great-tailed Grackle	16	C 6, H 10		Yellow Warbler	7	S 3, H 4
Green Heron	3	H 1, P 2		Yellow-billed Cuckoo	3	H 2, P 1
House Finch	2	H		Yellow-breasted Chat	2	H

For an interactive trip report detailing all 76 species -
<https://ebird.org/tripreport/361211>

Uvalde Fish Hatchery
57 species

HOTW 027

Uvalde, Texas, US

May 2, 2025 7:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Protocol: Traveling

2.25 mile(s)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck 8

Wood Duck 3

Northern Bobwhite 2

Eurasian Collared-Dove 3

White-winged Dove 2

Mourning Dove 4

Greater Roadrunner 1

Yellow-billed Cuckoo 2

Lesser Nighthawk 3

Chimney Swift 4

Killdeer 2

Spotted Sandpiper 2

White-faced Ibis 1

Green Heron 1

Black Vulture 3

Turkey Vulture 4

Golden-fronted Woodpecker 2

Ladder-backed Woodpecker 2 One seen coming
and going from hole in tree multiple times

Crested Caracara 1

Acadian Flycatcher 1

Black Phoebe 2

Vermilion Flycatcher 4

Great Kiskadee 1

Couch's Kingbird 2

Western Kingbird 7

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 8

Bell's Vireo 3

Common Raven 1

Purple Martin 6

Barn Swallow 2

Cliff Swallow 2

Marsh Wren 1

Bewick's Wren 1

European Starling 4

Gray Catbird 1

Curve-billed Thrasher 1

Long-billed Thrasher 1

Northern Mockingbird 3

House Sparrow 6

House Finch 2

Lesser Goldfinch 2

Clay-colored Sparrow 2

Yellow-breasted Chat 2

Orchard Oriole 1

Bullock's Oriole 3

Red-winged Blackbird 60 Includes one large flock

Bronzed Cowbird 3

Brown-headed Cowbird 3

Common Grackle 4

Great-tailed Grackle 10

Northern Waterthrush 1

Orange-crowned Warbler 1

Yellow Warbler 4

Northern Cardinal 3

Indigo Bunting 1

Painted Bunting 2

Dickcissel 1

Overcast clouds

Temperature: 64 - 77°F

Wind: Light breeze - gentle breeze

Wind Direction: NE - E

Cloud Cover: 100%

Humidity: 94 - 100%

View this checklist online at

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S232781500>

Uvalde Memorial Park, Uvalde, Texas, US

14 species (+1 other taxa)

May 2, 2025 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM

Protocol: Traveling

0.5 mile(s)

Egyptian Goose 2

Mallard 1

Mallard (Domestic type) 6

Inca Dove 2

White-winged Dove 4

Yellow-billed Cuckoo 1

Green Heron 2

Golden-fronted Woodpecker 2

Brown-crested Flycatcher 2

Bell's Vireo 1

Blue-headed Vireo 1

European Starling 4

Audubon's Oriole 1

Common Grackle 3

Northern Cardinal 2

Overcast clouds

Temperature: 79°F

Wind: Light breeze

Wind Direction: E - SE

Cloud Cover: 100%

Humidity: 89%

View this checklist online at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S232783526>

Cook's Slough Sanctuary

19 species

HOTW 025

Uvalde, Texas, US

May 2, 2025 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Protocol: Traveling

1.5 mile(s)

Wood Duck 2

Mourning Dove 2

Neotropic Cormorant 13

Great Blue Heron 1

Black Vulture 12

Turkey Vulture 6

Brown-crested Flycatcher 1

Great Kiskadee 2

White-eyed Vireo 3

Black-crested Titmouse 2

Carolina Wren 2

Bewick's Wren 3

Olive Sparrow 2

Audubon's Oriole 1

Red-winged Blackbird 6

Yellow Warbler 3

Summer Tanager 3

Northern Cardinal 4

Painted Bunting 2

Broken clouds - scattered clouds

Temperature: 83 - 84°F

Wind: Gentle breeze

Wind Direction: SE - S

Cloud Cover: 40 - 75%

Humidity: 61 - 69%

View this checklist online at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S232784662>

City of Uvalde Cemetery, Uvalde, Texas, US

22 species

May 2, 2025 4:30 PM - 5:15 PM

Protocol: Traveling

0.3 mile(s)

Checklist Comments: Along fence line behind Garner memorial

Inca Dove 1

White-winged Dove 4

Mourning Dove 2

Black-chinned Hummingbird 1

Black Vulture 3

Turkey Vulture 3

Golden-fronted Woodpecker 2

Couch's Kingbird 2

Western Kingbird 4

Bell's Vireo 2 Continually calling and in view

Easily visible nest nearby but possibly from previous season

Loggerhead Shrike 1

Barn Swallow 3

Cactus Wren 1

Curve-billed Thrasher 1

Northern Mockingbird 2

Olive Sparrow 1

Lark Sparrow 1

Bronzed Cowbird 1

Brown-headed Cowbird 2

Great-tailed Grackle 6

Blue Grosbeak 1

Red Junglefowl (Domestic type) 1 Strolling along ground. Clearly seen by all in car in route to Garner's memorial

Scattered clouds - clear sky

Temperature: 84°F

Wind: Gentle breeze - light breeze

Wind Direction: S - SE

Cloud Cover: 40%

Humidity: 61%

View this checklist online at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S232786681>

Thank you for allowing Busy-Birding to
**Nurture Your Love
for Nature**



Texas Pricky Pear

PS. Order them in orange or yellow and in a wide variety of various shapes and sizes

I enjoyed spending such a FUN and productive birding day with each and everyone of you. I heartily invite you back to the Texas Hill Country to discover my home patch, Lost Maples and other local spots with me.

Sincerest Regards,
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