

Texas in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

18th April – 1st May 2026



Gulf Fritillary



Cape May Warbler



Northern Raccoon



Brown Thrasher

Tour report by Su Gough



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Su Gough (leader) with four Naturetrek clients

Summary

This was a wonderful 'tasting menu' tour of a selection of reserves in the south-western part of this vast, varied and wildlife-rich US state. We enjoyed mammals, reptiles, invertebrates and flowers, and were lucky to hit the main pulse of bird migration. Unusual weather earlier in the spring had led to a migration backlog, and the rain that fell before our arrival led to an incredible number of migrant birds choosing to cross the Gulf of Mexico while we were positioned in the birding 'mecca' of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Not only were migrants destined for further north moving through, but this part of North America is the only place where a number of Central American species can be found in the USA. Some of the most colourful and admired of the migrant birds are the American warblers, and we were lucky to encounter a staggering twenty-eight species, many of them males sporting their full breeding colours, among the 214 species of bird we came across. The spectacle of trees dripping with American warblers is a 'must see' for many birdwatchers, as is the incredible wildlife spectacle of seeing more than twenty million Mexican Free-tailed Bats emerging from their roosting cave. Truly, these were experiences never to be forgotten.

Day 1

Saturday 18th April

25°C, overcast, thunderstorms overnight

Su met the group on their arrival at Austin airport. Urban birds were the theme on the short transfer to our overnight hotel, with introduced House Sparrows and Starlings joining the native Mourning Doves, and Common and Great-tailed Grackles, which were to become our constant companions. An Osprey was spotted atop a telegraph post, and entry into the hotel was delayed by the discovery of a stunning Smaller Parasa moth on the door!

After a short briefing, we ate in the hotel and retired early after a long flight, with spectacular thunder and lightning moving in overnight.

Day 2

Sunday 19th April

16°C, cold breeze, rain in the afternoon

Following our first buffet breakfast, we were keen to see some wildlife and, after checking out and packing the van, we headed just around the corner to the well-known Hornsby Bends site on the Colorado River. It quickly became apparent that the storm overnight had led to a 'fall' of migrants, with the vegetation surrounding the pools covered in hirundines, mainly Barn and Cliff Swallows. Lesser Yellowlegs and tiny Least Sandpipers joined the throngs of waders around the edges, with several Pectoral Sandpipers among them. A Coypu was seen swimming to a small island covered in roosting Blue-winged Teals and Redheads. We spent some time picking out all the different waders and enjoying the Barn and Cliff Swallows warming themselves on the ground next to us, and at one point we spotted a large Buffalo Gourd in flower. As we were leaving the site, we were amazed at a flock of over a hundred Wilson's Phalaropes in the centre of one of the pools.

Dragging ourselves away, we set our sights on the ranchland to the south, and headed towards the wonderful Q5 ranch near Berclair, spotting our first Scissor-tailed Flycatchers on roadside telegraph wires, and watching a Coyote attempt to chase a Black-tailed Jackrabbit, while we admired the Purple Ground-cherry growing on the verges. We were warmly welcomed by the hosts at Q5, Claire and Wilfred, and were served a delicious home-cooked lunch, albeit while distracted by all the birds coming to the feeders outside! After lunch, we began a golf buggy tour around the ranch, but due to the weather it was very quiet. Wilfred pointed out *Echinocactus texensis*, the 'Horse Crippler' cactus, but with his lovely soft Texan accent we mistakenly heard 'Arse Crippler'! After much laughter, we decided that this was a very good name for the vicious-looking, low-growing, spiky plant! As the rain grew heavier, we decided to return to the veranda and to watch the birds in comfort, and enjoyed seeing many for the first time, including White-crowned Sparrow and the beautiful Bewick's Wren.

Eventually, it was time to say farewell and make tracks for the coast, and we drove towards our home for a couple of nights: Rockport. Both Turkey and Black Vultures were seen during the drive, allowing us to get our eyes in on the differences between these two common, large raptors, and we were delighted to find a White-tailed Hawk perched on a telegraph pole, which allowed photos to be taken. In Rockport, we settled into our hotel before heading out for a delicious meal at the Paradise Key Dockside Bar and Grill.

Day 3

Monday 20th April

18°C, overcast with rain later, getting heavy by evening

There was an early start for some of the group, with the hotel kindly supplying a buffet breakfast ahead of the normal time, to allow us to make the boat along the coast at Aransas. We headed out in the dark and made our way east towards a small island which held a nesting colony of a range of waterbirds. It was a very grey dawn, but the threatened rain held off and we enjoyed the chaos and cacophony of the colony, with Caspian and Royal Terns around the edges, and Great Blue Herons, Great, Snowy and Reddish Egrets, and Roseate Spoonbills in the centre. Waders picked along the shore, with Willets and American Oystercatchers obvious, and we were delighted to see a small group of the bizarre Black Skimmers.

As we began our slow return, sailing along the edges of the barrier islands, we were joined by a constant stream of Bottlenose Dolphins. Due to the unusual spring weather Texas had experienced this year, the Whooping Cranes had sadly left earlier than normal, but a Ruby-throated Hummingbird came in off the sea and hovered around the boat, giving a hint that migration was in full flow: an omen of what was to come for us! Having returned to the hotel to pick up the rest of the group, and after lunch at a nearby Subway, we headed for Goose Island State Park in the afternoon, by which time the rain had finally begun in earnest. White-tailed Deer lounged on lawns, allowing a close approach, and we began a short walk through woodland, where the beautiful Snapdragon Vine was flowering and Dayflower shone blue through the rain. It was apparent that the trees were full of migrants, with Black-and-white, Black-throated Green and Tennessee Warblers quickly spotted. The rain became ever heavier, however, making glasses, binoculars and cameras difficult to use, and we became frustrated that we could see small birds silhouetted in the trees and not get any details on them. Birding in wet woodland in spring can be difficult!

Eventually we all decided enough was enough so returned to the car. The approach road to the park was heaving with birds, so we circled several times, birding from the vehicle, and were able to add many new species, such as Scarlet and Summer Tanagers, Indigo Bunting, Red-eyed Vireo and Ladder-backed Woodpecker, but the star bird

was a male Cerulean Warbler. That evening, we headed out to Latitude 28°02' for our meal, and we decided that if the weather was better tomorrow, we would head back to Goose Island.

Day 4

Tuesday 21st April

25°C, overcast with showers, humid

The day dawned dry, so we returned to Goose Island State Park as planned, taking the opportunity to look for migrant passerines again. We were not to be disappointed. Completing the woodland walk, we quickly connected with warblers, and also added Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Gray Catbird, as migrant Chimney Swifts streamed constantly overhead. At a feeding site with running water, we were delighted to watch a number of species coming in for a drink and a bathe, with Common Yellowthroat and the resident White-eyed Vireo among them. Nashville Warbler added to the tally, but the highlight was a male Painted Bunting, which displayed all of its amazing colours while having a good bath!

After gathering some lunch bits from a local garage (they all have café areas), where we discovered our first butterflies in the improving weather (Pipevine Swallowtail and Sachem – a skipper), we headed west inland from the coast, through farmland areas. Taking a break and sampling this new habitat, we stopped briefly at Santa Gertrudis Creek Park, where Carmine Skimmer dragonflies were patrolling a large puddle, and where we found a tiny Laguna Madre Fiddler Crab. The surrounding farmland held an Upland Sandpiper, several Eastern Meadowlarks, and large White Prickly Poppies, a welcome diversion before we arrived at the wonderful birding destination of South Padre Island. It had an incredible approach: a huge bridge and causeway joining this most southerly barrier island to the mainland. As we crossed, we couldn't ignore the Brown Pelicans, and spotted an Osprey on a road sign. After checking in, we headed out to F&B for our evening meal, and discussed plans for the next couple of days.

Day 5

Wednesday 22nd April

27°C, sunny spells with gentle breeze

After a filling breakfast, we headed to the wonderful Laguna Atascosa NWR. Even on the approach road, the wildlife watching was incredible, with feral Nilgai grazing and a Collared Peccary (Javelina) bumbling across the road. A Harris Hawk perched on a roadside telegraph pole, and other poles held Golden-fronted Woodpeckers and nest-building Altamira Orioles. We spotted a distant Roadrunner and approached slowly, discovering that there was actually a pair foraging along the road verge. They allowed us to approach more closely, and once we had stopped, they happily continued foraging and interacting around us. The female was collecting nesting material and at one point disappeared into the scrub, while the male suddenly lunged and caught a large grasshopper. He hopped up onto the road and seemed to be showing us his prize, before he started to bring it towards us. The sun came out, and he decided that sunbathing was better: he promptly waved his tail around before turning himself into a fluff-ball, with all his feathers puffed out. What an amazing encounter! Finally, having made it onto the reserve itself, we enjoyed Green Jays, White-winged Doves and Olive Sparrows coming in to the feeding area, before embarking on the short drive to the lagoon itself. At a nearby lake, we found a Verdin perched on top of a palm, making its sharp, repetitive call, and the lake held our first Alligator (albeit with just eyes and nostrils visible), with Northern Waterthrush and Stilt Sandpiper on the muddy edge.

Heading back, we popped in to the watchpoint for Aplomado Falcons, but in the hot afternoon we didn't connect with them: a return visit would be needed! In the afternoon, we explored the well-known South Padre birding area around the conference centre, just across from our hotel, where a flock of Indigo Buntings and a pair of Painted Buntings were hopping around on the mown grass under the hotel sign. What was to be our first visit to the conference centre started well, with an *Empidonax* flycatcher (later confidently identified as Least Flycatcher) in the shrubs where we parked the car. The water/feeding site was quiet, so we headed out on the boardwalk into Madre marshes, with white-morph Reddish Egret and Green Heron our first finds. Moving to the first shelter, we had incredible views of a Least Bittern, Sora and Purple Gallinule, before we returned to the grounds of the conference centre, where we quickly caught up with Hooded Warbler and a very handsome Kentucky Warbler, among many other species we had already encountered. An Ovenbird was lurking beneath the shrubs around the feeders, and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds thronged the nectar feeders. We ate dinner at Gabriella's, a delightful restaurant, and decided that we would return to the conference centre grounds before breakfast the following morning.

Day 6

Thursday 23rd April

31°C, sunny with some cloud, becoming overcast and humid

Having left the hotel at dawn (7.00am at this time of year), several of the group returned to the conference centre. Many of the warblers were still present, and new ones revealed themselves too, with the Kentucky Warbler in particular allowing close approach. We enjoyed a Raccoon which visited the water, a pair of Mottled Ducks ambled past, and a Common Nighthawk was flying around the start of the boardwalk. Just as we were leaving to head for breakfast, a Worm-eating Warbler showed well, if briefly, in the vegetation around the feeding site; Gray Catbirds acted like our familiar UK Blackbirds, hopping around on the short grass at close range.

After breakfast, we made a return visit to the Aplomado Falcon site. Initially, it was quiet, although a 'ringtail' Northern Harrier flew by in front, and a Chihuahuan Raven slunk past behind. Birds were moving overhead, with a large kettle of American White Pelicans passing at one point, and Eastern Meadowlarks were singing constantly. We were about to leave when, suddenly, a raptor flew low towards us: it was an Aplomado Falcon, a bird once extirpated in the USA, which has regained a tiny toehold with the help of natural recolonisation and released birds. The elegant, dashing falcon swooped up onto the enormous antenna behind us, and we could just make the bird out as its mate flew in and joined it.

Buoyed by this success, we drove the short distance to the border and our first sighting of the famous Rio Grande area, with the Sabal Palm Sanctuary our first destination. After a quick visit to the historic estate house, which is now the visitor centre, we walked out towards the Rio Grande itself. Walking through natural woods and scrubland, we were intrigued by the huge sheets of Spanish Moss lichen hanging from many of the trees, and all around us birds sang. Rarities included Yellow-green Vireo, and lizards were conspicuous too, with Six-lined Racerunners the most obvious. Having climbed a levée, our first (and only!) sighting of the Rio Grande itself was a bit of an anticlimax: the river here is of modest width, despite its moniker. Human influence and damming upstream has significantly reduced the size of this once formidable border between the USA and Mexico.

Exploring further, we found our first Buff-bellied Hummingbird, obvious with its brown hind end and red beak, and butterflies were active, with the enormous Giant Swallowtail among others noted. Some of the group took another short walk towards a *resaca* (an ox-bow lake) which, due to the prolonged drought, had dried out

completely, but had been refilled artificially the previous November and was being topped up when needed. Least Grebes swam in front of the blind, allowing comparison with the more widely distributed Pied-billed Grebe, and a couple of Yellow-crowned Night Herons lurked around the edges. Common Yellowthroats were seen in the bankside vegetation, and a Northern Waterthrush bobbed around the muddy shoreline, with yellow Floating Bladderwort flowers conspicuous on the water surface.

A quick lunch was followed by an afternoon visit to Resaca de la Palma State Park. It was becoming very humid, so the group chose to stay close to the visitor centre, haunting the air-conditioned space when some respite was needed. Some headed out for a short walk towards the resaca itself, encountering a couple of stunning Mexican Bluewing butterflies, which proved a challenge to get a view of with their wings open! A Mexican Long-nosed (formerly Nine-banded) Armadillo was watched going about its business under the trees, and we returned to the blinds behind the visitor centre where warblers started to drop in (many American warblers migrate across the Gulf of Mexico during the day, arriving in the Rio Grande area in the afternoon). There were lots of Tennessee Warblers accompanying treats such as Northern Parula and Wilson's Warbler. The armadillo we had previously seen put on an incredible show when it appeared in the feeding area, heading straight for a damp patch of overflow and rolling around in the mud!

Dinner was taken in Applebees in Brownsville, before we finished an incredible day in the unlikely birding spot of Oliveria Park in central Brownsville. En route, we spotted two 'correctly-plumaged' Muscovy Ducks in one of the only areas of the US where genuine wild birds are considered to exist. The park was busy with children playing various sports, but this didn't deter the large number of Red-crowned Amazon parrots, which came in from all around to roost in the trees in this small urban location.

Day 7

Friday 24th April

32°C, overcast and humid

After a long day yesterday, we opted for a more leisurely breakfast, but some of the group once again visited the conference centre grounds for the last time beforehand. Hispid Cotton Rats were busy under the feeders, and it was obvious that many of the previous warblers had rested and moved on, but they had been replaced by others, including a stunning male Cape May Warbler which favoured a small *Callistemon* tree, enjoying nectar from the flowers and showing very well. A Lincoln's Sparrow landed on the grass just in front of the car before we headed back to the hotel.

After packing the car, we set off towards Estero Llano Grande, another large wetland reserve along the Rio Grande. We noticed that the rain earlier in the week had encouraged a lot of plants to flower, including the fluffy pink Powderpuff growing in mown grass verges. Just beyond the carpark at Estero Llano Grande was a Crested Caracara nest, with two very well-grown youngsters visible. Water levels in the park were very low, but the *resacas* did have some water in them, supporting birds, dragonflies and alligators. Fulvous Whistling Ducks joined the ubiquitous Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, waders abounded, including handsome Black-necked Stilts. There were a number of White-faced Ibises, and the tall and stately Bluebell (a gentian) grew around the water's edge. Our walk towards one of the outer pools was interrupted by an Alligator right across the path, but when it decided to move off, we were able to continue! The park gave us the opportunity to compare Ash-throated and Brown Crested Flycatchers, and insects were becoming more obvious, with a number of moths on the wall outside the men's toilet! Back at

the carpark we had our first encounter with a very range-restricted (in the USA) member of the true thrush family, Clay-coloured Thrush, before continuing our journey north along the Rio Grande towards the township of Alamo and the famous Alamo Inn, our home for a couple of nights. After settling in, we walked across the road and enjoyed our first Mexican meal in the lovely, traditional El Dorado restaurant opposite the inn.

Day 8

Saturday 25th April

33°C overcast and very humid

Our morning destination was the Santa Ana NWR, and we quickly headed in over a large levée. Butterflies were apparent on the pathside vegetation, with Texan Crescent and Ceraunus Blue the most numerous. An impressive Tarantula Hawk wasp joined them. Grey and Swainson's Hawks circled above us as we took a gentle walk along the Chachalaca trail towards the water. The natural subtropical woodland echoed with birdsong, with vireos and flycatchers everywhere. We took some time admiring the Couch's Kingbirds and then, as we reached the water's edge, we heard an unfamiliar bird above us: it was a Northern Beardless Tyrannulet. American Coots and Least Grebes were the main species on the water, but dragonflies were active too, and we spotted a Western Ribbon Snake hunting in the water.



Brown Anole



Clay-coloured Thrush



Hooded Warbler



Killdeer

Due to our evening plans, we ate our main meal at lunchtime in a Denny's in Edinburg, before making our way to the superb Edinburg Scenic Wetlands for the afternoon. Just by the entrance gate, a Raccoon grabbed our attention, and a tiny Inca Dove was drinking from the decorative water feature. Butterflies were everywhere, with White Peacock, Julia and enormous Gulf Fritillaries very obvious and showy. Spiny Soft-shelled Turtles and Pond Sliders were evident in the pools, and Great Kiskadees called from the surrounding shrubs. The stunning Zebra

Heliconia butterfly skimmed past, and Brown Anoles moved on seemingly every bare piece of branch, frequently displaying their colourful throat flags.

Our final destination was at a private site north of Edinburg at dusk, to listen for owls and other nocturnal birds. Turkeys and Common Ground Doves were joined by a Coyote on the track as we made our way to the rendezvous point. We met our host, who had found a wonderful Texan Horned Toad (lizard!) on her drive up the track. After admiring this scarce and amazing creature, we made our way to the spot where we were met by a kettle of over a hundred migrating Mississippi Kites low overhead. As dusk fell, Common and Lesser Nighthawks hawked for insects all around us, and Common Paurques started calling. Eastern Screech Owls tuned up and a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl called briefly.

Day 9

Sunday 26th April

35°C, overcast with sunny spells, very humid

Our day started at the National Butterfly Center at Bentsen, but we paused just before the entrance to enjoy a field covered in native Common Sunflowers. Conditions were perfect, and we quickly started finding some real beauties: Bordered Patch, Theona Checkerspot, Fiery Skipper and White-striped Longtail among them, with many nectaring on the delightful Texas Frog-fruit. After enjoying the gardens, with a dazzling array of bumblebees and solitary bees joining the butterflies, we explored the wider site. Birds were active, and we discovered new species including the very scarce Audubon's Oriole, and Groove-billed Ani. Brown-crested Flycatchers haunted the butterfly gardens and Clay-coloured Thrushes sang in the surrounding trees. We spent some time in the bird hide, entertained by male Ruby-throated Hummingbirds laying claim to entire feeders and defending them against all comers! Another stunning Tarantula Hawk was discovered nectaring on the garden flowers, and a relaxed Eastern Cottontail rabbit was having a good wash and groom under one of the shrubs.

We took lunch in a nearby Jason's, a popular sandwich chain in the Rio Grande Valley, and everyone was impressed by the range of fillings available, the help yourself side salad bar, and the free ice cream!

In the afternoon, we headed on to our next stop, the wonderful Knolle Farm Ranch near the town of Alice, and said our farewells to the Lower Rio Grande Valley area. The countryside gradually changed as we made our way to the ranch, and roadside birding proved rich, with Swainson's Hawks, vultures, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and other tyrant flycatchers to distract us. We briefly stopped to admire a verge covered in beautiful Mexican Hat flowers before arriving at the wonderful ranch, once the home of the largest Jersey cow herd in the USA, but now very much an upmarket venue and accommodation site. We enjoyed an incredible home-cooked meal before retiring for a well-deserved relaxing evening, with the sound of cicadas and Common Paurques soothing us to sleep.

Day 10

Monday 27th April

35°C, sunny

A delicious home-cooked breakfast awaited us before we set off to explore a part of the ranch, towards the Nueces River. Looking down to the wetland area, we spotted a lovely American Avocet and Green Heron alongside the

more expected species, and admired the pink Showy Primroses growing in the lawn. At the start of our walk, an Eastern Bluebird was perched in a tree as we looked at the profusion of wildflowers in the verge, with Texan Wine Cups in their full magenta glory. A Common Buckeye butterfly was new for the group, and the trees held a couple of vibrant male Vermillion Flycatchers, one of which performed its display flight, fluttering low overhead with scarlet crest raised. The walk was quite exposed, so before too long we retreated to the car and air conditioning, before beginning our journey up into the Texan hill country. A Desert Cottontail rabbit lolloped past, looking like an 'ordinary bunny with half-pint ears'!

As we set off, a Turkey Vulture posed for photographs on a low post, and a small group of Broad-winged Hawks made us pause before we headed off through further ranch country, although we did wonder where we were when we suddenly spotted a Zebra at one point in the journey!

We stopped for lunch mid-journey at a café, before arriving at Neal's Lodges near Concan by the Rio Frio. We quickly found our cabins and made ourselves at home, enjoying the fantastic grounds. We ate an early dinner in the diner opposite, before setting off for our evening outing, which would be one of the highlights of the trip: the Rio Frio bat caves. We were met at the ranch gate by the wardens, and followed them in along an easy track to a small car park. We made a very short walk up to the mouth of the cave, where Cave Swallows were swooping around and allowing us to see the key identification features (like the pale throat) separating them from the much more common and widespread Cliff Swallow. As the sun set, excitement rose, and we didn't have long to wait. All of a sudden, the mouth of the cave was full of swirling Mexican Free-tailed Bats. They all appeared together, streaming out of the cave over our heads like roaring smoke. Red-tailed, Swainson's and Harris Hawks appeared to grab a few bats while the light was still bright, but they quickly left, sated. The whole process takes about three hours, but we stayed for an hour, awestruck as the bats all headed out together across the valley, before going their separate ways to forage overnight. We were privileged to watch this incredible spectacle of twenty to thirty million bats emerging from one of the world's largest colonies of this species.

Day 11

Tuesday 28th April

26°C, misty drizzle, clearing later

Breakfast was served in the diner, where we were distracted by the hummingbird feeders outside: Black-chinned Hummingbirds dominated, with a few migrant Ruby-throated Hummingbirds getting in on the action. In the mist, we headed up towards the Lost Maples NWR, an attractive reserve with hiking trails along river courses and through native hill scrub vegetation. After signing in, we set our sights on an area of the reserve that holds two very rare and range-restricted Texan specialities. Northern Ravens kept us company as we began our walk, delighting in the cooler temperatures. Canyon Wrens sang their descending song around us, and we were able to spot one of these large, bright wrens foraging on the rock cliff face opposite us. Flowers were profuse, with the strange Green Milkweed in full flower: one plant supported a beautiful nectaring Juniper Hairstreak, and another a familiar Red Admiral! Patches of purple-flowered Mealy Sage also proved popular with bees. Yellow-throated Warblers sang from the trees, and we delighted in watching tiny Blue-grey Gnatcatchers foraging along branches. We kept our ears open for the first hint of our quarry, and then we heard the gentle buzzy song of a Golden-cheeked Warbler, one of our targets. Initially, we spotted the bird deep in the branches of a tree, but it eventually revealed itself, perching out in the open, preening and allowing good views. We continued, hearing our other target

(Black-capped Vireo) on a number of occasions, but always deep in the juniper scrub. We waited to see if we could find it, and eventually we caught a glimpse as it flew over our heads, but sadly just a silhouette.

Back at the car, we found a number of Chipping Sparrows in the grass, and we then moved to another area of the park, where some of the group chose to watch the feeding site and Rufous-crowned Sparrows coming in to bathe, while others went for a short walk, finding a large Red-tailed Hawk nest on the cliffs and a Southern Dogface butterfly.

Returning towards Neal's Lodges for the afternoon, we stopped off at a small town for lunch, before having a walk down to the Rio Frio in the grounds. The bridge, which was covered in the nests of Cliff Swallows, led us to a popular bathing pool, which was the origin of this campground. Dragonflies were busy, with a Swift Setwing delightfully posed on a dead twig, and fish were obvious in the water below: Channel Catfish swam below Green Sunfish and Redbreast Sunfish basking in the shallows. Blanchard's Cricket Frogs called occasionally, but as the afternoon progressed, they became more insistent, and by dusk the noise was constant. Lesser Goldfinches came down to the river to bathe as we returned to our cabins. We ate again in the diner, and sat outside afterwards reviewing our sightings, while a Northern Parula sang above us: one member of the group spotted a Black-chinned Hummingbird nest in the tree.

Day 12

Wednesday 29th April

24°C, overcast with light rain initially, misty and humid

Another cooler day saw us pack up the car and head once more up into the hills, this time to Kerr WMA, to the north of Concan. We initially drove up Bobcat Road, stopping at interesting spots. We quickly picked up Field Sparrows and many Painted Buntings, and Black-capped Vireos were singing but remained resolutely out of sight. The first of the iconic Texan lupins (Texas Bluebonnet) had come into flower, and Yellow-breasted Chats were uncharacteristically visible as they sang from the tops of trees. At the top of the road, we again encountered a Black-capped Vireo, and we spent some time looking for this individual. Eventually, and very briefly, it hopped out in full view, allowing its striking black head and broad white eye ring to be seen, but only some of the group saw it before it disappeared once more into the dense juniper scrub. As we came back down the road, a couple of Woodhouse's Scrub Jays noisily flew over, and suddenly a White-tailed Kite flew low overhead, with another one rising out of the trees further down the hillside and interacting with it.

Moving on to the main road in the WMA, we watched a couple of Eastern Phoebes flycatching from a roadside fence, and were struck by just how many Painted Buntings seemed to be around. A Bell's Vireo revealed itself, too. After spending some time, unsuccessfully, trying to see another singing Black-capped Vireo, we finally decided that we were unlikely to get better sightings, especially as song output was dropping significantly as early afternoon approached, so we decided to make tracks for our final destination. Coming down from the hills, the roads were clothed in yellow and orange *Coreopsis* flowers, and we stopped for lunch at a Jersey Mike's Subs in Kerrville before arriving in downtown San Antonio. We met for a final get together and chat after settling in, before eating in the hotel.

Day 13

Thursday 30th April

23°C, overcast, sunny spells with slight breeze

Our final day dawned bright with sunny spells, and after a delicious breakfast we were able to explore San Antonio at liberty. Some chose to visit the famous Alamo Mission, but others walked with Su along part of the fantastic riverwalk towards Hemisfair Park. House Sparrow, White-winged Dove and grackles were the dominant species, but both Fox and Gray Squirrels were tame, and a surprise addition to the list was a pair of Egyptian Geese. As we approached Hemisfair Park, however, things got much more exciting, as an area with tall trees was filled with migrant warblers! As always, the main species was Tennessee Warbler, but others joined them, with some stunning Black-throated Green Warblers showing well. On the ground, we were surprised to see a MacGillivray's Warbler, with its obvious white eye arcs. Yellow and Nashville Warblers were noted too, and then, almost at the eleventh hour we added a final warbler species: a couple of beautiful male Mourning Warblers. Our final bird of the day, and always a popular one, was an unusual warbler, an Ovenbird, which showed well as it investigated a water feature.

Back at the hotel, we packed for the airport, dropping two of the group off at another hotel for their onward flight the following day, before heading to San Antonio airport for our short internal flight to Dallas Fort Worth, where we were to pick up our overnight flight with American Airlines.

Day 14

Friday 1st May

22°C, sunny in UK

After an easy and uneventful flight, we landed at London Heathrow in the early afternoon, and very quickly got through passport control, picked up our bags and sadly made our way home, after a wonderful introduction to the spring wildlife of Texas.

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Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		April 2026													
Common name	Scientific name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>							✓							
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>													✓	
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>		✓												
Canvasback	<i>Aythya valisineria</i>		✓												
Redhead	<i>Aythya americana</i>		✓			✓									
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>		✓												
Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>						✓								
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>		✓			✓			✓						
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>								✓			✓		✓	
Mottled Duck - N	<i>Anas fulvigula</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓						
Plain Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis vetula</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Northern Bobwhite	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>				✓	✓									
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>		✓		✓				✓		✓		✓		
Least Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>						✓		✓						
Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>									✓					
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>		✓			✓			✓						
Greater Roadrunner - N	<i>Geococcyx californianus</i>					✓					✓				
Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>			✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Common Ground Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>								✓						
White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Collared Dove - I	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>					✓				✓	✓				
Feral Rock Dove - I	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>					✓	✓	✓							

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		April 2026												
Common name	Scientific name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>		✓					✓	✓					
Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>					✓	✓	✓						
American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>									✓	✓			
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>			✓										
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			✓				✓						
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>		✓		✓		✓			✓				
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>					✓	✓	✓						
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>							✓						
Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>				✓									
Hudsonian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius hudsonicus</i>			✓										
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>		✓						✓		✓			
Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>					✓								
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓				
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>		✓											
Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>		✓	✓										
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>			✓	✓	✓								
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		✓	✓										
Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>					✓			✓					
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>			✓										
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>			✓		✓								
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>		✓											
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>		✓											
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓					
Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>			✓				✓						
Least Tern	<i>Sternula antillarum</i>			✓			✓	✓						
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>			✓										
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>			✓	✓	✓								

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		April 2026												
Common name	Scientific name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓						
Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>			✓	✓	✓								
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			✓							✓			
Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>			✓										
Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum brasilianum</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
American White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			
Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>						✓							
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Least Bittern	<i>Botaurus exilis</i>					✓	✓							
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Tricoloured Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>			✓		✓		✓						
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>						✓	✓						
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>			✓					✓					
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>				✓	✓		✓		✓	✓			
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>								✓					
Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>								✓					
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>				✓								✓	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Black-chinned Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>		✓		✓						✓	✓	✓	
Buff-bellied Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia yucatanensis</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓				
American Barn Owl	<i>Tyto furcata</i>								✓					
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>								✓					

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		April 2026												
Common name	Scientific name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Eastern Screech Owl	<i>Megascops asio</i>								✓					
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓						
White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>												✓	
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>						✓							
Mississippi Kite	<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>						✓		✓					
Harris's Hawk	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓		✓			
White-tailed Hawk	<i>Geranoaetus albicaudatus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓				
Grey Hawk	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>								✓					
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>								✓		✓			
Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>		✓		✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>		✓	✓										
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes aurifrons</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates scalaris</i>			✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	
Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Aplomado Falcon	<i>Falco femoralis</i>						✓							
Red-crowned Amazon - I	<i>Amazona viridigenalis</i>						✓							
Northern Beardless Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma imberbe</i>								✓					
Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>							✓			✓	✓	✓	
Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>		✓		✓							✓		
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Couch's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus couchii</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>			✓		✓			✓					
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>										✓	✓		
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>													✓
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>					✓								
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		April 2026													
Common name	Scientific name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>					✓									
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>			✓	✓			✓				✓			
Yellow-green Vireo	<i>Vireo flavoviridis</i>						✓								
White-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>											✓	✓		
Black-capped Vireo	<i>Vireo atricapilla</i>											✓	✓		
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>		✓		✓										
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>													✓	
Woodhouse's Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma woodhouseii</i>											✓	✓		
Green Jay	<i>Cyanocorax yncas</i>		✓			✓	✓		✓	✓					
Chihuahuan Raven - N	<i>Corvus cryptoleucus</i>						✓								
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>										✓	✓	✓		
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>		✓		✓								✓		
Verdin - N	<i>Auriparus flaviceps</i>					✓			✓						
Black-crested Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus atricristatus</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			✓			✓								
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
American Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Cave Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon fulva</i>										✓				
American Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>											✓			
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>											✓	✓		
Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>						✓				✓	✓			
Carolina Wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>		✓					✓				✓	✓		
Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>			✓											
Grey Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Long-billed Thrasher - N	<i>Toxostoma longirostre</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Starling - I	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		April 2026													
Common name	Scientific name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>										✓				
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>				✓										
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>				✓										
Clay-coloured Thrush	<i>Turdus grayi</i>							✓	✓	✓					
House Sparrow - I	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>		✓								✓	✓	✓		
Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓		
Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>										✓	✓	✓		
Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>												✓		
Olive Sparrow	<i>Arremonops rufivirgatus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>		✓												
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>							✓							
Rufous-crowned Sparrow - N	<i>Aimophila ruficeps</i>											✓	✓		
Canyon Towhee - N	<i>Melospiza fusca</i>												✓		
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>							✓		✓		✓	✓		
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>				✓	✓	✓								
Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓							
Bullock's Oriole	<i>Icterus bullockiorum</i>									✓					
Altamira Oriole	<i>Icterus gularis</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Audubon's Oriole - N	<i>Icterus graduacauda</i>									✓					
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>						✓	✓		✓					
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Bronzed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>		✓			✓	✓		✓		✓				
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Boat-tailed Grackle - E	<i>Quiscalus major</i>			✓	✓										
Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>					✓	✓	✓						✓	
Worm-eating Warbler	<i>Helmitheros vermivorum</i>					✓									
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>					✓	✓								

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Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>													✓
Tennessee Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis peregrina</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Nashville Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis ruficapilla</i>				✓							✓	✓	✓
MacGillivray's Warbler	<i>Geothlypis tolmiei</i>													✓
Mourning Warbler	<i>Geothlypis philadelphia</i>													✓
Kentucky Warbler	<i>Geothlypis formosa</i>				✓	✓								
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓					
Hooded Warbler	<i>Setophaga citrina</i>				✓	✓								
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>					✓	✓							
Cape May Warbler	<i>Setophaga tigrina</i>							✓						
Cerulean Warbler	<i>Setophaga cerulea</i>			✓										
Northern Parula	<i>Setophaga americana</i>						✓	✓				✓		
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Setophaga magnolia</i>					✓								
Bay-breasted Warbler	<i>Setophaga castanea</i>					✓								
American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga aestiva</i>				✓									✓
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Setophaga pensylvania</i>					✓	✓	✓						
Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Setophaga striata</i>					✓	✓							
Palm Warbler	<i>Setophaga palmarum</i>											✓		
Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Setophaga dominica</i>				✓		✓					✓		
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Setophaga virens</i>			✓		✓								✓
Golden-cheeked Warbler	<i>Setophaga chrysoparia</i>											✓	✓	
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>						✓							
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>				✓	✓	✓							
Dickcissel	<i>Spiza americana</i>					✓								
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
Lazuli Bunting	<i>Passerina amoena</i>				✓									
Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>					✓	✓						✓	
Painted Bunting	<i>Passerina ciris</i>				✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pyrrhuloxia - N	<i>Cardinalis sinuatus</i>								✓					

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Common name	Scientific name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓							

Mammals

N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		April 2026												
Common name	Scientific name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Mexican Long-nosed Armadillo	<i>Dasypus mexicanus</i>						✓		✓					
Black-tailed Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus californicus</i>		✓						✓					
Desert Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>		✓								✓			
Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Coypu - I	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>		✓											
Eastern Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Eastern Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>								✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Hispid Cotton Rat - N	<i>Sigmodon hispidus</i>							✓						
Brazilian Free-tailed Bat	<i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>										✓			
Northern Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>						✓	✓	✓					
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>		✓						✓					
Plains Zebra - I	<i>Equus quagga</i>										✓			
Common Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>			✓										
Blackbuck - I	<i>Antilope cervicapra</i>										✓			
Nilgai - I	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>					✓								
White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>		✓	✓	✓						✓		✓	
Eurasian Wild Pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>					✓								
Collared Peccary	<i>Dicotyles tajacu</i>					✓	✓	✓						

Amphibians & reptiles

E=Endemic		April 2026													
Common name	Scientific name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Blanchard's Cricket Frog	<i>Acris blanchardi</i>										✓	✓			
Pond Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta</i>								✓						
Spiny Softshell Turtle	<i>Apalone spinifera</i>								✓						
American Alligator - E	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>					✓		✓							
Green Anole	<i>Anolis carolinensis</i>							✓	✓		✓				
Brown Anole	<i>Anolis sagrei</i>						✓	✓	✓						
Texas Horned Lizard	<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i>								✓						
Fence Lizard	<i>Sceloporus undulatus</i>					✓									
Rose-bellied Lizard	<i>Sceloporus variabilis</i>					✓									
Six-lined Racerunner	<i>Aspidozelis sexlineata</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓					
Western Ribbon Snake	<i>Thamnophis proximus</i>								✓						

Fishes

Common name	Scientific name
Bluegill	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>
Green Sunfish	<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i>
Redbreast Sunfish	<i>Lepomis auitus</i>
Channel Catfish	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>
Texas Cichlid	<i>Herichthys cyanoguttatus</i>

Butterflies

		April 2026													
Common name	Scientific name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Pipevine Swallowtail	<i>Battus philenor</i>				✓						✓	✓	✓		
Black Swallowtail	<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>										✓				
Giant Swallowtail	<i>Papilio cressphontes</i>					✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			
Great Southern White	<i>Ascia monuste</i>					✓			✓	✓					
Lyside Sulphur	<i>Kricogonia lyside</i>								✓	✓					

Common name	Scientific name	April 2026												
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Southern Dogface	<i>Zerene cesonia</i>											✓		
Large Orange Sulphur	<i>Phoebis agarithe</i>									✓	✓			
Little Yellow	<i>Pyrisitia lisa</i>				✓	✓				✓	✓			
Dainty Sulphur	<i>Nathalis iole</i>				✓					✓	✓			
Juniper Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys gryneus</i>											✓	✓	
Grey Hairstreak	<i>Strymon melinus</i>										✓	✓		
Mallow Scrub Hairstreak	<i>Strymon istapa</i>										✓			
Clytie Ministreak	<i>Ministrymon clytie</i>										✓			
Marine Blue	<i>Leptotes marina</i>									✓	✓			
Ceraunus Blue	<i>Hemiargus ceraunus</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Reakirt's Blue	<i>Echinargus isola</i>										✓			
Rounded Metalmark	<i>Calephelis perditalis</i>										✓			
American Snout	<i>Libytheana carinenta</i>				✓		✓					✓		
Gulf Fritillary	<i>Agraulis vanillae</i>					✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	
Julia	<i>Dryas iulia</i>						✓		✓					
Zebra Heliconian	<i>Heliconius charithonia</i>									✓				
Queen	<i>Danaus gilippus</i>						✓							
Mexican Bluewing	<i>Myscelia ethusa</i>						✓							
White Peacock	<i>Anartia jatrophae</i>				✓					✓			✓	
Common Buckeye	<i>Junonia coenia</i>											✓		
Question Mark	<i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>											✓		
American Lady	<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>												✓	
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>										✓		✓	
Theona Checkerspot	<i>Chlosyne theona</i>										✓			
Bordered Patch	<i>Chlosyne lacinia</i>									✓	✓			
Vesta Crescent	<i>Phyciodes graphica</i>									✓				
Phaon Crescent	<i>Phyciodes phaon</i>										✓			
Texan Crescent	<i>Anthanassa texana</i>				✓					✓				
Pale-banded Crescent	<i>Anthanassa tucis</i>					✓								
White-striped Longtail	<i>Chionides albofasciata</i>										✓			
White Checkered-Skipper	<i>Pyrgus albescens</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				

Common name	Scientific name	April 2026												
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Laviana White-skipper	<i>Heliopetes laviana</i>										✓			
Fiery Skipper	<i>Hylephila phyleus</i>										✓			
Sachem	<i>Atalopedes campestris</i>				✓									
Celia's Roadside-skipper	<i>Amblyscirtes celia</i>										✓	✓		

Moths

Common name	Scientific name
Shagreened Slug Moth	<i>Apoda biguttata</i>
Figure-Seven	<i>Drasteria grandirena</i>
Smaller Parasa	<i>Prasara chloris</i>

Damselflies & dragonflies

Common name	Scientific name
Dusky Dancer	<i>Argia translata</i>
Green Darner	<i>Anax junius</i>
Widow Skimmer	<i>Libellula luctuosa</i>
Roseate Skimmer	<i>Orthemis ferruginea</i>
Eastern Pondhawk	<i>Erythemis simplicicollis</i>
Band-winged Dragonlet	<i>Erythrodiplax umbrata</i>
Swift Setwing	<i>Dythemis velox</i>
Eastern Amberwing	<i>Perithemis tenera</i>
Variiegated Meadowhawk	<i>Sympetrum corruptum</i>
Black Saddlebags	<i>Tramea lacerata</i>

Other invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name
True bugs	
Bloodsucking Conenose	<i>Triatoma sanguisuga</i>
Bees, wasps and ants	
Agapostemon Sweat Bee	<i>Agapostemon virescens</i>
Augochlora Sweat Bee	<i>Augochlora pura</i>
a carpenter bee	<i>Xylocopa</i> sp.
a digger bee	<i>Anthophora</i> sp.
a tarantula hawk	<i>Pepsis</i> sp.
Red Velvet Ant	<i>Dasymutilla magnifica</i>
Spiders	
Silver Garden Spider	<i>Argiope argentata</i>
Banded Garden Spider	<i>Argiope trifasciata</i>
Centipedes	
Multicoloured Centipede	<i>Scolopendra polymorpha</i>

Plants

Common name	Scientific name
Texan Rain Lily	<i>Zephyranthes drummondii</i>
Erect Dayflower	<i>Commelina erecta</i>
Prairie Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia occidentalis</i>
Wild Onion	<i>Allium canadense</i>
Drummond Wild Onion	<i>Allium drummondii</i>
Dotted Blue-eyed Grass	<i>Sisyrinchium pruinatum</i>
Pickeralweed	<i>Pontederia cordata</i>
Texas Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia lindheimeri</i>
Horse Crippler	<i>Echinocactus texensis</i>
Floating Bladderwort	<i>Utricularia radiata</i>
Texas Frog-fruit	<i>Phyla incisa</i>
Rose Vervain	<i>Verbena canadensis</i>
Texas Vervain	<i>Verbena halei</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Spotted Beebalm	<i>Monarda punctata</i>
Tropical Sage	<i>Salvia coccinea</i>
Mealy Sage	<i>Salvia farinacea</i>
Skullcap	<i>Scutellaria drummondii</i>
Tube Tongue	<i>Justicia pilosella</i>
Purple Gerardia	<i>Agalinis purpurea</i>
Texas Toadflax	<i>Linaria texana</i>
Snapdragon Vine	<i>Maurandya antirrhiniflora</i>
Green False Nightshade	<i>Chamaesaracha coronopus</i>
Purple Ground-cherry	<i>Quincula lobata</i>
Bluebells	<i>Eustoma grandiflorum</i>
Antelope Horns	<i>Asclepias asperula</i>
Green Milkweed	<i>Asclepias viridis</i>
Pale Trumpets	<i>Ipomopsis longiflora</i>
Phacelia	<i>Phacelia congesta</i>
Texas Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus equitans</i>
Beach Morning Glory	<i>Ipomoea stolonifera</i>
Sharp-podded Morning Glory	<i>Ipomoea trichocarpa</i>
Angel Trumpets	<i>Acleisanthes longiflora</i>
Rock Nettle	<i>Eucnide bartonioides</i>
Buffalo Gourd	<i>Cucurbita foetidissima</i>
Yellow Puff	<i>Neptunia lutea</i>
Powderpuff	<i>Mimosa strigillosa</i>
Sensitive Briar	<i>Mimosa quadrivalvis</i> var. <i>hystricina</i>
Crimson Clover	<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>
Purple Dalea	<i>Dalea lasiathera</i>
Texas Bluebonnet	<i>Lupines texensis</i>
White Gaura	<i>Oenothera lindheimeri</i>
Beach Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera drummondii</i>
Stemless Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera triloba</i>
Scarlet Gaura	<i>Oenothera suffulta</i>
Showy Primrose	<i>Oenothera speciosa</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Wine Cup	<i>Callirhoe involucrata</i>
Malvalla	<i>Malvella lepidota</i>
White Prickly Poppy	<i>Argemone albiflora</i> subsp. <i>texana</i>
Texas Virgin's Bower	<i>Clematis drummondii</i>
Prairie Larkspur	<i>Delphinium virescens</i>
Scarlet Clematis	<i>Clematis texensis</i>
False Ragweed	<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>
Plume Seed	<i>Rafinesquia neomexicana</i>
Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis basalis</i>
Plains Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i>
Clasping-leaved Coneflower	<i>Dracopis amplexicaulis</i>
Common Sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>
Maximilian Sunflower	<i>Helianthus maximiliani</i>
Texas Dandelion	<i>Pyrrhopappus multicaulis</i>
Mexican Hat	<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>
Brown-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>
Golden Crownbeard	<i>Verbesina encelioides</i>
Basket Flower	<i>Plectocephalus americanus</i>
Texas Thistle	<i>Cirsium texanum</i>
Mistflower	<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>