



## GUIDE TO USING THE MAP

The Great Texas Wildlife Trail – Heart of Texas West includes 12 separate loops, each of which encompasses an array of associated sites and birds. The color-coded loops on the front and back of the map provide easy access to related information. Site symbols on the map are shaped and colored to show access, indicate fees when applicable and denote the availability of developed overnight facilities at each location. This map also furnishes information about the trail locations, including detailed instructions on how to reach each site and GPS coordinates where available. Using this map, travelers will no longer struggle to locate obscure birding spots that may contain the species they traveled to see.

This publication contains an illustrated highway map of the Heart of Texas West that shows the 103 designated sites. Each site is marked with a symbol that points to its location, with the shape of the symbol signifying the following:

- The site is open daily, and developed camping is available at the site.
- ▲ The site is open for day use only.

long weekend to leisurely traverse.

■ Call ahead, access to the site is restricted; visitation may be arranged by contacting the managing entity at the address and telephone number provided.

Note: If the symbol is outlined in black, an entrance fee or donation may be required.

In addition, each symbol is colored to distinguish the segment or loop to which the site belongs. Each site has been assigned to one of the twelve loops, and no loop requires more than a

Descriptions of the sites are on the back of the map, and include directions to each location, examples of the birds to be seen, and contacts for additional information. The text, like the map, is organized by loops. A list of contacts (chambers of commerce, convention and visitors bureaus) begins each section. Information about food, lodging, and local points of interest may be obtained from these organizations. Several also publish maps and guides to the birds and sites in their regions, so visit the local visitor centers when traveling

throughout the hill country for additional information.

To aid travelers, each site is marked with a brown sign illustrated with the familiar Greater Roadrunner logo, as well as a unique site number that corresponds with the map.



art of Texas West (HOTW)

71 (11) State Highway 1604 State Loop or Spur

(P11) Park Road 2437 Farm or Ranch Road

One inch equals approximately 15.25 miles

TPWD, life's better outside.

# **IMPORTANCE OF** NATURE TOURISM

The Great Texas Wildlife Trail program was developed in an effort to make it easier for people to find special places throughout the state of Texas to go wildlife watching. TPWD produced these maps to help visitors by connecting nature tourism destinations into easy driving loops while also supporting sustainable economic development in local communities.

Wildlife watching is big business in Texas! With 4.4 million participants (2.2 million of whom are birdwatchers) wildlife watchers have an overall economic impact of \$13.8 billion on the Texas economy. Wildlife watchers spend more money in Texas each year than hunters or anglers! With the help of this map and the entire Great Texas Wildlife Trail series, enjoy this wonderful state and the great diversity of experiences waiting for you along the highways and back roads. As we like to say at

# TEXAS PADDLING TRAILS

View wildlife from a different vantage point! The Texas Paddling Trails program develops public inland and coastal paddling trails throughout the state and supports these trails with online maps, signage, fishing and wildlife-viewing information, and more! These trails provide well-mapped accessible day trips in a variety of settings and for all levels of paddling experience offering wildlife viewers another avenue for exploring the outdoors. www.tpwd.texas.gov/paddling

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Texas Parks and Wildlife Information: (800) 792-1112 www.tpwd.texas.gov Trail Map Edits and Updates: (512) 389-8697 www.tpwd.texas.gov/wildlifetrails North American Rare Bird Alert: www.narba.org

Texas Travel Information: www.traveltex.com



Texas Parks and Wildlife Conservation License Plates Buy yours at www.conservation-plate.org





nesquite woodland. Excellent nature photography opportunities are available where

blinds are set up to provide proximity to diverse wildlife that includes bobcat, deer and

a number of exotic game species. In addition to a beautiful RV park, Triple R has

#### (866) 488-3055 www.triplerresort.com GPS: 28.6492, -99.7801

## ▲ HOTW 002 RIO BRAVO NATURE CENTER

comfortable, fully-equipped cabins and furnished mobile homes.

From FM 65 and US 83 in Crystal City, go south 3.3 miles on US 83 to FM 191. Turn right and continue 6.3 miles to US 277. Follow US 277 west into Eagle Pass and continue straight on Business 277 (becomes Main St.) to Shelby Park fields and parking lot at the end of the road. From the boat ramp at the back of the parking lot, follow the dirt road along the river's edge off to the right (north).

There is a narrow strip of carrizo brakes that line the dirt road for about 1 mile. At the end of the road, there is a vast cane bed that stretches out along the river. This is one of the largest remaining examples of this habitat left in Texas. White-collared Seedeater occurs throughout these brakes, as do Audubon's Oriole, Black Phoebe, Groove-billed Ani, 3 species of kingfishers, Great Kiskadee, Painted Bunting and Green Jay. American Pelican is present along the river and there is a resident pair of Osprey. Slough Amberwing dragonflies are resident, as are American Rubyspot and Blue-Faced Ringtail a rare species in the rest of Texas. One of the few natural sandstone bluffs demonstrating deposit and erosion along the Rio Grande runs along the right side of the trail. Fourwheel-drive vehicles are recommended when the northern reaches of the trail slop lownward. Limited parking to the right of the bluff is available for the first 0.5-mile. The Border Patrol has accommodated access to this site at all hours for early birdwatching groups. A regional birdwatching brochure is available at the Chamber of Commerce on Garrison St.

#### (830) 773-1836 www.riobravonaturectr.org GPS: 28.7085, -100.5101

▲ HOTW 003 EAGLE PASS HYDRO PLANT ROAD From US 277 and FM 65 in Eagle Pass, head north on US 277 8 miles to FM 1907. Turn left and go 1.6 miles to the bridge. The road is off to the right, along the canal. Park before the bridge and walk; there is no turn around further on. This short roadway along a berm includes measurite-huisache scrub and mixed carried

brakes along the canal. Bird species include Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat and Spotted Towhee, and the trees on the other side of the road provide habitat for Great Kiskadee, Verdin and White-eyed Vireo. Olive Sparrow can be heard singing from the brush as well. This site provides a very good viewing experience because the elevation of the berm puts the viewer at eye-level with the birds in the canopy. GPS: 28.8342, -100.5510

#### ▲ HOTW 004 TXDOT CANYON GRANDE ROADSIDE PARK From FM 1907, take US 277 north 7.8 miles to the park on the right.

This small rest stop along Canyon Grande Creek provides good riparian habitat for Green, Belted and Ringed Kingfishers, and southerly specialties such as Couch's Kingbird, Vermilion Flycatcher and Black Phoebe. Farther south, in the community of Normandy, there is a small population of wintering Sandhill Crane as well as an occasional Burrowing Owl. Roads throughout the farming valley provide excellent diversity for a variety of South Texas species. GPS: 28.9219, -100.6103

#### ▲ HOTW 006 SAN FELIPE CREEK At the junction of US 90 and US 277, head east on US 90 for 0.4 mile, past the San Felip

Golf Club to San Felipe Springs Rd. Turn left and go 0.2 mile to the entrance on the left The spring carries 90 million gallons of water a day through the banks of San Felipe Creek, and the water is crystal blue—a rare treat in any urban community. Large cottonwoods and scattered shade trees line the creek, and an early morning walk will yield kingfishers and Golden-fronted Woodpecker. On the other side of the fairway lies a large stand of carrizo, which can provide a chance to see Lincoln's, Song, Whitecrowned and Field Sparrows and Common Yellowthroat. GPS: 29.3746, -100.8825

## ▲ HOTW 007 PASEO DE LOS NINOS NATURE TRAIL

At the junction of US 90 with US 277, head east on US 90 0.6 mile and turn left on De la Rosa Rd. The road dead-ends after 0.1 mile at Paseo de los Ninos Nature Trail. Located next to Calderon Elementary School, this site offers visitors a chance to see birds and other wildlife characteristic of desert scrub plant communities. Expect to see Blackthroated and Cassin's Sparrows, flocks of Lark Bunting, Cactus and Bewick's Wrens and Pyrrhuloxia, Woodpeckers abound here. A covered area with benches provides an excellent viewing area, and numerous trails wind throughout the tract.

## ▲ HOTW 008 LAGUNA DE PLATA

From US 90 and US 277 in Del Rio, head west on US 90, which becomes Spur 239/Gibbs Rd. Turn left just before the overpass on Avenue T. After turning, bear right and follow the railroad tracks for 1.4 miles. This road becomes Cienegas Rd. Turn left on Frontera drive down 0.5 mile to the soccer fields on your left and park. Opposite the fields is the water treatment plant. A small, signed entrance through the fence will lead you into the

This site contains a brushy section and a settling pond that receives treated effluent from the plant. Before entering the area, check the roadsides for Lesser Goldfinch, Olive Sparrow and Long-billed Thrasher. Twelve species of sparrows have been recorded her The treatment pond provides habitat for wintering and migrating ducks and shorebirds Kiskadees, phoebes and Yellow-rumped Warbler can be seen in the trees that ring the

#### GPS: 29.3496, -100.9381 ▲ HOTW 009 DEL RIO DUCK PONDS

From US 90 and US 277 in Del Rio, head west on US 90, which becomes Spur 239/Gibbs Rd. Turn left just before the overpass on Avenue T. After turning, bear right and follow the railroad tracks for 1.4 miles. This road becomes Cienegas Rd.; continue to Duck Pond Rd. and the pond is on the right. This small pond provides habitat for wintering and migrating waterfowl. Emergent

vegetation around the edge of the pond provides habitat for wading birds and migrating

## GPS: 29.3591, -100.9400

HOTW 010 LAKE AMISTAD NATIONAL RECREATION AREA San Pedro Campground: From US 90 and US 277 in Del Rio, go north on US 90 7.1 miles to Spur 454. Campground entrance is 0.6 mile on the right. Follow gravel

road 0.9 mile to campground. **GPS: 29.4627, -100.9542** The campground is very productive desert bird habitat, and consists of open scrub with acacias, cenizo and willow along the edge of the scrub. Vesper, Field, Cassin's and Blac throated Sparrows and Say's Phoebe can all be seen here in March, along with various other species such as Pyrrhuloxia. Wildflowers are abundant here after a wet winter and the warmer months are good for watching lizards and butterflies.

Hunt Area 1: Return to US 90 and go west 7.5 miles. Cross the bridge over Lake Amista and the hunt area is a few hundred vards past the bridge on the left. Park next to the railroad tracks and go through the walk-through that abuts the locked gate. The area is sometimes closed for hunting, which is noted on the bulletin board at the gate. GPS: 29.4922, -101.0389 The acacia-cactus scrub, combined with rocky outcroppings of limestone, provides

good habitat for wrens. Verdin can be found here year-round along with a variety of sparrows. In spring, the lower part of the trail becomes a lush carpet of wildflowers. Pipevine Swallowtail, Dainty Sulphur, Variegated Fritillary, Black Swallowtail, Checkerec White and Southern Dogface are some of the common butterflies that occur here. Spur 406: Return to US 90, go west 8.2 miles and turn right on Spur 406. Follow the road 5.6 miles to its terminus at the lake. GPS: 29.5481, -101.0191 Interior Least Tern occurs here from mid-April to late summer. Tamarisk lines the road, and trails off to the left take you through stands of acacia that can be filled with

#### be found here. (830) 775-7491 www.nps.gov/amis

HOTW 011 SEMINOLE CANYON STATE PARK AND HISTORIC SITE From US 90 and 163 in Comstock, take US 90 west 9.2 miles to PR 67 on left. Follow PR 67 for 0.5 mile to headquarters.

sparrows. Wintering ducks such as Blue-winged Teal and migrating waterfowl can also

Fate Bell Shelter, in the canyon, contains some of North America's oldest Native American pictographs and is one of the oldest cave dwellings in North America. Tours are conducted twice daily (10 a.m. and 3 p.m.), Wednesday through Sunday, by the par staff. Tours involve a fairly rugged hike to the bottom of the canyon and then up to the shelter to view the paintings. Listen for the distinctive sounds of Rock, Canyon, Bewick's and Cactus Wrens and for the loud twittering overhead of White-throated Swift. Zonetailed Hawk can also occur here. Lechugilla, guajillo, sotol, leather plant, wild onion, lyre-leaf twist-flower phacelia and other plants characteristic of Chihuahuan Desert plant associations are also present.

#### (432) 292-4464 www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/seminole-canyon GPS: 29.6988, -101.3171

## ■ HOTW 012 WHITE SHAMAN PRESERVE From US 90 and 163 in Comstock, take US 90 west 10.5 miles to the gated entrance on

The site offers a chance to experience impressive Pecos River scenery and a rare chance to see the work of prehistoric artists that inhabited these lands thousands of years ago. Characteristic plants include lechuguilla and the gorgeous red blooms of claret-cup cactus. After a wet winter, look for rose vervain and the intensely vivid colors of feather dalea, a bright purple flower that is as dainty as it is remarkable on the brown, rocky, leathery soil. Along the trail you will also see guajillo, recognizable by its long, narrow, mimosa-like leaves.

#### (210) 525-9907 www.rockart.org GPS: 29.7041, -101.3442

#### ▲ HOTW 013 TXDOT ROY BEAN INFORMATION CENTER From US 90 West and Loop 25, head south on Loop 25 0.4 mile to the center on the

The information center showcases a phenomenal native plant garden which exhibits the most common plants of the Chihuahuan Desert. Stroll the garden and familiarize yourself with the plants that characterize this botanical community, as well as some of the rare plants and cacti that live here. See horse crippler, living stone, Langtry rainbow cactus and a variety of other fascinating plants adapted to live in the arid heat of Trans-Pecos Texas.

## GPS: 29.8091, -101.5601

HOTW 015 DEVILS RIVER STATE NATURAL AREA From US 90 and US 277/377, go north 40.3 miles on US 277. Turn left on Dolan Creek Rd. and follow 22 miles on the graded dirt road to the park headquarters. After heavy rains, this road requires high-clearance, 4-wheel-drive vehicles—if heavy rains occur after you have entered the area, exit may be impossible for a full day or more after

Spanning over 20,000 acres, the relative inaccessibility of Devils River SNA makes it a destination for the adventurous. Year-round access to the river is by hiking, biking or park tour only. A series of springs provides up to 80 percent of the river's flow. High cliff faces overlook the river, providing photographic panoramas. Black-capped Vireo, deer, bobcat and armadillo can all be found here in relative abundance, as can Wild Turkey,

Common Ground-Dove, Ringed Kingfisher, Great Kiskadee, Long-billed Thrasher, Olive Sparrow and Hooded Oriole. Along the river, stands of live oak, pecan and sycamore with an understory of shade-tolerant shrubs provide the richest habitat for birdlife at the park. Birds normally associated with eastern habitats find their westernmost extension here, with species such as Chuck-will's-widow, Eastern Wood-Pewee, White-eved Vireo Carolina Wren, Northern Parula and Indigo Bunting. Birds that only rarely make it into the U.S., such as Tropical Parula, have also been recorded here. The park offers several vehicle-accessible primitive campsites. Primitive campsites along the river are available only to canoe campers that have come downriver. Bunkhouse lodging is available by

#### (830) 395-2133 www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/devils-river GPS: 29.9763, -100.9552

## ▲ HOTW 016 FORT CLARK SPRINGS

From Del Rio, take US 90 east 30 miles and turn right into the signed entrance. This site has a long and interesting human history as well as being one of the best birding spots in the area. Seven miles of beautiful creek bottom lined with pecan, mulberry, live oak and mixed hardwoods provides shelter and forage to large flocks of birds. Open wetlands with emergent vegetation add to the variety of habitats. Winter flocks include kinglets, American and Lesser Goldfinches and Pine Siskin. Wading birds, ducks and cormorants are found here, and spring migration can fill the trees with songbirds. Dragonflies are plentiful in both the creek and standing water habitats.

## (830) 563-2493 www.fortclark.com

#### ▲ HOTW 017 US 90 BRACKETTVILLE REST STOP From Brackettville, take US 90 east 13.8 miles to the rest stop on the left.

This mowed field with scattered live oak, mulberry and hackberry provides excellent habitat year-round for a variety of birds. Large flocks of Ruby-crowned Kinglet occur here in the winter, as do a variety of sparrows, including resident Rufous-crowned and Black-throated Sparrows. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Golden-fronted Woodpecker and Vermilion Flycatcher are colorful and easily observed residents at this site. www.go-texas.com/Bracketville-Rest-Stop

NUECES LOOP

## GPS: 29.2482, -100.2018

GPS: 29.3082, -100.4176

#### **Uvalde COC** (830) 278-3361 www.uvalde.org **Uvalde CVB** (800) 588-2533 www.visituvalde.com **Brackettville COC** (830) 563-2466 (830) 775-3551 www.drchamber.com (830) 683-6466 www.edwardscountychamber.org **Rocksprings COC** Texas Hill Country River Region (830) 591-1065 www.hillcountryrivers.com

### **■ HOTW 019 KICKAPOO CAVERN STATE PARK/** DEVIL'S SINKHOLE STATE NATURAL AREA

Kickapoo Cavern SP: From the intersection of US 90 and FM 674 in Brackettville, go north on FM 674 for 22.5 miles to the entrance on the left. GPS: 29.6121, 100.4482 This site covers 6,400 acres of important wildlife habitat and represents a convergence point for three distinct physiographical regions: the Edwards Plateau, Tamaulipan brush and Chihuahuan Desert. Steep limestone canyons provide rich and varied habitat for birds and mammals alike. Juniper and live oak predominate throughout the park, but the canyons contain Texas persimmon, shin oak, agarita and evergreen sumac. Gnatcatchers, vireos, bushtits, Verdin, Varied Bunting, Montezuma Quail and one of the largest concentrations of Black-capped Vireo on public lands all occur here. Gray Vireo can also be seen with relative ease during the breeding season. Mammals that are more commonly seen in the park include White-tailed Deer, raccoon, ringtail, Gray Fox, Rock Squirrel, porcupine, rabbit and various rodents. Uncommon species of reptiles and amphibians live in the park, including Barking Frog, Mottled Rock Rattlesnake and Texas Alligator Lizard. Kickapoo Cavern, approximately 0.25 mile in length, boasts some impressive formations and can be toured by special arrangement. Stuart Bat Cave, slightly shorter than Kickapoo at 1,068 ft., serves as a spring–summer home for large numbers of Mexican Free-tailed Bats from mid-March to about the end of October. Bat flights are often spectacular, and tours are available.

#### Devil's Sinkhole SNA: Located north of Rocksprings on US 377, it features a deep vertical cavern and bat viewing opportunities. Visitors need to call in advance. GPS: 30.0158, -100.2086

www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/kickapoo-cavern Devil's Sinkhole: (830) 683-2287 www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/devils-sinkhole

Kickapoo Cavern: (830) 563-2342

#### ■ HOTW 020 LEDGE WATER CAMPGROUND From TX 377 and TX 55 in Rocksprings, take TX 55 south for 16.8 miles to the

campground on the right. Ledge Water Campground covers roughly 1,000 acres of incredibly beautiful, wooded creek bottom. Much of the acreage is covered with juniper, and a lake formed by a dam on the creek provides a luxurious place to picnic, watch birds in the massive live oaks or swim in crystal clear water. Northern Rough-winged Swallows feed along the banks, and Vermilion Flycatchers snap up insects in the picnic area. Upland habitat can be accessed by roads that allow birders to walk the area above the creek.

#### www.hillcountryoutdoorguide.com/location/ledge-water-campground-2 GPS: 29.8405, -100.1157

#### HOTW 023 PARK CHALK BLUFF From FM 334 and TX 55, go south on TX 55 4.5 miles to gate on right.

Located along the north bank of the Nueces River, this park has long been a favorite of birders, offering "east meets west" habitats and the resulting diversity of birds and other wildlife. Look for the 300-ft.-tall bluff that provides a dramatic backdrop of changing colors and textures. Below the bluff, the river's main channel is edged with dense thickets of willow and other riparian vegetation. These pools are favored hunting sites for Green Kingfisher. Cassin's Sparrow, Bell's Vireo and Vermilion Fly-Catcher, as well as Bewick's, Carolina and Canyon Wrens can be found here. In breeding season, listen for Vellow-throated Vireo, Summer Tanager, Vellow-throated Warbler, Vellow-breasted Chat. Olive Sparrow and Painted Bunting. During spring migration, Clay-colored and Chipping Sparrows, Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, Baltimore and (nesting) Bullock's Orioles and Black-and-white Warbler sing here as well. Less common birds at Chalk Bluff include Ringed Kingfisher, Zone-tailed Hawk, Black-capped Vireo and even Rufouscapped Warbler. Butterflies include White Peacock, Fatal Metal-Mark, Elada Checker Spot, Vesta Crescent and Bordered Patch. The pools and channels of the river provide habitat for a large assortment of dragonflies and damselflies such as Comanche Skimmer, Eastern Pondhawk, Checkered Setwing, Flag-tailed Spinyleg and Comanche and Coppery Dancers. Park Chalk Bluff offers tent and trailer camping as well as cabin, rowboat, paddleboat, inner tube and bicycle rentals.

#### (830) 278-5515 www.chalkbluffpark.com GPS: 29.3700, -99.9796

■ HOTW 024 OPEN V RANCH The Open V includes 250 acres representing a variety of habitats from grassy mesquite scrub with Vesper Sparrow to shady, graveled bottomland along Bird Springs Creek. pond and the Nueces River add to the variety of scenery and habitats. A trail through the property allows guests to enjoy plants and wildlife at their own pace. Comfortable odging is available in the ranch house and camping is available along 2 miles of the Nueces River. Lipan Apache and Jumano Indian artifacts can still be found on the property

#### (830) 278-3499/3883 Call for Directions

GPS: 29.3068, -99.9134 ▲ HOTW 025 COOKS SLOUGH NATURE PARK From the intersection of US 90 and US 83 in Uvalde, go south on US 83 0.4 mile to FM 117. Follow FM 117 south for 0.9 mile to CR 106 West. Turn right and go 0.5 mile

The nature park offers 3 water treatment ponds that provide excellent habitat for wintering and migrating waterfowl. Ducks, cormorants and herons can be found here regularly. A large overflow reservoir provides habitat for Green Kingfisher. Northern Rough-winged and Tree Swallows and Black-bellied Whistling Duck. The nature center is an excellent example of a city using its wastewater facility as a means to create, and then enhance, wildlife habitat

#### (830) 278-4115 GPS: 29.1848, -99.7905

#### ▲ HOTW 026 FORT INGE HISTORICAL PARK From FM 117 and FM 140, go east 1.2 miles on FM 140 and turn right on CR 375;

Established in 1849, Fort Inge runs along the Leona River and provides excellent wildlife habitat very close to Uvalde. Look for characteristic Lower Rio Grande Valley species such as Green Kingfisher, Great Kiskadee and Long-billed Thrasher. The wooded edge of the Leona River below the dam also has a mussel shoal made of native shellfish that still thrive in the clear, unpolluted stream. Wintering birds make use of the cover and the lake above the dam, and migrants fill the trees during spring. Black-chinned Hummingbird nests here.

#### (830) 278-3361 GPS: 29.1839, -99.7612

**Uvalde COC** 

continue 0.3 mile to gated entrance.

## ▲ HOTW 027 UVALDE FISH HATCHERY

From US 90 and US 83 in Uvalde, go west on US 90 1.6 miles to FM 481 and head south 1.9 miles. Entrance is on the right. This federal fish hatchery has historically been one of the best places in Uvalde to see migrating shorebirds and waterbirds. There is a large wetland with two observation towers in the back of the hatchery. When it contains water, the wetland is a good place to see ducks and shorebirds. Yellow-headed Blackbird is seen here in some years. Breeders include Bullock's Oriole and Vermilion Flycatcher. The hatchery is excellent for butterflies, and dragonflies are plentiful due to the emergent vegetation provided by

#### area's summer nesting birds. (830) 278-2419 www.fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/uvalde GPS: 29.1854, -99.8319

## RIO FRIO LOOI

(830) 278-3361 www.uvalde.org (800) 588-2533 www.visituvalde.com

#### **Uvalde CVB** Texas Hill Country River Region (830) 591-1065 www.hillcountryrivers.com ☐ HOTW 028 FRIO BAT FLIGHT

the slough. This is a good site to see Blue Grosbeak and Painted Bunting, two of the

View the second largest population of Mexican Free-tailed Bats in Texas as they make their ascent into the evening sky. Walk to the top of the hill to witness one of nature's most incredible spectacles. Check the sky for Merlin, Peregrine Falcon and Zone-tailed and Red-tailed Hawks, which hover and snatch the exiting bats. Around the cave you will see Cave Swallow and Canvon and Rock Wrens. The 11,000-acre private ranch within which the bat cave is located provides excellent habitat for birds and other wildlife. The guide offers various birding tours on the ranch.

#### (888) 502-9387 Call for Directions www.friobatflight.com GPS: 29.4921, -99.6912 ■ HOTW 029 NEAL'S LODGES

#### From US 83 and US 90 in Uvalde, go north on US 83 for 22.9 miles to TX 127 and go south 0.5 mile to office on left. A favorite place for birders in central Texas for decades, Neal's Lodges is known for its

diversity of habitats and viewing opportunities. Birds typical of east, west and south Texas may all be found within a few minutes' walk from the cabins. You can see birds like Bell's Vireo in drier shrub habitat, hear Yellow-throated Vireo singing from the giant cypresses that border the Frio River, and hear White-eyed Vireo singing from various habitats. Typically, at least 3 pairs of Black-capped Vireo nest in dense vegetation around the cabins and up the hill. Carolina Wren of the east sings beside Canyon Wren of the

west, and Eastern Phoebe nests along with Vermilion Flycatcher. Rio Grande Valley birds such as Long-billed Thrasher and Olive Sparrow can also be found here. Painted Bunting breeds on the site, and Golden-cheeked Warbler is often heard in the taller trees on the eastern side of the Frio. Black Phoebe and Green Kingfisher are regulars on the river banks, as is Yellow-throated Warbler. Birds seen or heard at night include Eastern Screech-Owl, Common Poorwill and Chuck-will's-widow.

# A HOTW 030 RIVER OAKS NATURE TRAIL

## and is distinguished from the superficially similar Ruby-crowned Kinglet by the larger,

From US 83 and US 90 in Uvalde, go north on US 83 for 22.9 miles to TX 127 and go south. Make an immediate left onto CR 348. Go 0.6 mile to entrance on left. Old-growth oak/juniper woodland comprises this network of trails. Beginning in late March, look for Golden-cheeked Warbler. Hutton's Vireo has been seen here as well

#### thicker bill and the propensity to move sluggishly through the canopy as opposed to the kinglet's twig-hopping. Sparrows, bushtits, White-eyed Vireo, Bewick's Wren and a number of hummingbirds can be seen along the trail and at the feeders in front of the River Oaks main office.

#### GPS: 29.5022, -99.7151 △ HOTW 031 FRIO COUNTRY

(830) 232-6106

(830) 232-6118 www.nealslodges.com

GPS: 29.4955, -99.7142

From US 83 and US 90 in Uvalde, go north on US 83 for 22.9 miles to TX 127. Head south on TX 127 and make an immediate left onto CR 348. Continue on CR 348 to the Frio Country Store. Offices are on the left after 1.8 miles.

Frio Country covers more than 800 acres of Hill Country habitat, including river frontage along the Frio, dense oak/juniper woodland that stretches back to the hills that form part of the river's watershed and open grassy areas. Much of this area is unexplored by birders and nature tourists, and you can expect to find all of the birds here that the Hill Country is known for, Golden-cheeked Warbler, Black-capped Vireo, Verdin, Curvebilled Thrasher and Painted Bunting all nest here. Deer, turkey and javelina are common on the property. Activities include hiking and horseback riding. (888) 926-6226 www.friocountry.com

#### GPS: 29.5151, -99.6986 HOTW 032 FRIO RIVER CABINS

From the intersection of TX 127 and US 83, go north on US 83 for 9.8 miles to entrance

Properties total over 200 acres along the Frio River, providing habitat for a variety of wildlife such as fox, porcupines, turkey, deer and Golden-cheeked Warbler. Spanish oak, post oak, red oak, persimmon and elm dot the land. Dense hardwood brush and springs provide good habitats for viewing birds. Green and Belted Kingfishers and Black Phoebe re commonly found on the small island in the middle of the river. Thistles are filled with Red Admiral in the summer, and the bluffs along Buffalo Creek support Blackcapped Vireo. Indian mounds on the property provide an interesting resource for those interested in archaeology and arrowhead findings.

#### (830) 232-5996 www.cabinsfrioriver.com GPS: 29.6324, -99.7534

O HOTW 033 GARNER STATE PARK From US 83, turn east on FM 1050 for 0.2 mile to PR 29, continue to the entrance. One of the most popular state parks in Texas, Garner has an abundance of wildlife, including White-tailed and Axis Deer, Rio Grande Turkey, Mourning Dove, Eastern

Bluebird, Rock and Fox Squirrels and raccoons. The park offers birders riverside birds such as Green Kingfisher, Black Phoebe, Yellow-throated Warbler and Acadian Flycatcher in pockets of moist, shady woods along the river. In the steeper sections of the park, Golden-cheeked Warbler is relatively common. Listen for their buzzy song as you walk the hilly trails throughout the park. In open areas of the park, watch for flycatchers and sparrows, and during migration look for flocks of Clay-colored Sparrows as they move through the Hill Country on their way north. The chilly, spring-fed Frio River provides one of the state's finest venues for swimming and river floating. The park offers campsites, screened shelters, cabins and a full range of activities. (830) 232-6132 www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/garner

## HOTW 034 CLEARWATER RANCH

GPS: 29.5930, -99.7393

The large cypress trees and emergent vegetation along the Frio River provide habitat for ducks and fish. In another part of the 400-acre ranch, Hidden Pond provides a home for turtles and wintering waterfowl, Clearwater Mountain dominates the property, and the ranch road leads to a series of deer paths that will take you to the peak. The view here at dawn or sunset is as good as any you'll get in the Hill Country. Butterflies swarm the hilltop in late spring and summer. This is a great place to tube the river, and cabins are available for overnight guests. (830) 232-6686 Call for Directions www.frio.net GPS: 29.6946, -99.7505

## ■ HOTW 035 HILL COUNTRY NATURE CENTER

The area around the Nature Center has been developed for wildlife with native gardens and a flowing fountain that attract birds and butterflies. A nature guide is available by reservation for guided tours, or you can go on your own across 250 acres of open areas and oak/juniper woodlands that ascend the hills at the back of property. A box canyon provides habitat for Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo. Thirty bluebird nestboxes and 3 bat houses are scattered along the bluebird trail, and benches are available for wildlife viewing and photography. Accommodations include Bluebird Hill vacation home, Star Suite and 1800s-style secluded Hideaway cabin.

## (830) 966-2320 Call for Directions www.hillcountryadventures.com GPS: 29.5970, -99.6702

■ HOTW 036 UTOPIA ON THE RIVER From the intersection of FM 1050 and FM 187 in Utopia, go south on FM 187 1.9 miles. Entrance is on right.

The Sabinal River runs behind the inn, with water so clear you can see the perch catfish and bass swimming in the depths. Green Kingfisher, Black Phoebe and the usual riverside birds can be seen here. The cypresses that line the Sabinal River are some of the largest in Texas. B&B lodging is available. (830) 966-2444 www.utopiaontheriver.com GPS: 29.5854, -99.5203

# BANDERA LOOP

# Bandera County CVB (800) 364-3833 www.banderacowboycapital.com

HOTW 037 SEVEN H RANCH This 700-acre ranch has a great diversity of plants and wildlife typical of the Texas Hill Country. Habitats include relatively flat grasslands with scattered oaks and juniper, steep slopes and canyons, springs and seeps and high ridges over 2,000 ft. in elevation. Spring-fed ponds provide year-round water for wildlife and there are good wildlife viewing and photography opportunities at nearby blinds. Miles of guided hiking trails allow visitors to experience cool, lush canyons and high rocky ridges overlooking a picturesque valley. Activities include guided tours, camping, backpacking, horseback riding and customized weekend packages

#### (830) 966-3782 Call for Directions GPS: 29.6197, -99.4984

GPS: 29.6253, -99.5315

HOTW 038 CLEAR SPRINGS LODGING From Utopia, go north on FM 187 for 3.2 miles. Entrance is on the left. This 14-acre park has a 0.5-mile, mowed nature trail that follows the Sabinal River through oaks and cypress that line the riverbank. Black-chinned Hummingbird, kingfishers, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Orchard Oriole and a variety of sparrow occur along the trail. In the spring, check the large mulberries below the cabins for Bullock's Oriole, Blue and Red-breasted Grosbeask and nesting Summer Tanager. Th

broad, dry river channel produces numerous wildflowers throughout the summer

During spring the trail is alive with butterflies, including Dainty Sulphur, Checkered

#### White, Variegated Fritillary and numerous Pipevine Swallowtail. Dragonflies and damselflies include Blue-ringed and Variable Dancers and American Rubyspot. (830) 966-2164 www.clearspringslodgingutopia.com

HOTW 040 YELLOW ROSE RANCH This 500-acre ranch on Hondo Creek includes creek bottom mixed hardwoods oak/juniper scrub in the hills and a mowed meadow at the entrance that attracts

Grasshopper, Clay-colored, Lark, Chipping and Savannah Sparrows. Ash-throated and

#### Vermilion Flycatchers, Wild Turkey and Blue Grosbeak also occur here. Beautiful Texas madrone trees, with their distinctive smooth, reddish bark, occur throughout the canyon. The ranch has several miles of self-guided walking and equestrian trails Guided birding tours with a wildlife biologist, overnight accommodations, and catch and-release fishing are also available.

## (210) 845-7350 Call for Directions www.yellowroseranch.com GPS: 29.6912, -99.3565

#### ▲ HOTW 041 BANDERA CITY PARK From the intersection of SR 16 and FM 173 in Bandera, go south on FM 173 for 1 block.

In addition to beautiful cypress-lined banks along the Medina River, this site includes a 0.5-mile Native Plant Trail where you can see a variety of plants, including hackberry, live oak, wild grape, juniper, switchgrass, twist-leaf vucca and mealy sage. Deer can also be seen in the park and butterflies congregate along the riverside. Birds to look for include Yellow-throated Warbler, Summer Tanager and Yellow-throated Vireo. (830) 796-3765 www.cityofbandera.org/city\_park.htm

# GPS: 29.7232, -99.0699

■ HOTW 042 FLYING A RANCH This magnificent 10,000-acre ranch offers guided nature hikes throughout various habitats. Black-chinned Hummingbird. Northern Oriole and Ash-throated and Vermilion Flycatchers are several of the bird species found here. Lakes, spring-fed creeks, grassy pastures, rocky draws and oak/juniper woodlands provide a diverse environment for

## (866) 796-4750 Call for Directions www.flyingaranch.net GPS: 29.6986, -99.0571

HOTW 043 WEST 1077 GUEST RANCH This is an equestrian facility for guided rides into Hill Country State Natural Area (SNA) Local birds such as Bewick's Wren, Summer Tanager, Ladder-backed Woodpecker and esting birds of prey are easily seen here. The ranch's proximity to the SNA makes it a prime location for visitors who want to tour the SNA on horseback. (830) 796-5675 Call for Directions www.west1077.com

GPS: 29.6334, -99.1616

■ HOTW 044 HILL COUNTRY EQUESTRIAN LODGE With 275 acres of meadows, riparian thickets and wooded limestone slopes, Hill Country Equestrian Lodge offers fully equipped, attractive private cabins and suites for guests. The slope vegetation includes juniper, oak, mesquite, agarita and other low shrubs. A stream provides water for songbirds and habitat for butterflies and Dickcissel, Blue Grosbeak, Painted Bunting, Wild Turkey and Field, Lark and (830) 796-7950 Call for Directions www.hillcountryequestlodge.com

#### GPS: 29.6427, -99.1768 HOTW 045 HILL COUNTRY STATE NATURAL AREA

From the intersection of FM 173 and FM 1077, go west 10.4 miles on FM 1077. Shortly before reaching the park entrance, the road turns to dirt. Cross West Verde Creek and look for the headquarters on your right, where you can register, pay and obtain a map. The Hill Country SNA comprises 5,400 scenic acres of rocky hills, oak groves, grasslands and canyons crisscrossed by over 40 miles of multi-use trails open to backpacking, horseback riding and mountain biking. The terrain ranges from flat, broad creek

#### horseback is an excellent way to view wildlife, and stables adjacent to the park offer guided tours of the area. During spring, wildflowers such as golden dalea, thistle, prickly pear, skeleton-plant, monarda, Mexican hat and many yellow composites line the road and fill the meadows, providing nectar for an array of butterflies. Black-capped Vireo and Golden-cheeked Warbler nest here. The open meadows along the entrance road and near the park entrance are home to nesting Dickcissel, as well as Grasshopper and Lark Sparrows. Vermilion and Ash-throated Flycatchers hunt the live oaks around the neadquarters. Woodland edge provides views of many songbirds, including Yellow-billed

bottoms to steep, rocky canyons up to 1,900 ft. in elevation. Exploring the park by

#### Cuckoo, Eastern Wood Pewee, Bewick's Wren, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Indigo Bunting and Lesser Goldfinch, Deer, armadillo, raccoon, ringtail, rabbit and various rodents and reptiles are commonly seen. (830) 796-4413 www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/hill-country

GPS: 29.6263, -99.1771

Cline Ranch's 800 acres consist of wooded slopes, meadows and limestone bluffs.

The rolling, Hill Country woodlands are vegetated with black walnut, a variety of oaks,

mountain laurel, redbud, buckeye, agarita and juniper. Grassy meadows are full of

spring wildflowers that attract hawk moths and butterflies, including Checkered White

Black and Pipevine Swallowtails, Variegated Fritillary, Sleepy Orange and Fiery Skipper

Bunting. Guided tours and primitive camping are available. A guest house provides

accommodations next to a spring-fed creek and swimming hole.

Birds include Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, House Finch, Field Sparrow and Painted

(830) 612-2013 Call for Directions www.clineranchoffroadpark.com

Golden-cheeked Warbler. Bear Springs has a 197-species plant list that includes green

oaks, Texas madrone, mountain laurel, buckthorn, gum bumelia, black cherry, cedar

Variegated Fritillary and Pipevine Swallowtail. Singing Canyon Wren and chirping Ash

throated Flycatcher serenade throughout the property. Guided tours are available,

ranging 20 minutes up to 4 hours. The main trail is ADA-accessible and steeper

sage and evergreen sumac. Butterflies abound, including Sleepy Orange, Carolina Satyr,

lily, milkwort, bladderpod, fragrant mimosa, twist-leaf vucca, bear grass, shin and lacev

■ HOTW 046 CLINE RANCH

GPS: 29.6051, -98.9273

canvon trails wind throughout the property.

Since 1986, a small colony of Great Blue Herons has nested in the sycamores and other tall trees along this stretch of the South Fork of the Guadalupe River. Watch for their large stick nests near the treetops. Neotropic and Double-crested Cormorants occur Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Painted and Indigo Buntings, Blue Grosbeak and Chipping Sparrow. Upslope from the Flycatcher, Field and Rufous-crowned Sparrows and Canyon and Bewick's Wrens. Mourning Warbler (skulking in the understory) and Nashville Warbler (active in the treetops) are among the species that have been noted during migration. GPS: 29.9799, -99.4457

## ▲ HOTW 063 SOUTH FORK MARSH

## ■ HOTW 047 BEAR SPRINGS BLOSSOM NATURE PRESERVE This beautiful 128-acre property contains oak/juniper cherry woodlands and nesting

Comanche Skimmers. GPS: 29.9919, -99.4136 HOTW 064 MO-RANCH PRESBYTERIAN ASSEMBLY

#### (830) 460-0814 Call for Directions www.bear-springs-blossom.org GPS: 29.7275, -98.9280

#### ■ HOTW 048 LH7 RANCH This 1,200-acre ranch has the Medina River, a 46-acre lake and a variety of woodlands ranging from spring-fed wetlands to oak mottes and extensive stands of juniper. The ranch bird list contains approximately 225 species. The variety of habitats supports a diversity of butterflies, dragonflies, reptiles, amphibians and mammals. Green Kingfisher. Yellow-throated Warbler, nesting raptors, wintering waterfowl and a variety of flycatchers can be seen. Open areas include pasture and prairie where Dickcissel and Grasshopper Sparrow nest, During October, Monarch Butterflies roost in the trees, Campsites (tent

#### (830) 796-4314 Call for Directions GPS: 29.8203, -99.0997

and RV), cabins and guided tours are available.

▲ HOTW 049 MEDINA GARDEN NURSERY In Bandera, go north on TX 16 for 12.9 miles. Entrance is on the left, across from state highway roadside park, just after crossing the Medina River. This 14-acre nursery and garden is an excellent site for butterflies. In late summer, the bottomlands along the Medina River are covered with cowpen daisies, which attract large numbers of butterflies. Monarchs migrate through Texas from mid- to late-October, covering trees by the thousands. Next to the nursery is a large field with flowers, trees and shrubs that thrive in a variety of Hill Country soils. A variety of birds

#### (830) 589-2771 www.medinagardennursery.com GPS: 29.7957, -99.2405

can be seen in the pecan bottomlands along the river.

▲ HOTW 051 EAGLE ROCK TRAIL Eagle Rock can be viewed from the roadside of FM 2107, 5 miles after turning off TX 16. Mickle Creek Rd. is located another 2 miles down FM 2107 on the right. Eagle Rock is on private land, but can be viewed from the roadside. Raptors and ravens nest in the crevices on the cliff face. Golden and Bald Eagles have both been seen here, as well as other locally common raptors such as Red-tailed Hawk. Mickle Creek Rd. is a regular route for local birders, with habitats that support a variety of sparrows, grosbeaks, orioles, buntings and other songbirds GPS: 29.8748, -99.3419

### HOTW 052 LONESOME HILLS RANCH This 400-acre ranch has an impressive variety of plants, including bigtooth maple,

smoketree, black cherry, buckeye, linden, sycamore and a number of rare plants. Mountaintop trails give panoramic vistas of the surrounding Hill Country. A variety of water habitats, including lakes, creeks, seeps and springs produce an excellent diversity of aquatic insects and amphibians. Butterflies abound on the property. Golden-cheeked Warblers nest in the deep wooded canyons, and habitat restoration for Black-capped Vireo has successfully brought these birds to the ranch

#### (830) 589-2379 Call for Directions GPS: 29.8774, -99.3484

■ HOTW 054 THE NATURE CONSERVANCY'S LOVE CREEK PRESERVE Follow FM 337 west from Medina for 12 miles, the gate will be on the right side across

This 1,400-acre preserve contains some of the most pristine privately owned land in the Hill Country. The habitat contains rich oak/juniper woodland as well as an impressive diversity of hardwoods along Love Creek. The 4.5-mile loop trail through the preserv offers visitors an opportunity to see numerous springs and seeps, a beautiful stand of bigtooth maples and a nesting pair of Zone-tailed Hawks. The full Hill Country complement of woodland birds and wildlife are found here, and dense stands of oldgrowth juniper make it particularly attractive to nesting Golden-cheeked Warbler. Visits must be scheduled in advance, and all tours are guided

#### www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/texas/ placesweprotect/love-creek-preserve.xml GPS: 29.7783, -99.4268

(210) 224-8774

■ HOTW 055 TRAILS END RANCH This 7,200-acre ranch provides guided wildlife tours of multiple Hill Country habitats that include lakes, rivers, stands of live oak and old-growth, oak/juniper woodlands. This large ranch comprises a great diversity of habitats and species. Prehistoric tracks along the riverbed add another element of interest to the site. Exotic animals available for viewing on the ranch include Red Kangaroo, Pere-David's Deer (extinct in its nativ habitat in China), the endangered Barasingha, Zebra, Oryx, Axis Deer and Blackbuck Antelope. The ranch offers specialized wildlife tours as well as hiking trails. Complete

#### lodging and food services available. (830) 589-2935 Call for Directions

GPS: 29.7608, -99.3562 ■ HOTW 056 DOS ARROYOS GUEST HOUSE Located off of FM 337, 1.3 miles east of FM 187 in Vanderpool

This 56-acre tract provides unique, dramatic views of giant cypress along the bottom of Evans Creek, as well as a wooded trail that follows Mills Creek. Golden-cheeked Warblers nest on the property, and oak/juniper/maple bottoms provide excellent habitat for a variety of birds. The property also provides habitat for the endangered Tobusch fishhook cactus. Overnight lodging is available in a comfortable guest house located on

#### (830) 966-2200 www.foxfirecabins.com/properties/dos\_arroyos.html GPS: 29.7546, -99.5329 ■ HOTW 057 A PEACE OF HEAVEN CABINS AND RVS

From FM 187 head 1.1 miles east on FM 337 to the sign on the left. Turn left and go This 25-acre tract on Evans Creek has three guest cabins, catch-and-release fishing for bass and catfish and a swimming hole. Primarily oak/juniper woodland, there are also black walnut and giant cypress along the creek bottom. Look for dragonflies along the

creek, and birds such as Greater Roadrunner, Yellow-throated Warbler, Scrub Jay and

#### Yellow-throated and Bell's Vireos. (830) 966-5198 www.apeaceofheaven.org GPS: 29.7520, -99.5362

▲ HOTW 058 FM 337 SWALLOW COLONY AND OVERLOOK From FM 187 head 0.1 mile east on FM 337 to the bridge. Colony is under the bridge. Do not approach the Cliff Swallow colony too closely; the birds are easily disturbed by humans. Cliff Swallow is distinguished from Cave Swallow by their pale, buff foreheads

#### and chestnut breasts. Their flask-shaped nests are commonly made beneath bridges. whereas Cave Swallows generally nest under road culverts. The scenic overlooks on FM 337 have paved pull-outs and are excellent spots to photograph the river valley and scan for cruising raptors such as Zone-tailed Hawk. GPS: 29.7444, -99.5536

■ HOTW 059 THE LODGES AT LOST MAPLES/ST. CLARE'S CABIN

Wood Pewee, Canyon and Bewick's Wrens, Red-eved and Black-capped Vireos, Black-

and-white Warbler, Indigo Bunting and Field Sparrow. Cabins are available, some with

Go west on FM 337 to its intersection with FM 187. Turn north on FM 187 for 1.1 miles until it reconnects with FM 337 West. Turn left and go west 4.1 miles to Lower Sabinal Rd. Turn left; cabins are on the right The site's 146 acres rise from a flat meadow to a wooded hilltop. Two small springs flow from a shady oak and walnut-lined canyon, providing water for a pond that attracts dragonflies such as Red Saddlebags and Widow Skimmer, butterflies, birds and mammals, Juniper, mountain laurel and several species of oak cover the hillsides. Feeders attract Black-chinned Hummingbird, Tufted Titmouse, Chipping Sparrow, Northern Cardinal and House Finch. Other species include Vermilion Flycatcher, Eastern

#### river access. (877) 216-5627 www.lostmaplescabins.com GPS: 29.7369, -99.6168

HOTW 060 FOXFIRE CABINS From FM 337 and FM 187, head north on FM 187 for 2.7 miles to cabins on the left. This 5-acre property on the Sabinal River has scenic views of the river and birds such as Green and Belted Kingfishers, Cave Swallow, White-eyed Vireo, Wild Turkey, Whip-poorwill, Chuck-will's-widow, Painted Bunting, owls and bats. The thickets along the river attract a variety of birds during spring migration. The 7 fully-furnished log cabins and larger log home on the property provide a great place to stay while touring the area. Guests can also fish and swim in the river.

## GPS: 29.7924, -99.5754 HOTW 061 LOST MAPLES STATE NATURAL AREA

(877) 966-8200 www.foxfirecabins.com

GPS: 29.8260, -99.5870

From FM 337 and FM 187, head north on FM 187 for 3.7 miles. Park is on the left This is one of the premier wildlife viewing destinations in Texas. Lost Maples covers more than 2,200 acres and is an outstanding example of Edwards Plateau flora and estone canyons, springs, piateau grassiano wooded slopes and clear streams. The park provides habitat for 2 rare songbirds that nest in central Texas: the Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo. Other birds include Zone-tailed Hawk and Green Kingfisher. The Sabinal River cuts through the park and provides excellent viewing for birds such as Canyon Wren and Summer Tanager. Mammals include Gray Fox, White-tailed Deer, armadillo, raccoon, bobcat, Rock Squirrel and javelina. Eleven miles of trails lead visitors into stands of black cherry, sycamore, pecan, Spanish oak, hackberry and walnut. The park features a large, isolated stand of uncommon bigtooth maple, whose fall foliage can be spectacular. Generally, the foliage changes the last 2 weeks of October through the first 2 weeks of November. The park is extremely popular during the fall and is often crowded, so for maximum enjoyment and serenity, we suggest visitors schedule trips during the weekdays, if possible. (830) 966-3413 www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/lost-maples

## HEART OF THE HILLS LOOP

Kerrville CVB (800) 221-7958 www.kerrvilletexascvb.com Kerrville Area COC (830) 896-1155 ▲ HOTW 062 THE ROOKERY

From the intersection of FM 187 and TX 39, go 8.5 miles east on TX 39 to Lynxhaven Lodge. Park in the vicinity of the Lodge, or a bit downstream toward Hunt here as well. Along the road, listen for Golden-fronted and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers road, you may hear or see Golden-cheeked and Black-and-white Warblers, Ash-throated

From the intersection of FM 187 and TX 39, go 11.5 miles east on TX 39 to the marsh on This large marsh provides habitat for birds that are relatively uncommon in the

Hill Country. Besides harboring songbirds in the surrounding oaks, black walnuts, sycamores, junipers and other trees, the marsh attracts Laughing Gull, Sedge and Marsh Wrens and wintering Swamp, White-throated and Song Sparrows. During the summer watch for Green Herons, Red-winged Blackbirds and Northern Rough-winged and Cliff Swallows. Dragonflies are abundant in the summer, including Checkered and Swift Setwings, Eastern Pondhawk, Banded Pennant, Black and White Widow and Western

#### From TX 39 and FM 1340 in Hunt, head west 10.7 miles on FM 1340. Turn right into the Mo-Ranch Presbyterian Conference Center

The Mo-Ranch is a 475-acre site used as a conference center, summer camp and religious and social retreat. Its rolling grounds offer a variety of habitats, from tall oaks, sycamore and black walnut in the riparian zone to cedar, agarita, yucca and persimmon on the upper limestone slopes. Birds include Eastern Screech-Owl, Tufted Titmouse, Golden-cheeked Warbler, Scott's Oriole, Summer Tanager, House Finch, Blue Grosbeak and Rock, Bewick's and Carolina Wrens. Along the Guadalupe, watch for Green Kingfisher, Black Phoebe in winter, Great Blue and Green Herons and wintering waterfowl. A restaurant, gift shop and variety of lodging are available, and activities include camping, swimming, hiking, horseback riding and canoeing. (800) 460-4401 www.moranch.com

#### GPS: 30.0619, -99.4722 ■ HOTW 065 STOWERS RANCH

This well-managed ranch has a diversity of wildlife and habitats that include rolling oak hills, steep slopes with stands of mixed juniper woodland, sculpted cliffs, dense riparian woodlands and the clear, cool Flat Rock Creek. Birds to see include Yellow-throated and Red-eved Vireos, Canyon Wren, Cliff Swallow, Blue Grosbeak, Painted Bunting, Lark and Field Sparrows and Scissor-tailed and Vermilion Flycatchers. Fish, amphibians and dragonflies can be seen along the creek. Ranch guests may stay in cabins on-site and have access to much of the ranch's 11,000 acres. (830) 238-4346 Call for Directions www.stowersranch.com

#### GPS: 30.0530, -99.5122 ▲ HOTW 066 KERR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA From TX 39 and FM 1340 in Hunt, head west 12.6 miles on FM 1340. The well-marked

gate is on the north side of the road. Purchased in 1950, this 6,493-acre WMA supports healthy plant and animal communities representative of the Hill Country. Two of the most sought-after bird species located here are the endangered Black-capped Vireo and Golden-cheeked Warbler. Golden-cheeked Warbler is generally located near stands of mature cedar, and the best opportunity for viewing it on the Kerr is in the Spring Trap Pasture. Black-capped Vireo is much more abundant on the Kerr, with over 400 singing males documented during the 2000 survey. This species is mainly associated with low-growing brush, which is it preferred nesting structure. Black-capped Vireo is located throughout most of the Kerr, with the best viewing opportunities in the Doe and Fawn Pastures. Visitors need to register at the bulletin board located at the office. Regularly scheduled tours are available and additional information can be obtained from TPWD staff during office hours (M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.).

#### (830) 238-4483 www.tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/hunt/wma/find\_a\_wma/list/?id=12 GPS: 30.0621, -99.5040

▲ HOTW 067 STOWERS RANCH ROADSIDE ON FM 1340 AT BONEYARD DRAW From TX 39 and FM 1340 in Hunt, head west 14.4 miles on FM 1340. You will reach a long bridge with a sign for the North Fork of the Guadalupe River. Park at the east end of The North Fork of the Guadalupe flows beneath tall cliffs on the south bank. Scan the

#### spring and summer, watch the cliff area for breeding Zone-tailed Hawk. Wood Ducks are present much of the year in the pool on the north side of the bridge. GPS: 30.0667, -99.5546

cliffs from either end of the bridge for both Bald and Golden Eagles roosting on the

cliffs from early November to late March. One of the state's largest winter roosts of Wild

Turkey occurs here as well, and late in the day these birds return to trees below the

cliffs. Winter birds include Verdin, Sage Thrasher and a variety of puddle ducks. Durin

▲ HOTW 068 KERRVILLE KAYAK AND CANOE From FM 1340 and TX 39, go east/left on TX 39 0.5 mile to picnic area on right. This is the canoe put-in for a 4-mile trip down the South Fork of the Guadalupe, ending at the Ingram Lake boat ramp. The banks of this stretch are under private ownership, so paddling is the best way to see these clear, spring-fed waters. Paddlers may encounter bass, catfish, frogs, water snakes, Red-eared Slider and Soft-shelled Turtle, as well as river birds such as Belted and Green Kingfishers, Black Phoebe, swallows, Yellowthroated Vireo and Yellow-throated Warbler. Dragonflies and damselflies are abundant and include the needle-like Orange-striped Threadtail, whose U.S. range is restricted to a few Hill Country rivers. The large, bright blue Comanche Dancer, another Hill Country specialty, is one of many damselflies you may see. Arrangements for canoe or kayak rental, as well as shuttle services, maps and information concerning river conditions, are available at Kerrville Kayak and Canoe, 130 W. Main St., Kerrville.

#### (830) 459-2122 www.paddlekerrville.net GPS: 30.0690, -99.3230 ▲ HOTW 069 HEART OF THE HILLS FISHERIES CENTER

From TX 39 and TX 27 in Ingram, take TX 27 north for 9.1 miles. Entrance is on the left/ This TPWD fisheries research site contains 25 shallow ponds that provide exceller habitat for wintering waterfowl. Pied-billed and Eared Grebes, Northern Pintail, 3 varieties of teal, Lesser Scaup and Bufflehead are a few of the species that occur here. Killdeer, Common Snipe and Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers are other birds to look for The ponds are particularly inviting to Hill Country frogs—Chorus, Cricket and Leopard Frogs and Bullfrog all make use of the shallow, muddy habitat. Visitors need to check in at the office (M–F, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.).

#### (830) 866-3356 www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/management/research/inland

GPS: 30.1577, -99.3450 ▲ HOTW 070 SUNSET CEMETERY AT HEART OF THE HILLS RESEARCH STATION From TX 39 and TX 27 in Ingram, take TX 27 north for 9.2 miles to a small road on the left that leads 0.3 mile to the cemetery, just past the Fisheries Center. This cemetery is sparsely wooded by oak, pecan, hackberry, some cypress and a few mesquite trees. Wildflowers scattered throughout the site include green milkweed, Texas thistle, gaillardia, Mexican hat, monarda and skeleton plant. Look for butterflies such as

Checkered White, Sleepy Orange, Queen and Variegated Fritillary. Orchard Oriole, Ash-

#### throated Flycatcher, Lark Sparrow and Eastern Phoebe can also be seen here. GPS: 30.1594, -99.3471 ▲ HOTW 071 MOUNTAIN HOME BRIDGE

From TX 41 and TX 27, head 0.5 mile west on TX 41 to Mountain Home Rd. Take a left and continue 0.4 mile to bridge. This bridge overlooks Johnson Creek. From the bridge, enjoy a scenic view of the rock bottom creek bed lined with pecan, mesquite and elm trees. Above the creek lie slopes of cedar from which singing Golden-cheeked Warbler may be heard in late spring and early summer, Birds include Painted Bunting, Orchard Oriole, Blue Grosbeak, Whiteeyed Vireo and Canyon Wren. Wild Turkey can be spied crossing the creek. Green and Belted Kingfishers occur along the creek as well. Butterflies include Pipevine Swallowtail, Sleepy Orange, Hackberry Emperor, Question Mark, Dainty Sulphur and

Red-spotted Purple. In the spring and fall, Mexican Free-tailed Bats roost beneath this

# LITTLE DEUTSCHLAND LOOP

bridge, and can be seen emerging at dusk and returning at dawn.

GPS: 30.1735, -99.3793

Kerrville CVB (800) 221-7958 www.kerrvilletexascvb.com (830) 896-1155 www.kerrvilletx.com Kerrville Area COC ▲ HOTW 072 CYPRESS PARK & KNAPP CROSSING PARK Cypress Park: From the intersection of TX 27 and TX 39 in Ingram, go east on TX 27 for 3.6 miles to park on right. **GPS**: 30.0654, -99.1782 Bird activity along the river can be brisk (especially in spring), and wildflowers such as gaura, Mexican hat, lemon beebalm, buttonbush, and various mustards provide food for

numerous butterflies. During summer, swifts and swallows feed over the river. Ladder-

backed Woodpecker, Carolina Wren and White-eved Vireo call from the shrubby

margins and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher hunts from the treetops. You may hear Yellow

This site is very similar to nearby Cypress Creek Park, but has a small boat ramp and,

#### throated Warbler or see Green Kingfisher here. In winter, watch for Osprey and waterfowl. Look for gulls and terns after spring storms. Knapp Crossing Park: From Cypress Park, turn right and go 0.9 mile on TX 27. Turn south (toward the river) on Knapp Rd.; the road dead-ends after about 0.1 mile. GPS: 30.0603, -99.1685

seasonally, canoe and kayak rental. In summer, the tiny, low-growing white and purple blossoms of frog-fruit are alive with Phaon Crescents and other small butterflies, which in turn provide food for Flag-tailed Spinylegs, Eastern Pondhawk and other locally Cypress Park: www.kerrvilletx.gov/index.aspx?NID=1082 Knapp Crossing Park: www.kerrvilletx.gov/index.aspx?NID=1087

From the intersection of TX 27 and TX 16 in Kerrville, go 0.5 mile west on TX 27 to

Francisco Lemos. Turn left (south) on Francisco Lemos and go just beyond the next

This attractive urban nature center showcases several small but diverse habitats while providing an array of educational services for the public. In summer, the gardens invite Black-chinned Hummingbird and butterflies such as Gray Hairstreak, Queen, Variegated and Gulf Fritillaries, Checkered White and Fiery and Eufala Skippers. Dragonflies abound along the weedy woodland edges, and the woods along the creek provide habitat for Green Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Carolina Chickadee and nesting Red-shouldered Hawk. The site is excellent during migration, with over 150 species of birds being recorded.

## (830) 257-4837 www.riversidenaturecenter.org GPS: 30.0500, -99.1484

**▲ HOTW 073 RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER** 

stoplight. The nature center is on the right.

▲ HOTW 074 LOUISE HAYS PARK & TRANQUILITY ISLAND From the intersection of TX 27 and TX 16 in Kerrville, go south a short distance on TX 16, crossing the Guadalupe River bridge. Immediately turn right (west) on Thompson

Rd. After 0.1 mile, turn right to enter the park.

This site provides access to the graveled margin of the south side of the Guadalupe River and an island in the channel. During spring, Yellow-throated Warblers sing in the ypress trees lining the north side of the river, and Cliff Swallows nest under the bridg In late summer, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Purple Martin gather here prior to migrating to Latin America, Osprey (winter), Great Blue Heron and other large wader Belted and occasionally Green Kingfishers, and the occasional tern or gull may be seen. Watch for Comanche and Widow Skimmers, Checkered Setwing, Stream and Double-

riparian areas and wildflower-filled meadows provide excellent habitat for wintering and

Bewick's Wrens, Yellow-throated Warbler, Yellow-throated and White-eved Vireos, Blue-

During summer, there are numerous damselflies and dragonflies such as Sulphur-tipped

migrating birds, Summertime visitors will see Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Carolina and

gray Gnatcatcher, Chimney Swift, swallows and Green Kingfisher. Winter birds include

sparrows, Orange-crowned Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo and a scattering of waterfow

Clubtail, Flag-tailed Spinyleg and Five-striped Leaftail. Butterflies are numerous in the

the park road ascends to a series of camping and trailer loops, from which you may

loops. White-tailed Deer abound in this part of the park and are easily photographe

The birds and vegetation of these limestone uplands have a distinctly western flavor

From TX 16 and TX 27 in Kerrville, take TX 27 south 1.6 miles to Loop 534. Take a right

and then a left onto River Rd. Go 0.2 mile to parking lot and boat ramp on the right.

A low dam crosses the Guadalupe River at the eastern end of this park, forming a long

shallow lake that provides habitat for a variety of waterbirds. Wildlife can be viewed

by walking or driving the northern shore on a trail/road that can be accessed at the

westernmost parking lot, as well as several points further east on River Rd. Walking is

recommended because the trees along the north shore attract landbirds, and during

of waterfowl. Watch for all 3 kingfishers. Walking west, you'll encounter large

hackberries, pecans, oaks and willows, excellent habitat for wintering flocks of

www.kerrvilletexascvb.com/locations/flat-rock-lake-park

▲ HOTW 078 THIRD CREEK CANYON

summer butterflies and dragonflies abound. In winter, the open water attracts a varie

From TX 16 and TX 27 in Kerrville, take TX 27 south to FM 1341/Cypress Creek Rd. Turn

left (east) and go 4.6 miles to an oak and sycamore-lined canyon. Park before the towe

This is a favorite spot with local birders, who find it excellent during migrations and

filled with nesting birds in summer. Western species such as Western Scrub-Jay mingl

migration, the red oaks, pecans, cherries, sycamores and black walnuts are alive wit

prevalent, Ladder-backed and Golden-fronted Woodpeckers, Golden-cheeked Warble

and Rufous-crowned Sparrow may be seen. Great Spreadwing, a large damselfly that

often occurs along small streams or shady seeps, has been seen along the roadside.

HOTW 079 LADY BIRD JOHNSON MUNICIPAL PARK —

and Lincoln's Sparrows utilize the hedgerows, brush, open prairies and mixed

with easterners such as Yellow-throated Vireo and Eastern Wood-Pewee. After fall

feeding flocks of sparrows, warblers and Hermit Thrush. Where juniper is more

compared with the river bottom habitat across the road.

GPS: 30.0114, -99.1229

insectivorous birds.

GPS: 30.0100, -99.1151

GPS: 30.058658, -99.0706

(830) 257-7300 www.kerrville.org/index.aspx?NID=318

▲ HOTW 077 KERR COUNTY PARK AT FLAT ROCK LAKE

access several additional miles of hiking and biking trails, most of which are set up as

meadows and forest edge and at the small garden at the park entrance. Across TX 173

#### GPS: 30.7369, -99.2168 striped Bluets and the needle-like, Orange-striped Threadtail (830) 257-7300 www.kerrvilletx.gov/index.aspx?NID=829 GPS: 30.0456, -99.1457

From the intersection of TX 29 and US 87 in Mason, go south on US 87 1.2 miles to the intersection with FM 1723. Go south on FM 1723 for 2.3 miles to a Y-intersection. Take ■ HOTW 076 KERRVILLE-SCHREINER PARK a right onto FM 2389 for 4.8 miles to James River Rd. Continue on James River Rd. for From TX 16 and TX 27 in Kerrville, take TX 16 south to TX 173. Turn left and go 8.2 miles to Bat Cave Preserve. Just before reaching the preserve, you must cross the 2.1 miles to park entrance on right. Request a park map and bird list. Iames River in your vehicle. River levels can be as low as a few inches in dry conditions The park offers a representative sampling of Hill Country landscape, with acres of and higher during wet seasons. juniper, live oak and Spanish oak populating the hills and arroyos. Other plants include redbud, sumac, buckeye, pecan, mesquite and several varieties of flowers. The Texas bluebonnet is one of the most plentiful and colorful of the native plants. Clumps of trees,

park entrance on left.

▲ HOTW 088 FORT MASON CITY PARK

#### The bat cave is located on a trail about 1,500 ft. from the parking lot. This Nature Conservancy property is host to one of the largest maternal colonies of Mexican Freetailed Bats in Texas. The females use the cave to bear and rear their young, migrating back to Mexico in the fall. The woodland scrub and rocky terrain is habitat for Painted Bunting, Canyon Wren and Black-throated Sparrow. The preserve is open mid-May through early October, call ahead for open dates and hours.

In Mason, from the intersection of TX 29 and US 87, go south on US 87 1.2 miles to

A short nature trail meanders through mixed deciduous woodlands along Comanche

Creek, These creekside woodlands are home to nesting Summer Tanager, Yellow-billed

creek include Eastern Pondhawk, Common Whitetail and Roseate Skimmer. Butterflies

abound throughout the trail, offering wildlife enthusiasts a full spectrum of vibrant color.

Cuckoo, Blue Grosbeak and Great-crested Flycatcher. Dragonflies skirting along the

www.mason.tx.citygovt.org/CityDepartments/ParkDepartment.aspx

▲ HOTW 089 ECKERT JAMES RIVER BAT CAVE PRESERVE

## (325) 347-5970 www.nature.org/texas GPS: 30.5679, -99.3308 LLANO LOOP

#### (325) 446-3190 www.junctiontexas.net **Kimble County COC** HOTW 089A SCHUSTER RANCH

From Junction, head east on I-10 8 miles to FM 2169. Drive east on FM 2169 for 0.3 mile and turn north on Dunk Rd. The Schuster gate is 0.7 mile. The ranch boasts year-round, spring-fed Sycamore Creek which creates a riparian zone through the valley with drivable water dams. Pecans, oaks, sycamores and walnuts with brush understory along the creek provide habitat for birds and wildlife. Large bluffs

provide great Hill Country Views. Cabin and RV camping available, call for reservations.

#### GPS: 30.4198, -99.6580 HOTW 090 JUNCTION WASTEWATER TREATMENT PONDS

(432) 978-7234 / 7192 www.schusterranch.com

From US 377 and I-10 in Junction, go east on I-10 for 1.7 miles to FM 2169 Exit 457. Go north over I-10 0.5 mile to the ponds on the left. These ponds provide habitat for migratory and wintering waterfowl. Look for a variety of teal, grebes and diving ducks. The summers come alive with a diversity and abundance of dragonflies, including Four-spotted Pennant, Common Whitetail, Eastern Amberwing, Eastern Ringtail, Common Green Darner, Roseate Skimmer, Widow Skimmer and Prince Baskettail. Dragonflies are most easily seen along the water's edge and perched along

## GPS: 30.4971, -99.7421

the brushy fence lines.

(325) 446-3880

▲ HOTW 091 SCHREINER CITY PARK From I-10 in Junction, head south on FM 2169 0.9 mile to FM 481. Turn right on FM 481 and follow to the park entrance. The pecan groves along the river bottom can be productive for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Golden-fronted and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers. This park fringes upon the Llano River just before it feeds into Lake Junction. Look for Ruddy and Ring-necked Duck, Redhead, Lesser Scaup and Bufflehead.

shores of the South Llano River. Look here for Western Kingbird, Ash-throated and

Great-crested Flycatchers and Western Scrub-Jay. In the river bottom, look for Green

Kingfisher and White-eyed Vireo. Dragonflies include Widow and Roseate Skimmers,

Eastern Pondhawk and Blue Dasher. Blanchard's Cricket Frog and Spotted Chorus Frog

can also be seen and heard along the small pond adjacent to the river. A trail along the

Pyrrhuloxia. Keep your eyes moving to spy soaring Zone-tailed Hawk mixed in flocks

Grande Turkey. The bottomland represents one of the most substantial and oldest winter

visitors from October through March, Observation blinds are provided to offer visitors a

glimpse of the Turkey moving to and from the roost. Other animals include White-tailed

eer, squirrel, jackrabbit, javelina, fox, beaver, bobcat, cottontail and armadillo. Feeders

Sulphur and Queen Butterflies can be seen around blooming wildflowers, but also look

Buntings, Blue Grosbeak and Yellow-throated Vireo. Reptiles include Eastern Yellowbelly

SAN SABA RIVER LOOP

www.menardchamber.com

www.eldoradotexas.us

www.sonoratx-chamber.com

Racer, Western Coachwhip and Bullsnake. Also look for lizards such as Prairie-lined

(325) 446-3994 www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/south-llano-river

(325) 396-2365

From Junction, take US 83 north to Menard. Turn left/west on San Saba Ave. and go

This park can be crowded on the weekends, but during weekdays it is often quiet. Check

the east end of the park where it juts into the river for kingfishers, swallows, herons and

In Menard, take US 83 north across the San Saba River. Take the first right after the

This city park consists of an extensive pecan grove, with a 0.5-mile trail that follows the

From Menard, take US 190 west 16.4 miles. Turn south on FM 864 and go 6.1 miles to

Flycatchers. The short trail down to Government Spring, an underwater source that feeds

the nearby headwaters of the San Saba River, takes visitors to a wooded natural spring,

where birds such as Brown Thrasher and White-eyed Vireo can be found. The shrub

habitat leading to the springs hosts woodpeckers, Painted Bunting and Pyrrhuloxia.

The springs and the trail are both alive in summer with lizards, butterflies and aquatic

SONORA LOOP

From I-10 and US 277, head south on US 277. Make an immediate left on Water St., turn

left on Mulberry St. and take the next left on City Hill Rd. The entrance to Eaton Hill

These 37 acres of Hill Country woodland and West Texas desert provide wildlife watching

hiking, picnicking and opportunities to enjoy geology, botany and even fossil studies for

free. Deer, fox, Rock Squirrels and the occasional covote may be seen, and the assortmen

Scrub Jay, Hooded Oriole and Cactus Wren—it is a birder's paradise. The Nature Center

From Sonora, take I-10 west to Exit 392. Take FM 1989 south for 5.6 miles to the large

rock entrance sign on the left. Turn left and continue 1.5 miles to the office.

turn right (east) and continue for 6.8 miles to the ranch entrance on the right.

This 7.100-acre ranch offers 15 miles of nature, hiking and mountain biking trails. The

trails meander through the rocky terrain, with scenic views of valleys and hillsides. Look

for Greater Roadrunner, Scaled Quail, Northern Bobwhite, Wild Turkey, Canyon Towhee.

look for sparrows, woodpeckers, Mountain Bluebird and Sage Thrasher. Dragonflies are

plentiful at the pond near the lodge. A wide variety of reptiles and mammals also inhabit

the ranch. Activities include wildlife viewing, photography, hiking, stargazing, swimming

and relaxing in the peaceful surroundings. The ranch has a lodge and cabins as well as a

secluded guest house available for overnight guests and groups. RV and tent camping is

Verdin, Pyrrhuloxia, Curve-billed Thrasher and Black-tailed Gnatcatcher. In the winter,

of Central and West Texas birds that occur here is numerous. From the endangered

Black-capped Vireo to Painted Bunting and Bell's Vireo, to the western influence of

is a natural history museum with a library, gift shop, birding room and a restroom.

(325) 853-2691

(888) 387-2880

(325) 592-3737

▲ HOTW 103 EATON HILL NATURE CENTER & PRESERVE

Attractions at Fort McKavett include 25 restored historical buildings, an interpretive

center, bookstore and living history programs. The park's open fields provide good

viewing habitat for Lark and Vesper Sparrows and Ash-throated and Scissor-tailed

banks of the San Saba River for a short distance. Good riparian habitat extends below

the park, along the river to the east. Look for White-eved and Yellow-throated Vireos

as well as kingfishers. Rough-winged and Barn Swallows feed here in abundance.

▲ HOTW 101 FORT McKAVETT STATE HISTORIC SITE

(325) 396-2358 www.visitfortmckavett.com

Nature Center & Preserve is at the top of the road.

(325) 387-2615 www.eatonhillnaturecenter.com

▲ HOTW 105 CAVERNS OF SONORA

(325) 387-3105 www.cavernsofsonora.com

also available. Advance reservations are required.

(325) 853-2688 www.XBarRanch.com

GPS: 30.7372, -100.8212

for Monarch swarming around the frostweed plants that flank the river's edge. Riparian

turkey roosts in the central portion of the state. The roosting area is closed to park

at the park office attract impressive swarms of Black-chinned Hummingbird. Dainty

woodlands provide habitat for Wood Duck, Orchard Oriole, Painted and Indigo

Racerunner, Texas Spotted Whiptail and Texas Spiny Lizard.

▲ HOTW 098 STOCKPEN CROSSING PARK

fence line changes from cacti scrub to mesquite woodlands to juniper uplands. The

trail can be especially productive for Cactus and Bewick's Wrens, Bell's Vireo and

(325) 446-2301 www.depts.ttu.edu/junction

HOTW 093 SOUTH LLANO RIVER STATE PARK

#### www.junctiontexas.net/outdoor.htm GPS: 30.4900, -99.7599

of Turkey and Black Vultures.

GPS: 30.4432, -99.8020

0.5 mile to the park.

songbirds in the pecan canopy.

A HOTW 100 MENARD RIVER PARK

bridge on Decker St. Parking is on the right.

GPS: 30.9191, -99.7945

GPS: 30.9195, -99.7841

park entrance on the right.

GPS: 30.8266, -100.1091

GPS: 30.5734, -100.6432

GPS: 30.5550, -100.8122

■ HOTW 106 X BAR RANCH

Eldorado COC

Sonora COC

Ozona COC

PEACH LOOP HOTW 092 TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY AT JUNCTION from I-10 in Junction, head south on US 337 2.4 miles to Flat Rock Lane. Turn left on Fredericksburg COC (830) 997-5000 www.fredericksburg-texas.com Flat Rock Lane for 0.6 mile to the campus. Fredericksburg CVB (888) 997-3600 www.visitfredericksburgtx.com This campus includes 411 acres of varied habitats. A vast pecan bottomland accesses the

LIVE OAK WILDERNESS TRAIL Go north on TX 16 from Kerrville to Fredericksburg, about 19 miles. Turn left at Lady Bird Dr. and go 0.4 mile to the park. Turn left onto Petsch Dr., go 0.1 mile and park. Trail and natural areas are accessible by foot via a bridge that crosses over the creek. This site was named April 2013 "Best in Texas" to increase flora and fauna checklists by Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine. The 10-plus acres of natural landscape can be enjoyed from a 1-mile walking trail along Live Oak Creek and a 650-ft.-long ADAaccessible trail and bird blind. The bird checklist for this park encompasses nearly 200 species, with a wildflower inventory that stands at over 250 species. There is a beautiful GPS: 30.4720, -99.7812 pollinator garden in the park. Nesting birds include Painted Bunting, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Dickcissel and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. The riparian habitat utilized by many of these nesters also attracts migrant warblers and flycatchers in the From I-10 in Junction, go south on US 377 for 5 miles to PR 73. spring and fall. Wintering birds such as White-crowned, Song, Harris', Fox, Savannah The park has 2 miles of river frontage, a large pecan bottom and typical Hill Country

#### woodlands. On the lake, look for ducks and shorebirds in the winter, and herons and egrets year-round. www.fbgtx.org/index.aspx?nid=236

GPS: 30.2401, -98.9118

GPS: 30.1011, -98.8212

HOTW 080 OLD TUNNEL STATE PARK From TX 16 and US 290, take US 290 east 5.5 miles and turn right (south) at Old San Antonio Rd. Go 10.6 miles and turn left into the parking lot. During summer, a visit to Old Tunnel State Park provides a spectacle of up to 3 million Mexican Free-tailed and Cave Myotis Bats as they emerge from the 920-ft, tunnel of the old San Antonio, Fredericksburg and Northern Railway to forage for insects over the surrounding countryside. At 16.1 acres, Old Tunnel is the smallest state park in Texas but it protects one of the state's largest aggregations of mammals. Visitors can view the bats from May to October. The state park also offers a 0.5-mile nature trail through woodlands of oak, black cherry, black walnut, hackberry, juniper and other trees. Birds along the trail include Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Carolina Wren, Carolina Chickadee and

## White-eved Vireo. Several species of raptors may be seen soaring over the adjacent (866) 978-2287 www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/old-tunnel

☐ HOTW 081 CANYON WREN RANCH This 102-acre ranch includes riparian habitat, grassland meadows and high plateau woodlands. Block Creek meanders through much of this property. Rich in bird diversity. the ranch is a great place to see Canyon, Bewick's, Rock, Winter and Cactus Wrens. Resident birds include Greater Roadrunner, Scaled Quail, Northern Bobwhite, Common Ground-Dove, Green Heron, Western Scrub-Jay, Ladder-backed and Golden-fronted Woodpeckers, Rufous-crowned and Lark Sparrows, Chihuahuan Raven, Red-shouldered and Cooper's Hawks, Horned Lark, Barred and Great Horned Owls, Eastern Bluebirg and Pyrrhuloxia. In summer, look for Golden-cheeked Warbler, Painted Bunting, Yellow billed Cuckoo, Chuck-will's-widow, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Dickcissel, Bell's Vireo, Western Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Lesser Goldfinch. Waterfowl and shorebirds can be seen on the ranch's spring-fed ponds during winter. Over 150 species have been documented thus far. The ranch also supports a diversity of mammals,

#### documented on the ranch and native prairie grasses are being nurtured and reintroduced to the land. (830) 995-5217 Call for Directions

GPS: 30.0172, -98.8266 **HOTW 082 FORT MARTIN SCOTT** 

reptiles, dragonflies and butterflies. Over 120 species of wildflowers have been

From US 290 and US 80/Washington St. in Fredericksburg, head east 2.2 miles on Fort Martin Scott, one of the earliest forts in Texas, was in operation from 1847–52. The west fence of the property overlooks the city's wastewater treatment plant and retention ponds. This provides excellent habitat for wintering waterfowl and gulls. Willow-lined arron's Creek, which runs along the far north section of this site, provides riparian habitat. The small live oak mottes on the upland grounds attract Bewick's Wren, Mourning Dove, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Western Kingbird. The short grass fields are filled with blooming wildflowers and butterflies during spring and summer.

## ☐ HOTW 084 A GETAWAY RANCH

(830) 997-7521 www.ftmartinscott.org

GPS: 30.2473, -98.8448

GPS: 30.3478, -98.8244

GPS: 30.5424, -98.8173

GPS: 30.6340, -99.1639

Mason COC

The ranch offers a number of comfortable cabins located along a beautiful creek with large pecans and other hardwood trees. Habitats include oak/juniper woodlands and savannas. Activities include hiking, guided tours, customized packages, birding and photography. The owners of the ranch are descendants of the first German settlers in nis region of Texas. Visitors can experience and learn about the German heritage and traditions that have influenced the culture of the Texas Hill Country.

#### From Fredericksburg, head 18 miles north on RR 965. Enchanted Rock features a huge granite dome rising 425 ft. above ground, with the peak sitting at 1,825 ft. The park covers 1,640 acres. It is one of the largest batholiths in the

O HOTW 085 ENCHANTED ROCK STATE NATURAL AREA

(830) 997-3169 Call for Directions

U.S. and one of the best examples of an exfoliation dome anywhere. The flora, fauna and natural beauty of this unique area are impressive. Activities include primitive backpacking, camping, hiking, rock climbing, picnicking, geological study and star gazing. (830) 685-3636 www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/enchanted-rock GPS: 30.5054, -98.8198 HOTW 086 DUTCH MOUNTAIN RANCH

Steeped in Texas history, this ranch has been in the Moss family for five generation

given to Mathew Moss for his participation in the Battle of San Jacinto. The ranch

abundant wildlife, spring wildflowers and unique geology. Lodging is available.

offers artists, birders, hikers, photographers and nature enthusiasts beautiful scenery.

(325) 247-4074 Call for Directions www.centuryranchlodging.com

## TOPAZ LOOP (325) 347-5758

Fredericksburg CVB (888) 997-3600 www.visitfredericksburgtx.com (325) 795-1762 www.texasfortstrail.com **Texas Forts Trail** San Angelo CVB (800) 375-1206 www.visitsanangelo.org ■ HOTW 087 HOMER MARTIN RANCH This 2,800-acre ranch is located along the cliff banks of the Llano River and includes riverside habitat, canyon woodlands, oak-mesquite brush, open prairie and mixed

www.masontxcoc.com

deciduous woodlands. White-tailed Deer are abundant on the property, and you may see bobcat, coyote, Cottontail Rabbit, jackrabbit, Gray and Red Fox, ringtail and porcupine. The diversity of habitats support a wide variety of resident birds including Greater Roadrunner. Bobwhite Quail, Wild Turkey, Verdin, Bushtit, Ground Dove, Green Kingfisher, Goldenfronted Woodpecker, Western Scrub-Jay, Eastern Bluebird, Curve-billed Thrasher, Canyon Towhee Chipping and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Pyrrhuloxia and Cactus, Rock, Canyon, Carolina and Bewick's Wrens. Cabins are available for overnight guests. Activities include swimming and fishing in the Llano River, mountain biking and hiking.

(830) 377-3627 Call for Directions www.homermartinranch.com

CR 406. Turn left on CR 406 and continue 7.8 miles to park on left. The 3,400-acre park is primarily an off-road vehicle park with over 50 miles of birding, hiking and off-road vehicle trails. Birders can expect to see a variety of local birds, and

#### camping with potable water is available. (325) 226-4124 www.escondidodraw.org

From TX 163 and RR 189, travel south towards Comstock on TX 163 14.5 miles. Gate is on the right. The land on this 9,080-acre ranch falls from grassy upland areas through rugged

## reservations required.

CONCHO LOOP (325) 884-2980 (325) 655-4136

From Eldorado, Take US 277 north for 28 miles to Loop 110 into Christoval. Turn right and follow 1 block to RR 2084. Turn right and go 1.8 miles to Hummer House entrance

also prime habitat for a large number of breeding species. The Hummer House has long been noted for its Black-chinned Hummingbird, but impressive populations of Painted Bunting and several other species also live on the ranch each summer. More than 45,000 birds representing 154 species have been banded here, making this site a rich resource for our understanding of the birds of this region. The ranch holds the national longevity records for both Black-chinned Hummingbird and Painted Bunting. The air-conditioned viewing room is open to the public on Saturdays beginning the first Saturday in May and

HOTW 109 SAN ANGELO STATE PARK In San Angelo head west on Loop 306 to US 67 South. Turn left and go 0.6 mile to FM 2288. Turn right and go 2.4 miles to the south entrance to the park. Return to FM 2288 and go 8.3 miles north to the north entrance. San Angelo State Park consists of lake habitat, rocky hillsides, mixed woodland river bottom and mesquite savannas. Over 300 species of birds, 50 species of mammals and 42 species of reptiles have been observed at the park. Mesquite brush inhabitants include Verdin, Pyrrhuloxia, Canyon Towhee, Greater Roadrunner, Curve-billed Thrasher, Scaled Quail, Northern Bobwhite, Vermilion Flycatcher, Chihuahuan Rayen, Cassin's and Blackthroated Sparrows and Cactus and Bewick's Wrens. Summer nesting birds include Yellowbilled Cuckoo, Mississippi Kite, Swainson's Hawk, Bell's Vireo, Orchard and Bullock's Orioles and Yellow-breasted Chat. Winter and migrations are the best viewing times for birders, as the migrating shorebirds and waterfowl can be seen when O.C. Fischer Lake has

#### Red-headed Woodpecker. Say's Phoebe can occur along the water's edge, along with wintering Swamp and White-crowned Sparrows. Migrating shorebirds such as Pectoral,

▲ HOTW 111 RIVER CORRIDOR and turn left again on North River Dr. Follow this road through the next 3 parks, which changes its name to Veterans' Memorial Dr. at the Beauregard Dr. Bridge. access and picnic areas. The east side of the river is banked by limestone ledges and rocky hillsides. The west side of the river is wooded with pecans and mesquite, forming waterside perches for Eastern Phoebe, White-eyed Vireo, Western Kingbird, Ash-throate

and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and the occasional Great Horned Owl. Monarch butterflie

migrate along this river corridor in the fall, and winter brings new avian residents,

# GPS: 31.4712, -100.4625

#### Take a right and go 0.5 mile to Park St. Take a right and the park entrance is on your right. This park features The International Water Lily Collection that attracts large numbers of dragonflies, Look for Blue Dasher, Eastern Amberwing, Eastern Pondhawk, Widow and

▲ HOTW 113 CIVIC LEAGUE PARK

GPS: 31.4538, -100.4429

(325) 657-4450 www.cosatx.us/parks GPS: 31.4586, -100.4510 ▲ HOTW 114 RIO CONCHO PARK From US 67 and US 87 in San Angelo, head south on US 87 0.7 mile to Concho Ave./

## ■ HOTW 115 PAINT ROCK EXCURSIONS

WILDLIFE TRAIL

# WEST OF TEXAS



ILLUSTRATOR: Ross Carnes

## Sanhandle Plains Wildlife Trail Heart of Texas West Wildlife Trail Heart of Texas East Wildlife Trail

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# DISCOVER THE WILDLIFE OF TEXAS!



Take FM 380 east from San Angelo to Paint Rock, about 30 miles. At US 83 turn left and

This 1,200-acre ranch consists of mesquite shrub land and wooded bottomland located along the banks of the Concho River. The limestone outcrops on the ranch have over Visitors can also see Bison, White-tailed Deer and other mammals. The Concho Clam, up along the shoreline. Call for reservations.

## (432) 836-4391 www.visitfortlancaster.com GPS: 30.6644, -101.6946 ■ HOTW 106E JARRETT JUNO RANCH

hardwood canyons to the mesquite-wooded, mile-wide Dry Devils River Canyon, which passes through the ranch. The terrain provides ideal cover and forage for White-tailed Deer, Rio Grande Turkey, Aoudad, javelina, wild hogs, Scaled Quail and dove. Expect to see Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo. Open March-September,

#### (512) 785-7968 www.jarrettjunoranch.com GPS: 30.1486, -101.1171

**Big Lake COC** www.biglaketexas.org San Angelo COC www.sanangelo.org San Angelo CVB (800) 375-1206 www.visitsanangelo.org ■ HOTW 107 HUMMER HOUSE The Hummer House is located along the South Concho River corridor, which serves as a natural flyway for a large number of passerine and near-passerine species that migrate through west central Texas. The same habitat that serves as a magnet for these migrants is

# ending the last Saturday in August.

(325) 255-2254 www.hummerhouse.com

to feed on insects in the surrounding countryside.

www.visitsanangelo.org/attractions

GPS: 31.1895, -100.4984 ▲ HOTW 108 BAT BRIDGE AT FOSTER ROAD & LOOP 306 From US 87 and Loop 110 in San Angelo, head west on Loop 306 for 1.7 miles and exit Foster Rd. Park along the southeast feeder road or at the DPS office. Walk down to the embankment below the bridge This overpass provides roost habitat for a maternal colony of Mexican Free-tailed Bats.

# GPS: 31.4106, -100.4567

Thousands of bats roost in the crevices beneath the bridge. The bats emerge near sunset

had rainfall. Expect to see a wide variety of ducks, as well as other winter visitors, including

Franklin's and Bonaparte's Gulls, Forster's and Black Terns, Osprey, Northern Harrier,

Western and Least Sandpipers, Sora and Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. In the woodland

#### areas, expect to find a good mix of woodpeckers such as Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted and Red-shafted), Yellow-bellied and Red-naped Sapsuckers and an occasional Acorn or

GPS: 31.4905, -100.5374 From FM 2288 and US 87, head south on US 87 8.6 miles. At the third traffic light turn right on 19th St. Proceed for 0.8 mile to 19th St. ramp, just past the Tom Green Juvenile Criminal Justice Center on the left and just before crossing the Concho River. Turn left onto the ramp, The River Corridor encompasses 3 parks located along the North Concho River: North Concho Park, Harmon Park and Santa Fe Park. These sites are multiuse parks, with rive

(325) 949-4757 www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/san-angelo

Stilt, Spotted and White-rumped Sandpipers can also be seen.

#### including Myrtle and Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-crowned, Lincoln's, Swamp and Song Sparrows and shorebirds such as Common Snipe. (325) 657-4450 www.cosatx.us/parks

▲ HOTW 112 SUNKEN GARDENS From US 67 and US 87 in San Angelo, head south on US 87 0.9 mile to Ave. D. Take a right and the park is on the right. The park is home to the Richard Salmon Sculpture Garden with a dozen or more unique sculptures being displayed, switching exhibits each year in August. The gardens of canna lilies and other blooming wildflowers at this small park provide a good opportunity to observe butterflies. Look for Red Admiral, American Painted Lady, Painted Lady, Question Mark, Checkered White, Fiery Skipper, Funereal Duskywing, Sleepy Orange and Dainty Sulphur. In summer look for nesting Western Kingbird or Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. (325) 657-4450 www.cosatx.us/parks

From US 67 and US 87 in San Angelo, head south on US 87 0.5 mile to Beauregard Ave

#### Roseate Skimmers, Eastern Ringtail and Four-spotted Pennant. Black-chinned Hummingbirds abound and can be seen and heard buzzing throughout the garden. The park has an extensive rose garden with many beautiful varieties.

Rio Concho Ave. Turn left and continue 1.3 miles to the park on the left. This limestone cave was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1996, and is one of the top 5 caves in the world for beauty and variety of formations. More than 90% of the This park has a walking trail that follows a stretch of the Concho River. A display garden cave's formations are still active, and the trip down into the caverns is unforgettable. New offers the butterfly-enthusiast an opportunity to study assorted skippers and hairstreaks. passages are still being discovered. A 0.5-mile nature trail winds along oak/juniper/ In addition, look for Red Admiral, Question Mark and Variegated Fritillary. The river nesquite woodland, and Elf Owl can be found in the area near the RV camp. bottom is primarily wooded by ash and mesquite, with some oak and pecan trees. Look for Eastern Phoebe, Summer Tanager and Yellow-billed Cuckoo in the summer. Green and Great Blue Herons can be found along the banks as well. (325) 657-4450 www.cosatx.us/parks GPS: 31.4607, -100.4237 Take I-10 west to Exit 388. At FM 1312 turn left, going west for 1.5 miles. At FM 2129,

## go north 0.7 mile to the sign and gate on the left.

1,500 pictographs from 9,000 years of Native American occupation. Over 300 tribes are believed to have recorded history here. Birds commonly seen on the ranch include Wild Turkey, Lark Sparrow, Canyon and Cactus Wrens, Canyon Towhee and Painted Bunting. indigenous to this river, with beautiful silky white-to-pink nacre, can often be seen washed (325) 732-4376 GPS: 31.5162, -99.9207

include Vermilion Flycatcher, Elf Owl, Western Screech-Owl, Phainopepla, Curve-billed Thrasher, Ladder-backed and Golden-fronted Woodpeckers, Verdin, MacGillivray's Warbler, Canyon Towhee, Bushtit, Cactus Wren and Say's Phoebe. A few rarer species, such as Gray Vireo, Crissal Thrasher and Lazuli Bunting, can also be seen here. Accommodations include luxurious cabins and an entertainment lodge with a wraparound porch offering endless views. An on-site Master Naturalist gives tours of Native American sites (rock shelters, rock art and midden mounds), as well as discussions on

#### GPS: 30.7825, -101.0177 ▲ HOTW 106B CROCKETT COUNTY INTERPRETIVE TRAIL From I-10 and TX 163/Ave. E in Ozona, head south on TX 163 1 block to Ozona Visitor Center. The trail is located across the parking lot from the Ozona Visitor Center. This outdoor exhibit showcases the importance of water conservation and native plants from the Texas Hill Country and Trans Pecos regions. The trail includes over 200 native plants, a rain harvest exhibit, wildlife viewing area and a watering hole for birds and butterflies.

## (325) 392-3737 www.ozona.com/interpretivetrail GPS: 30.7050, -101.2013

■ HOTW 106C ESCONDIDO DRAW RECREATION AREA From Ozona, take I-10 west 22 miles to Exit 343. Head south on TX 290 4.2 miles to

# the site has protected nesting habitat for Black-capped Vireo. Primitive tent and RV

■ HOTW 106A TWISTFLOWER RANCH

19.5 miles (RM 1676 turns into CR 208), stay on pavement.

the historic ranch facilities, local culture and unique plant life.

(512) 343-1821 www.twistflowerranch.com

From Big Lake, take US 67 west 4 miles. Turn left (south) onto RM 1676 and proceed

Twistflower Ranch is 6,000 acres with 5 distinct eco-regions including creek bottoms,

flowering plants have been identified. Interesting mammals include badgers, bobcats, Red

and Grey Foxes, javelina, ringtail and an occasional mountain lion. There is an abundance

prairie grasslands, steep-sided canyons, plateau tops and plateau shoulders, which

of Painted Bunting and Orchard and Bullock's Orioles, Species found on the ranch

provide diverse habitat for a wide range of birds, plants and mammals. Over 100

GPS: 30.5850, -101.5827 ▲ HOTW 106D FORT LANCASTER HISTORIC SITE The site is located 8 miles east of Sheffield off I-10 on US 290 (Scenic Loop). Take Exit 325 east and travel approximately 13 miles on US 290 to the site. Fort Lancaster was established in 1855 to protect the San Antonio-El Paso Road. Confederate and Buffalo Soldiers had separate occupations of the post after the start of the Civil War in 1861. Today, visitors can tour the ruins of 25 permanent buildings of this once impressive establishment. Visitors can see Texas Horned Lizard. Greater

#### Roadrunner, Red Racer Snake, many varieties of spiders and insects, along with diverse bird species and other wildlife living amongst the ruins in the spring, summer and fall.



Lower Texas Coast - Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail





Far West Texas Wildlife Trail Prairies and Pineywoods West Wildlife Trail Prairies and Pineywoods East Wildlife Trail

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.vww.tpwd.texas.gov/wildlifetrails.

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