



# **GUIDE TO USING THE MAP**

The Great Texas Wildlife Trail - Heart of Texas East includes 15 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 East that shows the 125 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.
- 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 fifteen loops, and no loop requires more than a long weekend to leisurely traverse.

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.



One inch equals approximately 13.72 miles

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# **IMPORTANCE OF** NATURE TOURISM

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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 TPWD, life's better outside.

# **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

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BIRDING TOURS WORLDWIDE

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE SWAROVSKI OPTIK FOUNDATION

## (325) 625-2163 www.colemantexas.org

**Brownwood COC** (325) 646-9535 www.brownwoodchamber.org HOTE 002 COLEMAN CITY PARK From US 283 entering Coleman from the north, the park is on the edge of town on the left, just before

the intersection with TX 206. This multi-use park on Hords Creek has wooded, creek-edge habitat and stands of pecan trees that attract landbirds during migration seasons. Butterflies and dragonflies can be seen along the creek during summer.

## GPS: 31.8471, -99.4265

**Coleman COC** 

▲ HOTE 003 HORDS CREEK LAKE From Coleman, go south on TX 206 to TX 153 West. Turn right and go 8.2 miles to the entrance on the left. Turn left and go 0.2 mile to the visitor center. This 3,500-acre facility for wildlife watching features two natural wetlands - one at the west end of the ke at Flatrock Park and the other at the east end of the dam. Access on the east side of the dam is by foot only, and the 2-mile nature trail finishes at an observation platform. In summer, these areas teem with dragonflies. Wild Turkey, quail, herons and migrating shorebirds such as Baird's and Least Sandpipers and other wildlife. In the fall it is a good spot for wintering waterfowl. Eastern Bluebird ar rear-round residents, while grassland bird species and other songbirds such as the Summer Tanager

Painted Bunting, Pyrrhuloxia, Dickcissel and Savannah, Vesper and Lark Sparrows visit frequently.

### (325) 625-2322 www.swf-wc.usace.army.mil/hords GPS: 31.8492, -99.5600

A HOTE 004 MEMORY LAKE From Coleman on TX 153, go to 5th St. Turn right/south at the blinking light. After 0.5 mile, turn right on CR 402 (at the stone house) and go 1 mile to the lake. This small, recreational lake provides good habitat for wading birds and wintering waterfowl. Part of he lake has reeds and woody vegetation at the shoreline that provide good habitat for aquatic insects. Checkered White, Orange Sulphur, Question Mark and Painted Lady are a few of the butterflies that

may be seen here. Cricket and Plains Leopard Frogs, Bullfrog, Snapping Turtle and Slider occur here

#### as well. GPS: 31.8177, -99.4420

▲ HOTE 005 FABIS PRIMITIVE PARK From US 84 and TX 279 in Brownwood, head north on TX 279, following 1.3 miles to FM 2125 Go 1.9 miles to the park entrance on the right. Follow the entry road 1 mile to parking area. The park is an old pecan orchard located along a creek. Look for Eastern Bluebird and lister for Great Horned and Barred Owls and Eastern Screech-Owl. Golden-fronted and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers can be seen year-round. In the winter, look for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Northern Flicker, Brown Creeper and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Resident kingfishers, herons and egrets are al

easy to see. In the winter, the creek hosts Northern Pintail, Mallard and Blue-winged Teal. Vermilion

#### www.ci.brownwood.tx.us/Parks/parkindex.htm GPS: 31.7803, -98.9803

Flycatcher can also be seen along the water's edge.

HOTE 006 STAR OF TEXAS BED AND BREAKFAST This 20-acre property offers secluded lodging and habitats such as oak woodlands, mesquite scrub rassy meadows and creek bottoms. The water garden at the entrance attracts an abundance of Iragonflies and butterflies. Woodpeckers, wrens, flycatchers, Eastern Screech-Owl and Great Horned Owl can be seen in the wooded habitats. Marked hiking and biking trails provide opportunities for leisurely wildlife viewing in a variety of habitats.

#### (800) 850-2003 Call for Directions www.star-of-texas.com GPS: 31.7959, -99.0017 A HOTE 007 LAKE BROWNWOOD SPILLWAY/DAM OVERVIEW

From the intersection of SR 279 and FM 2125/Stonecreek Circle in Brownwood, go north on FM 2125 for 6.5 miles to the stop sign. Turn right at the stop sign (the name changes to Spillway Rd.). Follow this road 0.4 mile to the dam. Park by the historical marker and follow the short, wooded trails to the lake. Return to Spillway Rd. and drive to the end of the dam. On the right is the parking ot for lake patrol. Park on this hilltop for a cliff-side view of the lake and the spillway. The short, wooded trails south of the dam are densely vegetated with hackberry, pecan and some oak, Eastern Phoebe, Belted Kingfisher and White-eved Vireo occur here. Look for herons and egrets year-round, and in the winter look for gulls, ducks and terns. The oak-mesquite brush that surrounds the overlook can be productive for birds. Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Western and Eastern Kingbirds and

#### Scissor-tailed Flycatcher can also be seen. GPS: 31.8373, -99.0019 HOTE 008 LAKE BROWNWOOD STATE PARK

The park is located 16 miles northwest of Brownwood on TX 279. Take TX 279 to PR 15, then head east on PR 15 for 6 miles. Located on Lake Brownwood, a 7,300-surface-acre reservoir, the park offers a variety of outdoor activities, camping and lodging. Visitors can enjoy an atmosphere of rustic beauty and tranquility with niles of shoreline where wildflowers, White-tailed Deer, ducks, raccoons, armadillos, squirrels and a variety of birds can be observed in a natural setting. Many structures in use today were constructed with timber and native rock found in the park by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the early 1930s. (325) 784-5223 www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/lake-brownwood

### GPS: 31.8582, -99.0298 A HOTE 010 RIVERSIDE PARK

From the intersection of US 67/84 and US 377 in Brownwood, go east on US 67/84 for 0.2 mile Turn north at the Riverside Park sign. Follow the road 0.4 mile into the park. This 43-acre municipal park has a 0.7-mile nature trail that moves along the banks of the river, with pecan-lined edges that provide good habitat for landbirds. Eastern Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Belted Kingfisher and Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers occur here, as do the wintering Northern Pintail, Blue-winged Teal and Red-tailed Hawk.

(325) 646-0146 www.ci.brownwood.tx.us/Parks/parkindex.htm

## GPS: 31.7386, -98.9759

San Saba COC

Mills County COC

# REDBUD LOOP

(915) 372-5141 www.sansabatexas.com (915) 648-3619 www.millscountychamber.com

#### ▲ HOTE 012 REGENCY SUSPENSION BRIDGE From US 183 and FM 574 in Goldthwaite, go 11.1 miles west on FM 574/Hannah Valley Rd. Turn left on CR 432 and go 7.9 miles curving south on CR 433 to reach the bridge. The historic Regency Suspension Bridge, built in 1939, spans the Colorado River and connects Mills County and San Saba County. This was one of the last suspension bridges erected in Texas. The mixed

savanna on the upper bank. Along the river, listen for the songs of Painted Bunting, White-eved Vireo, Summer Tanager and Bewick's Wren. In the winter, look for ducks and shorebirds. Checkered White, Ouestion Mark and Pipevine Swallowtails are easily spotted in the grasslands and along the river's edge. GPS: 31.4105, -98.8466 HOTE 014 PIGFOOT RANCH

## Habitats on this 2,200-acre working ranch include mesquite savanna, oak mottes and creek-si

iparian woodlands. Natural springs flow into a creek that meanders through much of the ranch Along the creek bottoms, look for nesting White-eved Vireo and Summer Tanager. The grassland provide nesting habitat for Northern Bobwhite, Dickcissel and Eastern Meadowlark, Greate Roadrunner and Wild Turkey are here year-round. Indian paintbrush, Texas bluebonnet, Mexican l gaillardia and monarda bloom in spring and butterflies such as Variegated Fritillary, Giant Swallowtail and Dainty Sulphur abound. White-tailed Deer are abundant. (325) 451-7477 Call for Directions

## GPS: 31.4800, -98.4199

GPS: 31.3438, -98.2224

HOTE 015 LONG HOLLOW RANCH Much of this 660-acre working cattle ranch resides atop a bluff overlooking the elm thickets and sycamore bottoms of Bennett Creek and Long Hollow Branch. Between these riparian wo grasslands and savannas that are covered with wildflowers in the spring and fall. Wild Turkey and White-tailed Deer are widespread, as well as Northern Bobwhite and Greater Roadrunner. Be sure to look for Ringtail, Common Grav Fox, covote, bobcat and Nine-banded Armadillo, Bird life is diverse particularly during spring and fall migration. Scissor-tailed and Vermilion Flycatchers, Eastern and Western Kingbirds, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing and Pain Bunting are common summer residents. In the winter, look for ducks and shorebirds along the creek and in the ponds. Mountain Bluebird can be seen in late January and early February. (325) 948-3292/(325) 648-3453 Call for Directions

## STONE BLUFFS LOOP

(512) 556-5172 www.lampasaschamber.org Lampasas COC www.burnetchamber.org Burnet COC (512) 756-4297 Lake Buchanan/Inks Lake COC (512) 793-2803 www.buchanan-inks.com Marble Falls COC (800) 759-8178 www.marblefalls.org O HOTE 017 BAREFOOT CAMP AND RV PARK

#### From Lampasas, head west on FM 580 for 23 miles, across the Colorado River, to stop sign at CR 442. Turn left and follow the signs 0.8 mile to park entrance. Turn right on CR 444 to the office The 3 miles of river frontage are unimproved and provide spectacular views of the bluffs on the opposing side of the river. Oak and hardwood thickets along the riverbanks provide excellent habita or a variety of passerines including White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler and Summer Tanager Waterfowl winter on the river, egrets and herons are easily seen fishing in the shallows and the bluffs provide habitat for Canyon Wren.

(325) 628-3395 www.centex.net/~barefoot GPS: 31.1026, -98.4846 HOTE 018 SULPHUR SPRINGS CAMP In Lampasas, take FM 580 west 24 miles to Bend. In Bend you will come to a T-intersection where you will take a left. Follow the signs along the main road to Sulphur Springs Camp.

This full-service camp provides RV hookups, cabins and primitive campsites along 3 miles of Colorado River frontage. The habitat is excellent for a variety of birds that include Belted Kingfishe Nashville Warbler, Canyon Wren, egrets and herons. The road that follows the river makes a memorable nature hike. Look for swallow nests attached to the cliff faces. The most dominant feature of the campground is the natural sulphur spring that comes out of a rock face and maintains a constant temperature of 68 degrees (325) 628-3252 www.bendtexas.com

#### GPS: 31.0801, -98.4633 O HOTE 019 COLORADO BEND STATE PARK

In Lampasas, take FM 580 west 24 miles to Bend and follow the signs 4 miles to the park entranc This 5,300-acre state park offers the outdoor enthusiast access to primitive camping, hiking backpacking, fishing, swimming, mountain biking, birding, wildlife viewing and guided tours. Th park has over 30 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails. When Lake Buchanan is near normal wels, the river is navigable from the park's boat ramp all the way to the lake, approximately 10 mile The park also offers guided tours to Gorman Falls and guided cave tours, both walking and crawlin Birders can enjoy viewing some of 155 species of birds found in the park, including specialties such as Golden-cheeked Warbler, Black-capped Vireo and Bald Eagle. Gorman Falls is an impressive, 60-ft.-high waterfall. The waterfall's travertine formations and associated lush vegetation make it one of the most beautiful waterfalls in Texas. Small travertine dams have formed quiet pools of clear water which support a variety of aquatic communitie

#### (325) 628-3240 www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/colorado-bend GPS: 31.0396, -98.4814 HOTE 020 CANYON OF THE EAGLES

At US 281 and TX 29 West in Burnet, drive west 3.3 miles to FM 2341. Go north on FM 2341 for 15.1 miles to the entrance. This pet-friendly, 940-acre nature resort and LCRA park sits on the edge of Lake Buchanan, provid extensive trails, beautiful Hill Country vistas, a variety of lodging options, several activities and guided programs and a restaurant on-site. Dense oak-juniper woodlands and open shrub communities support Black-capped Vireo, Golden-cheeked Warbler, Osprey, deer, raccoon, Ringtail and fox, Bald Eagles winter on Lake Buchanan. Banquet and meeting facilities are available for corporate or social events. Activities include scheduled natural history programs, movies "Under the Stars," astronomy at the Eagle Eye Observatory, nature walks and live music.

#### GPS: 30.8831, -98.4312 HOTE 021 INKS LAKE STATE PARK

GPS: 30.7392, -98.3708

GPS: 30.7559, -98.2266

(800) 977-0081 www.canyonoftheeagles.com

Return to TX 29 West, turn right/west and go 5.7 miles to PR 4. Go south 3.2 miles to signed entrance This 1,200-acre state park provides excellent lakeshore, grassland and woodland habitat. The park panorama of juniper and oak woodlands, wildflowers and gneiss outcroppings. White-tailed Deer, Wild Turkey, songbirds and other wildlife are abundant in the park. Golden-fronted and Ladde backed Woodpeckers are common residents, and 12 species of sparrow have been seen at the park Guided wildlife watching canoe trips and nearly 8 miles of hiking and backpacking trails add to the wide range of available activities, which include swimming, fishing and canoe/paddleboat rental. Camping (tent and RV) and cabins are available (512) 793-2223 www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/inks-lake

#### A HOTE 022 LONGHORN CAVERN STATE PARK From TX 29 and PR 4, go south on PR 4 9.5 miles to the signed entrance.

The dominant feature of the park is Longhorn Cavern, which was bored out of the limestone by the powerful water flows of millennia. The downward drainage continued until great underground stream beds were cut out of solid rock. The cave has been used by man since prehistoric times. Regularly scheduled walking tours and special crawling tours of the cave are available. The park includes 2 Warbler. A small population of Tri-colored Bats inhabit the cave. The park structures were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. (877) 441-CAVE/(830) 598-CAVE www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/longhorn-cavern

#### GPS: 30.6965, -98.3599 HOTE 023 VERANDAS GUEST HOUSE

From TX 29 and US 281 in Burnet, head south on US 281/Water St. 0.2 mile to League St. The guest house is located at 108 East League. This B&B in Burnet, "The Bluebonnet Capital," has a wonderful flower garden and pond that include butterfly bush, antique roses, rosemary, cardinal flower, wisteria, esperanza, Turk's cap, trumpet vine, cenizo, desert willow, verbena, lantana, salvia and bluebonnets. The garden attracts Monarchs and other butterflies from spring through fall, and the pond is a favorite watering spot for a variety of bird species year-round. Visits may be arranged by appointment or reservation. (512) 588-0088 www.verandasburnet.com

# BALCONES LOOP

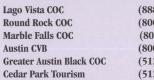
www.lagovista.org

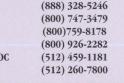
www.marblefalls.org

www.cedarparkfun.com

www.austintexas.org

www.austinbcc.org





www.roundrockchamber.org (800)759-8178 (800) 926-2282 (512) 459-1181 (512) 260-7800 ▲ HOTE 024 BALCONES CANYONLANDS NWR, SHIN OAK OBSERVATION DECK From TX 29 and US 281 in Burnet, go east on TX 29 for 11.1 miles to Bertram. Turn south/right on

FM 1174 for 7.2 miles. Turn left/east onto FM 1869 for 1.3 miles to the observation deck on the right. This site provides a good view of the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge with an immediate view of a large stand of shin oaks from which you can see and hear Black-capped Vireo during the nesting season. There are also viewing opportunities for other nesting species such as Painted Bunting, Yellow-breasted Chat, Field and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Ladder-backed odpecker and Black-chinned Hummingbird. Observe only from the boardwalk and observation deck. The deck is closed for several weeks in April to minimize disturbance to Black-capped Vireo during critical nest building, and for several days during November and December for management deer hunts.

#### (512) 339-9432 www.fws.gov/refuge/Balcones\_Canyonlands GPS: 30.6608, -98.0500

A HOTE 025 BALCONES CANYONLANDS NWR, DOESKIN RANCH TRAILHEAD From Liberty Hill, head west on FM 1869 to FM 1174; turn left on FM 1174 and head south 2.4 miles to the entrance and parking lot on the left. Three trails originate here and pass through the various ecosystems and habitats found on the refuge. The Pond and Prairie Trail is a short 0.4-mile hike to a small pond bordered by grassland prairies.

#### Look for nesting Painted Bunting, Eastern Phoebe and White-eyed Vireo. During migration, this can be a popular stopover for warblers, vireos and flycatchers. Sections of this trail are ADA-accessible. The Creek Trail is 0.6 mile long and takes you by ranch structures and along a scenic creek. Summer Tanager, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Blue Grosbeak can be seen. The Rimrock Trail is a more difficult, 2.2-mile trail that ascends into the juniper woodlands atop the highest elevations of the refuge. The

Shin Oak Trail is an extension of this trail, which offers panoramic views of the Hill Country from the top of the plateau. These trails offer visitors good chances to see and hear nesting Golden-cheeked Warbler. Fall migration of raptors can also be spectacular along the Rimrock Trail. (512) 339-9432 www.fws.gov/refuge/Balcones\_Canyonlands GPS: 30.6212, -98.0747

#### HOTE 026 TURKEY BEND RECREATION AREA Follow FM 1174 south to its dead end at FM 1431. Turn left on FM 1431, heading east 4.7 miles to

Shaw Dr. Turn right on Shaw Dr. and follow 1.9 miles to the dead end into Turkey Bend. This 1,138-acre park consists of oak-juniper woodlands, mesquite savannas and riparian brush Hiking trails offer a chance to see Painted Bunting, Bewick's Wren and Ladder-backed Woodpeck as well as Common Gray Fox, Ringtail and White-tailed Deer. Look for waterfowl, shorebirds, herons and dragonflies along the shoreline and in the coves. Look for Texas Spotted Whiptail along the roadside and Texas Spiny Lizard camouflaged against tree trunks. Boating, camping and picnicking facilities are available. (512) 473-3366 www.lcra.org/parks/recreation\_areas/turkey\_bend.html

### GPS: 30.4930, -98.1142 ▲ HOTE 026A BALCONES CANYONLANDS NWR HEADQUARTERS

Driving east on FM 1431, Refuge Headquarters is 1 mile east of the FM 1431/Cow Creek Rd. intersection on the left side of the road. Native plant gardens attract butterflies, Black-chinned Hummingbird and other pollinators from spring through November. An accessible wildlife blind overlooks a turtle pond, and a bird bath an Irip feature attract birds vear-round. The 0.4-mile Post Oak Creek Trail goes alongside a Chimney Swift tower, turtle pond and creek, Golden-fronted and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Lesser Goldfinch, Black-crested Titmouse, Canyon and Carolina Wrens, Eastern Phoebe and Northern Cardinal can be seen throughout the year. Spring migrants including various warblers are enticed by the water and tall trees. Nesting season residents include Barn Swallow, White-eyed Vireo and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

## (512) 339-9432 www.fws.gov/refuge/balcones\_canyonlands GPS: 30.5054, -98.0258

A HOTE 027 BALCONES CANYONLANDS NWR, WARBLER VISTA AND SUNSET DECK From Jonestown, take FM 1431 west 5.5 miles. Entrance is on the right. This 1.25-mile trail leads into old-growth woodland where Golden-cheeked Warbler nest in the spring. The 0.75-mile Ridgeline Trail is another excellent place to seek Golden-cheeked Warbler. Other nesting birds include Black-and-white Warbler, Painted Bunting, Black-crested Titmouse, Western Scrub Jay and Field and Rufous-crowned Sparrows. Sunset Deck is accessible and overlooks the warbler's habitat. (512) 339-9432 www.fws.gov/refuge/balcones\_canyonlands

#### GPS: 30.4959, -97.9790 ▲ HOTE 028 BOB WENTZ PARK AT WINDY POINT

From the intersection of FM 1431 and US 183, go south on US 183 for 4.1 miles to Loop 620 Turn right on Loop 620 for 7.1 miles to Comanche Trail. Turn right onto Comanche Trail, following 2.9 miles to the park entrance on the left. Located along the south shore of Lake Travis, the park offers shoreline and lakeside views and a hiking trail through grasslands and gently sloping oak-juniper woodlands. During spring migration, warblers, vireos, tanagers and flycatchers can be seen along the trail. In the summer, Painted Bunting, Summer Tanager, White-eyed Vireo, Black-and-White Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Western Kingbird are common. Red-winged Blackbird and various herons frequent the shoreline. In the winter, look for Bufflehead, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail and Mallard. Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers occur along the rocky shorelines. https://parks.traviscountytx.gov/find-a-park/bob-wentz

#### GPS: 30.4165, -97.8989 HOTE 029 CREEKSIDE PARK AND BRUSHY CREEK REGIONAL TRAIL From Loop 620 and US 183, head east on Loop 620 to Parmer Ln. Go north/left on Parmer Ln. to Brushy Creek Rd. Continue on Brushy Creek Rd. 2.4 miles to Creekside Park. This park along Brushy Creek includes a trail through riparian woodlands. Bordered by limeston edge and rock outcrops, Brushy Creek widens and then drops into a tumbling waterfall. The creek is live with dragonflies in spring and summer. Widow Skimmer and Swift Setwing are most common, out also look for Eastern Pondhawk, Red and Black Saddlebags and American Rubyspot. Eastern Phoebe, Belted Kingfisher, Blue Grosbeak, Black-and-white Warbler, White-eved Vireo, Painted Bunting and Summer Tanager occur here in the summer, as do Barred Owl and Eastern Screech-Owl. (512) 943-1920 http://parks.wilco.org/Home/Trails/BrushyCreekRegionalTrai

## GPS: 30.5194, -97.7393

HOTE 030 GOOD WATER TRAIL AT LAKE GEORGETOWN Teias Camp: Return to US 183 North for 17.7 miles to FM 3405 Take FM 3405 heading east 1.7 miles to CR 258. Turn right on CR 258 and go 1.5 miles past the river crossing to the park entrance on the left. GPS: 30.6959, -97.8281 Cedar Parks Breaks: Continue south on CR 258 1.4 miles. Turn left on Ronald Reagan Blvd. and travel 7 miles to D.B. Wood Rd. Turn left and travel 2 miles to Cedar Breaks Rd. Turn left and travel 1.4 miles to entrance on the left. GPS: 30.6683, -97.7376 The 16.6-mile Good Water Trail was named after the Tonkawa Indians who made their homes near the North Fork of the San Gabriel River. Milepost 0 is in Cedar Breaks Park as the trail proceeds

westerly along the river to milepost 11 at Tejas Camp. Here the trail curves around the river at West End Crossing and proceeds to the east along the opposite shore of the river. The trail passes through Golden-cheeked Warbler nesting habitat at Cedar Breaks Park and then meanders bac owards the river. The riparian habitat here is lush and densely vegetated with elm, oak, hackberr and other hardwoods. Blue Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, White-eyed Vireo, Painted Bunting, Great Horned and Barred Owls, Eastern Screech-Owl and Wood Duck are regular nesters along these riparian woodlands. In the winter, the outlying grassland areas provide habitat for up to 16 species of sparrows. www.austinexplorer.com/Locations/ShowLocation.aspx?LocationID=1370

## HOTE 031 GRANGER LAKE

From TX 29 and I-35, head east on TX 29 15.9 miles, turn right on TX 95 South and go 0.8 mile to FM 1331. Turn left on FM 1331 and go 4.9 miles to the entrance of Taylor Park and the Comanche Bluff Trail. This is an excellent winter birding site. Granger Lake is surrounded by four parks: Taylor Park, Wilson H. Fox Park, Friendship Park and Willis Creek Park. Each park varies on admittance for day use areas; some are free and some require a fee. By traveling on FM 1331, crossing the dam onto FM 971 and back to TX 95, you may access each of these park entrances. Fall and spring can produce numerous migrants, and in the winter expect a large number of shorebirds and waterfo

Look for Hooded Merganser, Canvasback, Ruddy Duck, Bufflehead, Eared, Horned and Pied-bill Grebes, American White Pelican, Neotropic and Double-crested Cormorants, Anhinga, Tricolored Heron and a variety of gulls and terns during the appropriate season. The outlying areas of most of these parks are surrounded by grassland prairies that are home to a large number and diversity of sparrows during winter. The lake is surrounded by agricultural land. Off of TX 95 near Granger Lake, take CR 347 to CR 345 and CR 346. In the winter, the only habitat along these county roads is barren

agricultural fields. Mountain Plover has become a regular winter resident in these fields. All four

North American species of longspurs have been found here as well. Also look for wintering raptors and Whooping Crane. (512) 859-2343 www.swf-wc.usace.army.mil/granger

# GPS: 30.6652, -97.3650

## EAST AUSTIN LOOP

**Austin CVB** (800) 926-2282 www.austintexas.org (512) 321-2419 www.bastropchamber.com **Bastrop COC** HOTE 033 BASTROP STATE PARK AND BUESCHER STATE PARK Bastrop State Park: Take TX 71 east from Bastrop and turn right on TX 95. After 0.4 mile turn right onto TX 21. Follow TX 21 to the entrance on the left. Continue 0.3 mile to office. GPS: 30.1102, -97.2869 Buescher State Park: Continue southeast on TX 71 to FM 153, then travel north on FM 153 for 0.5 mile to enter PR 1. GPS: 30.0383, -97.1583 The beautiful Lost Pines of Texas is a loblolly pine woodland isolated from the main body of East Texas pines by approximately 100 miles of rolling, post-oak woodlands. This pine-oak woodland covers approximately 70 square miles and is part of the most westerly stand of loblolly pines in th state. However, the forest was ravaged by the most destructive wildfire in Texas history in 2011 and is currently in an early successional stage. The 12-mile park road that connects Bastrop and Buescher is one of the most scenic woodland drives in Texas. The road is great for biking or a leisurely drive. The parks teem with wildlife, particularly during spring migration. Pine Warbler and Pileated Woodpecker occur here, and Red-headed Woodpeckers nest in the pine woodlands within Bastrop

State Park. Since the fire opened up the forest floor, large numbers of raptors and birds of prey such as the Great Horned Owl and Red-shouldered Hawk can be seen. The lake at Buescher provides good habitat for migrating and wintering ducks. The muddy edges of the lake attract waders and horebirds. Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-eyed Vireo, Northern Parula and Summer Tanager also nest in habitat surrounding the lake. (512) 321-2101 www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/bastrop ▲ HOTE 034 MCKINNEY ROUGHS LCRA PARK

Proceed 9.7 miles west of Bastrop on TX 71 to a large stone sign for McKinney Roughs on the north side of the highway. Nashville, Black-throated Green, Black-and-white, Blackburnian, Yellow and Magnolia Warblers can be seen during the spring and fall migrations. Resident birds include Greater Roadrunner, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Screech-Owl and Black-chinned Hummingbird. Grav Fox, rabbits, White-tailed Deer and squirrels are commonly seen. The park offers hiking, equestrian trails and a self-guided

#### (512) 303-5073 www.lcra.org/parks/developed-parks/Pages/mckinney-roughs-nature-park.aspx GPS: 30.1365, -97.4596 A HOTE 035 WEBBERVILLE/LITTLE WEBBERVILLE PARK

Webberville Park: head east on TX 71 toward Bastrop to FM 1209. Turn left on FM 1209 and travel 3.7 miles to FM 969. Continue left onto FM 969 for 7.7 miles to Webberwood Dr. Turn right on Park Ln. to picnic area. GPS: 30.2122, -97.4958 Little Webberville Park: Return to FM 969 and head west for 3 miles to the county park signs in Webberville. Go south on Water St. to the boat ramp. GPS: 30.2296, -97.5182 The trees throughout the park are good for migrants, as well as residents that include Downy and Red-Bellied Woodpeckers. Winter flocks of Savannah and Chipping Sparrows forage in the gras along with American Pipit. Check the power lines for perching raptors. Little Webberville has some deciduous trees that provide good cover for migrants and resident birds. As an access site for the LCRA Colorado River Trail, this park allows for a short paddle downriver to Webberville Park. Look

for woodland birds along the river's edge, including waterfowl, cormorants and raptors. Webberville: https://parks.traviscountytx.gov/find-a-park/webberville Little Webberville: https://parks.traviscountytx.gov/find-a-park/little-webberville A HOTE 036 LAKE WALTER E. LONG Return to FM 969 and travel west 7.3 miles. Cross 130/45 Tollway, turn right on FM 973 and travel 1.5 miles. Turn left on Decker Lake Rd., travel 0.7 mile and take a right on Blue Bluff Rd. to the

entrance of the park. Look for raptors along this stretch of road. Northern Caracara cruise the area and the roadsid provide habitat for feeding flocks of Savannah and White-crowned Sparrows, Also check the small ponds on the left as you drive along Blue Bluff Rd. Lake Walter E. Long, also known as Decker Lake, covers approximately 1,200 acres. The lake provides habitat for wintering scaup and other ducks. locks of American Goldfinch feed in the trees in winter, and a variety of raptors such as Sharpshinned and Red-tailed Hawks are regularly seen. Forster's Tern and Ring-billed Gull are comhere in winter. Check the reed beds around the southeast corner of the lake for marsh birds. There is a trail that follows the perimeter of the lake, which begins at the southeast corner www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/lakes/walter\_long

GPS: 30.2818, -97.6091 A HOTE 037 HORNSBY BEND BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT PLANT the right. Sign in with the guard at the main gate and ask for a site map. Follow signs for the public entrance, a ramp road up to the treatment ponds. Do not enter treatment areas of the plant. You can drive around the 180-acres of ponds, and parking areas around the ponds allow access to hiking

trails. Restrooms are available at the Austin Water Center for Environmental Research (CER) located just inside the main gate. This 1,200-acre site, owned by Austin Water, contains treatment ponds, hay fields and 3 miles of hiking trails along the Colorado River. A diversity of habitats can be found at the site including bottomland forest, brush and riparian wetlands, which harbor over 360 species of birds and an abundance of other wildlife monitored through the CER citizen science programs and university

researchers. Thousands of shorebirds congregate here during migration, with rarities such as Northern Jacana, Red Phalarope and Spotted Redshank. Black-necked Stilt, Black-bellied Whistling Duck and Caracara breed here. Osprey and Peregrine Falcon are winter residents. Dragonflies. damselflies and an abundance of butterflies also occur here. (512) 972-1960 www.austintexas.gov/cer GPS: 30.2172, -97.6390

HOTE 038 RICHARD MOVA PARK n the intersection of FM 973 and TX 71, head south on FM 973 for 3 miles and turn west/right on Burleson Rd. The park is on the left after 0.7 mile. This 100-acre park has recorded Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Little Blue Heron, various birds of prey, Brown Creeper and a variety of migrating songbirds. Harris' Sparrow occurs in winter along the creek, favoring the brush piles and dried tangle of dead vines that are interspersed along the walking trail. White-crowned, Lincoln's and Savannah Sparrows are also found here. https://parks.traviscountytx.gov/find-a-park/richard-moya GPS: 30.1706, -97.6685 HOTE 039 MCKINNEY FALLS STATE PARK

nue west on Burleson Rd. for 2.1 miles, crossing US 183, and continuing to McKinney Falls Pkwy. Turn left/south continuing 1.7 miles to the park entrance on the right. This 744-acre park is only 13 miles from the State Capitol in Austin and offers mountain bikin hiking, fishing, birding and camping beneath towering cypress and pecan trees on the banks Onion Creek. Swimmers find the pool beneath the falls a welcome treat during hot summer month Habitats include limestone bluffs, riparian thickets, mixed-deciduous woodlands, mesquite savannas and brushlands. The Homestead Trail, which loops around Williamson Creek, is a good place to find nesting Summer Tanager, White-eyed Vireo and Painted Bunting. The trail meanders along the creeks to Lower and Upper McKinney Falls. Red-bellied Woodpecker and Red-shouldered Hawk are common here. Nocturnal birds include Eastern Screech-Owl and Great Horned and Barred Owls. The creek banks host Green and Great Blue Herons, Great Egret and Belted Kingfisher. Watch for other wildlife along the trails, including White-tailed Deer, Cottontail, Gray Fox and bobcat. (512) 243-1643 www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/mckinney-falls GPS: 30.1795, -97.7220

## A HOTE 040 ROY G. GUERRERO COLORADO RIVER PARK/ COLORADO RIVER WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Open, grassy areas at the edge of the trees provide habitat for various sparrows.

Roy G. Guerrero: www.austinparks.org/our-parks.html?parkid=325

Roy G. Guerrero: From I-35, take Riverside Dr. east 2.3 miles to Grove Blvd. Take a left on Grove Blvd and continue until it dead-ends at the park. GPS: 30.2426, -97.7012 Roy G. Guerrero is a 362-acre park located on the Colorado River, immediately downstream from Longhorn Dam. It features extensive natural areas with 2 miles of trails as well as baseball fields, volleyball courts, fitness stations and a playground. There is a nice variety of bird habitat, includin riparian, woodland and grassland. You can see 3 species of kingfishers, Black-bellied Whistling Duck and Crested Caracara. In the spring this is a good area for migratory birds, and during the winter this park is good for sparrows and ducks Colorado River Wildlife Sanctuary: From Roy G. Guerrero, head back to Riverside Dr. and take a right Turn right on Pleasant Valley Rd. and continue to Cesar Chavez/1st St. Take a right and then veer right before overpass. Go under the overpass that spans the Colorado River, turn and enter 5827 Levander Loop. The Wildlife Sanctuary is on the right. GPS: 30.2456, -97.6922 This heavily wooded, riparian walking trail provides habitat for migrating songbirds in the spring. The wetland ecosystem also forms several bays along this trail, which provide calm water for wintering waterfowl such as Gadwall, Lesser Scaup and Bufflehead. Yellow-rumped Warbler, Titmice and Ruby wned Kinglet inhabit the woods year-round. Raptors such as Red-shouldered Hawk occur here

# CAPITOL LOOP

Colorado River Wildlife Sanctuary: www.austinparks.org/our-parks.html?parkid=230

(800) 926-2282 www.austintexas.org Austin CVB A HOTE 041 ANN W. RICHARDS CONGRESS AVENUE BRIDGE From I-35, take Riverside Dr. west 0.8 mile to Congress Ave. and turn north. The bridge spans Lady Bird Lake. Parking is free, but limited, after 6 p.m. in the Austin American-Statesman's west parking lo Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge hosts the largest urban concentration of bats in North America, estimated at 1.5 million bats. It is also the site at which mother Mexican Free-tailed Bats raise an estimated 750,000 pups each year. The bridge became a bat pursery after bridge expansion work in the 1980s created deep concrete crevices that act as excellent roosts for bats raising their pups. The bridge is popular with tourists; summer nights have been known to attract as many as 2,000 bat watchers, where the nightly exodus is impressive to behold. Bats typically arrive at the bridge in mid-March and return to Mexico by early November. www.austintexas.org/listings/ann-richards-congress-avenue-bridge-bats/2841 GPS: 30.2589, -97.7463

## A HOTE 042 LADY BIRD LAKE

From Mopac/Loop 1 take the exit for Cesar Chavez and head east. One of several parking areas around the lake will be 1 mile down Cesar Chavez on the right. Lady Bird Lake is a 6-mile lake formed by Tom Miller and Longhorn dams. It runs through centra downtown Austin and is one of the most popular places in Austin to run, bike, walk and kayak Habitats include riparian woodlands, open fields, thickets and parkland. Monk Parakeets are commonly seen along the trail, and often nest in the tall light towers that illuminate the ball fields. Nesting birds include Summer Tanager, Wood Duck, Crested Caracara, Western Kingbird, Pain Bunting and Broad-winged Hawk. During the winter, look for Gadwall, American Wigeon, Bufflehead Lesser Scaup and Double-crested Cormoran www.austintexas.gov/page/lady-bird-lake GPS: 30.2655, -97.7520

# ▲ HOTE 043 ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDENS/AUSTIN SCIENCE AND NATURE CENTER

Zilker Botanical Gardens: From Mopac/Loop 1 take the exit for FM 2244 and head north on the frontage road which will turn into Barton Springs Rd. The botanical gardens entrance is 1 mile down on the left. GPS: 30.2680, -97.7724 Austin Science and Nature Center: From the botanical gardens you can either walk to the natur center, which takes about ten minutes, or return east on Barton Springs Rd. and make the first left after leaving the gardens, on Stratford Dr. This leads to a large parking area underneath the freeway The nature center entrance walk is directly across the street. GPS: 30.2681, -97.7725 mid the planted beds at the botanical gardens are a woodland escarpment trail and a pond syste both of which provide cover for migrating woodland birds. The nature center has feeders behind the large bird blind to the west of the meadow area before taking the steps to the buildings, as well as a pond and creek system that attracts ducks, cormorants and herons. The preserve trails provide a

#### good place to observe wildlife, especially during spring. Zilker Botanical Gardens: (512) 477-8672 www.zilkergarden.org Austin Science and Nature Center: (512) 974-3888 www.austintexas.gov/department/austin-nature-and-science-center

A HOTE 044 RED BUD ISLE PARK From Mopac/Loop 1, go west on Lake Austin Dr. 1.3 miles until its intersection with Red Bud Trail Turn left on Redbud Trail and follow 0.3 mile to the park entrance This park, on the Colorado River just below Tom Miller Dam, is a good place to look for spring migrants. It is also an excellent spot to scope the river. Spring and summer are good times to see dragonflies such as Widow Skimmer, Eastern Ringtail, Eastern Pondhawk and Roseate Skimmer. The iparian woodlands offer shelter to nesting White-eyed Vireo and Summer Tanager. Belted Kingfisher is common and Ringed Kingfisher has been seen here as well. Look for ducks and Osprey during the

# (512) 974-6700 www.austinparks.org/our-parks.html?parkid=317

▲ HOTE 046 WILD BASIN WILDERNESS PRESERVE From Mopac/Loop 1 and FM 2244/Bee Caves Rd. head west on FM 2244 to Loop 360; turn right and 1.2 miles to entrance on right. Wild Basin was founded in 1974 to protect 227 acres of Hill Country habitat and to provide nature education programs. Visitors enjoy 2.5 miles of hiking trails that pass through woodland, grassland and streamside habitats. Trail maps are located at the trailhead and an interpretive self-guided tour map of Wild Basin is available from the office. Follow the numbered posts along the 0.5-mile, easi accessible Arroyo Vista Trail or the lettered posts along the 1.5-mile loop down to the creek and back. (512) 327-7622 www.wildbasin.org GPS: 30.3120, -97.8265

# ▲ HOTE 047 LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER

From Loop 360 and Mopac/Loop 1, go south on Mopac 6.1 miles to La Crosse Ave. Turn left on La Crosse Ave. for 0.4 mile to the gated entrance on the right. This is a wonderful site for those interested in learning more about the native plants of Central Texas and how to garden for wildlife. Habitat at the Center includes juniper-oak woodland and grassland rs can enjoy interpretive hiking trails, a 16-acre oak savanna and formal display gardens that attract a wide variety of butterflies and dragonflies. Birds such as Greater Roadrunner occur yearround, while Painted Bunting, Summer Tanager, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Dickcissel, Lark Sparrow, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher occur in the summer. Winter brings American Kestrel, American Goldfinch and Cedar Waxwing. The center offers nature educational programs, a store and a cafe. (512) 232-0100 www.wildflower.org

### GPS: 30.1867,-97.8712 ▲ HOTE 048 HAMILTON POOL PRESERVE

From the intersection of US 290 and TX 71 in Oak Hill (the "Y"), go west on TX 71 for 11.4 miles to FM 3238/Hamilton Pool Rd. Turn left and go 12.5 miles to the entrance on the right. The preserve's pool and grotto were formed when the dome of an underground river collapsed du to massive erosion thousands of years ago. The pool is famed for its cool waters, spectacular falls grotto and beautiful cypress trees that line the creek all the way to its confluence with the Pedernales River. Golden-cheeked Warbler, Bell's Vireo, Canyon Wren, Painted Bunting and Green Kingfisher can be seen here. Bald cypress trees, diverse plant communities and a variety of wildlife species occupy the grotto and downstream areas. The preserve is managed as a natural area with emphasis on habita protection and restoration, environmental education and research. The preserve offers picnicking, hiking, swimming and nature study.

### (512) 264-2740 https://parks.traviscountytx.gov/find-a-park/hamilton-pool GPS: 30.3443, -98.1354

▲ HOTE 049 WESTCAVE PRESERVE Return to Hamilton Pool Rd./FM 3238, turn right and go 1 mile. The entrance is on the right, just pas the Pedernales River crossing. Westcave Preserve offers visitors a chance to experience and learn about the plants, wildlife and geology of Central Texas. The hiking trail begins in oak-juniper savannas, proceeding along creekside riparian woodlands and through a cool limestone canyon created over 100,000 years ago. Spring-fed waters tumble from 40 ft. above, glazing over travertine columns. Visitors can step into the grotto ind this waterfall and explore the travertine, stalagmite, shallow pool and other formations wit the cave. Golden-cheeked Warbler, Painted Bunting, Canyon Wren, Lark and Field Sparrows, Summer Tanager and White-eyed Vireo nest here. Spicebush Swallowtail is abundant as its larval host plant,

From US 290, turn north onto RR 12 in Dripping Springs. The park entrance is 1.8 miles north on

This 110-acre park is nestled amidst rolling hills and seasonal creeks and ponds with wide open

spaces for numerous outdoor recreational opportunities. A segment of Little Barton Creek runs

through the property, supporting an abundance of wildlife and native plants. More than 8 acres

riding. There is a 0.75-mile, crushed granite ADA-accessible walking trail that winds around an

approximately 3-acre pond and there are 2 miles of hiking/horse trails. Bird enthusiasts may also

enjoy picnic tables, playgrounds, primitive camping and RV sites. Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck,

Lesser Yellowlegs, Killdeer and Eastern Meadowlark, among others, are spotted around the pond

area. Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's and Red-shouldered Hawks and American Kestrel

are commonly spotted. Canyon, Bewick's and Carolina Wrens, Black-crested Titmouse, Carolina

Chickadee, Eastern Phoebe, Northern Mockingbird and Chipping, Grasshopper and Lark Sparrows

are regular visitors. Eastern Bluebird, Northern Cardinal, Summer Tanager, Painted Bunting, Lesser

PEDERNALES VALLEY LOOP

From the intersection of FM 12 and US 290 in Dripping Springs, go 9.6 miles west on US 290 to FM

through much of the park, offering visitors access to habitats that include cypress-lined river and

Warblers nest here and are most easily found between mid-March and May. Common nesting, ne

tropic migrants include Painted Bunting, Summer Tanager, White-eved Vireo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo

and Ash-throated Flycatcher. Look for Canyon Wren in the canyon-lined woodlands. Migrant North

Fox Sparrows and Spotted and Canyon Towhees can be seen at the park's covered, ADA-accessible

From US 290/281 in Johnson City, head 1.1 miles east on RR 2766 (the road to Pedernales Falls

This lovely vineyard offers wine tasting as well as wildlife viewing. Visitors can enjoy wildflowers

and butterflies near the main building and gift shop. Behind the vineyards are almost 100 acres of

savanna, scrub, mixed woodland and a pond. Greater Roadrunner, Wild Turkey, Painted Bunting

Bell's Vireo and Pyrrhuloxia occur here. The spring-fed ponds attract Green and Great Blue Heror

830-868-7304 www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/pedernales-falls

A HOTE 052 JUNCTION US 281 NORTH AND PEDERNALES RIVER

immediately before the bridge. Follow this road past TX 356 Spur to an area below the bridge

The river bottom is mixed, deciduous woodland interwoven with shrubs and vines. Green and

Great Blue Herons are common along these banks, as are American Coot and Pied-billed Grebe.

Dragonflies such as Eastern Ringtail, Eastern Pondhawk and Common Whitetail can be seen along

A HOTE 053 JOHNSON SETTLEMENT AT LYNDON B. JOHNSON NATIONAL

The restored Johnson Settlement is the site of Lyndon B. Johnson's family ranch. A nature trail

From US 290 and Avenue F, turn south and go 0.1 mile to East Lady Bird Ln. Turn right on East Lady

starting from the visitor center crosses Town Creek, a densely wooded, spring-fed waterway that runs

through much of Johnson City and encircles the settlement to form a complete loop. The gardens of

the water's edge. The bridge is a nesting site for Cliff and Barn Swallows. A small colony of Mexican

American sparrows such as Song, Lincoln's, Lark, Harris, White-throated, White-crowned, Vesper an

creek banks, juniper-oak woodlands, oak savannas and wooded canyons. Over 150 species of

3232. Turn right and go 7 miles to stop sign. Turn right to park entrance. Park headquarters is 2.5 mil

This park is located along the eastern edge of the Texas Hill Country. Hiking and biking trails meande

ds have been recorded, and about one-third of these are permanent residents. Golden-cheeked

(830) 868-7684 www.johnsoncity-texas.com

(888) 997-3600 www.visitfredericksburgtx.com

een set aside as a wildlife preserve. The park's trail system is ideal for hiking and horse tra

#### spicebush, grows prolifically beneath the cypress and elm trees. (830) 825-3442 www.westcave.org GPS: 30.3364, -98.1408

HOTE 049A DRIPPING SPRINGS RANCH PARK

and American Goldfinch are several of the brightly colored visitors.

HOTE 050 PEDERNALES FALLS STATE PARK

www.drippingspringsranchpark.com/default.aspx?name=homepage

(512) 858-4725

**Johnson City COC** 

bird viewing station.

State Park).

GPS: 30.2778, -98.2564

GPS: 30.2747, -98.3831

along the Pedernales River.

GPS: 30.2940, -98.4059

HISTORIC PARK

Free-tailed Bats roosts under this bridge.

Bird Ln. to the visitor center and parking lot on left.

A HOTE 051 TEXAS HILLS VINEYARDS

In the spring and summer, look for a diversity of breeding frogs.

(830) 868-2321 www.texashillsvineyard.com

Fredericksburg CVB

GPS: 30.2170, -98.0867

RR 12. Turn left at the light across from Dripping Springs Elementary School

blooming wildflowers and shrubs attract swarms of butterflies that include Oueen, Monarch, Longtailed and Fiery Skippers, Gray Hairstreak and Pipevine, Black and Tiger Swallowtails, Black-chinned minghird is also plentiful. Look in the willows, oaks and elms for nesting White-eved Vireo, Summer Tanager and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. The oak savanna along the trail provides excellent habitat

#### (830)868-7128 www.nps.gov/lyjo/index.htm GPS: 30.2757, -98.4121 A HOTE 054 TOURISM OFFICE OF JOHNSON CITY

for woodpeckers and sparrows.

(830) 644-2252

Wimberlev COC

by reservation.

you plan to swim at the well.

GPS: 30.2352, -98.6287

Located near the center of Johnson City, you can find the Tourism Office at the corner of US 290/ Main St. and Ladybird Ln. This site has a small wildflower garden in addition to a lush native garden. Gray Hairstreak and Fiery Skipper join the swarming honeybees among native Texas mountain laurel, sage, hot lips salvia, blackfoot daisies and buttercups. Directly across Ladybird Ln, from the Tourism Office is the Science Mill, which features redbuds, coral yuccas and native grasses.

### (888) 997-3600 www.visitfredericksburgtx.com GPS: 30.2766, -98.4120

A HOTE 056 LBJ STATE PARK AND HISTORIC SITE At the intersection of CR 204 and US 290 in Johnson City, follow US 290 west 13.3 miles to North PR 52. Turn right on North PR 52 to park headquarters isitors to this day-use park can enjoy history, picnicking, nature study, fishing and view Texa longhorn cattle and bison. The Sauer-Beckmann Farmstead is a living history farm, interpreting life on the farmstead as it was in 1918. The spring wildflower display at this park is not to be missed. Resident birds to look for include Eastern Bluebird, Northern Bobwhite, Eastern Phoebe and Belted Kingfisher. Summer nesters include Summer Tanager, Painted Bunting and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher The creek bottom is a good place to look for an assortment of reptiles and amphibians

## WIMBERLEY LOOP

www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/lyndon-b-johnson

(512) 847-2201 HOTE 057 BLANCO STATE PARK/WEIDNER CAMPGROUND

Owl and Eastern Screech-Owl serenade nightly from the larger trees near the campgrounds. Gree

Blanco State Park: From US 290 and US 281 in Johnson City, take US 281 south for 8.2 miles to PR 23 in Blanco. Park headquarters is on the right. GPS: 30.0911, -98.4225 Weidner Campground: From US 281, take FM 311 east 2.1 miles and turn left after the bridge at the sign for Bigfoot Canoes. Continue to the house at the end of the road. GPS: 29.8700, -98.3681 lanco State Park is a 105-acre park consisting of trails, campsites and picnic areas along the Blanc River, Densely vegetated boxelder, elderberry, willows and hackberries attract nesting Ash-throated Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Painted Bunting, Summer Tanager and Blue Grosbeak. Great Horned

www.bigfootcanoes.com

www.wimberley.org

and Great Blue Herons, Belted Kingfisher and Eastern Phoebe patrol the riverbanks. Rabbits inhabit the dense vegetation along the river's edge. Another nearby, fee-based picnic area with wildlife viewing along the cypress-studded river is Weidner Campground Blanco State Park: (830) 833-4333 www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/blanco

### HOTE 058 RED CORRAL RANCH From US 281 and FM 163 in Blanco, head east on FM 163 to FM 165. Take FM 165 east 8 miles to

FM 2325. Turn right and go 3 miles to Red Corral Ranch Rd. Turn right and follow 0.5 mile to gate This 1,100-acre ranch offers diverse habitats and abundant wildlife. Golden-cheeked Warbler occur here, and the ranch is restoring habitat for Black-capped Vireo. Walking paths along Wanslow Creek provide excellent opportunities to view typical Hill Country breeding birds, and the grassy regetation provides good habitat for wintering sparrows. A beautiful lodge and cabins are available

### (830) 833-0206 www.redcorralranch.com GPS: 30.0977, -98.2585

Weidner Campground: (830) 885-7106

A HOTE 059 JACOB'S WELL NATURAL AREA From Wimberley, head west 2.3 miles on FM 2325. Turn right on CR 20/Jacob's Well Rd. and go 1.3 miles to Mt. Sharp Rd. Turn left and the entrance is 0.4 mile on the left. Jacob's Well is one of the most significant natural treasures of the Hill Country. This large artesian spring is fed by groundwater from the Trinity Aquifer and forms the headwaters of Cypress Creek. The Il is reached by a trail that passes through woodland of juniper, oak, persimmon, agarita, buckey and other limestone slope vegetation which hosts Golden-fronted and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers. Bewick's Wren, Carolina Chickadee and Black-crested Titmouse. Watch along the banks of Cypress Creek for Great Blue Heron, Green Kingfisher and other riparian species. Reservations are required if

### (512) 847-2140 www.co.hays.tx.us/jwna.aspx GPS: 30.0367, -98.1272

A HOTE 059A CHARRO RANCH PARK At the intersection of US 290 and RR 12 in Dripping Springs, turn south on RR 12. Travel 1.5 miles and turn east on FM 150. Travel 0.9 mile to entrance on north side of the road. Charro Ranch Park is a 64-acre park that offers visitors 2 miles of easy hiking trails traversing grassland, woodland and savanna habitats. Over 110 species of birds have been identified in the park ors should begin their hike at the bird viewing station where you can expect to spot Lincoln's Savannah, White-throated and Field Sparrows during the winter and early spring. The bird viewing station also provides good sighting of Lesser, American and House Finches, Northern Cardinal ar Ladder-backed and Golden-fronted Woodpeckers. Depending on the time of the year, birders wil spot Painted Bunting, Summer Tanager, Crested Caracara, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawk

Great-horned Owl, Eastern Screech-Owl, Eastern Phoebe, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-rumped and Orange-crowned Warblers, among many other species. In the spring, wildflowers brighten the park with Texas Bluebonnet, Greenthread, Indian Blanket, Winecup, Prairie Verbena, Evening Primrose, Lantana and Engelmann's Daisy, growing among many native grasses and tree species. www.cityofdrippingsprings.com/default.aspx?name=city.charro GPS: 30.1625, -98.0758

#### A HOTE 059B BLUE HOLE REGIONAL PARK From the center of Wimberley on RR 12 (Wimberley Square), head northeast on Old Kyle Rd. Go 0.3 mile and take a left on Blue Hole Rd. Park will be on the right. The Blue Hole Regional Park includes 126 acres of slightly developed land and its most prominer

feature is the natural spring-fed Cypress Creek with the "Blue Hole" used for generations as a swimming hole. The creek is lined with old cypress trees, and has a great riparian area which provides good bird habitat. The 3.5 miles of trails wind through wooded areas that include large oaks, cypress, cedar elm, persimmon, hackberry and sycamores, which attract many types of songbirds, including Eastern Phoebe, Carolina Chickadee, Northern Cardinal, Ruby-crowned Kingle and more. There are grassy areas with a number of native grasses in the center of the park. Spring and fall are the peak birding seasons. (512) 847-0025 www.blueholeregionalpark.com GPS: 30.0017, -98.0874

#### HOTE 059C PATSY GLENN REFUGE From the traffic signal at the intersection of RR 12 and River Rd., turn east onto Wimberley Community Center Driveway and proceed through parking lot to entrance of Patsy Glenn Refuge. Year-round viewing is available on a 1.8-acre Wimberley Bird Sanctuary, which includes a Chimr Swift tower, information kiosk, enclosed viewing blind and viewing platform. The refuge also featur

paths, wildflower areas, butterfly gardens, native tree plantings, bluebird nest boxes and feeding an water stations. The refuge is a haven for local and migratory birds, wildlife, insects and native plants Enjoy the tranquility of the Hill Country in the heart of the village. The site demonstrates land clearing and restoration practices and responsible stewardship of water resources. Adjacent to Wimberley Community Center with meeting rooms, an art gallery and restroom facilities. www.wimbirds.org/refuge.html

## SAN MARCOS LOOP

#### San Marcos CVB (888) 200-5620 www.toursanmarcos.com A HOTE 060 GARDEN-VILLE

GPS: 29.9980, -98.0989

(512) 754-0060

GPS: -97.9821, 29.9007

GPS: 29.9030, -97.9686

GPS: 29.8942, -97.9553

Purgatory Creek.

From the intersection of FM 2325 and FM 12 in Wimberley, go south on FM 12 for 4.6 miles to the FM 32/FM 12 intersection. Turn left to stay on FM 12 and go 7.8 miles to entrance on the left. This site is a good place to learn about gardening to attract birds or butterflies. Vegetation on the property includes juniper, prickly pear and large stands of lemon beebalm that provide nectar for butterflies, including Pipevine Swallowtail, Queen and Gulf Fritillary. www.garden-ville.com

### A HOTE 060A RINGTAIL RIDGE NATURAL AREA Take RR 12 (Moore St.) toward Wimberley about 0.1 mile past Graddock Ave. Turn right onto di

bad between Dakota Ranch Apartments and Crestwood Center. Follow road until you reach the big oak and parking lot behind the apartments. This site has 40-plus acres of lightly developed parkland off of RR 12. The natural area features a 0.5-mile accessible trail with a kiosk and benches and about 2 miles of unmarked loop trail including a spur that meets RR 12 in the 30-ft.-wide swath between Community Baptist Church and Dakota Ranch Apartments. The 2-mile trail was designed by San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance for mountain biking, but it also offers pleasant hiking in a surprisingly diverse natural area in a part of town that is developing rapidly. Oak groves, flowering meadows, cactus stands and persis thickets are all found in Ringtail Ridge and provide a diverse ecology for birds, mammals, reptile and insects. Small, wet weather ponds are active bird viewing areas. (512) 393-8400 www.ci.san-marcos.tx.us/index.aspx?page=245#245Natural Areas

# A HOTE 061 SCHULLE CANYON GREENSPACE AND TRAIL

Take RR 12 west from San Marcos, turn right on Holland St. at the traffic light and travel 0.2 mile to Alamo St. Take a left and follow Alamo to dead end at the kiosk and parking area This natural area has 21 acres of undeveloped parkland with 0.5-mile of 6-ft.-wide, crushed granite, accessible trails and just under a mile of natural surface trails. The west end of the natural area is large grass meadow. At the heart of the natural area is a wet weather creek and several benches ar placed along the trails. Although surrounded by neighborhoods, the sloped canyon hills provide a sense of being deep in the woods. Mature live oaks, red oaks, cedar elm and juniper trees provide habitat for a wide variety of birds. Butterflies are numerous in the summer, especially Texan Crescents, Hackberry and Tawny Emperors, Common Mestra and Texas Powdered Skipper, Birds such as Northern Cardinal, Carolina Wren and Tufted Titmouse are often seen. This is a great birding site for the beginning birder or one with limited mobility. (512) 393-8400 www.smgreenbelt.org/SMNaturalAreas.htm#SchulleCanyon

### A HOTE 062 PURGATORY CREEK NATURAL AREA The 570-acre Purgatory Creek Natural Area is within the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone. It is home

to Purgatory Creek, and includes upland meadows, canyon bluffs of 40 ft. or more, dense juniper thickets, champion oaks and a flood control dam. Several areas within this natural area are habit for Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo. A trail runs along the narrows of the frequently dry, Purgatory Creek bed. Purgatory Creek Natural Area is divided into three sections: Prospect Park, Lower Purgatory and Upper Purgatory: Prospect Park: From downtown San Marcos, take W. Hopkins St. to N Bishop St. Turn west (uphil on Bishop and then go left on Prospect St. Go 2.5 blocks to the dead end. Park on the street near the kiosk on the right. GPS: 29.8745, -97.9604 Prospect Park is about 9 acres of parkland with about 3 miles of trails, including a 1-mile accessible crushed limestone trail. Prospect Park sits on a rather porous section of the Edwards Aquifer where juniper groves, meadows, ephemeral wetlands and oak mottes co-exist. Benches and interpretive

signs are located at various points along the accessible portion of the trail. Visitors will find a karst ave, a large compass and group seating at the Learning Tree in the lower meadow Lower Purgatory: From downtown San Marcos, take W. Hopkins St. past Bishop St. and Belvin St. to the intersection of Hunter Rd. and Wonder World Dr. (Hopkins turns into Hunter). Just past the rsection of Hunter and Wonder World, turn right onto an unpaved road to the parking area and ailhead, GPS: 29.8658, -97.9634 he Lower Purgatory access point is at the intersection of Wonder World Dr. and Hunter Rd., which

includes parking, a kiosk and the trailhead for Dante's Trail, which runs through the length of Purgatory Creek Natural Area. The first 1-mile section is a crushed stone and dirt hiking and bik trail. Where the trail's bike ramps merge onto the roadway at the northern end of Wonder World Dr., the trail splits south (connecting Prospect Park along Virgil's Way) and north (connecting more allenging Upper Purgatory trails) oper Purgatory: From downtown San Marcos, take W. Hopkins St. past Bishop St. and Belvin St. to Wonder World Dr. and turn right (west) on Wonder World. At the intersection with Craddock Ave.

#### trailhead. GPS: 29.8807, -97.9720 Upper Purgatory has mostly natural hiking trails, including Dante's, Paraiso and Malcoda. Malcoda is a branch from Dante's that leads visitors to the grotto, a limestone formation shaped in part by (512) 393-8400 www.smgreenbelt.org/SMNaturalAreas.htm#ProspectPark

make a left onto a ranch road and watch for natural area signs guiding you to the parking area and

A HOTE 063 SAN MARCOS RIVER WALK From I-35 and TX 80 near San Marcos, head west on TX 80 to CM Allen Pkwy. Turn left and then left again into the parking area. The gateway to the trail system is the San Marcos Nature Center located on Riverside Dr. adjacent to the Tourist Information Center. The Nature Center features a variety of theme gardens that attract wildlife, including succulents, bird, bee and butterfly gardens, wildflower gardens, medicinal plan grasses and vines. These gardens lead to a 2.5-mile riverside trail system that takes you through the heart of San Marcos. Resident birds such as Green and Great Blue Herons, Yellow-crowned Night eron and Red-shouldered Hawk occur here, as do all three kingfishers (Ringed more rarely) Wintering waterfowl, large numbers of migrating songbirds and a variety of woodpeckers can also be seen. Dragonflies and butterflies are common, and include specialties such as Neotropical Bluet and Dragonhunter. Interpretive panels along the trail discuss the Edward's Aquifer, endangered

#### species, birds and other wildlife inhabiting the park. Some sections are ADA accessible, and there are penches, water fountains and restroom facilitie (512) 393-8400 www.toursanmarcos.com GPS: 29.8830, -97.9371 A HOTE 064 SPRING LAKE PRESERVE NATURAL AREA/THE MEADOWS CENTER

FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT, TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY From I-35, exit 206 on Aquarena Springs Dr. and proceed west towards town. The Texas State University football stadium will be on your left and you will take a right on W. Laurel St., immediately after you cross the train tracks. At the "Y," stay to the left and enter the parking lot. To get to the trailhead of Spring Lake Preserve Natural Area, cross Laurel St. heading towards the golf course maintenance facility. You will see a 3x6-inch blue plastic trail marker (a blaze), nailed to a large tree within the maintenance area parking lot. Continue following the blazes through the steel gate and up the hill to a sheltered kiosk marking the Spring Lake Natural Area. Spring Lake is home to the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment and the Spring Lake

Visitor Center. Over 1,000 springs bubble up from the bottom of Spring Lake, forming the headwaters

Edward's Aquifer, may be observed in the Center's "Discovery Hall and Endangered Species Aquarium

Exhibit." Spring Lake is best appreciated via a glass-bottom boat ride (fee), where birds, turtles and

other animals can be observed. The lake may also be viewed from its banks, which are shaded by tall

cypress trees, and from an elevated viewing deck and boardwalk. These areas provide excellent views

of the San Marcos River. Several endangered species occur here including Texas Blind and San

Marcos Salamanders and Fountain Darter. These species, as well as other aquatic species of the

of cormorants, Least and Pied-bill Grebes, Osprey, wintering waterfowl and wading birds. Dragonflies such as Slaty and Widow Skimmers, and Halloween and Four-spotte ration, songbirds often concentrate in the tall shrubs along the boardwalk. Over 110 species of birds have been recorded, many on the wooded slopes rising from the lake's shore. Several trails wind through these woodlands. Watch for nesters such as Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Carolina Wren, mer Tanager and Carolina Chickadee. You can also view a nesting pair of Red-shouldered Hawks who have been annual residents in one of the large cypress trees.

### (512) 245-7570 www.meadowscenter.txstate.edu www.smgreenbelt.org/SMNaturalAreas.htm#SpringLake GPS: 29.8939, -97.9291

A HOTE 064A BLANCO SHOALS NATURAL AREA ake I-35 north from San Marcos. Take Aquarena Springs Exit 206 and go straight on northbound frontage road to overpass at River Ridge Pkwy. and turn right. Go to the end of the road near the partments. Park your car in the cul-de-sac and walk toward the river. Blanco Shoals is a unique area in the San Marcos area park system; it is a completely undeveloped riparian area, and will remain that way with the exception of a few existing trails. It contains high bank bluffs and shoals along the Blanco River, tall cottonwoods and sycamores, gigantic pecans and mesquite. Anaqua trees cling to the riverbanks. Because of the constant water source, this is a good year-round birding site. (512) 393-8400 www.smgreenbelt.org/SMNaturalAreas.htm#BlancoShoals

### GPS: 29.9045, -97.8976 A HOTE 064B FIVE MILE DAM PARK COMPLEX

On I-35 in San Marcos, take Exit 210. Take the frontage road to Yarrington Rd./CR 159 and go west 0.6 mile until it veers left and becomes Blanco Vista Blvd. Go 1.4 miles on Blanco Vista Blvd. until it ends at Old Stagecoach Rd. The park entrance is directly across the road The riparian habitat of the park is home to a wide variety of birds, including woodpeckers

#### shrikes, flycatchers, cardinals, bluebirds, sparrows, doves and the occasional kingfisher, Osprey Red-Shouldered Hawk, and even killdeer in the open soccer fields beside the park. The birds are spread out along the length of the park, so be sure to walk through as much of the park as possil including the dry gravel beds below the dam when the water level is low and birds and rabbits find shelter in the shrubs. Golden-fronted Woodpecker is common in the park, while Ladder-backed odpecker and wintering Yellow-bellied Sapsucker can also be seen. Chipping and Vesper Sparrows e among the wintering sparrows found in the grassy areas and chinaberry trees below the dam. Eastern Bluebird is easy to spot, especially in the spring, and keep an eve out for Loggerhead Shrike

on the fences, power lines or in trees. There is usually a raptor or two, along with both Black and Turkey Vultures. Morning is best to keep the sun at your back as you look toward the river. 512) 847-2140 www.co.hays.tx.us/five-mile-dam.aspx GPS: 29.9415, -97.9008

### A HOTE 064C LAKE KYLE PARK From I-35, take exit 214 toward FM 150/Kyle. Turn right onto FM 150E and turn left (north) onto

Lake Kyle Park consists of Blackland prairie with a large man-made pond. Four miles of marked trails wind through the 115-acre area, offering views of the creek, pond and dam. The area attracts waterfowl including American White Pelican, Bufflehead Duck and Great Egret. You can also spot ed-tailed Hawk, Red-Winged Blackbird and Crested Caracar (512) 262-3939 www.cityofkyle.com/recreation/lake-kyle-park-headquarters GPS: 29.9867, -97.8632

## A HOTE 064D STAGECOACH PARK

From I-35 in Buda, take the Loop 4 Exit and go west on Loop 4/W. Main Street for 0.5 mile. Entrance park is on the right and marked with a rock/wood sign out front. gecoach Park is a lovely destination with natural beauty, historic significance and amenities to enjoy The park's 51 acres offer a variety of bird habitats. There is a vast old wooded area leading down to a eek with very large oaks, hackberry, mesquite, cedar, vines thick with native plants and underbrush ideal for bird habitat. There is a natural creek running along the property, and a man-made pond in the center of the park. Birds to note include House Finch, Turkey and Black Vultures, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pine Siskin, Eastern Phoebe, Cedar Waxwing, Red-bellied Woodpecker and Eastern Bluebird. (512) 295-7170 http://tx-buda.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=291 GPS: 30.0912, -97.8369

### A HOTE 065 JOHN J. STOKES, SR. PARK AT THOMPSON'S ISLANDS From I-35 and Guadalupe St., take the I-35 access road north on the east side of the interstate. After 0.7 mile, turn right/east on River Rd. and drive 0.4 mile to Cape Rd./CR 299. Turn right and park after e first of two river crossings, about 0.1 mile. This site is a combination of dense riparian thickets, mowed lawns, tall, weedy edges and scattered

sycamores, willows and pecans near the San Marcos River. During the winter, Vesper, Song and Savannah Sparrows and Spotted Towhee forage in the tangles of grapevines and ragweed at the oded edge. Look for Orange-crowned Warbler and Blue-headed Vireo in the canopy. Watch fo kingfishers, woodpeckers, Osprey and American Kestrel. During the summer, the river-edge and weedy fields are alive with dragonflies. (512) 393-8400 www.hillcountryoutdoorguide.com/location/john-j-stokes-park-at-thompson's-islands

#### GPS: 29.8696, -97.9298 A HOTE 066 CR 266 BETWEEN THE SAN MARCOS RIVER AND STAPLES ROAD Going south on Cape Rd./CR 299, turn left on TX 123, and then immediately left at the light onto 1 621. Go 0.5 mile and note the state fish hatchery on your left. Continue 1.7 miles to CR 266/Old Bastrop Hwy. Turn left and go 0.5 mile to a large farm pond on the right. Park well off of the road En route to this site, look for Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, Dowitchers, Upland Sandpiper and other shorebirds in the wet fields. Scan the fields and hedgerows for Lincoln's, White-crowned, Whitebroated and Harris' Sparrows. In the summer, watch for Loggerhead Shrike, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, ested Caracara, Painted Bunting and Dickcissel. In the winter, look for Short-eared Owl and Northern Harrier, Gulls, puddle ducks, shorebirds and large wading birds make this a good winter venue. In early spring, look for Yellow-headed Blackbird. Where the road crosses the San Marcos River, look for Orchard Oriole, Blue Grosbeak and Painted Bunting.

### GPS: 29.8441, -97.9101 HOTE 066A LOCKHART STATE PARK

To reach the park, go 1 mile south of Lockhart on US 183 to FM 20; then travel southwest on FM 20 for 2 miles to PR 10 and continue 1 mile south on PR 10. Lockhart State Park boasts 263.7 acres, with a pool, picnicking, camping, fishing, hiking, a nature study and a nine-hole golf course. Wildlife includes deer, coyotes, bobcats, foxes, raccoons, opossums, armadillos, nutria, rabbits, squirrels, many varieties of birds and several types of snakes. (512) 398-3479 www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/lockhart GPS: 29.8502, -97.6979

## A HOTE 067 SAN MARCOS AQUATIC RESOURCE CENTER

From I-35, go south 2.9 miles on the western frontage road to McCarty Ln./Exit 201. Exit right/west and go 0.1 mile to a left turn at the entrance. Go to the office to check in. The hatchery grounds provide a variety of habitats that include extensive Blackland Prairie, a pond, vetlands, mowed turf, parcels of brush and tall trees near a creek. Open areas are filled with nesting Dickcissels, tall grasses and wildflowers. About 70 species of birds have been recorded on the site which is best during winter when puddle ducks are on the pond and raptors hunt the open fields. The wetlands, brushy edges and prairies have Le Conte's, Savannah, Swamp, Vesper, Song and Lincoln's ingfisher, Bonaparte's and Ring-billed Gulls, migratory shorebirds and other wintering waterfowl. (512) 353-0011 www.fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/san\_marcos GPS: 29.8403, -97.9759

## A HOTE 068 CR 234 AT SOUTHRIDGE ESTATES

From I-35 go southeast 1.5 miles on Centerpoint Rd. Turn right on CR 266/Old Bastrop Hwy., then immediately left on CR 234. Go 1.8 miles and turn left into Southridge Estates. Enter on Pauls Rd., turn left on Crest Circle Dr. and back to Pauls Rd. to exit. As you drive along CR 234, you will pass mesquite habitat that is productive for wintering and

igrating birds such as Ash-throated Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Bewick's Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, as well as a variety of sparrows, towhees and buntings. Watch for flocks of Sandhil Crane on the roadsides during migration. At Southridge Estates, Crest Circle Dr. circles a lake that nust be birded from the roadside. In the winter, watch for ducks such as Mallard, Gadwall, variou al, Northern Pintail, Canvasback and Ring-neck Duck. During migration, Wilson's Phalarope and other shorebirds use the lake. At times, there are large numbers of wintering Common Sni and occasionally flocks of White Pelican. When you exit, turn left on CR 234 and check the three lditional roadside ponds within the next 0.5-mile.

# GUADALUPE LOOP

Canyon Lake COC	(800) 528-2104	www.canyonlakechamber.com
New Braunfels COC	(800) 572-2626	www.innewbraunfels.com
Boerne Area COC	(830) 249-8000	www.boerne.org

#### From I-35 and TX 6 in New Braunfels, take I-35 south to exit 187/Lake McOueeney, Turn right o Seguin Ave, and follow 1.6 miles through downtown to Landa Park Dr. Turn right on Landa Park Dr. nd follow 0.4 mile to Landa Park. his park sits on the Comal River, fed by Comal Springs. Wildlife viewing is best along Landa Lake the Wildlife Viewing Area and Panther Canvon Nature Trail, Great Blue and Green Herons, Yellowcrowned Night-Heron, Belted Kingfisher and Pied-billed Grebe occur here. In the winter, cormorant nd ducks can be found on and near the lake. Look for migrating songbirds in trees throughout the park. White-tailed Deer are common, as are squirrels, raccoons and armadillos.

#### (830) 221-4000 www.nbtexas.org/index.aspx?NID=156 GPS: 29.7098, -98.1338 HOTE 070 CAMP HUACO SPRINGS

GPS: 29.7864, -97.9678

From I-35 and TX Loop 337, take TX Loop 337 north to River Rd. Turn right and continue for proximately 3 miles to the entrance to Camp Huaco Springs on the right. camping, screened shelters, cabins and tube rentals are available. Miles of waterfront provide good ws of wildlife in and along the Guadalupe River. Summer birds include Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Summe mager, Painted Bunting, White-eyed Vireo and Eastern Phoebe. Look for woodpeckers year-round, as well as Northern Flicker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in the winter. Look and listen for Barred Owl and Eastern Screech-Owl. Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks nest along the river corridor. (830) 629-9999 www.camphuacosprings.com

### GPS: 29.7618, -98.1400 HOTE 071 LAZY L & L CAMPGROUND

From I-35 and TX Loop 337, take TX Loop 337 north to River Rd. Turn right and follow north 10 miles to entrance on the left. lesting birds include Ash-throated and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Black-and-white Warbler, Norther Parula and Yellow-throated Warbler. Campgrounds 2 and 3 are heavily wooded with pecans and bald cypress. Look for Golden-fronted, Ladder-backed and Downy Woodpeckers, and in the winter, look for Northern Flicker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Barred Owl or Eastern Screech-Owl may also be seen or heard in these riparian woodlands. This site offers RV/tent camping, tubing, kayaking, rafting nd vacation/cabin rentals. Call for reservations (830) 964-3455 www.lazylandl.com

#### GPS: 29.8182, -98.1729 HOTE 072 RIO GUADALUPE RESORT

From I-35 and TX Loop 337, take TX Loop 337 north to River Rd. Turn right and follow north 2 miles to park entrance on right. he river frontage is wooded by pecan, hackberry, bald cypress, black walnut and sycamore Warblers, flycatchers and vireos can be seen migrating along this riparian habitat in spring and fall. summer, nesters include Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Painted B Phoebe. In the winter, look for Belted Kingfisher and Osprey along the river. The site offers camping, cabins, raft, tube, canoe and kayak rentals. (877) RIO-RAFT www.rioguadaluperesort.com GPS: 29.8437, -98.1693

## A HOTE 073 CANYON LAKE DAM AND GUADALUPE RIVER

Overlook Park: From I-35 and FM 306, head west on FM 306 14.2 miles, turn left onto South Access Rd. which passes along the bottom of Canyon Dam. Turn right onto Corps of Engineers Rd, and proceed to top of the hill. Parking is available near the crest of the dam, at the office and in the turn-around. GPS: 29.8620, -98.1972 uadalupe Park Trail: Return to South Access Rd., turn left and go to the first gravel road on the right. he trail head starts in the parking area by a large kiosk showing a map of the trail. If you enter the econd gravel road, you will be at the fishing area behind the tailrace at the power plant where trout are stocked every winter. GPS: 29.8684, -98.1940 his area is excellent for viewing birds and wildlife year-round. The Guadalupe Park nature trail, near the base of the dam, meanders through pecan, cypress and juniper woodlands and along the river bank. The area's rich vegetation attracts Indigo and Painted Buntings, Blue Grosbeak, Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred Owl and Wood Duck, Overlook Park offers a scenic view of the lake. A scope is useful to scan for wintering waterfowl and gulls. Black-crested Titmouse regularly nests in the oak woodlands. Also look for Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher and Painted Bunting.

### (830) 964-3341 (M-F only) www.swf-wc.usace.army.mil/canyon/Recreation/Parks/Corpsparks.asp

HOTE 074 CANYON LAKE NORTH SHORE North Park: From I-35 and FM 306, head west on FM 306 15.5 miles to North Park Rd. Turn left and travel 1.1 miles to park entrance. The park is only open from Friday at 9 a.m. through Sunday 2 p.m. The parking area to hike Canyon Dam on foot is open all year outside of the park gate. GPS: 29.8758, -98.2018 Jacobs Creek Park: Return to FM 306, turn left and then immediately left again onto Jacob's Creek Rd. 0.6 mile to entrance. Park fees are collected by machine. This is a good location for families. GPS: 29.8847, -98.2193 Canyon Beach: Return to FM 306 and turn left. Travel west for 2.1 miles to Canyon Park Rd. Turn left on Canyon Park Rd. and follow about 0.6 mile to park entrance on the left. Bald Eagle has been spotted near this area in the winter. GPS: 29.9058, -98.2253 Madrone Trail: From the beach area, turn left on Canyon Park Rd. and follow about 0.4 mile to parking lot on left. This is the trail head with a kiosk and map. There are over 8 miles of hiking and biking trails that provide access to woodlands, shoreline and open grass fields with various wildlife and plants. Open all year. GPS: 29.9020, -98.2306 anyon Park: From the Madrone Trail area turn left on Canyon Park Rd. and follow about 1 mile to park entrance in back of park. GPS: 29.8931, -98.2327 Hancock Horse Trail: From FM 306, turn left and proceed 1.5 miles to Hancock Rd. Turn left and go south until you get to the gate of the trail. Trail head closes during rain due to mud. GPS: 29.9133, -98.2403 Potters Creek Park: Return to FM 306, turn left and go 2 miles to Potters Creek Rd. Turn left and go 2.4 miles to entrance. Bald Eagles have been spotted in winter at this park area. GPS: 29.9072, -98.2635 The northern shores of Canyon Lake are good places to observe waterfowl and shorebirds during the winter. Breeding woodland birds such as Eastern Phoebe, Blue Grosbeak, Black-chinned Hummingbird and Summer Tanager can be seen along Old Hancock Trail. White-tailed Deer,

armadillo, Rock and Fox Squirrels and raccoons are common. In the winter, look for Northe Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Common Loon, Pied-billed and Eared Grebes, Redhead, Gadwall and American Wigeon, Red-breasted and Hooded Mergansers and Ruddy Duck. American White Pelican, gulls and terns are usually seen along this northern shoreline between Canyon Park and Potters Creek Park. Unusual sightings include nesting pairs of Bald Eagles, Pacific and Red-throated Loons and Horned Grebe. Some sites offer developed camping during the summer but are closed in the winter, check website for details. (830) 964-3341 (M-F only) www.swf-wc.usace.army.mil/canyon/Recreation/Parks/Corpsparks.asp

#### HOTE 075 CANYON LAKE AND GUADALUPE RIVER UPSTREAM North Cranes Mill Road; From FM 306 and US 281, head east on FM 306 to Cranes Mill Rd Turn right and go 1.6 miles to shoreline. GPS: 29.9153, -98.2915

Rebecca Creek Boat Ramp: Return to FM 306, turn left, and go 3.4 miles to Eagle Rock Rd. a left for 0.1 mile to Tanglewood Trail. Turn right and go 2.5 miles to boat ramp. GPS: 29.9139, -98.3395 Rebecca Creek Road Crossing: Return north on Tanglewood Trail 0.8 mile to Cypress Cove Rd. Turn ft and go 2.3 miles to Rebecca Creek Rd. Turn left and go 3.6 miles to Rebecca Creek Rd. Crossing. GPS: 29.8881, -98.3683

long this riparian riverside, look for Belted and Green Kingfishers, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned and Barred Owls and Northern Rough-winged, Cliff, Cave and Barn Swallows. Nesting birds include Wood Duck, Painted Bunting, Canyon Wren and Northern Parula. Boaters often see flocks o Wild Turkey grazing on the riverbank. Look for resident Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks, but also migrating Broad-winged Hawk and Mississippi Kite. Resident raptors include American Kestrel, Merlin and Northern Harrier. Bald Eagle has been seen here, as well as Zone-tailed Hawk.

## (830) 964-3341 (M–F only) www.canyonlakechamber.com HOTE 076 CANYON LAKE SOUTH SHORE

Cranes Mill Park: From US 281 and TX 46, head east on TX 46 4.4 miles to FM 3159. Take a left d travel 5.8 miles to FM 2673, which becomes Cranes Mill Rd. Take a left and follow 4.2 miles to Cranes Mill Park entrance. Trails to shore are available on left before you reach park gate house. Park at old gate across from marina gate and walk to shore to view wildlife. Site open daily and developed camping available. GPS: 29.8802, -98.2977 ark: Exit Cranes Mill Park on county road that becomes FM 2673. Go 3.5 miles east to Startzville. Turn left/north onto Canyon Bend Dr. and follow road signs 2.3 miles to ramp 5. Comal Park is on the right just before ramp 5. Use ramp 5 for shoreline access when park is closed in fall/

#### winter season. Site open in summer only, day use only. GPS: 29.8665, -98.2482 The south shore of Canyon Lake includes Cranes Mill Park and Comal Park. Both parks are se on peninsulas that jut from the south shore of Canvon Lake. Cranes Mill Park is located near the

Guadalupe River's inlet to Canyon Lake. Both of these sites offer clear views of migrating hawks and wintering gulls and terns. Look for Bufflehead, Northern Shoveler, Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Gadwall and American Wigeon. Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls are common, but look for migrating Franklin's Gull, too. Forster's Tern winter here. Cranes Mill Park also contains grass fields productive for wintering sparrows. Tom Creek Cove is a summer home to nesting Blue rosbeak, Northern Parula and Golden-cheeked and Yellow-throated Warblers.

### (830) 964-3341 (M–F only) www.canyonlakechamber.com HOTE 077 GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK

From the intersection of US 281 and TX 46, go west on TX 46 for 8 miles to PR 31. Turn onto PR 31 and follow 3.1 miles to park entrance. uadalupe River State Park is home to a number of rare and threatened species with limited ranges agle's Map Turtle, Texas and Honey Creek Cave Salamanders, Golden-cheeked Warbler and the official state fish of Texas, the Guadalupe Bass. In the summer, look for nesting Yellow-billed Cuckoo Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, Summer Tanager, Painted Bunting, Barred and Great Horned Owls, Eastern Screech-Owl, Eastern Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Belted and Green hers, White-eved, Red-eved and Yellow-throated Vireos, Cooper's and Red-shouldered Hawk and Wild Turkey. Enjoy listening to the Canyon Wren serenade from the rock ledges above the river Butterflies include Pipevine, Black and Giant Swallowtails, Orange Sulphur, Checkered White, Red Admiral and Gulf and Variegated Fritillaries. Dragonflies to watch for include Blue Dasher, Red ddlebags and Wandering Glider. The park supports a wide variety of mammals including

White-tailed Deer, covote, Grav Fox, skunk, raccoon, opossum, bobcat and armadillo Honey Creek State Natural Area is located within Guadalupe River State Park and entry is by guided tour only. The diverse geology, flora and fauna make Honey Creek a special place for all visitors and it (830) 438-2656 www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/guadalupe-river GPS: 29.8529, -98.5054

# **CIBOLO LOOP**

(830) 249-8000 (800) 447-3372 www.visitsanantonio.com ▲ HOTE 078 CIBOLO NATURE CENTER

www.boerne.org

From Boerne, head east on TX 46.1 mile to City Park Rd. Take a right and continue 0.4 mile to entrance. This site provides a wonderful opportunity to learn about and experience nature. The building houses touch-exhibits that will entertain people of all ages, and the nature trails meander through four ecosystems: tall grass prairie, reclaimed marsh, upland woods and Cibolo Creek. The prairie hosts a variety of native Texas tall grasses, including switchgrass, vellow Indiangrass, big bluestem, little bluestem and eastern gamagrass. This is excellent habitat for summering Dickcissel and wintering sparrows. Small mammals and rodents can also be seen. Unusual plants include a giant basswood

ree, scarlet leatherflower and sycamore-leaf snowbell. Breeding birds include Western Scrub-Jay, Eastern Phoebe, Great Horned and Barred Owls, Red-shouldered Hawk, Northern Bobwhite, Blackbellied Whistling Duck, Western Kingbird, Ladder-backed Woodpecker and Canyon Wren. Winter rings ducks and a variety of sparrows. Butterflies include Pipevine Swallowtail, Phaon Crescent, Bordered Patch and Gulf Fritillary. (830) 249-4616 www.cibolo.org

## GPS: 29.7817, -98.7087 HOTE 079 MYSTIC SPRINGS WILDLIFE LODGE

**Boerne Area COC** 

San Antonio CVB

At the intersection of TX 46 and US 87/Main St. in Boerne, head north on Main St. and go 1.5 miles to FM 1376. Turn right and follow north 3 miles to Walnut Grove Rd. Turn left 1.5 miles to gate on right Juniper, hackberry and oak trees cover this 9-acre site, Scrub Jay, Painted Bunting and White-eved Vireo are among the common nesting birds on the property. The site provides habitat for Ladderacked and Golden-fronted Woodpeckers, Great Horned Owl, Tufted Titmouse and Bewick's Wren. he spring-fed creek and riparian woodland attract warblers and flycatchers in the spring and fall. Bordered Patch, Phaon Crescent and Buckeye Butterflies are abundant. (210) 695-2533/8008 GPS: 29.8655, -98.7332

# A HOTE 080 BOERNE LAKE

From the intersection of FM 1376 and US 87, turn right on US 87 and go north approximately .2 miles to the I-10 frontage road on the southwest side. Turn right on the frontage road and follow north 1.1 miles to Upper Cibolo Creek Rd. Turn left and go 0.5 mile to entrance on left. Waterfowl and shorebirds abound in the winter. Look for Gadwall, American Wigeon, Northern oveler, Mallard, Ruddy Duck, Northern Pintail, Bufflehead, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck and Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal. American White Pelicans also rest and feed at this lake during migration. Look for wintering birds such as Field, Vesper, Song and Savannah Sparrows in the grass field near the entrance. www.ci.boerne.tx.us/index.aspx?NID=169

GPS: 29.8303, -98.7755 HOTE 081 MAVERICK RANCH - FROMME FARM

This working ranch has diverse vegetation that includes juniper oak woodlands, mixed brush and wildflower meadows. The owners maintain an extensive plant list of almost 250 species. The sh-throated Flycatcher, Greater Roadrunner, Golden-fronted and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers Bushtit and White-eved Vireo. Winter residents include Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper. Reptiles include Bullsnake, Western Diamonducked Rattlesnake and Texas Rat Snake. White-tailed Deer, armadillos, coyotes, skunks, opossums, ackrabbits, Rock Squirrels and Cottontails are abundant

#### (830) 981-4477/4202 Call for Directions GPS: 29.6886, -98.6769

HOTE 082 SCENIC SPRINGS WILDLIFE LODGE From I-10 in Leon Springs, go west on Boerne Stage Rd. for 3 miles to stop sign. Turn left on Scenic oop Rd, and follow 4.3 miles to gate on right. This beautiful Hill Country property offers a rustic lodge with a natural rock, spring-fed swimming pool. Habitats include juniper/oak woodlands and riparian hardwoods along Helotes Creek. White tailed Deer are commonly seen, as are an assortment of frogs, bats, lizards and snakes. Birds to look nclude Red-shouldered Hawk, Scrub Jay, Bewick's Wren, Inca Dove, Western Kingbird and Hous Finch. Butterflies and dragonflies can be seen along the creek and in the fields of wildflowers. The owners have extensive knowledge of the natural history and rich cultural heritage of this site and the surrounding area.

### (210) 695-2533/8008 GPS: 29.6317, -98.6817

HOTE 083 SPARKLING SPRINGS WILDLIFE LODGE Water flow from the natural springs has been dammed to form a rock-bed pool just above the trickling Lee Creek. The dam is a great place to find assorted dragonflies such as Roseate and Widow Skimmers, Eastern Pondhawk and Blue Dasher. Also look for water snakes and frogs in the water and on the water's edge. Jackrabbits and White-tailed Deer are plentiful. This cliff-side woodland is omprised of Ashe juniper, Texas mountain laurel, Mexican buckeye and assorted oaks. Look for Inca Dove, Green Heron, Bewick's Wren, Red-shouldered Hawk and Golden-cheeked Warbler. (210) 695-2533/8008 **Call for Directions** GPS: 29.5638, -98.6873

# A HOTE 084 HELOTES CITY PARK

Continue south on Scenic Loop Rd. 2.9 miles to TX 16. Turn left and go 1.3 miles to FM 1560. Turn right and immediately left to the parking area for the Helotes City Hall building. The trail is across from City Hall. his park includes scattered oak and mesquite stands and brushy shrub areas. Look in the oak trees by City Hall for Bewick's Wren and Ladder-backed, Golden-fronted and Downy Woodpeckers. The open fields are good places to look for wintering sparrows and for butterflies during summer. On the trails, look for House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Inca Dove and Western Kingbird. This is also a good place to see migrant flycatchers, vireos and warblers. (210) 695-8877 www.helotes-tx.gov/residents/city-park GPS: 29.5628, -98.6862

HOTE 085 GOVERNMENT CANYON STATE NATURAL AREA This beautiful 12,082-acre natural area offers opportunities to see a wide diversity of wildlife in various habitats such as open savannas, oak-juniper woodlands and riparian zones. Nesting birds clude Golden-cheeked Warbler, Common Ground-Dove, Summer Tanager, Painted and Indigo Buntings, White-eyed Vireo, Orchard Oriole, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Western Scrub Jay, Goldenfronted and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers and Canyon and Bewick's Wrens. Other birds to look for include Greater Roadrunner, Great-crested Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo. Eastern Wood-Pewee. Vermilion

lycatcher and Canyon Towhee. Amenities include nearly 40 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails, walk-in tent camping and a pavilion and open-air gallery. Site is open to the public Friday through Monday. Trails close when wet/muddy. (210) 688-9055 Call for Directions/Access www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/government-canyon

### GPS: 29.5559, -98.7765 A HOTE 086 EMILE AND ALBERT FRIEDRICH WILDERNESS PARK

www.sanaturalareas.org/fp/fptrails.html

A HOTE 087 EISENHOWER PARK

HOTE 088 CIBOLO CREEK RANCH

GPS: 29.6413, -98.6250

Sparrows and Spotted Towhee.

GPS: 29.6231, -98.5813

GPS: 29.7374, -98.4703

San Antonio CVB

Leon Valley COC/CVB

GPS: 29.5580, -98.4972

GPS: 29.5618, -98.4579

A HOTE 090 MCALLISTER PARK

From the intersection of TX 16 and FM 1560 in Helotes, go south on TX 16 for 2 miles to Loop 1604. Go east on Loop 1604. From 1604 take I-10 west to the Dominion exit and take the turnaround. Go to Milsa and turn right. Follow it around to the park on the right. Golden-cheeked Warblers nest here in the spring. Listen for their song, which is a series of buzzy notes. You may also see Black-and-white, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Mourning and Yellow Warblers Also, look for Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Lesser Goldfinch, Western Scrub Jay, Bewick's and Carolina Wrens, reater Roadrunner, Hutton's Vireo and Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets (winter and early spring). The wildflower gardens near the parking lot are great for butterflies, including Queen

Variegated Fritillary, Red Admiral, Common Mestra, Giant and Tiger Swallowtails and Sleepy Orange.

From I-10 and Loop 1604, go east on Loop 1604 for 2.6 miles and exit at FM 1535/NW Militar

Highway. Go north on FM 1535 for 1.7 miles to park entrance on left, just before the entrance to

Bewick's Wren is common, but also look for Canyon Wren. Keep an eye out for Western Scrub Jay,

Verdin and Ladder-backed and Golden-fronted Woodpeckers. Painted Bunting is common and easily

found by listening for their song. Winter is a good time to look for Chipping and Rufous-crowned

(210) 207-7275 www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec/directory\_eisenhower.aspx

With limestone cliffs bordering Cibolo Creek, this ranch offers the chance to see a diversity of plants

and animals typical of the region. Habitats include pecan orchards, mixed riparian woodlands and

fields of native grasses and wildflowers. In the meadows and open areas, listen or look for singing

Dickcissel, Eastern Bluebird, Bewick's Wren, Western Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Lesse

ALAMO LOOP

At the intersection of Loop 1604 and Bitters St. in San Antonio, go east on Bitters for 4.3 miles to West

once connected hunting and gathering societies to resources such as water, plants, animals and ston-

material. Today, it is still a site of archaeological significance. The creeks divide the park into an oak

Scrub Jay, Golden-fronted and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers and White-winged and Inca Doves. The

grassy areas provide shelter for wintering sparrows. Summers offer a variety of nectar and larval food

notte on one side and a wildflower-grassland on the other. Birds to look for include Painted and

Indigo Buntings, White-eyed Vireo, Summer Tanager, Eastern Phoebe, Black-chinned Hummingbin

(210) 207-7275 www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec/directory\_walker.aspx

At the intersection of Loop 1604 and Bitters St. in San Antonio, go east on Bitters for 5.8 miles to

Jones-Maltsberger Rd. Turn left and follow for 0.8 mile. Park is on the right, immediately after the

The mesquite/oak woodlands provide habitat for nesting Black-crested Titmouse, Carolina Chickade

and Yellow-billed Cuckoo, as well as for migrating songbirds in the spring and fall, Look for Eastern

Screech-Owl or Great Horned Owl at dawn and dusk. The grassland and scattered shrubs provide

habitat for wintering sparrows and Greater Roadrunner. Wildflowers abound, attracting a variety

herons egrets killdeer and dragonflies. In the winter look for waterfowl, White-tailed Deer are also

(210) 207-7275 www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec/directory\_mcallister.aspx

commonly seen. The park maintains a bird checklist and offers ADA-accessible trails and restrooms.

of butterflies, including swallowtails, hairstreaks and sulphurs. An ephemeral wetland attracts

Located on the confluence of Panther Springs Creek and Salado Creek, this 80-acre tract of land

(800) 447-3372 www.visitsanantonio.com

(210) 684-1391 www.leonvallevtexas.gov

Goldfinch. Northern Bobwhite and Wild Turkey can also be seen. In the wooded areas, look for

buntings and woodpeckers. Fossils can be found along the dry creek bed.

HOTE 089 WALKER RANCH HISTORICAL LANDMARK PARK

ve. Turn right on West Ave. and follow 1.1 miles to the park on the right.

(210) 884-0048/(210) 325-3344 Call for Directions

#### HOTE 091 O.P. SCHNABEL PARK From the intersection of Bitters St. and US 281, go south on US 281 1.8 miles to San Pedro/Loop 410 Exit, Follow San Pedro south 1.2 miles to Loop 410. Turn right and go 6.9 miles west to TX 16. Go north on TX 16 for 4.4 miles to Braun Rd. At Braun Rd., turn right directly into the park. At the ection, turn left and park by the pavilion Look for Western Kingbird, Scrub Jay, Black-crested Titmouse and Carolina Chickadee, Winters are good for sparrows and Spotted Towhee. Spring migration produces good numbers of warblers and ycatchers. Butterflies along the trails include Phaon and Pearl Crescent, Sleepy Orange, Orange ulphur, Giant Swallowtail and Southern Dogface (210) 207-7275 www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec/directory\_schnaebel.aspx

#### GPS: 29.5359, -98.6422 HOTE 092 RAYMOND RIMKUS PARK From TX 16/Bandera Rd. and I-410, head west on TX 16 1.5 miles to Poss. Turn right and go 0.2 mile to the intersection of Poss and Evers Rd. Park is at the corner of the intersection. This park is located along a wooded creek which provides habitat for migrating songbirds. Resident Black-bellied Whistling Ducks nest in trees adjacent to the park. Other nesting birds include White-winged Dove, Northern Cardinal, Blue Jay, Northern Mockingbird, Great-tailed Grackle and Carolina Wren. Look for dragonflies such as Widow and Roseate Skimmers, Blue Dasher and Eastern

Amberwing along the creek's edge. Hawks are often seen here so be sure to look up. (210) 684-1391 www.leonvalleytexas.gov/reserve/Park.php GPS: 29.5016, -98.6146 HOTE 093 WOODLAWN LAKE

rom TX 16/Bandera Rd. and I-410, head east 3.4 miles to Woodlawn. Turn left and go 1.2 miles to Domestic ducks and geese reside on the lake, as do Green Heron, Pied-billed Grebe, Great and Snowy Egrets and Belted and Green Kingfishers. Woodland residents include Red-shouldered Hawk and adder-backed and Golden-fronted Woodpeckers. Waterfowl and shorebirds also winter here. Look for American White Pelican, Neotropic and Double-crested Cormorants, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Ring-necked Duck, Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup and Northern Shoveler. There is a paved ADAaccessible trail around the lake. (210) 207-7275 www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec/directory\_woodlawn\_lake.aspx

## GPS: 29.4548, -98.5345 HOTE 094 SAN PEDRO SPRINGS PARK

the park on the right.

GPS: 29.4474, -98.5017

gardens on your left.

and Curve-billed Thrashers.

GPS: 29.4602, -98.4569

GPS: 29.4807, -98.4755

San Antonio CVB

(210) 635-8359

(210) 635-8289

GPS: 29.2507, -98.3935

GPS: 29.3337, -98.4549

ntrance gate on left.

GPS: 29.3105, -98.5001

GPS: 29.263919, -98.578484

GPS: 29.2463, -98.5483

A HOTE 105 APPLEWHITE CROSSING

River Natural Area.

From the intersection of US 87 and I-35, take I-35 east to San Pedro. Follow San Pedro north 1 mile Ashby. Take a left and the park entrance will be on your left. This multi-use park is San Antonio's oldest designated park. Small vegetated ponds around the poo area provide habitat for dragonflies, including Eastern Amberwing, Neon and Roseate Skimmers and Eastern Pondhawk. Rio Grande Leopard Frog is found along the water's edge. A nice grove of nesquite, pecan, oak and large bald cypress trees accentuates the park lawn. Look for Western Kingbird, Common Nighthawk and White-winged and Inca Doves. San Antonio College, located across the street, maintains gardens that attract Black-chinned Hummingbird and migrating warblers. (210) 207-7275 www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec/directory san pedro.aspx

# ▲ HOTE 095 BRACKENRIDGE PARK

Sunken Gardens: From I-35 and US 281, take US 281 north to Mulberry and take a right. Follow Mulberry 0.7 mile to North St. Mary's and take a left. The Sunken Gardens are on the left, 0.2 mile north of this intersection. GPS: 29.4609, -98.4785 his large quarry is filled with ornamental vegetation and some native plants. Green and Great Blue Herons, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Great and Snowy Egrets, Wood Duck and Barn Swallow can be seen throughout the park. Look for Softshell Turtle, Gulf Fritillary, Tiger Swallowtail, crescents, ippers and Black-chinned Hummingbi

Brackenridge Park and San Antonio Zoo: From the Sunken Gardens, continue on St. Mary's to the end of the street. The zoo is on the left and Brackenridge Park is on the right. **GPS: 29.4633. -98.4733** The San Antonio Zoo's Little Pond is lined with tall trees that form a large egret/heron rookery ring nesting season. Snowy Egret, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and Little Blue Heron occur in the treetops. Wood and Black-bellied Whistling Ducks and Mallard can be seen on this pond and others within the zoo. Brackenridge Park is located just below the headwaters of the San Antonio River. The rk also has a horse trail, prehistoric sites and the Witte Museum.

Avenue A, Brackenridge Park: Return south on St. Mary's to its intersection with Mulberry. Turn left on Mulberry and follow 0.2 mile to the dead-end park road, Avenue A, located just after the San Antonio River Bridge and before the golf course. Park along the road and walk the edge of the San Antonio liver. GPS: 29.4517, -98.4789 Avenue A borders the San Antonio River. Between the road and the river lies riparian woodland with pecan, mulberry, hackberry, cedar elm, willow, oak and elderberry. These trees provide cover for Barred Owl, Red-shouldered Hawk, Golden-fronted, Downy and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers

and White-winged and Inca Doves. This is one of the best places in San Antonio to see migratin songbirds. The canopy and understory offer habitat for migrant warblers, tanagers, orioles and flycatchers. In the spring, look for Louisiana Waterthrush, American Redstart, Bay-breasted, essee, Chestnut-sided, Yellow, Black-throated Green, Black-and-white, Blue-winged and Nashville Warblers. Along the river, look for Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Great Blue Heron, Wood and Blackbellied Whistling Ducks and Green and Belted Kingfishers.

## (210) 207-7275 www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec/directory\_brackenridge.aspx A HOTE 096 SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN

rom I-35 and US 281, take US 281 north to Mulberry and take a right. Follow Mulberry to Spur 368/ Broadway. Turn left and go 0.2 mile to Funston. Turn right, heading east and after 0.5 mile, enter the This is a must-stop site for anyone who wants to learn more about the flora of Texas. Half of the site consists of ornamental gardens, including a Rose Garden, Herb Garden, Japanese Garden, Garden for the Blind and Sacred Gardens. The other half is devoted to native Texas plant communities. Three sections depict the native vegetation of the South Texas Plains, East Texas Pinevwoods and Texas Hill Country. These gardens offer native plant enthusiasts a hands-on educational tool to learn about many of the plant species that provide food and cover for native wildlife. In addition to its value as a walkthrough field guide, the Garden is a great place to see birds, butterflies and dragonflies. Look for Inca and White-winged Doves, Lesser Goldfinch, House Finch, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Pied-billed Grebe, Little Blue and Green Herons, Black-bellied Whistling and Wood Ducks, Black chinned Hummingbird, Golden-fronted, Ladder-backed and Downy Woodpeckers and Long-billed (210) 207-3250 www.sabot.org HOTE 097 OLMOS BASIN PARK EAST

#### From I-35 and US 281, take US 281 north 1.9 miles to the Hildebrand Ave. exit. Turn left on Hildebrand and go 0.4 mile to Devine and continue north through the park. After 1 mile, the park is on the right across from the baseball field.

This urban park along Olmos Creek includes riparian creek bottomlands as well as a neighboring rea of tall trees. Scan the wooded areas for woodpeckers, Barred Owl and Red-Shouldered Haw Migratory warblers and flycatchers pass through in the spring, and wintering Brown Creeper can b seen spiraling up the old trees. Check the canopy of the woodlands for resting hummingbirds. Look in the water for Wood Duck, Softshell Turtle and a variety of fish. (210) 207-7275 www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec/directory\_olmos.aspx GPS: 29.4773, -98.4796

# OTE 098 JACK JUDSON NATURE TRAILS

From I-35 and US 281, take US 281 north 4 miles to the Basse Rd. East exit. Take a right on Basse Rd. East and then an immediate right onto Jones Maltsberger Rd. Take a left on Alamo Heights and then a right on Viesca St. Parking lot is on the right. The Jack Judson Nature Trails are located inside the Olmos Flood Basin along Hondo and Olmos creeks. This site is maintained by the San Antonio Audubon Society. At the entrance, there is a small pavilion with window displays and a bird checklist for posting current sightings. These trails provid

### warblers in the spring and fall, and in the winter look for White-throated and Lincoln's Sparrows, Hermit Thrush, Winter Wren and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Guided tours are available by request. (210) 308-6788 www.saaudubon.org/birdlocs.html#Judson

access to a diverse bottomland habitat. Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred Owl, Downy and Golden-

this wooded floodplain. The canopy of large cottonwood, oak, hackberry, elm and pecan provid

shaded nature trail. Dragonflies such as Widow Skimmer and Eastern Ringtail flit through the

woodlands. The riparian woodland trails allow for wildlife viewing year-round. Look for migrating

fronted Woodpeckers, Black-crested Titmouse and Northern Cardinal are common residents along

MISSION LOOP

## (800) 447-3372 www.visitsanantonio.com A HOTE 099 SOUTHSIDE LIONS PARK EAST

From US 281 and I-10/US 90 East, take I-10 east to US 87 South. Go 0.7 mile south on US 87 to Pecan lley. Go south 0.9 mile to park entrance Salado Creek runs through the park and habitat includes large bald cypress, mesquite and pecan trees. Grassy areas with blooming wildflowers attract a variety of butterflies. Dragonflies such as Sulphur-tipped Clubtail, Neon and Roseate Skimmers, Eastern Pondhawk, Blue Dasher and Commo Green Darner abound. Look for Eastern Bluebird, American Crow, Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred Owl. Pied-billed Grebe, Western Kingbird, White-eved Vireo and Great Blue Heron. This is an excellent stop for migrant warblers and flycatchers in spring. Look for a variety of ducks on the lake

#### (210) 207-7275 www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec/directory\_south\_side\_lions.aspx GPS: 29.3841, -98.4249 HOTE 100 CALAVERAS LAKE PARK

From I-410 and I-37, follow I-410 north and take Exit 37 toward Southcross Blvd./Sinclair Rd. Take a right on New Sulphur Springs Rd. and continue 7.4 miles to Stuart Rd. Take a right on Stuart Rd., the rk entrance will be on the right after 2.4 miles This large multi-use park offers camping, picnicking, fishing and wildlife viewing. Along the reeds, look for Common Yellowthroat, Pied-billed Grebe and Common Moorhen. During the winter months, look for rails, bitterns, Swamp Sparrow and Marsh Wren. In the brush, look for passing migrants such as warblers and flycatchers in the spring and fall. In summer, the tall grass fields are a great place to spot butterflies such as Variegated Fritillary and Bordered Patch. In the winter, these fields provide habitat for a variety of sparrows.

## www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/lakes/calaveras/access.phtml GPS: 29.3069, -98.2969

A HOTE 101 BRAUNIG LAKE PARK From I-37 and Loop 1604, go north on I-37 for 1.3 miles to Exit 127 for Braunig Lake. Continue straight on the frontage road 0.8 mile to entrance The mesquite-oak brush around the lake hosts residents such as Orchard Oriole, Pyrrhuloxia, Curve-billed Thrasher and Greater Roadrunner. Scan the lake and shoreline vegetation for Least and -billed Grebes, Green Heron, Common Moorhen and Great and Snowy Egrets. In the fall and winter, look for loons and gulls. Rare sightings such as Sooty Tern, Great Kiskadee, Brown Pelican and Mew, Sabine's and California Gulls have occurred here.

## www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/lakes/braunig/access.phtml ▲ HOTE 102 MISSION ESPADA AND AQUEDUCT

Mission Espada: From I-37 and I-410, head west on I-410 and take the exit for Espada Rd, to the Mission Trail. There is signage for the Mission Trail throughout the area. Go 0.2 mile to the stop sign and turn right. Then, follow 0.5 mile to the mission. GPS: 29.3175, -98.4501 Espada Aqueduct: Return to stop sign and go 0.8 mile north to Aqueduct. GPS: 29.3323, -98.4621 Mission Espada is the oldest Mission in Texas. It still functions on its original 1740s acueduct and irrigation system. Around the main part of the church are bird feeders. Look for Black-chinned ingbird. Check for herons and egrets, Barred Owl and Golden-fronted, Ladder-backed an Downy Woodpeckers. The river is home to Wood Duck and Pied-billed Grebe. Winter can produc American Pipit, Spotted Sandpiper and various sparrows along the river's edge. Also look for wintering waterfowl such as Hooded Merganser. The Aqueduct area also provides a nice riparian habitat for spring and fall migrants

San Juan Woodland Trail: From the aqueduct, turn left and head to the bridge. Turn right and go 0.3 mile to Mission Rd. Turn right again and go 0.5 mile to Mission San Juan Capistrano on right. This 0.3-mile trail follows the riparian woodland along the original channel of the San Antonio River The boardwalk trail is ADA-accessible. The river edge is heavily vegetated, this is a good site for migrating warblers and flycatchers. Residents include Carolina Chickadee, White-eyed Vireo, Woo Duck, Great Blue Heron, Green Kingfisher and Ladder-backed and Downy Woodpeckers. Summers produce a variety of dragonflies and butterflies.

## www.nps.gov/saan/planyourvisit/espada.htm A HOTE 103 MITCHELL LAKE WETLANDS WILDLIFE REFUGE

From Loop 410, exit Moursund (Exit 46). Go south on Moursund/Pleasanton Rd. for 0.7 mile to The Mitchell Lake Audubon Center is San Antonio's premier birding location. In addition to the lak and ponds, this site also provides brush land, grassland and mudflat habitats. Common birds include Harris' and Red-tailed Hawks, Crested Caracara, Greater Roadrunner, Black-necked Stilt, Blue Grosbeak and Neotropic Cormorant. Migration brings several species of warblers, large numbers ducks and a wide assortment of shorebirds. Cattle and Great Egrets, Little Blue and Green Herons and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron form a rookery on the northeast part of the lake. Groove-billed Ani has also nested here. Winter is an outstanding time to visit this site. Vermilion Flycatcher, Say's Phoebe, Cinnamon Teal, as well as numerous sparrows and ducks regularly winter at Mitchell Lal Rare sightings are not restricted to any particular season; unusual birds often make an appearance especially after severe weather. Past rare sightings include Magnificent Frigatebird, Ringed Kingfishe Reddish Egret and Great Kiskadee. Least Grebe and Roseate Spoonbill are seen from time to time as well. Look for dragonflies such as Four-spotted Pennant and Eastern Pondhawk, and butterflies such

## as Bordered Patch, Buckeve, Variegated Fritillary and Pipevine Swallowtail. (210) 628-1639 http://Mitchelllake.Audubon.org

(210) 207-3000 www.sanaturalareas.org/mr/mrindex.html

From Loop 1604 and Palo Alto Rd., head east on Loop 1604 2.5 miles to Applewhite Rd.

En route to this site, note the 5-mile stretch of Applewhite north of this crossing. These roadsides are

excellent places to find sparrows and towhees in the winter. In the spring and summer, wildflowers

butterflies, including Gulf Fritillary, Pipevine Swallowtail and various sulphurs. At the crossing, park

the creek bottom. Look for Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred Owl and Carolina Chickadee. Damselflies

are common, as are dragonflies such as Five-striped Leaftail and Neon Skimmer. Observe from the

along the road and follow the trail below the bridge. Large cottonwoods, hackberries and pecans line

are in full bloom. Gaillardia. Mexican hat, wine cup, verbena and sunflowers attract numerous

Take Applewhite Rd. to the north/left for 0.8 mile. The bridge is just past Jett Rd.

roadside; most of the land is private property, so please do not trespass.

A HOTE 104 MEDINA RIVER NATURAL AREA Fake I-10 west and merge onto I-35 South from Exit 572 toward Laredo. Continue about 5 miles to Spur 422 and exit 139 toward El Paso. Merge onto TX 422 Spur south for 1.2 miles until it becomes Hwy. 16 South. Continue another 4.2 miles. Just before the Medina River bridge turn left into Medina his site provides excellent birding and wildlife viewing in mixed brush and riparian woodland habitats along the Medina River. Mesquite woodlands, brush/cactus scrub and grasslands create ving site. Look for Vermilion Flycatcher, Curve-billed Thrasher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cactus Wren and Western Scrub Jay.

57.7 miles to Dilley. At Exit 86, veer right to stay on the I-35 frontage road heading south. After 0.5 mile, turn right onto Hugo St /CR 4670. Cemetery is on the left. GPS: 29.2463, -98.5483 Birds and butterflies are abundant within this wooded cemetery. Juniper, oaks and willows provide shade and habitat. Look for Eastern Phoebe, Bullock's Oriole, Ash-throated and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Curve-billed Thrasher, Common Nighthawk, Summer Tanager and White-eyed Vireo. Migrating warblers and flycatchers can be seen during sprin ord Road: Return south on I-35 to its intersection with TX 85. Turn left on TX 85 East for 3.2 miles to CR 3800/Crawford Rd. GPS: 28.6643, -99.1452 The grass fields with mixed brush on either side of Crawford Rd. provide habitat for Dickcissel in the summer. Look for Lark and Black-throated Sparrows, Pyrrhuloxia, Cactus Wren and Northern Bobwhite. In the winter, the area has a diversity of sparrows. At both locations, look for soaring raptors, as well as scavengers such as Chihuahuan Raven.

emetery: From the intersection of I-35 and Loop 410 in south San Antonio, take I-35 south for

▲ HOTE 107 DILLEY CEMETERY AND CRAWFORD ROAD

▲ HOTE 107A I-35 LA SALLE COUNTY SAFETY REST AREA Located on both sides of I-35 between mile markers 59 and 60, approximately 11 miles south of Cotulla and 3 miles north of the FM 133 (Big Wells) intersection. The rest area has dual facilities to most efficiently serve both northbound and southbound I-35 traffic. This rest area contains native south Texas brush that is typical to the area and includes over 1 mile of all-weather nature trails located on approximately 40 acres of previously undisturbed mesquite/prickly pear/mixed brush rangeland. The trails were specifically implemented to minimize disturbances to the native brush while still visually screening trail walkers from I-35 traffic. Bird

species observed on the trails are typical of the south Texas plains ecological region, including unners, Pyrrhuloxia, Cactus Wren, Mourning and White-winged Doves and Scissor-taile Flycatcher. In addition, this area is a great spot for migrating songbirds during the fall and spring. www.txdot.gov/driver/travel/rest-areas.html GPS: 28.3196, -99.2745 HOTE 108 LONE STAR CAMP, FRANKLIN RANCH

#### This 5.500-acre ranch provides extensive habitat for exploring the native brush country of south Texas, San Miguel Creek provides excellent riparian habitat. Expect to find Long-billed and Curvebilled Thrashers, Green Jay, Vermilion Flycatcher, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Harris' Hawk and a variety of other Brush Country specialties. Wildlife viewing blinds are available for photography and guided nature tours can be arranged. (361) 274-3514 Call for Directions www.lonestarcamp.com GPS: 28.4844, -98.5789

# MEDINA LOOP

www.castroville.com

#### **Castroville COC** (800) 778-6775 A HOTE 109 MEDINA DAM

At the intersection of US 90 and FM 471 in Castroville, go north on FM 471 for 14.5 miles to FM 1283. Go west on FM 1283 for 6.5 miles to CR 271. Go left on CR 271 for 2.1 miles to the gate on the left. Medina Dam was hailed as the largest dam in Texas and the fourth largest in the United States when it was completed in 1912. The habitats below the dam attract Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Painted Bunting Canyon Wren Curve-billed Thrasher Western Scrub Jay and Great-crested and Ash-throated Flycatchers. Look for egrets, herons and grebes on the lake side of the dam. In winter, look for gulls, terns, ducks and Osprey. Look for Green Kingfisher and Black Phoebe at Medina River crossings along the drive from Castroville to the dam. www.edwardsaguifer.net/medina.htm

# GPS: 29.5393, -98.9348

A HOTE 110 MEDINA COUNTY ROAD 477 (OLD RIVER ROAD) From Medina Dam, go right/south on CR 271 for 1.6 miles to CR 2615. Go left, staying on CR 2615 for 5.2 miles to the T-intersection. Go right 2.2 miles to FM 471. Go south 6.4 miles on FM 471 past Rio Medina to CR 477 on the right. This road runs along the river after 0.6 mile. Old River Rd. follows the Medina River. As you follow CR 477, you will come to the Flat Rock Crossing. This area was once known as Canyon Crossing and was used by the Spaniards in the 1700s to transport building materials and supplies to missions established in the Frio River canvon. At the river bottom, cypress, native southern pecan, mesquite, white brush, sycamore and hackberry attract Ash-throated Flycatcher, Painted Bunting, Summer Tanager, Eastern Phoebe, Green Heron, Barred Owl and Red-shouldered Hawk. GPS: 29.3754, -98.8959

A HOTE 113 CASTROVILLE REGIONAL PARK From US 90 in Castroville, take Geneva St. south 0.4 mile to Lisbon St. and take a right. Turn right and go 0.2 mile to park entrance on the right. The Medina River runs through the west side of this multiuse park. The large beautiful bald cypress trees along the river bottom were the original source of lumber for building construction in historic Castroville. The cypress trees that remain are over a hundred years old. Look for migrant warblers and flycatchers in the spring and fall. Summer Tanager, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Eastern Phoebe nest here. Look for Red-shouldered Hawk, Osprey, Barred Owl, Western Kingbird and Scissor-tailed, Ash-throated and Vermilion Flycatchers. Green Kingfisher regularly occurs here. (830) 931-4070 www.castroville.com/castroville-regional-park.html GPS: 29.3429, -98.8822

# HOTE 114 LANDMARK INN STATE HISTORIC SITE

rom US 90 in Castroville, take Florence St. south and continue 0.1 mile to parking area on left Rich in Texas history, this site preserves several 19th century structures, including a mill comp built in 1853. The inn offers bed and breakfast accommodations in a historical setting. This 5-acr park borders the Medina River and provides rich river bottom woodlands comprised of bald cypress, pecan, hackberry, cottonwood, sycamore, willow and mulberry. Wildflower gardens are also maintained on property. Nesting birds include Summer Tanager, Black-chinned Hummingbir Eastern Phoebe, Green Heron and Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Look for residents such as Red-shouldered Hawk, Great Blue Heron and Great Horned Owl. Spring and fall can be excellent times for viewing migratory warblers and tanagers. In addition to a documented butterfly list of 47 species, the park is home to an international migratory Monarch Butterfly refuge. In the second week of October, visitors can see two roost areas carpeted in hundreds of Monarch Butterflies (830) 931-2133 www.visitlandmarkinn.com

GPS: 29.3547, -98.8748 HOTE 115 MEDINA RIVER CROSSINGS (CAGNON ROAD & PONDER ROAD) Cagnon Road: In Castroville, go east on US 90 for 1.2 miles to FM 471. Turn right/south and go 9 miles to Gross Ln./CR 484. Turn left and go 1.4 miles to river crossing. Cross the river and go 0.8 mile to Macdona-Lacoste Rd. Turn left and go 4.6 miles to Cagnon Rd. Turn left and go 1.8 miles to river crossing. Park here and walk along the river's edge. **GPS: 29.3500. -98.7111** 

The Cagnon Rd./Medina River Crossing is often low enough for wading. Look for Wood Duck, Barred Owl and Green Kingfisher. Damselflies are diverse along this part of the river. In the spring, look for ratory songbirds within this cypress-1 Ponder Road: Continue north on Cagnon Rd. 0.7 mile to Ponder Rd. on left. Drive or walk Ponder Rd. GPS: 29.3608. -98.7075 The south side of Ponder Rd is a large field where wintering sparrows and raptors may be seen In the summer, the fields are covered in wildflowers. Look for roadside butterflies such as Pipevine Swallowtail, Red Admiral and Buckeye. The north side of the field is a cattail-lined ditch. Look for herons and egrets, and in the winter, Marsh Wren

# LAREDO LOOP

www.visitlaredo.com

#### Laredo CVB (800) 361-3360 A HOTE 116 TEXAS A&M LAREDO CAMPUS

At the intersection of I-35 South and Loop 20 in Laredo, go east on Loop 20 for 5.3 miles. us entrance is on the left (east) when heading south on Loop 20. The land bordering the back of the university contains an extensive tract of undeveloped brus that contains a variety of sparrows. Northern Bobwhite and Scaled Ouail, as well as occasional occurrences such as Dark-eved Junco, Long-billed and Curve-billed Thrashers, Cactus Wren and Black-throated Sparrow also occur here. A dirt road runs through the tract and there is a small pond

#### that attracts migrant birds. Javelina and White-tailed Deer are abundant and easily seen here. www.tamiu.edu GPS: 27.5712, -99.4354

HOTE 117 LAKE CASA BLANCA INTERNATIONAL STATE PARK At the intersection of I-35 South and Loop 20 in Laredo, go east on Loop 20 for 8.5 miles his urban reservoir is a haven for pelicans, wading birds, waterfowl, terns and gulls. Bring a scop in order to view birds on the far edge. Neotropic Cormorant is usually easy to see here. A lagoon at Ranchito Rd., which borders the park to the north, hosts waterfowl and wading birds, depending or water levels. Cactus Wren, Pyrrhuloxias, Black-throated Sparrow and other desert birds can be found on the Mesquite Bend Trail (near the boat ramp). Look for Green Jay around the park headquarters. The White-collared Seedeater nests in the northern part of the park during spring and summer

#### months. Lesser Nighthawk nest during summer months as well and Common Pauraque can be seen Inquire at the park office for current birding news or to arrange a guided bird walk. Dragonflies are bundant at the edge of the lake and White-tailed Deer are frequently spotted around the park. variety of lizards can be found in the summer, among them the Laredo Striped Whiptail. Black-tailed Jackrabbits, Eastern Cottontails and bobcats can be seen. Mexican Free-tailed Bats can be seen

around sunset from the dam. (956)725-3826 www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/lake-casa-blanca GPS: 27.5335, -99.4345

## HOTE 118 LA LAJA RANCH This historic ranch dates back to 1750. It is located 21 miles south of Laredo on US 83. It has a

240-acre, 3,200-ft. riverfront tract of habitat possessing extensive canebrakes where White-collared Seedeater can be see and heard year-round. The site's old mesquite woodlands provide habitat for butterflies and a variety of mammals, including bobcats and White-tailed Deer. South Texas specialties seen here include Gray Hawk, Red-billed Pigeon, Plain Chachalaca, Audubon and Altamira Orioles Green Jay, Long-billed Thrasher, Pauraque and Olive Sparrow. A variety of song birds can be seen and heard during migration seasons. (956) 763-0045 Call for Directions

## GPS: 27.2766, -99.4300 A HOTE 119 ZACATE CREEK PARK

At the intersection of US 83 and San Enrique in Laredo, go south on San Enrique as it becomes San Leonard to Grant. Go to the parking lot at the end of the road. This scenic creek has cut a channel into bedrock where you may find Black Phoebe and Marsh Wren among the reed beds that line portions of the creek. In summer, this creek provides excellent habitat for dragonflies and damselflies GPS: 27.5100, -99.4987

A HOTE 120 LAREDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE/ST. PETER'S HISTORICAL DISTRICT Return to US 83 and go west to I-35. Get on the eastern access road and immediately turn left over I-35 on Washington St. Continue on Washington St., cross the bridge over the railroad tracks, and bear right at the first light, Prime Rd. Follow Prime Rd. to Ainsworth Rd. around the back of the campus. Go left on Sheridan and park in the large lot; the historic chapel is on the left with the Laredo Children's Museum. A large colony of Green Parakeet roosts in the trees surrounding the old chapel. The birds generally can be found here in the morning or evening. The campus is also planted with numerous flowering plants such as firecracker plant, cenizo, orchid tree and lantana that attract butterflies and nmingbirds. The cane beds are excellent habitat for White-collared Seedeater, and Verdin and Green Jay occur in the thickets.

## www.laredo.edu/cms/index.aspx GPS: 27.5072, -99.5236

A HOTE 121 BRAVO BEND NATURE RESERVE From Laredo Community College, return to the intersection of Ainsworth and Prime. Follow Ainsworth west 2 blocks and turn onto the dirt road, which is the northern end of the Border Patrol Walk. Turn left along the river. After 0.8 mile, turn left again on a dirt road that will lead to the old gravel quarry

The ponds at this site support a diversity of birds. Least Grebe, Cinnamon, Blue-winged and Greenwinged Teal, Wood Duck, Black-necked Stilt, Spotted Sandpiper and a variety of shorebirds can be seen during migrations. Dragonflies and damselflies that are likely to be seen include Familiar Bluet, Powdered Dancer and Rambur's Forktail. GPS: 27.5033, -99.5257

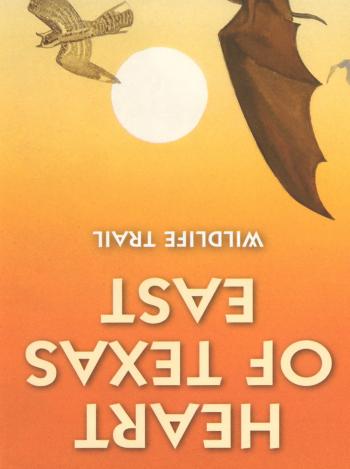
A HOTE 122 PASEO DEL INDIO/LAMAR BRUNI VERGARA ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CENTER From Laredo Community College, return to the intersection of Ainsworth and Prime. Follow Ainsworth north to Taylor and take a right, the Environmental Science Center is on the left. The trailhead is to the west, immediately under the wind generators. This 1.5-mile mulched trail follows a bluff over the Rio Grande. The first section of the trail has been planted with species that attract a variety of butterflies. Descending to the river's edge, White-collared Seedeater is found among the canebrakes. Lincoln's Sparrow and Common Yellowthroat also occur here. Visitors should stay on the main trail.

## (956) 764-5701 www.laredo.edu GPS: 27.5090, -99.5232

A HOTE 123 FATHER CHARLES MCNABOE CITY PARK From I-35 and Loop 20, head west on Loop 20 and go 1.5 miles to Mines Rd./FM 1472. Turn left on Mines Rd. After 0.7 mile, turn right on Rancho Viejo Rd. The park is at the end of the road after The canebrakes along the river's edge provide habitat for White-collared Seedeater, Audubon's Oriole and Ringed and Green Kingfishers. www.go-texas.com/Father-Charles-McNaboe-City-Park GPS: 27.5867, -99.5318

A HOTE 124 LA BOTA RANCH From Mines Rd. and Loop 20, head north on Mines Rd. for 1.6 miles to the entrance on the left. Access to the area is controlled, so stop at the guardhouse and be prepared to show identification. Six miles of trails along the Rio Grande floodplain remain undeveloped, prime habitat for wildlife watching. Winter can be excellent for sparrows, and local birders have reported as many as 15 species. Two ponds at the first trailhead provide ample opportunity to see Belted, Ringed and Green Kingfishers, Anhinga, a variety of waterfowl and other wading birds. Olive and Cassin's Sparrows, Audubon's Oriole, Great Kiskadee and Long-billed Thrasher also occur here. The rocky bluffs that overlook the international boundary provide habitat for White-tipped Dove, and the high vantage point is an excellent place to watch raptors as they glide on warming air currents. Couch's Kingbird can be seen at the public access boat ramp, and the canebrakes at the water's edge provide excellent habitat for White-collared Seedeater. White-tailed Deer, Red Fox, javelina, Cottontails, Jack Rabbits,

Tree Squirrels and raccoons may also be seen on the property. (956) 726-9891 www.labotaranch.com GPS: 27.6236, -99.5271





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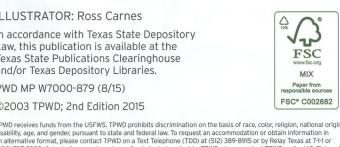
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Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA)

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