



GUIDE TO
BIRDING
IN UVALDE COUNTY



Black-bellied Whistling Duck

FEATURES

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- 5 BIRDS YOU'LL SEE IN UVALDE COUNTY: AN EXTENSIVE CHECKLIST

TOP 10 SPOTS FOR SPECIES COUNTS IN UVALDE COUNTY (SEE GREEN NUMBERS ON OPPOSITE MAP)

1. Cook's Slough Sanctuary
2. Garner State Park
3. Garner State Park—Shady Meadows Camping Area
4. Uvalde National Fish Hatchery
5. Sabinal Water Treatment Plant
6. Uvalde Memorial Park
7. Frio Country Resort
8. Uvalde County Road 202 at Nueces River
9. Pearsall Road Stock Tank



A female Northern Cardinal

OTHER POPULAR BIRD-WATCHING SPOTS IN UVALDE COUNTY (SEE RED NUMBERS ON OPPOSITE MAP)

1. Fort Inge
2. Chalk Bluff
3. Neal's Lodges and Neal's Dining Room
4. Reagan Wells
5. City Park, Utopia
6. Sabinal River

UVALDE COUNTY'S HOTTEST BIRDING REGIONS AND SPECIES

Listed by region and in order of species count according to eBird.

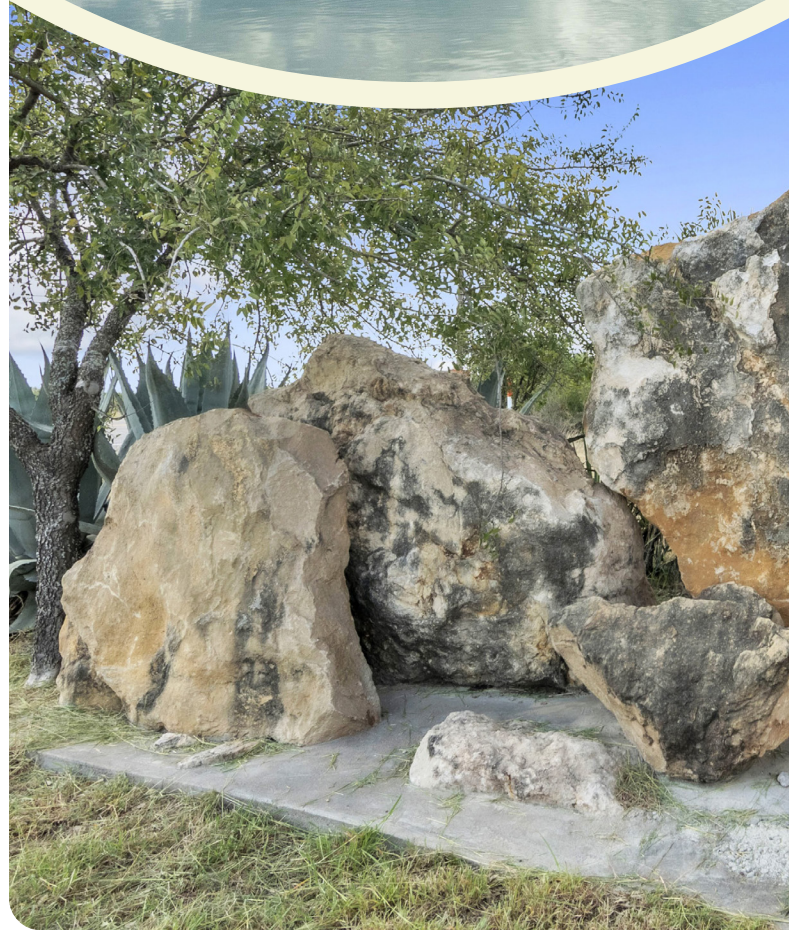


BIRDING IN UVALDE COUNTY: AN INTRODUCTION

IN THE CENTER OF UVALDE COUNTY IS THE CITY THAT BEARS ITS NAME. UVALDE HAS BEEN HOME TO CELEBRITIES, STATE GOVERNORS, HUNTERS, FARMERS, RANCHERS, OUTDOORSMEN AND JUST PLAIN, FRIENDLY FOLKS. IN THE HEART OF TOWN IS THE INTERSECTION OF US HIGHWAYS 90 AND 83, KNOWN AS THE "CROSSROADS OF AMERICA." FLANKED BY THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, TOWN SQUARE, THE POST OFFICE AND CITY HALL, THIS INTERSECTION IS THE MEETING OF THE LONGEST EAST-WEST AND NORTH-SOUTH HIGHWAYS IN AMERICA. LIKE THE CROSSROADS OF AMERICA, UVALDE COUNTY SITS AT A CROSSROADS OF SEVERAL DIFFERENT ECOREGIONS.

If you travel a few miles north of Uvalde on US Highway 83, you enter Texas Hill Country and the Edwards Plateau. The town of Uvalde sits at the northern part of the South Texas Plains and its brush country. A trip to the west on Highway 90 will find you in the Trans-Pecos ecoregion, while travelling east will take you to the Blackland Prairie and the Post Oak Savannah ecoregions. Each of these unique ecoregions is home to different plant, animal and bird species.

In Uvalde County you'll encounter various types of terrain and ecology. There are riparian areas surrounding clear rock-bottomed rivers and creeks. You'll find rugged canyons cutting through





Tubing at Frio River, Concan



The town of Uvalde sits at the "Crossroads of America."

brush-covered hills. There are oak and juniper wooded hills offering prime nesting areas for some highly sought after species. You'll find fertile farmlands and grassy ranch country. Each of these areas attracts its own variety of creatures seeking the shelter and sustenance provided by that particular habitat.

North of Uvalde in the hills and canyons of the Hill Country River Regions are two popular hill country birding spots: the quiet little town of Concan and Garner State Park, both situated on the Frio River. This area, with its sparse resident population, is a wildly popular vacation destination, with summer and holiday visitors swelling the number of residents into the thousands. There are numerous housing accommodations, but during Spring Break and from Memorial Day through Labor Day, reservations can be at or near capacity and should be sought well in advance of your planned visit.

Sitting outside in the pre-dawn darkness, you'll likely be serenaded by Chuck-will's-widows and Yellow-breasted Chats. And if you listen carefully, you might hear a Great-horned or Eastern Screech Owl and the distant, mournful song of a coyote finishing his night's hunt.

As dawn starts to tinge the eastern sky, you'll be greeted by the cheery, good morning calls of Carolina and Bewick's Wrens. If you're near a cliff or canyon, you're likely to be treated to the captivating call of the Canyon Wren.

Soon, the dawn chorus fills the air with the melodies, trills, chips, chirps, gobbles and songs of myriad birds greeting another day in the Texas Hill Country.

WHAT TO SEE IN UVALDE COUNTY'S HOT SPOTS



The view from Old Baldy

WHILE YOU'RE ENJOYING WORLD-CLASS BIRDING, A TRIP TO UVALDE COUNTY OFFERS COUNTLESS AND VARIED OPPORTUNITIES TO ENJOY AND EXPERIENCE NATURE AND THE CULTURE OF THE AREA.

Whether your birding itinerary involves touring the austere beauty of the South Texas Brushlands and the Trans-Pecos, hiking the rugged hills and canyons of the Edwards Plateau or birding the tree-lined banks and crystal-clear waters of the Frio, Nueces or Sabinal Rivers, a trip to Uvalde County is a once in a lifetime experience that should be repeated often.

Garner State Park and Old Baldy

You already know that Garner State Park is one of the top destinations for spotting a range of birdlife, but it has tons of other incredible opportunities for fun outdoor activities. The Frio River is at the heart of the park, with paddleboating and tubing on offer; elsewhere, fish, picnic, do a little geocaching, take a bike ride, or indulge in a round of mini golf. For hiking, local landmark Old Baldy offers beautiful panoramic views. Some of the more easily spotted species here include the Cliff Swallow and Cedar Waxwing, and the Black-bellied Whistling Duck can often be found on the river.

Ravens, vultures, herons, roadrunners and wild turkeys are regular visitors to Garner State Park, but there have been some rarer sightings like the Tropical Parula and the Green-Tailed Towhee. The park is also a nesting ground for the endangered Golden-Cheeked Warbler, so visit in March for a potential sighting of this little beauty. Another beloved, common bird to view here is the Vermilion Flycatcher.

The County Rivers

Uvalde County spoils its visitors for choice when it comes to rivers. The Frio, Nueces and Sabinal Rivers are all beautifully scenic, and you can swim, kayak—and even snorkel!—in the lovely, limestone-bluff-lined waterways of the county. No doubt there'll be some great bird-spotting while you float. On any of the rivers, you're likely to catch sight of a variety of ducks, fly-catchers, jays and kingfishers, as well as Great Kiskadees and Anhingas.

Cook's Slough Sanctuary

Twenty-five acres of wetland make for a wonderful birding opportunity; plenty of walking tracks, a range of settling ponds, and a couple of wildlife viewing stations provide a serene experience in the Texan wetlands. Bronzed and Brown-headed Cowbirds are some of the most viewed species here, along



Black-chinned Hummingbird



Red-winged Blackbird

with a range of ducks, sparrows and swallows. The huge variety of birds also includes Green and Ringed Kingfishers, cormorants, and pelicans.

Fort Inge Historical Site County Park

On the east bank of the Leona River, Fort Inge is a lovely area for spotting feathered friends, as well as being an important historical site. This is where Camp Leona was established in 1849, and it served as a base for US Army troops who were tasked with protecting the southern overland mail route. Of note here is Mount Inge: a 140-foot-tall extinct volcano. A huge range of birds have been spotted here, including American Kestrels, Lesser Nighthawks, American Wigeons and Red-Winged Blackbirds. Kingbirds, flycatchers and buntings often nest here—visit in March for the start of nesting season.

Rio Frio Loop

Winding through the Texas Hill Country near Uvalde, the Rio Frio Loop offers diverse birding across riverbanks, woodlands, and grasslands. Along the Frio River, watch for green kingfisher, black phoebe, and yellow-throated warbler among towering cypress trees. Inland, prized species like golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo thrive in dense habitat. Neal's Lodges is a standout stop, where painted bunting and vermilion flycatcher are often seen. Nearby River Oaks Nature Trail delivers excellent spring migration activity.

Blending accessible sites with quieter pockets, the loop provides a rewarding snapshot of South and Central Texas birdlife in a compact, scenic drive.

Uvalde National Fish Hatchery

With a two-acre pond surrounded by walking paths, this hatchery, which works to conserve and protect wildlife, fish and plants, is a wonderful place for nature lovers to visit. Sandhill Cranes can be spotted here, along with the Great-tailed Grackle, Lark Bunting, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Northern Mockingbird.

Hill Country Adventures

Hill Country Adventures is a one-stop shop for nature visitors to the area, offering nature quests, birding tours and nature tours year-round. This 250-acre ranch boasts 123 species of birds, which you can spot from viewing stations around the property, including at 30 nestboxes and six viewing stations.

For more information about the birds that have been sighted at any of these locations, visit ebird.com, which has extensive information about bird species around the United States. Choose "Uvalde" as the region you would like to investigate.

Black-Crested Titmouse



BIRDS YOU'LL SEE IN UVALDE COUNTY

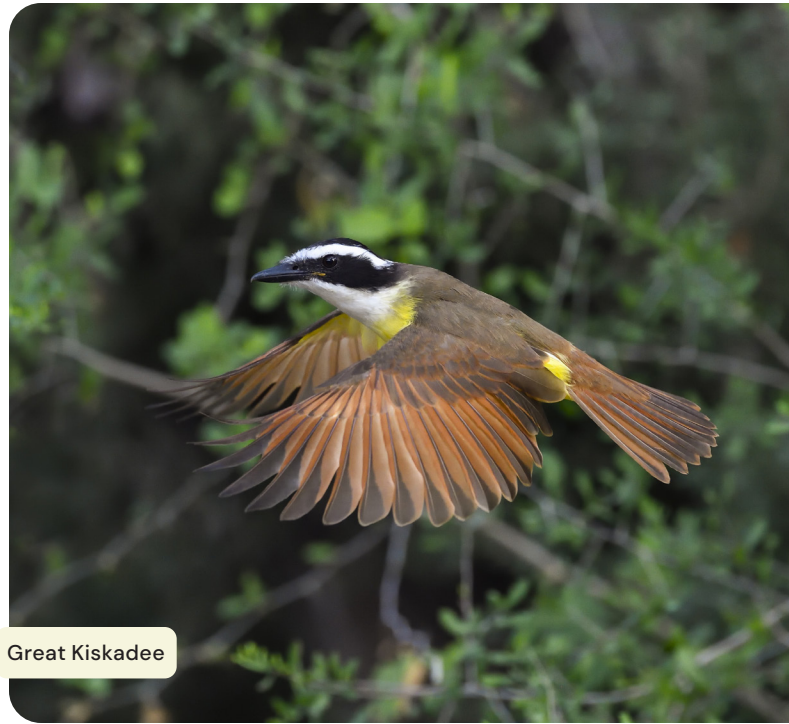


Crested Caracaras

UVALDE COUNTY IS HOME TO OR VISITED BY AN AMAZING VARIETY OF BIRDS, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF HILL COUNTRY SPECIALTIES. DEPENDING ON THE SEASON, BIRDS YOU MIGHT EXPECT TO SEE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING.

- American Kestrels
- Black-crested Titmice
- Blackbirds: Red-winged, Bronzed and Brown-headed Cowbirds, Great-tailed Grackles and possibly Yellow-headed
- Blue-gray Gnatcatchers
- Buntings: Painted, Indigo and infrequent Lazuli
- Carolina Chickadees
- Cedar Waxwings
- Chimney Swifts
- Crested Caracaras
- Cuckoos: Yellow-billed and Greater Roadrunner
- Doves: White-winged, Morning, Inca, Eurasian Collared and Common Ground Doves
- European Starlings
- Finches: House Finch, Pine Siskin, American and Lesser Goldfinches

- Flycatchers: Olive-sided, Acadian, Least, Vermillion, Brown-crested, Ash-throated, Great-crested, Scissor-tailed and Eastern Pewee
- Great Kiskadees
- Grosbeaks: Blue, with occasional Black-headed and Rose-breasted
- Herons and Egrets: Great Blue Heron, Great Egret and Cattle Egret
- Hummingbirds: Black-chinned, Ruby-throated and Rufous
- Jays: Green, Blue and Woodhouse Scrub Jay
- Kingbirds: Couch's, Western and Eastern
- Kingfishers: Green, Belted and Ringed
- Kinglets: Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned
- Logger-head Shrikes
- Long-billed Thrashers
- Meadowlarks: Eastern and Western
- Nightjars: Common Nighthawks, Chuck-will's-widow and Common Poorwill
- Northern Cardinals
- Northern Mockingbirds
- Orioles: Hooded, Scott's, Bullocks, Audubon's, and Orchard, with the occasional migrating Baltimore
- Owls: Great Horned and Eastern Screech
- Phoebes: Eastern, Black and Say's
- Pied-billed Grebes
- Pyrrhuloxias (Desert Cardinals)



Great Kiskadee



Loggerhead shrike



Yellow-rumped Warbler

- Quail: Northern Bobwhite
- Ravens: Common and Chihuahuan
- Sandhill Cranes
- Shorebirds: Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper as well as other migrants



Summer Tanager

- Sparrows: Chipping, Clay-colored, House, Field, Black-throated, Lark, White-crowned, Vesper, Savannah, Song, Lincoln, Rufous-crowned, Cassin's, Grasshopper and Olive. Occasionally, Harris's and Fox Sparrows
- Swallows: Northern Rough-winged, Tree, Bank, Barn, Cliff, Cave and Purple Martin
- Tanagers: Summer, and on rare occasions Western
- Thrushes: American Robin, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush
- Towhees: Canyon, Spotted and on occasion, Green-tailed
- Verdins
- Vireos: White-eyed, Bell's, Yellow-throated, Hutton's, Red-eyed, Blue-headed and Black-capped
- Vultures and Raptors: Black and Turkey Vultures, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Harris's, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Swainsons and Zone-tailed Hawks
- Warblers: Yellow-throated, Nashville, Yellow, Black-and-White, Yellow-rumped, Orange-crowned, Wilson's, Pine and Golden-cheeked, Northern Parulas, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-throated Green, and infrequent visits by Tropical Parulas and other migrating warblers
- Waterfowl: Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks, Egyptian Geese and various migrating ducks and geese
- Wild Turkeys
- Woodpeckers: Golden-fronted, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Northern Flickers
- Wrens: Bewick's, Carolina, Canyon, Cactus, Rock and House
- Yellow-breasted Chats

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