

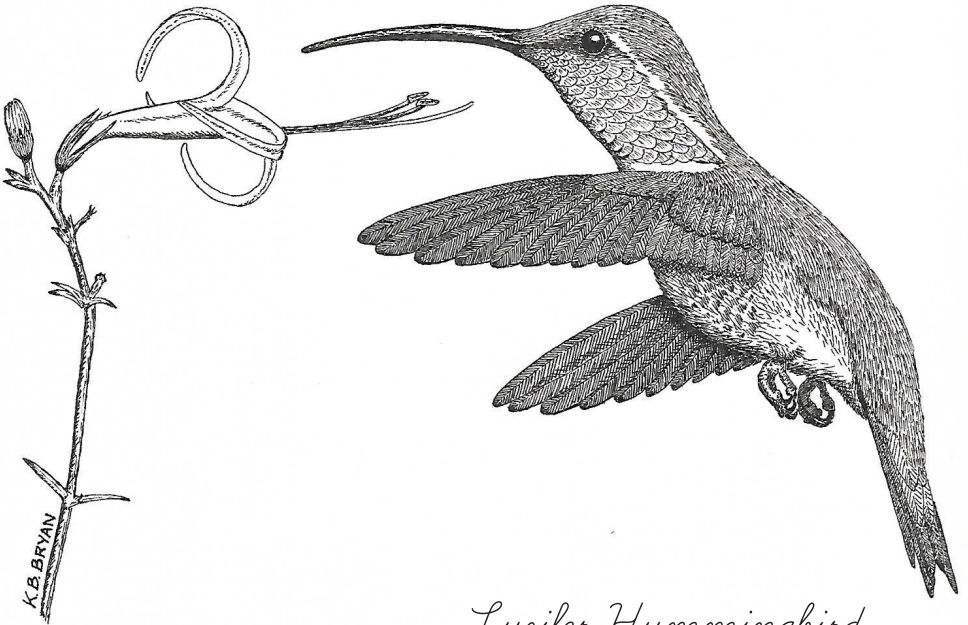
TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

BIRDS

of the

TRANS-PECOS

a field checklist



Lucifer Hummingbird

by Kelly B. Bryan

Birds of the Trans-Pecos: a field checklist

THE NORTHERN CHICHUAHUAN DESERT

Traditionally thought of as a treeless desert wasteland, a land of nothing more than cacti, tumbleweeds, jackrabbits and rattlesnakes – West Texas is far from it. The Chihuahuan Desert region of the State, better known as the Trans-Pecos Region of Texas (Figure 1), is arguably the most diverse region in Texas. A variety of habitats ranging from, but not limited to, sanddunes, desert-scrub, arid canyons, oak-juniper woodlands, lush riparian woodlands, plateau grasslands, cienegas (desert springs and wetlands), pinyon-juniper woodlands, pine-oak woodlands, and montane evergreen forests contribute to a diverse and complex avifauna. As much as any other factor, elevation influences and dictates habitat and thus, bird occurrence. Elevations range from the highest point in Texas at 8,749 ft. (Guadalupe Peak) to under 1,000 ft. (near Del Rio). Amazingly, 106 peaks in the region are over 7,000 ft. in elevation; 20 are over 8,000 ft. These montane islands contain some of the most unique components of Texas' avifauna. As a rule, human population in the region is relatively low and habitat quality remains good to excellent; habitats types that have been altered the most in modern times include riparian corridors and cienegas or wetlands.

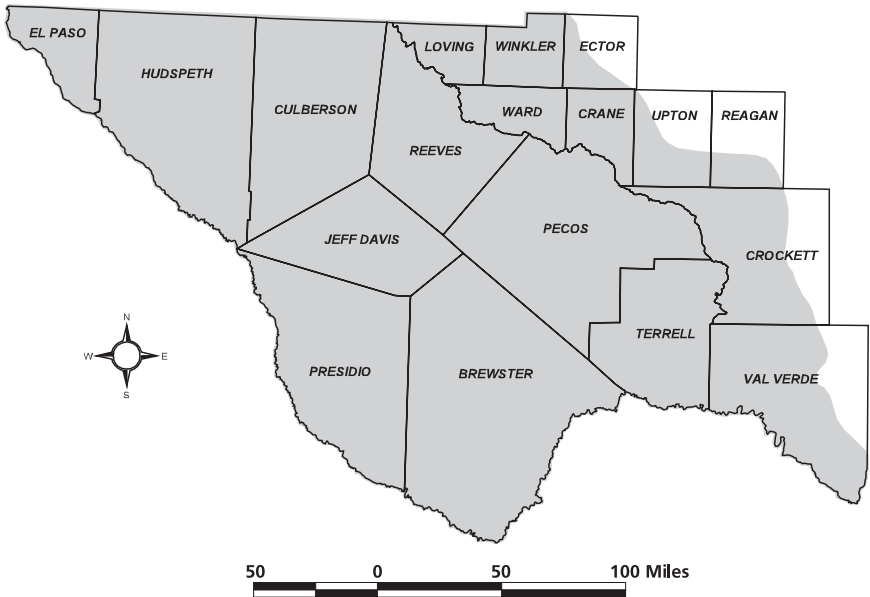


Figure 1: Coverage area is indicated by the shaded area. This checklist covers all of the area west of the Pecos River and a narrow corridor to the east of the river that contains areas of Chihuahuan Desert habitat. There is overlap in coverage of other regional checklists, specifically in Val Verde and Crockett counties (Birds of the Edwards Plateau by Mark Lockwood) and in Ector, Upton and Reagan counties (Birds of the High Plains and Rolling Plains by Ken Seyffert).

Also, influenced by elevation, the region's climatic patterns read like a farmer's almanac for an entire state. Normally, one rainy season occurs here on an annual basis, associated with the onset of the southwestern monsoon pattern that usually begins in July and ends in September. Winter seasons can be mild except at the higher elevations or in canyons and valleys that trap cold air. Spring seasons are usually dry and windy; and landscapes dominated by the brown and yellow colors of dormant grasses typically reflect that. Although not a wasteland, areas of low desert-scrub, especially along the Rio Grande can be inhospitable at times; 100°+ temperatures can begin as early as February and persist as late as November. Rainfall for these areas usually averages less than 6 inches annually, while the eastern portions of the region and the highest elevations can receive 20 inches or more. Summer seasons in the higher elevations are usually cool to warm at best and generally wet in contrast to the lower desert and much of the rest of Texas.

Although portions of the Chihuahuan Desert ecoregion extend north into southern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona, the major part of the region is found south of the US border in Mexico. In fact, 65% of the physiographic area is in Mexico. Overall, the ecoregion covers approximately 243,000 square miles. Still, the portion that occurs in Texas is large, covering approximately 50,000 square miles, or about one-fifth of the landmass of Texas. Most of the region remains privately owned, yet more public lands exist here than in any other region of the State. From a conservation (and birding) point of view, several national parks (comprising almost 900,000 acres) and numerous state holdings (over 500,000 acres) provide access to many significant areas within the region. Some locations have well-developed bird lists with defined seasonal occurrence. There are several other publications that characterize the region's avifauna and/or portions thereof (selected references listed below). Nevertheless, this is the first and only stand-alone field checklist to embrace the region as a whole. This checklist includes all of the species recorded within the region along with their expected seasonal occurrence. The author has followed the nomenclature and taxonomy presented in the 7th edition of the A.O.U. *Checklist of North American Birds* (1998) as currently supplemented.

BIRDS OF THE NORTHERN CHIHUAHUAN DESERT

This checklist includes 521 species that have been observed in the region or were recorded historically, which is 80% of the species known to occur in Texas. A total of 243 of the species listed herein (47%) has nested at least once or are suspected as nesters. A dedicated column denotes nesting status as well as geographic occurrence (where needed) and status to provide users of this checklist with additional information on selected species. Characterization of the region's avifauna is difficult at best because of the patchy nature of the habitats and the sporadic occurrence of numerous peripheral species.

In the southeastern portion of the region several species of eastern US birds reach the western limits of their ranges. Red-shouldered Hawk, Northern Bobwhite, Barred Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Eastern Wood-Pewee, White-eyed, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed vireo, Purple Martin, Carolina Wren, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated and Black-and-white warbler are representatives of this group. Montane habitats also harbor species of limited distribution. Numerous species associated with the Rocky Mountains and/or Mexican highlands bird guilds normally occur only in islands of montane habitats within the region. Examples include Band-tailed Pigeon, Spotted, Flammulated and Northern Saw-whet owl, Mexican Whip-poor-will, Blue-throated, Rivoli's and Broad-tailed hummingbird, Williamson's Sapsucker, Cordilleran

Flycatcher, Hutton's and Plumbeous vireo, Mexican and Steller's jay, Mountain Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Colima and Grace's warbler, and Painted Redstart. Other "borderland" specialties help characterize the region's avifauna. Included would be Gray and Zone-tailed hawk, Common Black-Hawk, Elf Owl, Lesser Nighthawk, Common Poorwill, Lucifer Hummingbird, Vermilion Flycatcher, Verdin, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Varied Bunting, and Hooded Oriole.

New discoveries are still being made in the region, especially in the Davis Mountains where increased access to private lands has allowed further study of Texas' most expansive mountain range. As an example, the 1999 discovery of Buff-breasted Flycatcher added a new species to the Texas list. The 2016 addition of the Amethyst-throated Hummingbird not only added a new State bird but was a first US record as well. The Trans-Pecos of Texas is a region prime for similar discoveries in the future. Other than the montane islands previously mentioned, additional habitats contain rich birdlife. Riparian corridors contain especially important bird habitat, harboring high diversity in an otherwise arid environment. The Rio Grande corridor both above and below El Paso is one such area. Several species can often be found there that are considered rare with the region. The Limpia Creek system in Jeff Davis County, the Alamito and Cienega creek systems in Presidio County, the Devils and Pecos river systems in eastern portions of the region, and the lower corridor of the Rio Grande in Terrell and Val Verde counties contain highly diverse avifauna as well.

The distribution of common species within the region can also be of a patchy nature primarily due to the vastness of the region being covered. For those utilizing this document the exact occurrence of most species must be determined by referring to the range maps in any number of popular field guides. The geographical distribution and nesting column (SGN) preceding the months of the year will aid in that effort. Birds whose regular occurrence is expected only in a given area are designated as such, i.e. W for western portions and SE for southeastern portions as defined in the legend. However, just because a particular species is designated as SE (southeast – normally expected to occur only in that area of the region), does not mean that it does not or cannot occur at other locations within the checklist area. Keep in mind that the geographical distribution of many species may change with season, especially with respect to habitats/areas utilized for nesting. A species with a nesting status N* due to a limited nesting distribution, may migrate through or winter elsewhere. N* used with parentheses delineates species nesting in specific areas, such as (C) only in the Chisos Mountains. The more widespread nesting status "N" denotes nesting species normally associated with broad areas of the region, but may in fact be excluded from certain areas/habitats. For example, one of the most common birds of the region, the Black-throated Sparrow, finds montane habitats unsuitable for occupation at any time of the year. This desert sparrow is often labeled as an "indicator" species of the ecological region and for that reason graced the cover of the 1st edition. The author has chosen the Lucifer Hummingbird to grace the cover of this edition.

The seasonal abundance codes (bar graphs) included herein represent a compilation of the most accurate objective data available as well as subjective evaluations by the author. Peripheral species and/or local species (e.g., Great Kiskadee, Juniper Titmouse, Mountain Chickadee, Colima Warbler, Grace's Warbler and Olive Sparrow) have abundance codes applied that reflect only their status where they normally occur. Many species show strong ties to certain habitats, or they may be quite localized such as to a particular mountain range, making it difficult to define their abundance across the entire region. To aid in that designation, letter codes (as provided in the legend) have been added to delineate areas occupied by localized species. As an example, the Mexican Jay is expected to occur only in the Chisos Mountains,

thus designated with the letter code of 'C' for Chisos. Also keep in mind that open water habitats for aquatic species are limited in the region. Less than ten permanent reservoirs exist, limited to two general areas – within the Pecos River system along the eastern edge of the region and the Rio Grande in its floodplain valley south of El Paso. Vagrants are defined as those species that have occurred generally less than ten times in the region. Species listed as such are depicted with a closed circle (dot) in the bar graph area. Numerous other species have been recorded only on a few occasions, as very rare migrants or sporadic in overall occurrence, but are expected to occur again in the future. These species are listed as “rare”.

Like any species checklist, this is a *dynamic* document that will require future updating. Please submit any changes, additions, comments, or questions to the author at West Texas Avian Research, Inc. (<http://www.westtexasavianresearch.org>)

SELECTED REFERENCES:

- Bryan, K. B. and J. P. Karges. 2001. *Recent bird records in the Davis Mountains*. Texas Birds 3(1): 40-53.
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Please help us protect the natural avian communities by refraining from using playback tapes of bird songs, especially during the breeding season. Excessive use of these tapes disrupts normal avian activity patterns, including essential territorial behavior, and may lead to disruption of breeding activities. Thank you for your cooperation.

LEGEND

Abundance (basically an abundance scale with abundant being the most common and vagrant the least)

- Abundant – present and conspicuous in proper habitat and season indicated; often in large numbers
- Common – normally present, should be found in proper habitat and season; numbers vary
- Uncommon – usually present in proper habitat and season, but may be overlooked; typically found in small numbers
- Occasional – normally encountered a few times during the season indicated; may also occur in a narrow timeframe within a season or in very specialized habitat
- Rare – seldom observed; may not occur each year during season indicated
 - Vagrant – generally one to three records region-wide each decade
 - Lingerant vagrants (Note: vagrant records include both documented records and selected sight observations)

Status, Geographic distribution and Nesting (SGN)

Species marked (RS) are Texas Review Species; please submit details, photographs and/or recordings to the Texas Birds Records Committee (<http://www.texasbirdrecordscommittee.org/>).

- I – Irruptive species that may be uncommon to abundant some years but occasional, rare, or even absent all others; also applies to species regularly occurring in the checklist area but exhibit movements of an irruptive nature into areas/habitats otherwise not normally occupied
- E – Extirpated or extinct
- W – Western portions of the region, specifically in El Paso and/or Hudspeth counties; abundance graph normally applies to this area only but migrants/vagrants may occur elsewhere
- G – Guadalupe Mountains; abundance graph normally applies to this area only but migrants/vagrants may occur elsewhere
- D – Davis Mountains; abundance graph normally applies to this area only but migrants/vagrants may occur elsewhere
- C – Chisos Mountains; abundance graph normally applies to this area only but migrants/vagrants may occur elsewhere
- PG – Plateau grasslands typically located at elevations ranging from 4,000' to 6,000'; abundance graph normally applies to this area only but migrants/vagrants may occur elsewhere
- RG – Rio Grande corridor (or portions thereof) from above Lake Amistad north to Brewster and Presidio counties; abundance graph normally applies to this area only but migrants/vagrants may occur elsewhere
- SE – Southeastern portions of the region, specifically in Val Verde and Terrell counties including Lake Amistad; abundance graph normally applies to this area only but migrants/vagrants may occur elsewhere
- N – Regular and widespread nesting species
- N* – Localized nesting species; applies to species nesting in a specific geographic area and/or habitat, or to those with only one or two nesting records
- N? – Status as a breeding species in the region is uncertain
- () – Sub-regional geographic area specified for selected species with nesting status N* or N?; many species whose nesting distributions are limited as indicated by the use of parentheses may be (or typically are) widespread at other times of the year in migration and/or winter, i.e. Sharp-shinned Hawk, Western Wood-Pewee, Hermit Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Western Tanager, Spotted Towhee, and Green-tailed Towhee.

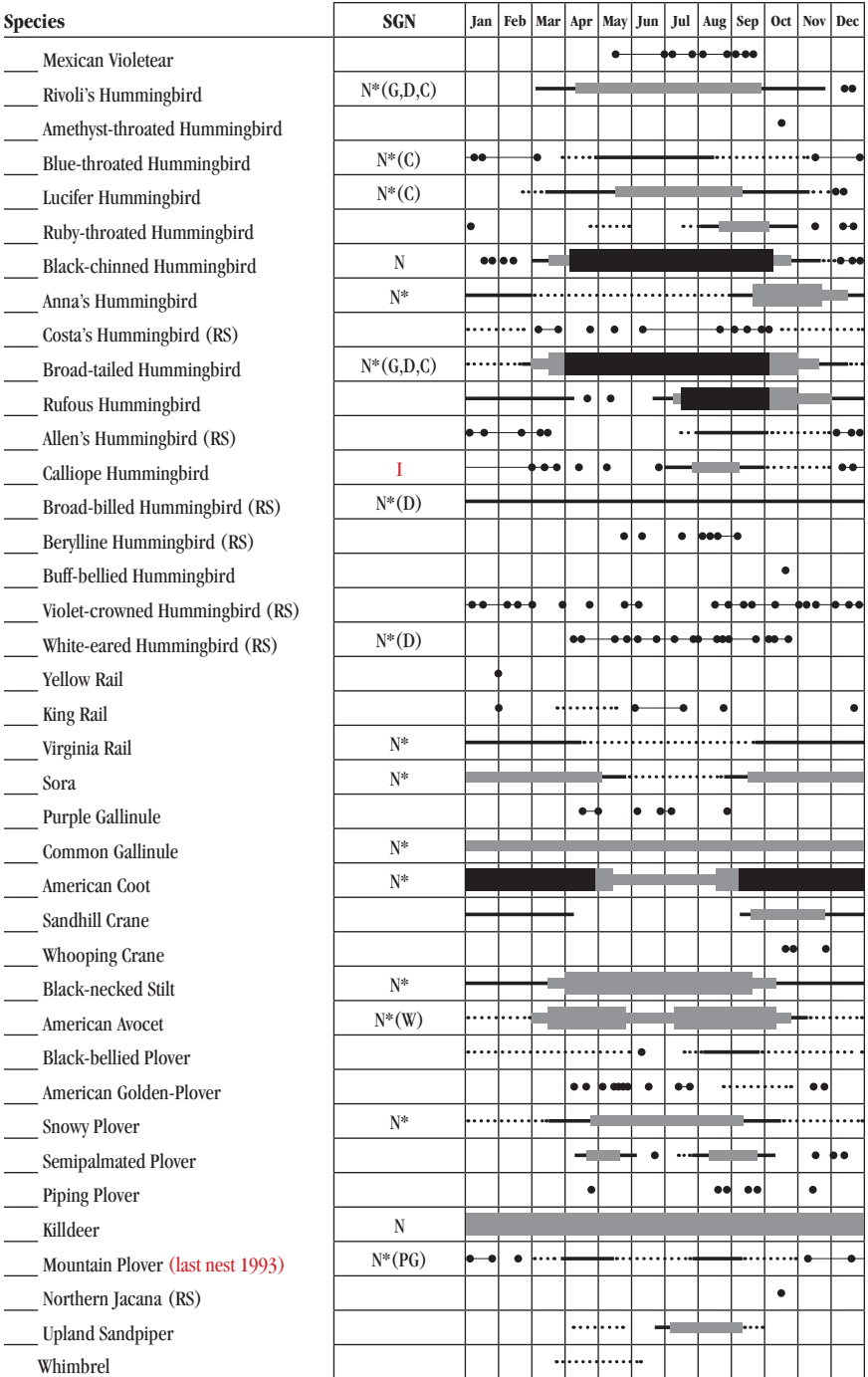
CITATION

Bryan, Kelly B. 2019. *Birds of the Trans-Pecos: A Field Checklist*, 2nd Ed. Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., Austin, Texas PWD BK P4000-809.

CHECKLIST

Species	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
___ Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	N*, SE	••		•	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck	SE	•	•	•••	•••	•••	•	•	•••	•			•
___ Snow Goose		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ (Blue) Snow Goose		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Ross's Goose		.....	.....	.....	.....	••				•	.....	.....	.....
___ (Blue) Ross's Goose		•											•••
___ Greater White-fronted Goose		.....	.....	.....	.....	•	•			.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Cackling Goose		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Canada Goose		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Tundra Swan		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Wood Duck	N*, SE, W	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Garganey (RS)					••	••							
___ Blue-winged Teal	N*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Cinnamon Teal	N*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Northern Shoveler	N*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Gadwall		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Eurasian Wigeon (RS)		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ American Wigeon		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Mallard	N*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ (Mexican Duck) Mallard	N	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Mottled Duck (valid records?)	SE	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Northern Pintail	N*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Green-winged Teal	N*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Canvasback	N*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Redhead	N*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Ring-necked Duck		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Greater Scaup		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Lesser Scaup		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Surf Scoter		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ White-winged Scoter		•										••	••
___ Black Scoter												•••	•
___ Long-tailed Duck		•	•	••	••	••						••••	••••
___ Bufflehead		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Common Goldeneye		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Barrow's Goldeneye (RS)													••
___ Hooded Merganser		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Common Merganser	I	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Species



Species	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Eskimo Curlew (RS) (Oberholser 1974)	E					•								
Long-billed Curlew	N*	—————												
Hudsonian Godwit					•	•	••	••	•					
Marbled Godwit					.....		.....				••	•	••
Ruddy Turnstone					.....				.....
Red Knot						••			•••••	•				
Ruff (RS)										••				
Stilt Sandpiper				••	—————		••	—————						
Red-necked Stint (RS)								••						
Sanderling					.....				.....			•
Dunlin		.....	•	•		•				.....		
Baird's Sandpiper			••	.....	—————			—————				•	
Least Sandpiper		—————	—————	—————	—————	—————	—————	—————	—————	—————	—————	—————	—————	
White-rumped Sandpiper					—————			•	.....				
Buff-breasted Sandpiper														
Pectoral Sandpiper				•	—————	•	.....	—————					
Semipalmated Sandpiper					.....			.....		
Western Sandpiper		—————	—————	—————	.....			—————	—————	—————	—————	—————	—————
Short-billed Dowitcher								•	.....				
Long-billed Dowitcher		—————	—————	—————	.....			—————	—————	—————	—————	—————	—————
American Woodcock	SE	••	•		•						•	••••	•	
Wilson's Snipe		—————	—————	.....					.....	—————	—————	—————	—————
Spotted Sandpiper	N?(G)	—————	—————	.....				.....	—————	—————	—————	—————	—————
Solitary Sandpiper		•	•	.....	—————			.....	—————	.....	••	••
Lesser Yellowlegs		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Willet			••	.....	—————			.....				•
Greater Yellowlegs		—————	—————	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wilson's Phalarope		•	•	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	••••
Red-necked Phalarope					.....				.....			•
Red Phalarope (RS)						•	•			.....		•	
Pomarine Jaeger													••	
Parasitic Jaeger										••	••	••	•	
Long-tailed Jaeger (RS)							•		•					
Black-legged Kittiwake		.....		•								.....
Sabine's Gull					•	•		•	.....	.....		•
Bonaparte's Gull		—————	.....							•	—————	—————	—————
Little Gull (RS)												•		
Laughing Gull	N*(SE)	—————												
Franklin's Gull		•••	•	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	•••

Species

	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Heermann's Gull (RS)					••					•			•
Mew Gull (RS)		••••	•	•								••	•
Ring-billed Gull		[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]											
Western Gull (RS)						•							
California Gull											••	••	••
Herring Gull					••	••							
Iceland Gull (RS)		••	••••	•								••••	•
Lesser Black-backed Gull		••	•	•	•							••••	•
Slaty-backed Gull												••	
Sooty Tern										•			
Least Tern	N*												
Gull-billed Tern	SE					•							
Caspian Tern					••	••••	••	••	••	••	••	••	
Black Tern												•	
Common Tern													
Arctic Tern (RS)													
Forster's Tern	N*(SE)	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]											
Royal Tern											•		
Elegant Tern (RS)													•
Black Skimmer										•			
Red-throated Loon (RS)													
Pacific Loon						•	•	•					
Common Loon										•			
Yellow-billed Loon (RS)		•											•••
Wood Stork	SE												
Neotropic Cormorant	N*												
Double-crested Cormorant	N*	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]											
Anhinga	SE	•			••••	•	•	•			••	••	••
American White Pelican													
Brown Pelican													
American Bittern													
Least Bittern	N*(RG)	••											••••
Great Blue Heron	N*	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]											
Great Egret	N*	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]											
Snowy Egret	N*	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]											
Little Blue Heron	SE	•	•	•									
Tricolored Heron	SE												
Reddish Egret													
Cattle Egret	N*	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]											

Species

	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Green Heron	N*	[Shaded bar from Mar to Oct]												
Black-crowned Night-Heron	N*	[Shaded bar from Mar to Oct]												
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	SE	[Dotted line from Mar to Oct]												
White Ibis		•	••••		•				••	•				
Glossy Ibis				••••					••	•	•	•		
White-faced Ibis	N*	[Shaded bar from Mar to Oct]												
Roseate Spoonbill				•					••••••••					
Black Vulture	N,SE,RG	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]												
Turkey Vulture	N	••••	[Shaded bar from Mar to Oct]								••••			
Osprey							••••	••••						
White-tailed Kite	N*,W,PG,SE	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]												
Swallow-tailed Kite								••••••••			•			
Golden Eagle	N*	[Shaded bar from Mar to Oct]												
Northern Harrier	N*	[Shaded bar from Mar to Oct]												
Sharp-shinned Hawk	N*	[Shaded bar from Mar to Oct]												
Cooper's Hawk	N	[Shaded bar from Mar to Oct]												
Northern Goshawk (RS)		••	••		•	•				••••••••	••••••••	••••••••	••	
Bald Eagle		[Dotted line from Jan to Dec]												
Mississippi Kite	N*(W)													
White-tailed Hawk	SE		•		•	•	•	•						
Common Black Hawk	N*(D,RG,SE)	•	[Shaded bar from Mar to Oct]											
Harris's Hawk	N,SE,RG,W	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]												
Gray Hawk	N*(RG,D)		•	[Shaded bar from Mar to Oct]								•	•	
Red-shouldered Hawk	N*,SE	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]												
Broad-winged Hawk	SE			•	••••••••		•		•	••••••••	•			
Short-tailed Hawk					••••••••				••					
Swainson's Hawk	N													
Zone-tailed Hawk	N	••••	[Shaded bar from Mar to Oct]											
Red-tailed Hawk	N	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]												
(Harlan's) Red-tailed Hawk														
Rough-legged Hawk	I	[Dotted line from Jan to Dec]												
Ferruginous Hawk	PG	[Shaded bar from Mar to Oct]												
Barn Owl	N	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]												
Flammulated Owl	N*(G,D,C)													
Western Screech-Owl	N	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]												
Eastern Screech-Owl	N*,SE	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]												
Great Horned Owl	N	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]												
Northern Pygmy-Owl (RS)				•	••••	••			•	••••	••			
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	SE,RG			•	••••									

Species	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Elf Owl	N		•	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	•	
Burrowing Owl	N	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spotted Owl	N*(G,D)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barred Owl	N*,SE	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long-eared Owl	N*,I	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Short-eared Owl	PG	—	—	—	—	•	•	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Saw-whet Owl (RS)	N*(G,D)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Elegant Trogon (RS)		•	•	•	•	•	•	—	•	—	—	•	—
Ringed Kingfisher	N*,SE,RG	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belted Kingfisher	N*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Green Kingfisher	N*,SE,RG	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lewis's Woodpecker (RS)	I	—	—	—	—	—	—	•	—	•	—	—	—
Red-headed Woodpecker		—	—	—	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Acorn Woodpecker	N	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	N,SE,RG	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Williamson's Sapsucker		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-naped Sapsucker		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-breasted Sapsucker (RS)		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Downy Woodpecker	N?,SE	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	N	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hairy Woodpecker	N*(G)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Flicker	N	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(Red-shafted) Flicker		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(Yellow-shafted) Flicker		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Crested Caracara	N?,SE	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Kestrel	N	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merlin		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Apomado Falcon (RS)	N?,PG	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peregrine Falcon	N*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prairie Falcon	N*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Monk Parakeet	N*(W)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rose-throated Becard (RS)		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dusky-capped Flycatcher (RS)	N*(D,C)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ash-throated Flycatcher	N	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nutting's Flycatcher		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Crested Flycatcher	SE	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brown-crested Flycatcher	N*,SE,RG	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

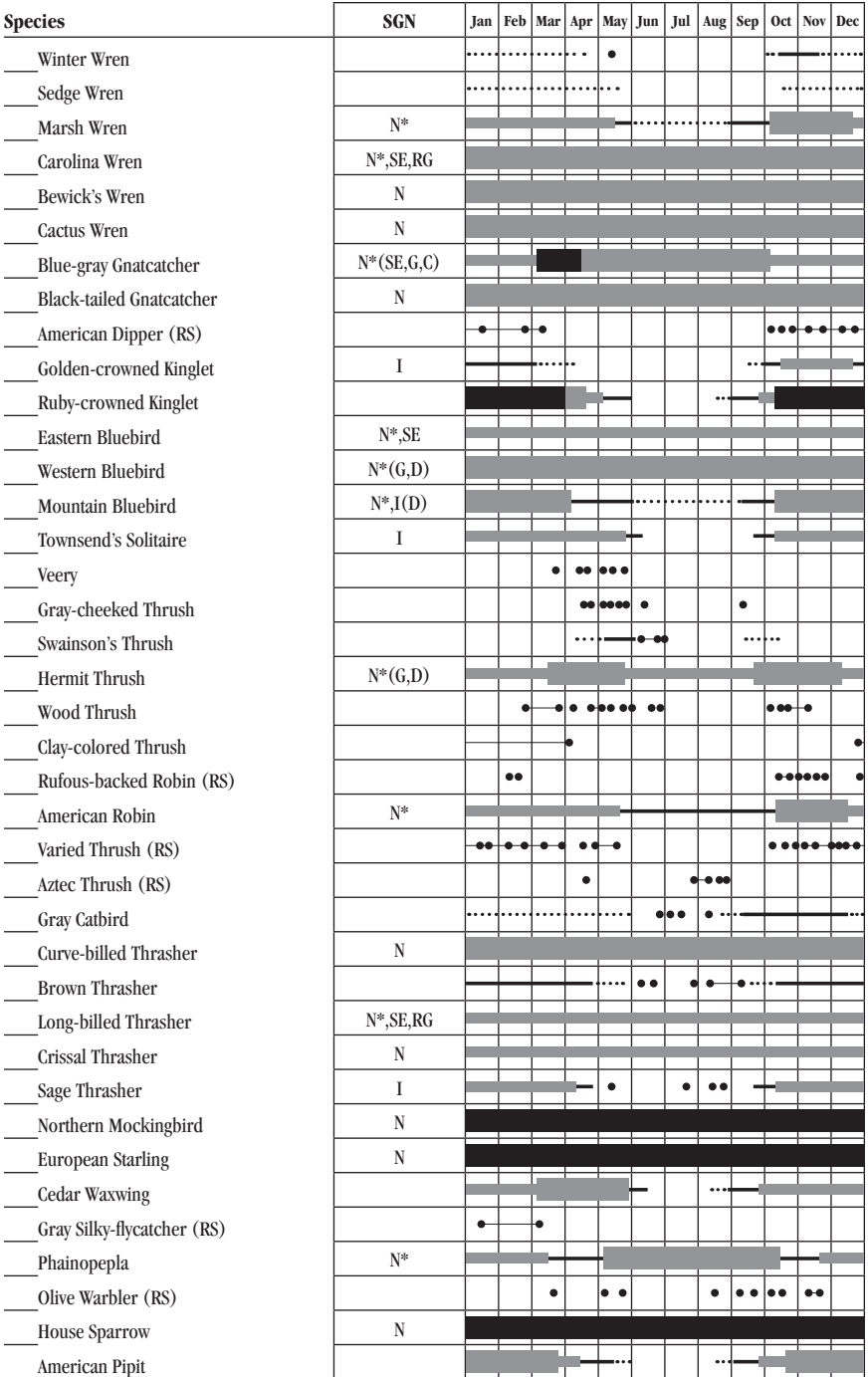
Species

	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Great Kiskadee	N*,SE				—————									
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (RS)					•	•	•		••					
Piratic Flycatcher (RS)					•									
Tropical Kingbird	N*,RG,W				.....								
Couch's Kingbird	N*,SE,RG	••			—————									
Cassin's Kingbird	N				—————									•
Thick-billed Kingbird (RS) (last nest 1991)	N*,RG				•	.....							•
Western Kingbird	N				—————									•
Eastern Kingbird							•	•		•				
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	N*,SE,PG				—————								••	
Fork-tailed Flycatcher										•		•		
Tufted Flycatcher (RS)		••			••							••		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	N*(G)				—————									
Greater Pewee (RS)	N*(D)	••		•	••••	••	••	•	•	••••	•	••••		
Western Wood-Pewee	N*(G,D)				—————					—————			•	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	N*,SE				—————				—————					
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher										•••				
Acadian Flycatcher	N?,SE									•		•		
Willow Flycatcher	N?								—————			•		
Least Flycatcher							•		—————					
Hammond's Flycatcher		••••	••	••	—————							••••		
Gray Flycatcher	N*(G,D)				—————									
Dusky Flycatcher	N*(D)				—————				—————					
Cordilleran Flycatcher	N*(G,D,C)	••	•		—————								•	
Buff-breasted Flycatcher (RS)	N*(D)				.....								
Black Phoebe	N	—————												
Eastern Phoebe	N*,SE	—————												
Say's Phoebe	N	—————												
Vermilion Flycatcher	N				—————									
Loggerhead Shrike	N	—————												
Northern Shrike		••	•									••	••	
Black-capped Vireo	N*,SE,C				—————									
White-eyed Vireo	N*,SE,RG				—————									
Bell's Vireo	N	•	•		—————								•	
Gray Vireo	N				—————									
Hutton's Vireo	N				—————									
Yellow-throated Vireo	N*,SE				—————									
Cassin's Vireo					—————		•				—————			
Blue-headed Vireo					—————						.....		

Species

	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Plumbeous Vireo	N*(G,D)												
Philadelphia Vireo				•	•••••				•	•••••			
Warbling Vireo	N*(G,D)												
Red-eyed Vireo	N*,SE												•
Yellow-green Vireo (RS)				•		•	•			••			
Green Jay	I,SE												
Pinyon Jay	I												
Steller's Jay	N*,I (G,D)												
Blue Jay	I												
Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	N,I												
Mexican Jay	N*(C)												
Clark's Nutcracker (RS)	I												
Black-billed Magpie (RS)			••	••	••	••					•		
American Crow	I,W										•		
Chihuahuan Raven	N												
Common Raven	N												
Horned Lark	N												
Purple Martin	N*,SE												••
Tree Swallow													
Violet-green Swallow	N*(G,D,C)												•
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	N*,SE,RG												
Bank Swallow	N*(SE)												•
Cliff Swallow	N												
Cave Swallow	N												
Barn Swallow	N												
Carolina Chickadee	SE												
Black-capped Chickadee (RS)					•								
Mountain Chickadee	N*,I(G,D)												
Juniper Titmouse	N*,I(G)												
Black-crested Titmouse	N												
Verdin	N												
Bushtit	N												
Red-breasted Nuthatch	N*,I(G)												
White-breasted Nuthatch	N*(G,D,C)												
Pygmy Nuthatch	N*I(G,D)												
Brown Creeper	N*(G)												
Rock Wren	N												
Canyon Wren	N												
House Wren	N*(G,D)												

Species



Species

	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sprague's Pipit				....		•					....
Evening Grosbeak	N*,I(G)					.....	•	•		•	....
Pine Grosbeak (RS)												•	•
House Finch	N												
Purple Finch		•		•	•						••••	••	••
Cassin's Finch	I					.....		•		....	
Common Redpoll (RS)												••	••
Red Crossbill	N*,I(G,D)												
Pine Siskin	N*,I(G,D)												
Lesser Goldfinch	N												
Lawrence's Goldfinch (RS)	I	••••	••••	••			•				••••••	••	••
American Goldfinch								•					
Lapland Longspur				•••		•					•	••••••	
Chestnut-collared Longspur					.....		•			....	
Smith's Longspur				•	•	•						••	
McCown's Longspur				.....								
Snow Bunting (RS)						•						•	
Olive Sparrow	N*,SE												
Green-tailed Towhee	N*(G,D)												
Spotted Towhee	N*(G,D,C)												
Eastern Towhee				•••									
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	N												
Canyon Towhee	N												
Botteri's Sparrow	N*							•			•		
Cassin's Sparrow	N												
American Tree Sparrow		•		••								•	••
Chipping Sparrow	N												
Clay-colored Sparrow													
Brewer's Sparrow													
Field Sparrow	N*,SE												
Black-chinned Sparrow	N*												
Vesper Sparrow								•	•	....		
Lark Sparrow	N												
Black-throated Sparrow	N												
Sagebrush Sparrow								•					
Lark Bunting	N?												
Savannah Sparrow													
Grasshopper Sparrow	N*(PG,SE)												
Baird's Sparrow (RS)													

Species

	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
LeConte's Sparrow				.....						•	....		.....
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow												•	
Fox Sparrow		.....			•						.....		.....
(Slate-colored) Fox Sparrow			•							•			
Song Sparrow		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....			.....	.....	.....	.....
Lincoln's Sparrow		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Swamp Sparrow		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....				.....	.....	.....
White-throated Sparrow		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		••	.....	.....	.....	.....
Harris's Sparrow		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....				.....	.....	.....
White-crowned Sparrow		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	••	••	.....	.....	.....	.....
Golden-crowned Sparrow (RS)		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....				.....	.....	.....
Dark-eyed Junco		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(Slate-colored) Junco	SE	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....			.....	.....	.....	.....
(Red-backed) Junco	N*,G	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(Gray-headed) Junco		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....			•	.....	.....	.....
(Pink-sided) Junco		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		•	.....	.....	.....	.....
(Oregon) Junco		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....				.....	.....	.....
(White-winged) Junco		•	•									••••	••••
Yellow-eyed Junco (RS)		•		••••	••••	••••	•					••	••
Yellow-breasted Chat	N				.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Yellow-headed Blackbird	N?	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bobolink					••••	••••	••••			••			
Eastern Meadowlark	N	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Western Meadowlark	N	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Black-vented Oriole (RS)					••	••					••••	••••	
Orchard Oriole	N		••		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hooded Oriole	N*,SE,RG	••	••	•	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	••	••
Streak-backed Oriole										•			
Bullock's Oriole	N	•	••	•	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	••	••
Altamira Oriole	SE				••	••							
Audubon's Oriole	N?,SE						•	•	•		•		
Baltimore Oriole		••	••••	••••	.....	.....	••	••	••	.....	.....	••	••••
Scott's Oriole	N	••	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	••
Red-winged Blackbird	N	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bronzed Cowbird	N	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Brown-headed Cowbird	N	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rusty Blackbird		.....	.....	.....	•					•	.....	.....	.....
Brewer's Blackbird	N*(D)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Common Grackle	I	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	•			•	.....	.....	.....

Species

	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Yellow-throated Warbler	N*,SE	•		•	—	—	—	—	•	•		•	
Prairie Warbler				•	•	•	•		•			•	
Grace's Warbler	N*(G,D)			•	—	—	—	—	•	•	•		•
Black-throated Gray Warbler	N*(G)			•	—	—	—	—	•	•	•	•	
Townsend's Warbler				•	—	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Hermit Warbler		•	•		•			•	•	•			
Golden-cheeked Warbler	SE			•	•		•	•	•	•			
Black-throated Green Warbler				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Fan-tailed Warbler									•	•			
Rufous-capped Warbler (RS)	N?(SE)												
Canada Warbler									•	•	•	•	
Wilson's Warbler			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Red-faced Warbler (RS)					•	•		•					
Painted Redstart	N*(D,C)			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Slate-throated Redstart (RS)				•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Hepatic Tanager	N*(G,D)	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Summer Tanager	N	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Scarlet Tanager				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Western Tanager	N*(G,D)		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Flame-colored Tanager (RS)				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Northern Cardinal	N	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pyrrhuloxia	N	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Black-headed Grosbeak	N*(G,D,C)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Blue Grosbeak	N	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lazuli Bunting		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Indigo Bunting	N*,SE,D	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Varied Bunting	N			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Painted Bunting	N	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dickcissel	N*,I(SE)			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Morelet's Seed eater	SE		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

BIRDING DESTINATIONS

Listed below are Texas Parks and Wildlife facilities located within the checklist coverage area. Also included are several prominent public sites such as National Parks, lakes and reservoirs, and private preserves. Public access to some of these sites may be limited. Site specific bird checklists are available for several locations; however, in this age of social media and digital record keeping via eBird (<https://ebird.org/home>), most of these locations can be accessed as “hotspots” for creating site specific bird lists. The larger sites, such as the two National Parks and Big Bend Ranch State Park, will have many “hotspots” with different lists for each location. The eBird data set may differ from the bar code seasonal occurrence data included in this checklist. The filter system for eBird records is often arbitrary in nature influenced by broader distributional information and not based on actual known records; however, there is a concerted effort to improve its accuracy. This checklist is based on actual records compiled over the past 75 years by the author, numerous notable experts living and deceased, and observations from visiting birders, along with all records gleaned from publications covering the region, especially records that have been published in the journal *North American Birds* and its predecessors

Alamito Creek Preserve
Ascarate Lake (El Paso)
Amistad Reservoir (Del Rio)
Amistad National Recreation Area
B. J. Bishop Wetland (near Presidio)
Balmorhea Lake
Balmorhea State Park
Big Bend National Park
Big Bend Ranch State Park
Black Gap Wildlife Mgmt. Area
Brushy Canyon Preserve
Chinati Mountains State Natural Area
Chihuahuan Desert Visitor's Center
(Fort Davis)
Christmas Mountains Oasis
(private, restricted access)
Davis Mountains Preserve
Davis Mountains State Park
Devil's River Ranch State Park
Devil's River State Natural Area
Diamond Y Preserve
Dolan Falls Preserve
Elephant Mountain Wildlife Mgmt. Area
Franklin Mountains State Park
Fort Hancock Reservoir (restricted access)

Fort Lancaster State Historic Site
Fort Leaton Historic Site
Guadalupe Mountains National Park
Hueco Tanks State Park
Imperial Reservoir (restricted access)
Independence Creek Preserve
Judge Roy Bean TX DOT Visitors Center
(Langtry)
Las Palomas Wildlife Mgmt. Area
Lawrence E. Woods, TXDOT Picnic Area
(Davis Mts.)
McNary Reservoir (restricted access)
Monahans Sandhills State Park
Red Bluff Reservoir
Rio Bosque Wetlands (El Paso)
Sandia Wetlands (Balmorhea)
Seminole Canyon State Historic Site
Sierra Diablo Wildlife Mgmt. Area
Tornillo Reservoir (restricted access)
Wylar Aerial Tramway (El Paso)
Sandia Wetlands (Balmorhea)
Seminole Canyon State Historic Site
Sierra Diablo Wildlife Mgmt. Area
Tornillo Reservoir (restricted access)
Wylar Aerial Tramway (El Paso)

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Natural Resources Program
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744
www.tpwd.state.tx.us