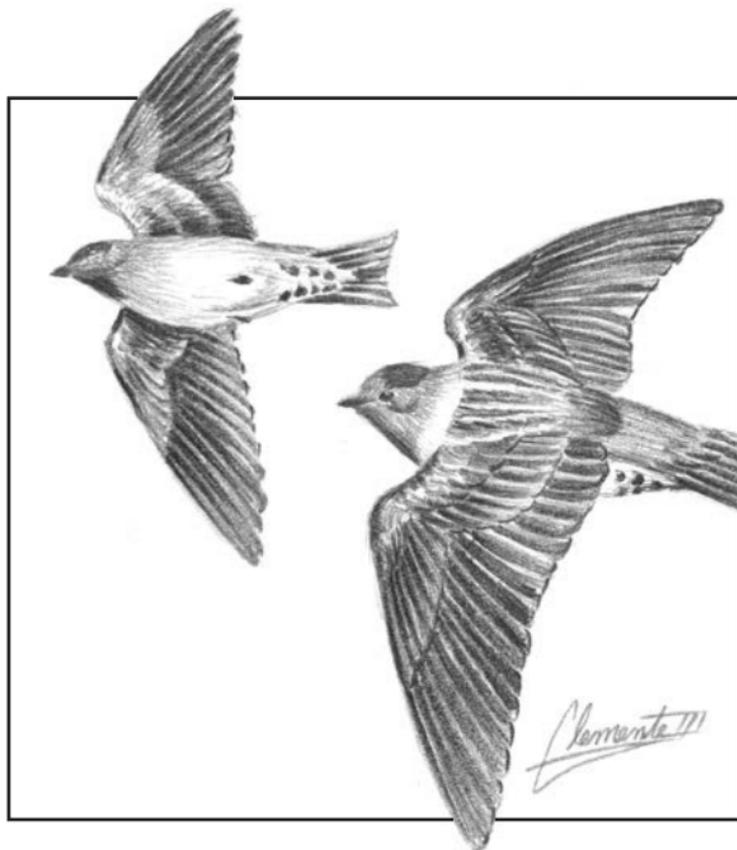


TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

BIRDS

OF

HUECO TANKS STATE PARK AND HISTORIC SITE



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2002

Cover: Illustration of Cliff Swallows by Clemente Guzman.

INTRODUCTION

On first inspection, Hueco Tanks State Historic Site may appear to be a poor spot to study birds; however, the birder who takes a closer look will find that the site supports an amazingly diverse avifauna. The core of the site is a line of syenite (a granite-like rock) outcrops dissected by numerous canyons and washes. The entire site is surrounded by Chihuahuan Desert Scrub vegetation dominated by creosote bush. In favorable sites, the desert harbors a remnant grassland-yucca association, and after the mid and late summer rains the entire desert may be carpeted with a lush growth of seasonal grasses and wildflowers. On hilly slopes and in certain canyons numerous small trees and shrubs are found. Among these are hackberry, Texas mulberry, Mexican buckeye, Gregg acacia, juniper and numerous Arizona oaks. Several small stock ponds, or tanks, are scattered throughout the site. A few are dry much of the year, but most contain some water during the winter. In addition, there are several seasonal and permanent springs, seeps and huecos or tinajas, located among the rocks.

The combination of trees, water and sheltering rocks act as a powerful magnet drawing birds to the site. In a desert environment water means life; nowhere is this better illustrated than at Hueco Tanks. Besides concentrating the regular birds of the area, the trees and seasonal ponds on the site stand out as a beacon to migrants looking for a resting place. This oasis effect has made the site one of the best traps for migrant avifauna in West Texas, as evidenced by the number of rare birds found here. A total of 222 species have been documented as occurring on the site.

Because we will be updating this checklist as additional observations are made, we ask that you report details of new or unusual sightings on Bird Sighting Report forms available at the site headquarters. Reports may be sent to the Natural

Resources Program, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744 or may be left at site headquarters for forwarding.

Nomenclature and organization for this checklist follow the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds* (7th edition, 1998) as currently supplemented. This checklist has been compiled by Barry R. Zimmer of El Paso. The compiler gratefully acknowledges the cooperation of the many dedicated contributors who assisted in the preparation of this checklist.

Please help protect the natural avian communities in our parks by refraining from using playback tapes of bird songs. Frequent use of these tapes disrupts normal avian activity patterns, disrupts essential territorial behavior and may lead to nest failure. Thank you for your cooperation.

LEGEND

Seasons

- Sp- Spring (March - May)
- S - Summer (June - August)
- F - Fall (September - November)
- W - Winter (December - February)

Abundance

- A = abundant - should be seen on every trip in proper habitat and season
- C = common - should be seen on 3 out 4 trips in proper habitat and season
- FC = fairly common - should be seen on 2 out 4 trips in proper habitat and season
- U = uncommon - should be seen on 1 out 4 trips in proper habitat and season
- R = rare - should be seen on 1 out 10 trips in proper habitat and season
- Ca = casual - 3 to 5 records in last 5 years
- X = accidental - only one or two records in the past 5 years
- I = irregular - absent some years, but may be numerous in others

- / = when preceding summer status, indicates that the bird's presence in summer is due to early southbound migrants
- * = confirmed breeding
- # = suspected breeding

CHECKLIST

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Pied-billed Grebe	Ca		Ca	Ca
___ Eared Grebe.....	X		X	X
___ Western Grebe			X	X
___ Great Blue Heron	X		X	
___ Cattle Egret.....	X			
___ Green Heron	X		X	X
___ *Turkey Vulture	A	A	C	
___ Tundra Swan				X
___ Wood Duck	X			X
___ Gadwall	R		R	R
___ American Wigeon	R		R	R
___ Mallard.....	R		R	R
___ Mallard (Mexican race).....	R		R	R
___ Blue-winged Teal	R		R	
___ Cinnamon Teal.....	R		R	Ca
___ Northern Shoveler.....	R		R	R
___ Northern Pintail.....	R		R	R
___ Green-winged Teal	R		R	R
___ Canvasback	Ca		Ca	Ca
___ Redhead.....	Ca		Ca	Ca
___ Ring-necked Duck.....	Ca		R	R
___ Lesser Scaup	Ca		Ca	Ca
___ Bufflehead.....	Ca		Ca	Ca
___ Common Goldeneye				X
___ Hooded Merganser	X			X
___ Ruddy Duck	Ca		Ca	Ca
___ Northern Harrier	U		FC	FC
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	U		FC	U
___ Cooper's Hawk.....	U		FC	U
___ Northern Goshawk.....				X
___ #Swainson's Hawk.....	U	U	U	
___ *Red-tailed Hawk.....	C	C	C	C

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Ferruginous Hawk.....				Ca
___ Golden Eagle.....	U	R	U	U
___ American Kestrel.....	FC		FC	FC
___ Merlin.....	R		R	Ca
___ Peregrine Falcon.....	X			
___ *Prairie Falcon.....	U	R	U	U
___ *Scaled Quail.....	FC	FC	FC	FC
___ #Gambel's Quail.....	U	U	U	U
___ Sora.....	U		U	Ca
___ Common Moorhen.....	Ca		Ca	Ca
___ American Coot.....	R		R	R
___ Sandhill Crane.....			R	Ca
___ Killdeer.....	U	R	U	R
___ Solitary Sandpiper.....	U		U	
___ Spotted Sandpiper.....	R		R	X
___ Least Sandpiper.....	R		R	
___ Common Snipe.....	U		U	R
___ Rock Dove.....	Ca	Ca	Ca	Ca
___ Band-tailed Pigeon.....	X		X	X
___ White-winged Dove.....	FC	FC	U	Ca
___ *Mourning Dove.....	A	A	C	U
___ #Inca Dove.....	R	R	R	R
___ Common Ground-Dove.....	X			
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....	Ca	Ca		
___ *Greater Roadrunner.....	U	U	U	U
___ *Barn Owl.....	R	R	R	R
___ Flammulated Owl.....	X		Ca	
___ Western Screech-Owl.....			X	
___ *Great Horned Owl.....	FC	FC	FC	FC
___ *Burrowing Owl.....	R	R	R	
___ Long-eared Owl.....	Ca		R	R
___ Short-eared Owl.....				X
___ *Lesser Nighthawk.....	FC	FC	U	
___ Common Nighthawk.....	R		R	

	Sp	S	F	W
___ #Common Poorwill.....	FC	FC	U	X
___ *White-throated Swift.....	C	C	FC	FC
___ *Black-chinned Hummingbird.....	C	C	FC	
___ Calliope Hummingbird.....		/R	R	
___ Broad-tailed Hummingbird.....	U	/R	U	
___ Rufous Hummingbird.....		/U	FC	
___ Belted Kingfisher.....	R		R	R
___ Acorn Woodpecker.....		Ca		
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....			R	Ca
___ Red-naped Sapsucker.....	R		U	R
___ *Ladder-backed Woodpecker.....	C	C	C	C
___ Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker.....	U	X	FC	FC
___ Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker.....			Ca	Ca
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher.....	U	/R	U	
___ Western Wood-Pewee.....	C	/U	C	
___ Willow Flycatcher.....	U		FC	
___ Least Flycatcher.....	Ca		R	
___ Hammond's Flycatcher.....	R		U	
___ Dusky Flycatcher.....	FC		FC	
___ Gray Flycatcher.....	U		U	
___ Cordilleran Flycatcher.....	U		U	
___ #Black Phoebe.....	U	R	U	U
___ Eastern Phoebe.....	R		R	Ca
___ *Say's Phoebe.....	C	C	C	C
___ Vermilion Flycatcher.....	X	X	X	X
___ *Ash-throated Flycatcher.....	C	C	U	
___ Brown-crested Flycatcher.....	X		X	
___ *Cassin's Kingbird.....	U	X	U	
___ *Western Kingbird.....	C	C	FC	
___ Eastern Kingbird.....			X	
___ *Loggerhead Shrike.....	FC	U	FC	C
___ Northern Shrike.....				X
___ Bell's Vireo.....	X			
___ Plumbeous Vireo.....	FC		FC	

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Cassin's Vireo	R		U	
___ Warbling Vireo.....	U	/U	FC	
___ Red-eyed Vireo.....	X		X	
___ Steller's Jay			iR	iR
___ Western Scrub-Jay.....	iU		iFC	iU
___ Chihuahuan Raven.....	R	R	R	R
___ Horned Lark	Ca		R	FC
___ Tree Swallow.....	U		U	
___ Violet-green Swallow	U		R	
___ N. Rough-winged Swallow	U		U	
___ Bank Swallow.....	U		U	
___ *Cliff Swallow	A	A	FC	
___ *Barn Swallow	A	A	C	
___ Mountain Chickadee			iU	iU
___ Juniper Titmouse			X	X
___ *Verdin	C	C	C	C
___ Bushtit				X
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch.....			iU	iR
___ White-breasted Nuthatch.....			iR	iR
___ Brown Creeper			iR	iR
___ *Cactus Wren.....	FC	FC	FC	FC
___ *Rock Wren.....	A	A	A	A
___ *Canyon Wren.....	A	A	A	C
___ Bewick's Wren.....	U		U	U
___ House Wren.....	FC		FC	U
___ Winter Wren.....				X
___ Marsh Wren	R		R	R
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet.....			iR	iR
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	FC		C	C
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U		R	
___ #Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	R	R	R	R
___ Eastern Bluebird.....				iR
___ Western Bluebird.....				iFC
___ Mountain Bluebird				iU

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Townsend's Solitaire.....	iR		iU	iU
___ Hermit Thrush.....	U		FC	U
___ American Robin	iU		iU	iU
___ Gray Catbird.....			X	
___ *Northern Mockingbird	A	A	FC	U
___ Sage Thrasher	R		iFC	iU
___ Brown Thrasher.....	Ca		Ca	Ca
___ *Curve-billed Thrasher	U	R	U	U
___ *Crissal Thrasher	FC	FC	FC	FC
___ European Starling.....	Ca	Ca	Ca	Ca
___ American Pipit.....	R		R	R
___ Cedar Waxwing.....	iR		iR	iR
___ Phainopepla.....	R	Ca	U	U
___ Olive Warbler.....			X	
___ Tennessee Warbler.....	Ca		Ca	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler.....	FC		FC	
___ Nashville Warbler	R		R	
___ Virginia's Warbler	U		FC	
___ Lucy's Warbler	X			
___ Northern Parula.....	X		X	
___ Yellow Warbler.....	FC		FC	
___ Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler.....	C		C	U
___ Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler.....	U		R	Ca
___ Black-throated Gray Warbler	R		R	
___ Townsend's Warbler	U		FC	
___ Black-throated Green Warbler.....			X	
___ Blackpoll Warbler.....			X	
___ Black-and-white Warbler	R		R	
___ American Redstart.....	R		R	
___ Northern Waterthrush.....	U		U	
___ Louisiana Waterthrush			X	
___ MacGillivray's Warbler	FC		FC	
___ Common Yellowthroat	U		U	
___ Hooded Warbler	X			

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Wilson's Warbler	A		A	
___ Yellow-breasted Chat.....	R		R	
___ Hepatic Tanager.....	Ca			
___ Summer Tanager	R	R	X	
___ Western Tanager	U	/U	FC	
___ Green-tailed Towhee.....	FC		FC	U
___ Spotted Towhee.....	U		FC	FC
___ *Canyon Towhee	FC	FC	FC	FC
___ #Cassin's Sparrow	FC	FC	U	R
___ *Rufous-crowned Sparrow	U	U	U	U
___ American Tree Sparrow				X
___ Chipping Sparrow	C	/R	C	FC
___ Clay-colored Sparrow	R		C	X
___ Brewer's Sparrow.....	C		C	C
___ Field Sparrow.....				Ca
___ Black-chinned Sparrow.....	R		R	U
___ Vesper Sparrow	U		FC	U
___ Lark Sparrow.....	U		FC	
___ *Black-throated Sparrow.....	A	A	A	A
___ Sage Sparrow	Ca		R	U
___ Lark Bunting.....	FC	/U	FC	U
___ Savannah Sparrow	U		U	U
___ Grasshopper Sparrow.....	X		X	X
___ Fox Sparrow.....			Ca	Ca
___ Song Sparrow.....	U		U	U
___ Lincoln's Sparrow.....	FC		FC	U
___ Swamp Sparrow.....			R	R
___ White-throated Sparrow.....			R	R
___ Golden-crowned Sparrow	Ca		Ca	Ca
___ White-crowned Sparrow.....	C		A	A
___ Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco.....	FC		FC	C
___ Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	R		R	R
___ Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco.....	U		U	FC
___ Chestnut-collared Longspur.....				R

	Sp	S	F	W
___ *Pyrrhuloxia	FC	U	FC	C
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Ca			
___ Black-headed Grosbeak	U		U	
___ *Blue Grosbeak	FC	FC	FC	
___ Lazuli Bunting	U		FC	
___ Indigo Bunting	R		R	
___ Painted Bunting	X		R	
___ Dickcissel			iU	
___ Red-winged Blackbird	U	X	U	U
___ #Eastern Meadowlark	U	U	U	R
___ #Western Meadowlark	U	R	U	U
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird	R	X	R	Ca
___ Rusty Blackbird				X
___ Brewer's Blackbird	Ca		Ca	Ca
___ Great-tailed Grackle	Ca		Ca	Ca
___ *Brown-headed Cowbird	FC		FC	R
___ Bullock's Oriole	U		U	
___ *Scott's Oriole	FC	FC	U	
___ Cassin's Finch	Ca		Ca	Ca
___ House Finch	A	A	A	A
___ Pine Siskin	iFC	X	iFC	iFC
___ *Lesser Goldfinch	U	R	U	U
___ Lawrence's Goldfinch	X			X
___ American Goldfinch	R		R	R
___ Evening Grosbeak			X	X
___ *House Sparrow	C	C	C	C

CITATION

Zimmer, Barry R., Compiler. May 2002. Birds of Hueco Tanks State Historic Site: a field checklist. Natural Resources Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

In 1983, the Texas Legislature created the Special Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund. This fund may be used for nongame wildlife and endangered species research and conservation, habitat acquisition and development and dissemination of information pertaining to nongame management. Money for this fund is obtained through private donations and sale of nongame wildlife art prints and stamps. This fund now gives Texans a unique opportunity to help support this state's valuable and sensitive nongame resources. Your individual contributions and purchases of nongame art prints and stamps will help determine the level of nongame conservation activities in Texas. For more information call toll-free (1-800-792-1112) or contact: **Nongame and Endangered Species Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.**

NOTES



Natural Resources Program
Texas Parks and Wildlife
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744