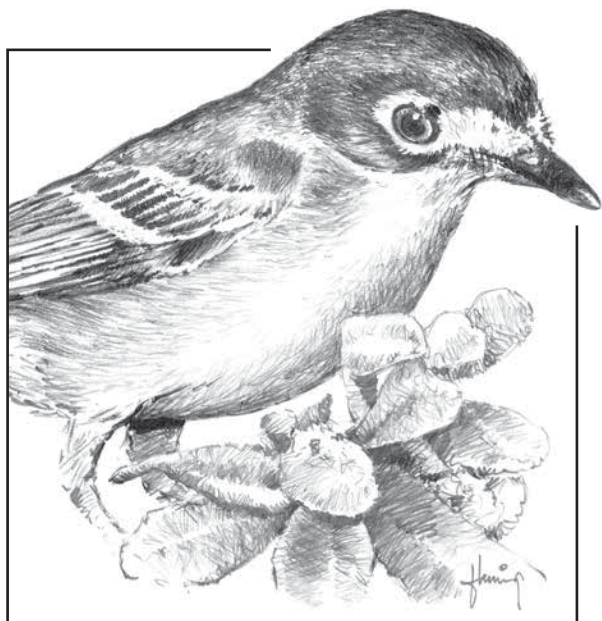


TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

BIRDS

OF

KICKAPOO CAVERN STATE PARK



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2012

Cover: Illustration of Black-capped Vireo by Rob Fleming.

INTRODUCTION

Kickapoo Cavern State Park is located 22 miles north of Brackettville on RR 674 along the Kinney-Edwards county line. The park was purchased in 1986 and is composed of 6,400 acres. The landscape is predominately steep limestone hills with extensive canyons as is typical of the southwestern Edwards Plateau. Interspersed within these limestone hills and canyons are areas of deeper soil where small, open grasslands are found.

The southwestern Edwards Plateau is dominated by Ashe Juniper (*Juniperus ashei*) and Plateau Live Oak (*Quercus fusiformis*). Another interesting feature of this area is a relictual population of Pinyon Pine (*Pinus remota*). The vegetation in the canyons is comprised mainly of wood shrubs, primarily Texas Persimmon (*Diospyros texana*), Vasey Shin Oak (*Quercus pungens* var. *vaseyana*), Agarita (*Berberis trifoliolata*), and Evergreen Sumac (*Rhus virens*). This provides nesting habitat for a variety of passerines.

The avifauna of Kickapoo is a unique combination of birds that are found within the three physiographic regions of Texas which surround the park, the Edwards Plateau, South Texas Brush Country, and the mountains and basins of the Trans-Pecos. This interesting combination of birds provides a unique birding opportunity.

The birds that are probably of the most interest to visitors are the endangered Black-capped Vireo and Golden-cheeked Warbler. Kickapoo Cavern State Park has a large population of the vireo and a small, fairly recently arriving, colony of the warbler. The Black-capped Vireos nest in canyons and other areas where fairly open shrublands. The Golden-cheeked Warbler is found in somewhat atypical habitat dominated by oak motes surrounded by juniper. Other species of interest that can be found on the park include Zone-tailed Hawk, Gray Vireo, Painted and Varied Buntings and three species of orioles. The grasslands and arroyos are particularly good for a wide variety of sparrows throughout the year.

This checklist includes all species known to occur within the boundaries of Kickapoo Cavern State Park. Checklist nomenclature and organization follow the A.O.U. *Checklist of North American Birds*, 7th Edition (1998) as currently supplemented.

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

LEGEND

Seasonal Occurrence

- SP = Spring (March, April, May)
- S = Summer (June, July)
- EF = Early Fall (August, September)
- LF = Late Fall (October, November)
- W = Winter (December, January, February)

Abundance Designations

- A = Abundant, always present and observed, expect large numbers in proper habitat and season
- C = Common, always encountered in proper habitat and season, numbers may vary from low to high
- U = Uncommon, usually present in proper habitat and season but may be overlooked, never common or abundant
- O = Occasional, not always present but usually encountered at least once during season indicated, may occur in a narrow time frame within a season or in a very specialized habitat, numbers may vary
- R = Rare, seldom recorded, not expected each season as designated, may not be recorded each year
- X = Accidental, may be observed only once in ten years or more, not expected
- I = Irruptive/Irregular, invasion species which may be absent some seasons/years-abundant others

CHECKLIST

	SP	S	EF	LF	W
_____ Gadwall					X
_____ American Wigeon				X	
_____ Blue-winged Teal			X	X	
_____ Northern Shoveler				X	
_____ Green-winged Teal					X
_____ Ring-necked Duck					X
_____ Montezuma Quail	R	R	R	R	R
_____ Northern Bobwhite	C	C	C	C	C
_____ Scaled Quail	X				
_____ Wild Turkey	C	A	A	C	R
_____ Wood Stork		X			
_____ Double-crested Cormorant	R				
_____ American White Pelican	X			X	
_____ Great Blue Heron	O	O	O	O	O
_____ Great Egret	X				
_____ Cattle Egret	O		O		
_____ Green Heron			X		
_____ Black Vulture	U	U	U	O	O
_____ Turkey Vulture	A	A	A	C	
_____ Osprey	O				
_____ White-tailed Kite	X	X			
_____ Mississippi Kite	R		R		
_____ Bald Eagle					X
_____ Northern Harrier	O		O	U	U
_____ Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	U	U

	SP	S	EF	LF	W
_____ Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U	U	U
_____ Harris's Hawk	O	O	O	O	O
_____ Red-shouldered Hawk	X				
_____ Swainson's Hawk	U		U	R	
_____ Zone-tailed Hawk	U	U	U	R	
_____ Red-tailed Hawk	U	U	U	U	U
_____ Ferruginous Hawk				X	
_____ Golden Eagle	R			R	R
_____ Crested Caracara	O	O	O	O	O
_____ American Kestrel	U	O	U	U	U
_____ Merlin	X				X
_____ Peregrine Falcon	R		R		
_____ Sandhill Crane	U			U	O
_____ Killdeer	O	O	O	O	O
_____ Lesser Yellowlegs			X		
_____ Solitary Sandpiper			X		
_____ Spotted Sandpiper	X				
_____ Upland Sandpiper	U	O	U	O	
_____ Long-billed Curlew		X	X		
_____ Wilson's Snipe	X				
_____ Rock Pigeon		X			
_____ Eurasian Collard-Dove	R	R	R	R	R
_____ White-winged Dove	U	U	A	U	O
_____ Mourning Dove	A	A	A	A	A
_____ Inca Dove	C	C	C	C	C
_____ Common Ground-Dove	O	O	O	O	X
_____ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		

	SP	S	EF	LF	W
_____ Greater Roadrunner	U	U	U	U	U
_____ Groove-billed Ani	X				
_____ Barn Owl	R				
_____ Eastern Screech-Owl	U	U	U	U	U
_____ Western Screech-Owl	X				
_____ Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U	U
_____ Elf Owl	O	O	O		
_____ Lesser Nighthawk	R	R			
_____ Common Nighthawk	C	U	C		
_____ Common Poorwill	A	A	A	U	O
_____ Chuck-will's-widow	U	U	O		
_____ Chimney Swift	R				
_____ Ruby-throated Hummingbird	U		U	R	
_____ Black-chinned Hummingbird	A	A	A	U	
_____ Anna's Hummingbird				X	
_____ Broad-tailed Hummingbird	X	X			
_____ Rufous Hummingbird			U	U	
_____ Belted Kingfisher	R		R	R	
_____ Green Kingfisher	X				
_____ Golden-fronted Woodpecker	C	U	C	C	C
_____ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				U	U
_____ Red-naped Sapsucker					X
_____ Ladder-backed Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	C
_____ Northern Flicker	U		O	U	U
_____ Olive-sided Flycatcher	O		O		
_____ Western Wood-Pewee	O		O		
_____ Eastern Wood-Pewee	U	O	U		

	SP	S	EF	LF	W
_____ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	X				
_____ Acadian Flycatcher			X		
_____ Alder Flycatcher	X				
_____ Willow Flycatcher	U		U	R	
_____ Least Flycatcher	C		C	R	
_____ Black Phoebe		X			
_____ Eastern Phoebe	U	O	U	U	U
_____ Say's Phoebe	U		O	U	U
_____ Vermilion Flycatcher	C	C	C	U	R
_____ Ash-throated Flycatcher	C	C	O		
_____ Great Crested Flycatcher	X		X		
_____ Brown-crested Flycatcher	O	O	O		
_____ Great Kiskadee	X				
_____ Couch's Kingbird	X				
_____ Cassin's Kingbird	X				
_____ Western Kingbird	C	U	C		
_____ Eastern Kingbird	O		O		
_____ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	C	U	C	O	
_____ Loggerhead Shrike	U		U	U	U
_____ White-eyed Vireo	C	C	C	O	O
_____ Bell's Vireo	C	C	C		
_____ Black-capped Vireo	C	C	C		
_____ Gray Vireo	U	U	U	O	
_____ Blue-headed Vireo	U		U	O	R
_____ Yellow-throated Vireo	O	R	O		
_____ Warbling Vireo	R		O		
_____ Philadelphia Vireo	X				

	SP	S	EF	LF	W
_____ Red-eyed Vireo	U	O	U		
_____ Blue Jay					X
_____ Western Scrub-Jay	C	C	C	C	C
_____ Chihuahuan Raven	R		O	O	
_____ Common Raven	U	U	U	U	U
_____ Purple Martin	O	U	O		
_____ Tree Swallow	R		R		
_____ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	O		O		
_____ Bank Swallow	O		O		
_____ Cliff Swallow	C		C	O	
_____ Cave Swallow	C	U	C	O	R
_____ Barn Swallow	C	C	C	C	
_____ Carolina Chickadee	X	X			
_____ Black-crested Titmouse	C	C	C	C	C
_____ Verdin	C	C	C	C	C
_____ Bushtit	C	C	C	C	C
_____ Red-breasted Nuthatch			I	I	I
_____ Brown Creeper				O	O
_____ Cactus Wren	U	U	U	U	U
_____ Rock Wren	O	O	O	O	O
_____ Canyon Wren	U	U	U	U	U
_____ Carolina Wren	O	O	O	O	O
_____ Bewick's Wren	C	C	C	C	C
_____ House Wren	U		U	U	O
_____ Winter Wren				O	
_____ Sedge Wren	X				
_____ Marsh Wren	R			O	R

	SP	S	EF	LF	W
_____ Golden-crowned Kinglet				O	O
_____ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		U	C	C
_____ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	C	C	O	R
_____ Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	R	R	R	R	R
_____ Eastern Bluebird	U	R	O	U	R
_____ Western Bluebird				I	I
_____ Mountain Bluebird				I	I
_____ Townsend's Solitaire				I	I
_____ Swainson's Thrush	O				
_____ Hermit Thrush	C		U	C	C
_____ American Robin	I			I	I
_____ Gray Catbird	X			X	X
_____ Northern Mockingbird	A	A	A	A	A
_____ Sage Thrasher				I	I
_____ Brown Thrasher	R		O	O	R
_____ Long-billed Thrasher	R	R	R	R	R
_____ Curve-billed Thrasher	U	R	O	U	U
_____ European Starling	R	R	R	R	
_____ American Pipit	U		O	U	O
_____ Sprague's Pipit	R		R	R	
_____ Cedar Waxwing	I	X	I	I	I
_____ Phainopepla	X				X
_____ Worm-eating Warbler	X				
_____ Louisiana Waterthrush	X		X		
_____ Northern Waterthrush	X		X		
_____ Black-and-white Warbler	O	X	O	O	
_____ Prothonotary Warbler			X		

	SP	S	EF	LF	W
_____ Tennessee Warbler	X			X	
_____ Orange-crowned Warbler	C		O	C	U
_____ Nashville Warbler	A		A	C	
_____ MacGillivray's Warbler	U		U	O	
_____ Mourning Warbler	R		R		
_____ Common Yellowthroat	O		O	O	
_____ American Redstart	O			O	
_____ Northern Parula	X				
_____ Magnolia Warbler	X				
_____ Bay-breasted Warbler	X				
_____ Yellow Warbler	C		C		
_____ Chestnut-sided Warbler	X				
_____ Blackpoll Warbler	X				
_____ Yellow-rumped Warbler	A		U	A	A
_____ Yellow-throated Warbler	X	X			
_____ Prairie Warbler	X				
_____ Townsend's Warbler				X	
_____ Golden-cheeked Warbler	U	U	R		
_____ Black-throated Green Warbler	O		O		
_____ Wilson's Warbler	C		C	U	
_____ Yellow-breasted Chat	U	U	U	R	
_____ Olive Sparrow	O	O	O	O	O
_____ Green-tailed Towhee	R			R	R
_____ Spotted Towhee	A			A	A
_____ Rufous-crowned Sparrow	C	C	C	C	C
_____ Canyon Towhee	C	C	C	C	C
_____ Cassin's Sparrow	C	A	A	C	U

	SP	S	EF	LF	W
_____ Chipping Sparrow	A	U	A	A	A
_____ Clay-colored Sparrow	U		U	U	I
_____ Brewer's Sparrow	R			R	R
_____ Field Sparrow	C	C	C	C	A
_____ Vesper Sparrow	A		U	A	A
_____ Lark Sparrow	A	A	A	C	R
_____ Black-throated Sparrow	A	A	A	A	A
_____ Lark Bunting	I		I	I	I
_____ Savannah Sparrow	C		R	C	C
_____ Grasshopper Sparrow	U	I	O	U	O
_____ Le Conte's Sparrow	R			R	R
_____ Fox Sparrow	R			R	R
_____ Song Sparrow	O			U	U
_____ Lincoln's Sparrow	A		C	A	C
_____ Swamp Sparrow	X		O		
_____ White-throated Sparrow	R				X
_____ Harris's Sparrow				R	R
_____ White-crowned Sparrow	A		C	A	A
_____ Dark-eyed Junco	O			U	U
_____ McCown's Longspur				X	
_____ Chestnut-collared Longspur	R			R	O
_____ Summer Tanager	C	C	C		
_____ Scarlet Tanager	X				
_____ Western Tanager			R	R	
_____ Northern Cardinal	A	A	A	A	A
_____ Pyrrhuloxia	U	U	U	C	A
_____ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	R				

	SP	S	EF	LF	W
_____ Black-headed Grosbeak	O		R	R	
_____ Blue Grosbeak	C	C	C		
_____ Lazuli Bunting	U				
_____ Indigo Bunting	O	R	R	O	
_____ Varied Bunting	U	U	U	R	
_____ Painted Bunting	A	A	A	O	
_____ Dickcissel	U	I	U		
_____ Red-winged Blackbird	O		O	O	O
_____ Eastern Meadowlark	O		O	O	O
_____ Western Meadowlark	C		U	C	C
_____ Yellow-headed Blackbird	C		C	U	
_____ Brewer's Blackbird	O		O		
_____ Common Grackle	R			R	R
_____ Great-tailed Grackle	O			R	
_____ Bronzed Cowbird	U	U			
_____ Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U	O	
_____ Orchard Oriole	C	C	C		
_____ Hooded Oriole	C	C	C		
_____ Bullock's Oriole	U	R	U		
_____ Scott's Oriole	C	C	C	O	X
_____ House Finch	C	C	C	C	C
_____ Pine Siskin	I			I	I
_____ Lesser Goldfinch	C	C	C	U	O
_____ American Goldfinch	U			U	U
_____ Evening Grosbeak	X				
_____ House Sparrow	O	O	O	O	O

NOTES

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.**

CITATION

Bryan, Kelly and Mark Lockwood. March 2012. Birds of Kickapoo Cavern State Park, a field checklist. Natural Resource Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.



Natural Resources Program
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