

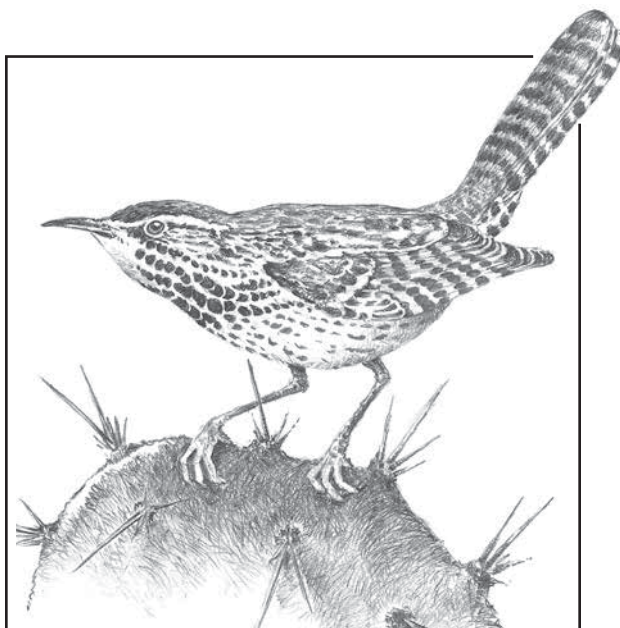
TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

BIRDS

OF

FALCON

STATE PARK



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2019

INTRODUCTION

Falcon State Park is a 572.6-acre tract that lies at the southern end of the Falcon International Reservoir, partly in Starr County, partly in Zapata County. The dam was dedicated in 1953. Work was completed on the embankment in 1954. Falcon State Park opened to the public in 1965. Its Tamaulipan thornscrub woodlands and gently rolling terrain offer excellent birding. Blackbrush acacia, persimmon, cenizo, guayacan, allthorn and other native plants provide habitat. A 2.6-mile hiking loop circles the park and is clearly marked with signs that name each trail segment. The shoreline can be accessed from day use and boat launch areas.

In the distant past, the Rio Grande River seasonally overflowed its banks as it carried a tremendous volume of water and sediment from the high mountains of Colorado and Mexico to the Gulf of Mexico. Frequently, flow from spring flooding and late summer storms would alter the course of the river. Today, dams such as Falcon International Reservoir help control water flow. The river originates in the Rio Grande National Forest of Colorado. By the time it reaches Presidio, Texas, flow is greatly diminished. Only water from the mountains of Northern Mexico now flows between Presidio and the Gulf of Mexico.

Resident species such as Green Jay, Great Kiskadee, Greater Roadrunner, Bewick's Wren, Verdin, Curve-billed Thrasher, Pyrrhuloxia, Olive Sparrow and Black-throated Sparrow are often easily seen. Specialties such as Zone-tailed Hawk, Ringed Kingfisher, and Black-tailed Gnatcatcher might be found.

This checklist follows the nomenclature and organization of the 58th supplement to the A.O.S. *Check-list of North American Birds*. It was compiled by Sherry Wilson from data provided by visiting birders, with feedback from Mary Beth Stowe. Please report any new or unusual observations to the state park headquarters. Your contributions will help with future updates to this checklist.

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 normal avian activity patterns and essential territorial behavior, and may lead to nest failure. Thank you for your cooperation.

LEGEND

- C – Common; often seen daily
 - U – Uncommon; might be seen, some years more likely than others
 - R – Rare; very few sightings
 - X – Extremely rare; only a few records exist
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- W – Winter (December, January, February)
 - Sp – Spring (March, April, May)
 - S – Summer (June, July, August)
 - F – Fall (September, October, November)

CHECKLIST

	W	Sp	S	F
GEESE AND DUCKS				
___ Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	R	U	R	R
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck		X		
___ Snow Goose	R	R		R
___ Ross's Goose	X			X
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	R			U
___ Canada Goose				X
___ Muscovy Duck		X		X
___ Wood Duck	R	R		X
___ Blue-winged Teal	U	U		U
___ Cinnamon Teal	R	R		
___ Northern Shoveler	U	U		R
___ Gadwall	U	U		R
___ American Wigeon	U	U		U
___ Mallard	U	U		U
___ Mottled Duck	U	U	U	U
___ Northern Pintail	U	R		U
___ Green-winged Teal	U	R		R
___ Canvasback	R	R		R
___ Redhead	R	R		R
___ Ring-necked Duck	U			R
___ Lesser Scaup	R	R		
___ Bufflehead	U	R		R
___ Hooded Merganser	R	X		R
___ Red-breasted Merganser	R	R		
___ Ruddy Duck	R	R		R

	W	Sp	S	F
GUANS				
___ Plain Chachalaca	R	U	R	R
NEW WORLD QUAIL				
___ Northern Bobwhite	C	C	C	C
___ Scaled Quail	U	U	U	U
TURKEYS				
___ Wild Turkey	R	R		R
GREBES				
___ Least Grebe	U	R		U
___ Pied-billed Grebe		C		C
___ Horned Grebe	X			
___ Eared Grebe	U	U		
PIGEONS AND DOVES				
___ Rock Pigeon	U	U	R	R
___ Red-billed Pigeon		R		
___ Eurasian Collared-Dove	C	C	C	U
___ Inca Dove	C	C	C	C
___ Common Ground-Dove	C	C	C	C
___ White-tipped Dove	R	R	R	R
___ White-winged Dove	U	C	C	U
___ Mourning Dove	C	C	C	C
CUCKOOS, ROADRUNNERS, ANIS				
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo		U	U	
___ Greater Roadrunner	C	C	C	C
___ Groove-billed Ani	R	C	C	R
GOATSUCKERS				
___ Lesser Nighthawk		C	C	R

	W	Sp	S	F
___ Common Nighthawk		C	C	R
___ Common Pauraque	C	C	C	C
___ Common Poorwill		R	R	X
___ Chuck-will's-widow		X		
___ Eastern Whip-poor-will		R		
SWIFTS				
___ Chimney Swift		U	R	R
HUMMINGBIRDS				
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird		U		U
___ Black-chinned Hummingbird		R	R	R
___ Rufous Hummingbird	X			X
___ Buff-bellied Hummingbird	X	R	R	
RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS				
___ Sora	R			
___ Purple Gallinule		R		R
___ Common Gallinule	R	R		
___ American Coot	C	C	R	C
CRANES				
___ Sandhill Crane	R			R
STILTS AND AVOCETS				
___ Black-necked Stilt	R	U	X	U
___ American Avocet		R	R	
PLOVERS				
___ American Golden Plover		R		
___ Snowy Plover	X	X		
___ Semipalmated Plover	R			
___ Killdeer	C	C	C	C

	W	Sp	S	F
JACANAS				
___ Northern Jacana		X		
SANDPIPERS, PHALAROPES, ALLIES				
___ Upland Sandpiper			U	
___ Long-billed Curlew	R			R
___ Hudsonian Godwit		X		
___ Baird's Sandpiper		R	R	
___ Least Sandpiper	C	U	R	U
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper		R		
___ Pectoral Sandpiper		U	R	
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper		X		X
___ Western Sandpiper		R		R
___ Long-billed Dowitcher	R	R		
___ Wilson's Snipe	R	R		R
___ Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	R	U
___ Solitary Sandpiper	R	R		R
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	U	R		R
___ Willet		X	X	
___ Greater Yellowlegs	U	U	R	U
___ Wilson's Phalarope		X		
GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS				
___ Bonaparte's Gull	R			
___ Laughing Gull	C	C	C	C
___ Franklin's Gull		U		U
___ Ring-billed Gull	C	C	R	C
___ Herring Gull	U	R		R
___ Lesser Black-backed Gull	R			

	W	Sp	S	F
___ Least Tern		U	U	
___ Gull-billed Tern		U	U	
___ Caspian Tern	U	U	R	R
___ Black Tern			R	
___ Forster's Tern	U	U	C	
___ Black Skimmer		U	U	R
LOONS				
___ Common Loon	R	R		R
STORKS				
___ Wood Stork			R	R
CORMORANTS				
___ Neotropic Cormorant	C	C	C	C
___ Double-crested Cormorant	C	C		C
DARTERS				
___ Anhinga	R	R	R	R
PELICANS				
___ American White Pelican	C	C	R	C
___ Brown Pelican	X	X		
BITTERNs, HERONS, ALLIES				
___ American Bittern	R			
___ Great Blue Heron	C	C	U	C
___ Great Egret	C	C	C	C
___ Snowy Egret	C	C	C	C
___ Little Blue Heron	U	R	R	R
___ Tricolored Heron	U	R	R	R
___ Cattle Egret	R	U	U	R
___ Green Heron		U	U	

	W	Sp	S	F
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron	R	U	R	R
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron		R	R	
IBISES AND SPOONBILLS				
___ White Ibis	R	R	X	
___ White-faced Ibis	R	R	R	X
___ Roseate Spoonbill		R	R	
NEW WORLD VULTURES				
___ Black Vulture	C	C	C	C
___ Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	C
OSPREYS				
___ Osprey	C	C	C	C
HAWKS, KITES, EAGLES, ALLIES				
___ White-tailed Kite	R	R	R	R
___ Mississippi Kite		U		U
___ Bald Eagle	X			
___ Northern Harrier	U	U		U
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	U		U
___ Cooper's Hawk	U	U		U
___ Roadside Hawk	X	X		
___ Harris's Hawk	C	C	C	C
___ White-tailed Hawk	U	U	U	U
___ Gray Hawk	R	R	R	R
___ Red-shouldered Hawk	U	R		R
___ Broad-winged Hawk		U		R
___ Swainson's Hawk		C	U	R
___ Zone-tailed Hawk	R	R		R
___ Red-tailed Hawk	C	U		C

	W	Sp	S	F
BARN OWLS				
___ Barn Owl	R	R	R	R
TYPICAL OWLS				
___ Eastern Screech-Owl	R	R	R	R
___ Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U
___ Short-eared Owl				R
KINGFISHERS				
___ Ringed Kingfisher	R	R	R	U
___ Belted Kingfisher	U	R		U
___ Green Kingfisher	R	R	R	R
WOODPECKERS AND ALLIES				
___ Golden-fronted Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	R	R		R
___ Ladder-backed Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
___ Northern Flicker	R	R		R
CARACARAS AND FALCONS				
___ Crested Caracara	C	C	C	C
___ American Kestrel	C	C	R	C
___ Merlin	R	R		R
___ Peregrine Falcon	R	R		R
___ Prairie Falcon	X			
TYRANT FLYCATCHERS				
___ Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet		R		
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher		R		R
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee		R		R
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		R		R
___ Acadian Flycatcher		R		

	W	Sp	S	F
___ Least Flycatcher	R	U	R	R
___ Black Phoebe	R	R	R	R
___ Eastern Phoebe	C	U		C
___ Say's Phoebe	U	R		U
___ Vermilion Flycatcher	C	C	U	C
___ Ash-throated Flycatcher	R	C	U	R
___ Great Crested Flycatcher		R		R
___ Brown-crested Flycatcher		C	C	
___ Great Kiskadee	C	C	C	C
___ Couch's Kingbird	R	C	C	U
___ Cassin's Kingbird	X			
___ Western Kingbird		C	C	
___ Eastern Kingbird		R		R
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher		C	C	C
SHRIKES				
___ Loggerhead Shrike	C	U		U
VIREOS				
___ White-eyed Vireo	C	C	C	C
___ Bell's Vireo		U	R	
___ Yellow-throated Vireo		R		
___ Blue-headed Vireo	R	R		R
___ Warbling Vireo		R		
___ Red-eyed Vireo		R		
JAYS AND CROWS				
___ Green Jay	C	C	C	C
___ Chihuahuan Raven	U	C	R	R

	W	Sp	S	F
LARKS				
___ Horned Lark	R	R		R
SWALLOWS				
___ Purple Martin	R	U	U	
___ Tree Swallow	U	U		R
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	R	U	R	R
___ Bank Swallow	R	U		R
___ Cliff Swallow		U	U	
___ Cave Swallow	R	C	C	U
___ Barn Swallow	R	C	U	C
TITMICE				
___ Black-crested Titmouse	C	C	C	C
VERDINS				
___ Verdin	C	C	C	C
WRENS				
___ Rock Wren	R			
___ House Wren	C	U		C
___ Marsh Wren	R	R		R
___ Carolina Wren	R	R	R	R
___ Bewick's Wren	C	C	C	C
___ Cactus Wren	C	C	C	C
GNATCATCHERS				
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	C	U	C
___ Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	U	U	U	U
KINGLETS				
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	R	R		R
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	U		C

	W	Sp	S	F
THRUSHES				
___ Eastern Bluebird	U	R		R
___ Hermit Thrush	U	R		U
___ Wood Thrush		R		
___ Clay-colored Thrush	R	R	R	R
___ American Robin	R	R		
MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS				
___ Gray Catbird	U	U		R
___ Curve-billed Thrasher	C	C	C	C
___ Long-billed Thrasher	C	C	C	C
___ Sage Thrasher	R			R
___ Northern Mockingbird	C	C	C	C
STARLINGS				
___ European Starling	U	C	U	C
WAXWINGS				
___ Cedar Waxwing	R	R		
SILKY-FLYCATCHERS				
___ Phainopepla	X			
OLD WORLD SPARROWS				
___ House Sparrow	C	C	C	C
PIPITS				
___ American Pipit	C			R
___ Sprague's Pipit	R	R		R
FINCHES AND ALLIES				
___ House Finch	U	R	R	R
___ Pine Siskin	R			
___ Lesser Goldfinch	R	R		R

	W	Sp	S	F
___ American Goldfinch	U	R		R
LONGSPURS				
___ Chestnut-collared Longspur	X			
TOWHEES AND SPARROWS				
___ Olive Sparrow	C	C	C	C
___ Green-tailed Towhee	R	R		
___ Spotted Towhee	R	R		
___ Rufous-crowned Sparrow	R	R		R
___ Cassin's Sparrow	U	C	U	R
___ Chipping Sparrow	C	C		U
___ Clay-colored Sparrow	U	U		R
___ Brewer's Sparrow		R		
___ Field Sparrow	R	R		R
___ Vesper Sparrow	U	R		R
___ Lark Sparrow	C	C	C	C
___ Black-throated Sparrow	C	C	C	C
___ Lark Bunting	U	R		R
___ Savannah Sparrow	C	C		C
___ Grasshopper Sparrow	R	R		R
___ Song Sparrow		R		R
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	C	R		U
___ Swamp Sparrow	R	R		
___ White-throated Sparrow	R	R		
___ White-crowned Sparrow	C	U		U
YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS				
___ Yellow-breasted Chat		U		U

	W	Sp	S	F
BLACKBIRDS				
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird	R	R		R
___ Eastern Meadowlark	R	U	U	C
___ Western Meadowlark	C	U		U
___ Orchard Oriole		R	U	R
___ Hooded Oriole	R	U	U	R
___ Bullock's Oriole	R	C	C	R
___ Altamira Oriole	U	U	R	R
___ Audubon's Oriole	R	R	R	R
___ Baltimore Oriole		U		U
___ Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	C
___ Bronzed Cowbird	R	C	U	R
___ Brown-headed Cowbird	U	C	U	U
___ Brewer's Blackbird	R	R		R
___ Common Grackle	X			X
___ Great-tailed Grackle	C	C	C	C
WOOD WARBLERS				
___ Ovenbird	R	R		
___ Northern Waterthrush	X			
___ Golden-winged Warbler		X		
___ Black-and-white Warbler	R	R		R
___ Tennessee Warbler		R		R
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	C	C		C
___ Nashville Warbler	U	R		R
___ Mourning Warbler				X
___ Common Yellowthroat	U	U		R
___ Hooded Warbler		X		

	W	Sp	S	F
___ American Redstart	X	X		X
___ Northern Parula		R		
___ Magnolia Warbler		X		
___ Yellow Warbler	R	C	R	C
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler		X		
___ Pine Warbler	R			R
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	C		C
___ Yellow-throated Warbler	R	R		
___ Black-throated Gray Warbler	X			
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	X	R		R
___ Wilson's Warbler	R	U		U
CARDINALS, PIRANGA TANAGERS, ALLIES				
___ Summer Tanager		R		
___ Scarlet Tanager		X		
___ Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C
___ Pyrrhuloxia	C	C	C	C
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak		R		
___ Black-headed Grosbeak		R		
___ Blue Grosbeak		U	R	
___ Lazuli Bunting		X		
___ Indigo Bunting	R	U		U
___ Varied Bunting		R	R	
___ Painted Bunting	R	C	C	R
___ Dickcissel		R	R	U
TANAGERS AND ALLIES				
___ Morelet's Seedeater			X	

CITATION

Wilson, S. April 2019. Birds of Falcon State Park: a field checklist. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin, Texas.

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Cover: Illustration of Cactus Wren by Clemente Guzman III.

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