

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

# BIRDS

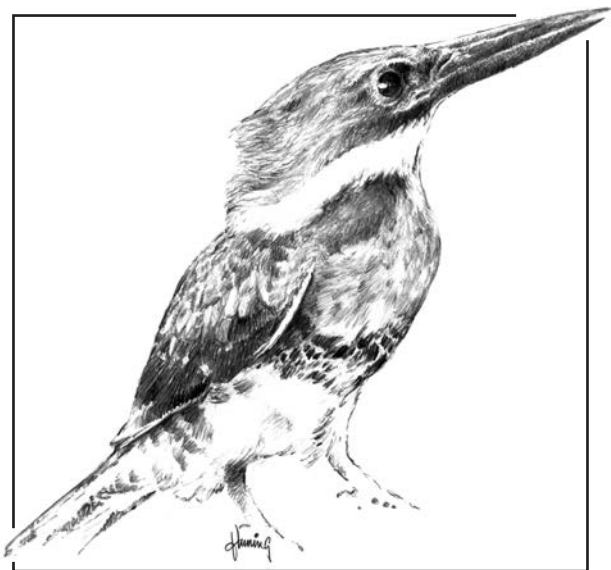
OF

## GUADALUPE RIVER

STATE PARK AND

HONEY CREEK

STATE NATURAL AREA



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2014

*Cover: Illustration of Green Kingfisher by Rob Fleming.*

# INTRODUCTION

**G**uadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area comprise 4,232 acres of the Texas Hill Country in both Comal and Kendall counties. The centerpieces of the area include a two-mile stretch of the beautiful Guadalupe River that flows through the State Park as well as the idyllic Honey Creek, the vast majority of which is contained within the Natural Area.

In addition to the bald cypress-lined riparian areas, the Park and Natural Area are home to Ashe Juniper-oak woodlands and cedar elm-post oak woodlands interspersed with grasslands and savannahs. The Park has more than 12 miles of trails on both sides of the Guadalupe River, providing access to a diverse assemblage of birds. Honey Creek is restricted to guided walks including periodic bird walks led by the Park Interpreter.

Of the 240 species of birds that have been recorded on the properties, the most sought-after species is the federally-endangered species, Golden-cheeked Warbler. This bird arrives in early March, immediately begins singing and completes its nest cycle by mid-June. It is found, most commonly by song, both in the Natural Area as well as on the north side of the Guadalupe River, known as the Bauer Unit.

Birding opportunities are generally best along the Guadalupe River's riparian woodlands and adjacent uplands. Nesting birds along the river include Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, Canyon Wren, and a colony of Cliff Swallows. Green and Belted Kingfishers are also occasionally seen along the river throughout the year. During the winter the river attracts a host of birds including a variety of winter sparrows ranging from Lincoln's and Song to White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows.

More than 25 species of warblers have been documented along the river and creek including Nashville, Mourning, McGillivray's and Golden-winged Warblers, as well as nesting Louisiana Waterthrushes and Black-and-white Warblers. Yellow-throated, Red-eyed, White-eyed and Bell's Vireos also nest on the properties. In addition, Honey Creek also hosts nesting Cooper's Hawks, Common Ravens and Red-shouldered Hawks, as well as Acadian Flycatchers.

Upland habitats are home to nesting populations of Bobwhites and Wild Turkeys as well as Greater Roadrunners and a number of

different species of doves. The striking Painted Bunting nests in abundance throughout the park along with Lark Sparrows, Summer Tanagers and Blue Grosbeaks. Rufous-crowned and Field Sparrows, Western Scrub Jays and Bewick's Wrens are among the year-round residents that also nest in the Park and Natural Area.

During winter months, the Park and Natural Area are home to a host of "little brown birds," the native sparrows. Vesper, Savannah, Lincoln's, Grasshopper, Song, White-crowned, White-throated, Chipping, Field, Lark, Rufous-crowned and occasionally Le Conte's are seen in open savannahs and old fields. If you are looking for a place to practice your identification skills with these birds, the Park and Natural Area are worth exploring.

The Park does host a bird feeding/blind station in the Day Use area. Feeders are kept active throughout the year with most seed provided through the Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek.

This checklist includes all species known to occur within the boundaries of Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area through the spring of 2013. This checklist was updated by Craig Hensley, Park Interpreter of Guadalupe River State Park, but is largely the culmination of more than 35 years of weekly bird surveys conducted in Honey Creek by members of the San Antonio Audubon Society, as well as the contributions of many other observers who contributed their sightings. Special thanks are also given to Guadalupe River Park Host, Paul Freeman, with his help in updating this document. Thanks also go to Sue Wiedenfeld of Comfort, TX who compiled the original checklist. Nomenclature and organization are based upon the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds* (7th Edition) as amended through the 53rd supplement.

You may contribute to our knowledge of park birdlife by reporting your sightings. You may leave your sightings at the Park Headquarters or Discovery Center, or mail them to the Natural Resources Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744. Thank you for your help.

---

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

---

## LEGEND

### **Abundance**

- C - Common, seen daily in some numbers in proper habitat and time of year
- U - Uncommon, usually seen daily in proper habitat and season but only one or a few individuals
- R - Rare, seen only once or twice a year and may not occur every year
- X - Extremely rare, only one or two records exist
- \* - Indicates a known breeding species in the park

### **Seasons**

- SP - Spring (March, April, May)
- S - Summer (June, July, August)
- F - Fall (September, October, November)
- W - Winter (December, January, February)

# CHECKLIST

	SP	S	F	W
<b>DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS</b>				
___ Black-bellied Whistling-Duck* .....	U	U	U	X
___ Greater White-fronted Goose .....	X		X	X
___ Snow Goose .....				X
___ Canada Goose.....	X			X
___ Wood Duck.....	R	X	R	R
___ Gadwall.....	R		X	R
___ American Wigeon .....			X	
___ Mallard.....			X	X
___ Blue-winged Teal.....	X	X	X	
___ Northern Pintail .....	X		X	X
___ Green-winged Teal.....			X	
___ Redhead.....				R
___ Ring-necked Duck .....				X
___ Lesser Scaup .....	R	X	X	R
<b>NEW WORLD QUAIL</b>				
___ Northern Bobwhite* .....	U	U	U	U
<b>PARTRIDGES AND TURKEY</b>				
___ Wild Turkey* .....	C	C	C	C
<b>GREBES</b>				
___ Pied-billed Grebe .....				X
<b>CORMORANTS</b>				
___ Double-crested Cormorant .....	R	X		X
<b>PELICANS</b>				
___ American White Pelican .....	X		X	X
<b>HERONS, BITTERNs AND ALLIES</b>				
___ American Bittern .....	X			
___ Great Blue Heron.....	U	U	R	R
___ Great Egret.....	X	X		X
___ Little Blue Heron .....	X			X

	SP	S	F	W
___ Cattle Egret .....		X		
___ Green Heron .....	U	U	X	
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron .....			X	
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron .....		X		
<b>NEW WORLD VULTURES</b>				
___ Black Vulture* .....	C	C	C	C
___ Turkey Vulture* .....	C	C	C	U
<b>OSPREYS</b>				
___ Osprey .....	X		X	X
<b>KITES, EAGLES AND HAWKS</b>				
___ White-tailed Kite .....	X		X	
___ Mississippi Kite .....	R	X	R	
___ Northern Harrier .....	R	X	X	R
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk .....	U	X	U	U
___ Cooper's Hawk* .....	U	U	U	U
___ Red-shouldered Hawk* .....	C	C	C	U
___ Broad-winged Hawk .....	R	X	R	
___ Swainson's Hawk .....	R	X	R	
___ Zone-tailed Hawk .....	X	X		X
___ Red-tailed Hawk* .....	U	U	U	U
___ Ferruginous Hawk .....			X	
<b>CRANES</b>				
___ Sandhill Crane .....	X		R	X
<b>PLOVERS</b>				
___ Killdeer .....	X	R	R	X
<b>SANDPIPERS</b>				
___ Spotted Sandpiper .....	R	R	R	R
___ Solitary Sandpiper .....	X			
___ Greater Yellowlegs .....	X			
___ Upland Sandpiper .....	X	X	X	
___ Stilt Sandpiper .....	X			

	SP	S	F	W
___ Wilson's Snipe .....	X		X	X
___ American Woodcock.....				X

**GULLS AND TERNS**

___ Franklin's Gull .....	X			
---------------------------	---	--	--	--

**PIGEONS AND DOVES**

___ Rock Pigeon .....	X	X	X	
___ Eurasian Collared-Dove .....	X		X	
___ White-winged Dove*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Mourning Dove* .....	C	C	C	C
___ Inca Dove* .....	C	C	C	C
___ Common Ground-Dove* .....	C	C	C	C

**CUCKOOS AND ANIS**

___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo* .....	U	U	R	
___ Black-billed Cuckoo.....	X			
___ Greater Roadrunner* .....	U	U	U	U

**BARN OWLS**

___ Barn Owl.....				X
-------------------	--	--	--	---

**TYPICAL OWLS**

___ Eastern Screech-Owl* .....	R	R	R	R
___ Great Horned Owl* .....	R	R	R	R
___ Barred Owl* .....	U	U	U	U
___ Long-eared Owl.....	X			
___ Short-eared Owl.....	X			X

**GOATSUCKERS**

___ Lesser Nighthawk.....			X	X
___ Common Nighthawk* .....	U	U	U	
___ Common Poorwill .....	R	R	X	X
___ Chuck-will's-widow* .....	R	U	U	
___ Eastern Whip-poor-will.....	X		X	

**SWIFTS**

___ Chimney Swift.....	R	U	R	
------------------------	---	---	---	--



**HUMMINGBIRDS**

___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird.....	R	X	U	
___ Black-chinned Hummingbird*.....	C	C	X	
___ Rufous Hummingbird.....	X		X	

**KINGFISHERS**

___ Ringed Kingfisher.....	X			
___ Belted Kingfisher*.....	U	U	U	U
___ Green Kingfisher*.....	U	U	U	U

**WOODPECKERS**

___ Golden-fronted Woodpecker*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker.....				X
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....	U		U	U
___ Red-naped Sapsucker.....	X		X	X
___ Ladder-backed Woodpecker*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Downy Woodpecker.....	R	R	R	R
___ Hairy Woodpecker.....	X		X	
___ Northern Flicker.....	R		U	R

**FALCONS AND CARACARA**

___ Crested Caracara*.....	U	U	U	U
___ American Kestrel.....	U	X	U	U
___ Merlin.....	X		X	
___ Peregrine Falcon.....	X		X	

**FLYCATCHERS**

___ Olive-sided Flycatcher.....	R	R	R	
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee*.....	U	U	R	
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.....	X	U	X	X
___ Acadian Flycatcher*.....	C	C	U	
___ Alder Flycatcher.....	X			
___ Willow Flycatcher.....	R	X	X	
___ Least Flycatcher.....	U	R	U	
___ Cordilleran Flycatcher.....	X			
___ Black Phoebe*.....	X	X		
___ Eastern Phoebe*.....	C	C	C	C

	SP	S	F	W
___ Say's Phoebe .....	X	X	X	X
___ Vermilion Flycatcher* .....	X	X	X	X
___ Ash-throated Flycatcher* .....	U	U	R	X
___ Great Crested Flycatcher* .....	U	U	R	
___ Brown-crested Flycatcher .....	X			
___ Western Kingbird .....	R	R	R	
___ Eastern Kingbird .....	R	X	X	
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher* .....	U	U	U	

### SHRIKES

___ Loggerhead Shrike .....	R	R	R	R
-----------------------------	---	---	---	---

### VIREOS

___ White-eyed Vireo* .....	C	C	U	X
___ Bell's Vireo* .....	R	R		
___ Black-capped Vireo* .....	X	X		
___ Yellow-throated Vireo* .....	U	U	R	
___ Cassin's Vireo .....			X	
___ Blue-headed Vireo .....	U	X	U	R
___ Hutton's Vireo .....	R	X	X	
___ Red-eyed Vireo* .....	U	U	R	

### JAYS, RAVENS AND CROWS

___ Blue Jay .....	R	X	X	R
___ Western Scrub-Jay* .....	C	C	C	C
___ American Crow .....	R	X	X	R
___ Common Raven* .....	U	U	U	U

### SWALLOWS

___ Purple Martin .....	R	R	X	
___ Tree Swallow .....			X	
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow .....	X	X	X	
___ Bank Swallow .....	X			
___ Cliff Swallow* .....	U	C	R	
___ Cave Swallow .....	X	X	X	
___ Barn Swallow* .....	U	U	U	

### CHICKADEES AND TITMICE

___ Carolina Chickadee* .....	C	C	C	C
-------------------------------	---	---	---	---

	SP	S	F	W
___ Black-crested Titmouse* .....	C	C	C	C
<b>VERDINS</b>				
___ Verdin .....	X			X
<b>LONG-TAILED TTTS</b>				
___ Bushtit* .....	R	R	R	R
<b>NUTHATCHES</b>				
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	R		X	R
___ White-breasted Nuthatch.....	X			X
<b>CREEPERS</b>				
___ Brown Creeper .....	R		R	R
<b>WRENS</b>				
___ Rock Wren.....			X	
___ Canyon Wren* .....	C	C	C	C
___ House Wren .....	U	X	U	U
___ Winter Wren .....	R		R	U
___ Sedge Wren.....	X			X
___ Carolina Wren* .....	C	C	C	C
___ Bewick's Wren* .....	C	C	C	C
<b>GNATCATCHERS</b>				
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher* .....	U	U	U	X
<b>KINGLETS</b>				
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	R		X	R
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	C		C	C
<b>THRUSHES</b>				
___ Eastern Bluebird* .....	U	U	U	U
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush .....	X			
___ Swainson's Thrush .....	R	X	X	
___ Hermit Thrush.....	R		R	R
___ Wood Thrush.....	X			
___ American Robin .....	U	X	R	U

**MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS**

___ Gray Catbird .....	R	R	R	
___ Northern Mockingbird* .....	C	C	C	C
___ Sage Thrasher.....	X		R	R
___ Brown Thrasher.....			X	X
___ Long-billed Thrasher.....			X	X
___ Curve-billed Thrasher* .....	X	X		X

**STARLINGS**

___ European Starling.....	R	X	X	X
----------------------------	---	---	---	---

**WAGTAILS AND PIPITS**

___ American Pipit.....				X
___ Sprague's Pipit.....				X

**WAXWINGS**

___ Cedar Waxwing.....	C		R	C
------------------------	---	--	---	---

**WOOD WARBLERS**

___ Ovenbird.....	X			
___ Worm-eating Warbler.....	X			
___ Louisiana Waterthrush* .....	U	U	X	
___ Northern Waterthrush.....	R	R	X	
___ Golden-winged Warbler.....	X			
___ Black-and-white Warbler* .....	U	U	R	
___ Prothonotary Warbler.....			X	
___ Tennessee Warbler.....	X		X	X
___ Orange-crowned Warbler.....	U	X	U	U
___ Nashville Warbler .....	U	X	U	
___ MacGillivray's Warbler.....	X		X	
___ Mourning Warbler .....	R		R	
___ Common Yellowthroat.....	R	X	R	
___ American Redstart.....	X	X	R	
___ Northern Parula* .....	C	C	R	
___ Magnolia Warbler .....	X		X	
___ Bay-breasted Warbler.....	X			
___ Blackburnian Warbler.....	R			

	SP	S	F	W
___ Yellow Warbler.....	U	R	U	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler.....	R		X	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	C		R	U
___ Yellow-throated Warbler*.....	R	R		
___ Golden-cheeked Warbler*.....	U	U	X	
___ Black-throated Green Warbler.....	R	X	R	
___ Canada Warbler.....	X	R	X	
___ Wilson's Warbler.....	R		R	
___ Yellow-breasted Chat*.....	R	X	R	

### TOWHEES AND NATIVE SPARROWS

___ Spotted Towhee.....	U	X	U	U
___ Eastern Towhee.....	R		X	X
___ Rufous-crowned Sparrow*.....	U	U	U	U
___ Canyon Towhee.....	R	X	R	R
___ Cassin's Sparrow.....	X			
___ Chipping Sparrow*.....	C	U	C	C
___ Clay-colored Sparrow.....	R		R	X
___ Brewer's Sparrow.....				X
___ Field Sparrow*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Vesper Sparrow.....	C		U	C
___ Lark Sparrow*.....	U	C	U	U
___ Black-throated Sparrow.....		X	X	
___ Lark Bunting.....	X			
___ Savannah Sparrow.....	C		C	C
___ Grasshopper Sparrow.....	U		U	U
___ Le Conte's Sparrow.....	R		R	R
___ Fox Sparrow.....	R		R	R
___ Song Sparrow.....	R		R	R
___ Lincoln's Sparrow.....	C		C	C
___ Swamp Sparrow.....			X	X
___ White-throated Sparrow.....	R		R	R
___ Harris's Sparrow.....				X
___ White-crowned Sparrow.....	U		U	C
___ Dark-eyed Junco.....	R		R	U

**CARDINALS, TANAGERS, GROSBEEKS AND BUNTINGS**

___ Summer Tanager* .....	C	C	C	
___ Scarlet Tanager.....	X			
___ Northern Cardinal* .....	C	C	C	C
___ Pyrrhuloxia .....	X	X	R	R
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak.....	X		X	
___ Black-headed Grosbeak.....	X			
___ Blue Grosbeak* .....	U	C	R	
___ Lazuli Bunting.....	X			
___ Indigo Bunting.....	R	X	X	
___ Painted Bunting* .....	C	C	R	
___ Dickcissel.....	R	X		

**BLACKBIRDS, MEADOWLARKS AND ORIOLES**

___ Red-winged Blackbird .....	R	R	R	
___ Eastern Meadowlark.....	R	X	U	R
___ Western Meadowlark.....	R		U	R
___ Brewer's Blackbird .....	X			
___ Common Grackle.....	R			X
___ Great-tailed Grackle .....	R	R	R	R
___ Brown-headed Cowbird* .....	C	C	X	R
___ Orchard Oriole* .....	U	U	X	
___ Bullock's Oriole.....	X		X	
___ Baltimore Oriole .....	R		R	
___ Scott's Oriole .....	X	X	X	

**FINCHES AND ALLIES**

___ House Finch* .....	C	C	C	C
___ Pine Siskin.....	R	R	X	R
___ Lesser Goldfinch*.....	U	C	U	U
___ American Goldfinch .....	C		U	C
___ Evening Grosbeak.....				X

**OLD WORLD SPARROWS**

___ House Sparrow.....		X		
------------------------	--	---	--	--

## CITATION

Hensley, C. April 2014. Birds of Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area: a field checklist. Natural Resources Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife.

---

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, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.**

---

TPWD receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies. TPWD is therefore subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, in addition to state anti-discrimination laws. TPWD will comply with state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any TPWD program, activity or event, you may contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203, Attention: Civil Rights Coordinator for Public Access.



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