

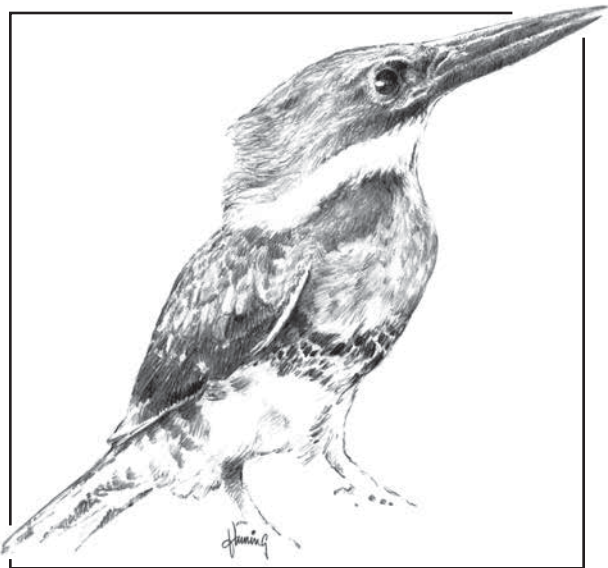
TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

# BIRDS

OF

## GUADALUPE RIVER

STATE PARK AND  
HONEY CREEK  
STATE NATURAL AREA



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2018

*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, a 1.5 mile spring-fed creek, most 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 old-growth stands of Ashe Juniper as well as juniper-oak and cedar elm-post oak woodlands interspersed with grasslands and oak savannah. 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.

Designated as an Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy, 248 species of birds have been observed in the Park and Natural Area, the most sought-after species being the federally-endangered 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, in 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.

In addition to the Golden-cheeked, more than 25 species of warblers have been documented including nesting Louisiana Waterthrushes, Black-and-white and Yellow-throated Warblers. Red-eyed, White-eyed and Bell's Vireos also nest on the properties. In addition, Honey Creek hosts nesting Cooper's Hawks, Common Ravens, Red-shouldered Hawks, and a pair of Zone-tailed Hawks.

Due to efforts to restore grassland and savannah plant communities, the Park and Honey Creek have become home to nesting populations of Vermilion and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers as well as Eastern Bluebirds and Dickcissels.

The striking Painted Bunting nests in abundance throughout the park along with Lark Sparrows, Summer Tanagers and Blue Grosbeaks. Northern Cardinals, Rufous-crowned and Field Sparrows, Woodhouse's Scrub-Jays and

both Carolina and Bewick's Wrens are among the year-found 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 LeConte'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 maintains a bird blind/feeding station in the Day Use area. Feeders and a solar powered water feature are kept active throughout the year, maintained by volunteers on a daily basis with seed provided by 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 end of 2017. 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 volunteers, as well as the contributions of many other observers who documented their sightings. Special thanks are also given to Guadalupe River State Park Host, Paul Freeman, with his help in updating this document. Thanks also go to Sue Wiedenfeld of Comfort, Texas who compiled the original checklist. Nomenclature and organization are based upon the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds* (8th Edition) as amended through the 53rd supplement as well as the July 6, 2017 official list of bird species accepted for Texas by the Texas Bird Records Committee (TBRC) of the Texas Ornithological Society.

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

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*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.*

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# LEGEND

## Abundance

- A** – **Abundant:** Present in such numbers and with such general distribution in proper habitat that many may be found in a given day.
- C** – **Common:** Always present and in such numbers that one may expect to find several in a day.
- U** – **Uncommon:** Normally present in habitat but one cannot be sure of finding one in a day. The bird referred to by the phrase “it should be there but we might miss it” is “uncommon.”
- R** – **Rare:** Definitely not expected. On the average it occurs only a few times a season or not at all. It is always a surprise to see one.
- I** – **Irruptive:** Birds who irregularly migrate. Some years the species are not present at all; other years they may occur in numbers.
- X** – **Extremely Rare:** Only one or two records exist in the Park and Natural Area.
- \* – Indicates a known breeding species in the Park and Natural Area.

## 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 .....	U		X	U
___ American Widgeon .....			X	
___ Mallard.....			X	X
___ Blue-winged Teal .....	X	X	X	

	SP	S	F	W
___ Northern Pintail.....	X		X	X
___ Green-winged Teal.....			X	
___ Redhead.....				U
___ Ring-necked Duck.....				U
___ Lesser Scaup.....	U	X	X	U
<b>NEW WORLD QUAIL</b>				
___ Northern Bobwhite*.....	U	U	U	U
<b>PARTRIDGES AND TURKEY</b>				
___ Wild Turkey*.....	C	U	U	U
<b>GREBES</b>				
___ Pied-billed Grebe.....				X
<b>PIGEONS AND DOVES</b>				
___ Rock Pigeon.....	X	X	X	
___ Eurasian Collared-Dove.....	X		X	
___ White-winged Dove*.....	A	A	A	A
___ Mourning Dove*.....	C	C	C	C
___ Inca Dove*.....	U	U	U	U
___ Common Ground-Dove*.....	U	U	U	U
<b>CUCKOOS AND ANIS</b>				
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*.....	U	U	R	
___ Black-billed Cuckoo.....	X			
___ Greater Roadrunner*.....	U	U	U	U
<b>GOATSUCKERS</b>				
___ Lesser Nighthawk.....			X	X
___ Common Nighthawk*.....	U	U	U	
___ Common Poorwill.....	R	R	X	X
___ Chuck-will's-widow*.....	R	C	U	
___ Eastern Whip-poor-will.....	X		X	
<b>SWIFTS</b>				
___ Chimney Swift.....	R	U	R	

**HUMMINGBIRDS**

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

**RAILS**

___ Sora.....				X
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**CRANES**

___ Sandhill Crane.....	R		R	X
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**STILTS AND AVOCETS**

___ American Avocet.....			X	
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**PLOVERS**

___ Killdeer.....	U	U	U	U
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**SANDPIPERS**

___ Spotted Sandpiper.....	R	R	R	R
___ Solitary Sandpiper.....	X			
___ Greater Yellowlegs.....	X			
___ Upland Sandpiper.....	X	X	X	
___ Stilt Sandpiper.....	X			
___ Wilson's Snipe.....	X		X	X
___ American Woodcock.....				X

**GULLS AND TERNS**

___ Franklin's Gull.....	X			
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**CORMORANTS**

___ Double-crested Cormorant.....	X	X	X	X
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**DARTERS**

___ Anhinga.....			X	
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**PELICANS**

___ American White Pelican.....	X		X	X
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**HERONS, BITTERN AND ALLIES**

___ American Bittern.....	X			
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	SP	S	F	W
___ Great Blue Heron.....	U	U	U	U
___ Great Egret .....	U	U	U	U
___ Little Blue Heron .....	X		X	
___ Cattle Egret.....	X	X		
___ Green Heron.....	U	U	X	
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron .....			X	
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron.....		X		

### NEW WORLD VULTURES

___ Black Vulture* .....	A	A	A	A
___ Turkey Vulture* .....	A	A	A	U

### OSPREY

___ Osprey.....	R		X	R
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### KITES, EAGLES AND HAWKS

___ White-tailed Kite .....	X		X	
___ Mississippi Kite.....	R	X	R	
___ Bald Eagle .....			X	X
___ Northern Harrier .....	R	X	X	R
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk .....	U	X	U	U
___ Cooper's Hawk*.....	U	U	U	U
___ Red-shouldered Hawk* .....	U	U	U	U
___ Broad-winged Hawk .....	R	X	R	
___ Swainson's Hawk .....	R	X	R	
___ Zone-tailed Hawk* .....	R	R	R	X
___ Red-tailed Hawk* .....	U	U	U	U
___ Ferruginous Hawk.....			X	

### BARN OWLS

___ Barn Owl.....				X
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### TYPICAL OWLS

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



**KINGFISHERS**

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

**WOODPECKERS**

___ Golden-fronted Woodpecker* .....	U	U	U	U
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker .....	X			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	X
___ Peregrine Falcon .....	X		X	
___ Prairie Falcon .....			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 .....	C	R	U	
___ Black Phoebe* .....	X	X		
___ Eastern Phoebe* .....	C	C	C	C
___ Say's Phoebe .....	X	X	X	X
___ Vermilion Flycatcher* .....	C	C	U	X
___ Ash-throated Flycatcher* .....	C	C	R	X
___ Great Crested Flycatcher* .....	U	U	R	
___ Brown-crested Flycatcher .....	X			

	SP	S	F	W
___ Couch's Kingbird .....	X			
___ Western Kingbird* .....	U	U	R	
___ Eastern Kingbird.....	R	X	X	
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher* .....	U	U	U	

**SHRIKES**

___ Loggerhead Shrike.....	R	R	R	R
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**VIREOS**

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

**JAYS, RAVENS AND CROWS**

___ Blue Jay .....	U	X	X	U
___ Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay*.....	U	U	U	U
___ American Crow.....	R	X	X	R
___ Common Raven*.....	C	C	C	C

**SWALLOWS**

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

**CHICKADEES AND TITMICE**

___ Carolina Chickadee* .....	A	A	A	A
___ Black-crested Titmouse* .....	A	A	A	A

**VERDINS**

\_\_\_ Verdin .....X X

**LONG-TAILED TITS**

\_\_\_ Bushtit\* .....R R R R

**NUTHATCHES**

\_\_\_ Red-breasted Nuthatch .....I X I

\_\_\_ White-breasted Nuthatch.....X X

**CREEPERS**

\_\_\_ Brown Creeper .....R R R

**WRENS**

\_\_\_ Rock Wren ..... X

\_\_\_ Canyon Wren\* .....C C C C

\_\_\_ House Wren .....C X U C

\_\_\_ Winter Wren .....R R U

\_\_\_ Sedge Wren .....X X

\_\_\_ Carolina Wren\* .....A A A A

\_\_\_ Bewick's Wren\* .....C C C C

**GNATCATCHERS**

\_\_\_ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher\* .....C C C X

**KINGLETS**

\_\_\_ Golden-crowned Kinglet .....U X U

\_\_\_ Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....C C C

**THRUSHES**

\_\_\_ Eastern Bluebird\* .....C C C C

\_\_\_ Gray-cheeked Thrush .....X

\_\_\_ Swainson's Thrush .....R X X

\_\_\_ Hermit Thrush.....U R U

\_\_\_ Wood Thrush.....X

\_\_\_ American Robin.....U X R C

**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
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**WAXWINGS**

___ Cedar Waxwing .....	C		R	C
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**OLD WORLD SPARROWS**

___ House Sparrow .....		X		
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**WAGTAILS AND PIPITS**

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

**FINCHES AND ALLIES**

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

**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		X	
___ Chipping Sparrow* .....	C	C	C	A
___ Clay-colored Sparrow .....	U		U	X
___ Brewer's Sparrow .....				X
___ Field Sparrow* .....	C	C	C	C

	SP	S	F	W
___ Vesper Sparrow .....	C		U	C
___ Lark Sparrow* .....	C	C	U	R
___ Black-throated Sparrow .....		X	X	
___ Lark Bunting .....	X		X	
___ Savannah Sparrow .....	C		U	C
___ Grasshopper Sparrow .....	C		U	C
___ LeConte's Sparrow .....	R		R	U
___ Fox Sparrow .....	U		R	U
___ Song Sparrow .....	U		R	U
___ Lincoln's Sparrow .....	C		C	C
___ Swamp Sparrow .....			X	X
___ White-throated Sparrow .....	U		R	U
___ Harris's Sparrow .....	R			R
___ White-crowned Sparrow .....	C		U	C
___ Dark-eyed Junco .....	U		R	C

#### YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS

___ Yellow-breasted Chat* .....	R	X	R	
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#### BLACKBIRDS, MEADOWLARKS AND ORIOLES

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

#### WOOD WARBLERS

___ Ovenbird .....	X			
___ Worm-eating Warbler .....	X			
___ Louisiana Waterthrush* .....	U	U	X	

	SP	S	F	W
___ Northern Waterthrush.....	R	R	X	
___ Golden-winged Warbler.....	X			
___ Black-and-white Warbler*.....	C	C	R	
___ Prothonotary Warbler.....			X	
___ Tennessee Warbler.....	U		R	X
___ Orange-crowned Warbler.....	C	X	C	C
___ Nashville Warbler.....	C	X	U	
___ MacGillivray's Warbler.....	X		X	
___ Mourning Warbler.....	U		R	
___ Common Yellowthroat.....	U	X	U	
___ American Redstart.....	U	X	R	
___ Northern Parula*.....	C	C	R	
___ Magnolia Warbler.....	U		X	
___ Bay-breasted Warbler.....	X			
___ Blackburnian Warbler.....	R			
___ Yellow Warbler.....	C	R	C	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler.....	U		X	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	C		U	C
___ Yellow-throated Warbler*.....	C	C	U	
___ Townsend's Warbler.....			X	
___ Golden-cheeked Warbler*.....	C	U	X	
___ Black-throated Green Warbler.....	U	X	R	
___ Canada Warbler.....	X	R	X	
___ Wilson's Warbler.....	U		U	

### CARDINALS, TANAGERS, GROSBEAKS AND BUNTINGS

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

## CITATION

Hensley, C. January 2018. Birds of Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area: a field checklist. Natural Resources Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife.

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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.**

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