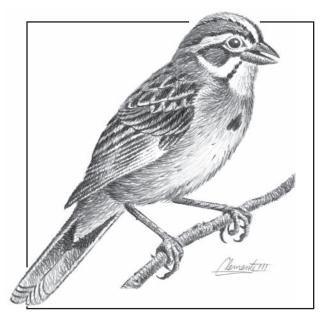
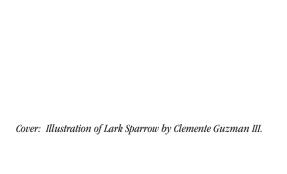
BIRDS

GOVERNMENT CANYON

STATE NATURAL AREA AND VICINITY



A FIELD CHECKLIST



INTRODUCTION

overnment Canyon State Natural Area preserves over 12,000 acres of land, most of which protects a portion of the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. A large portion of Government Canyon lies within the limestone hills of the Edwards Plateau, where steep slopes wooded with mature Ashe juniper and live oak are host to the endemic and endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler. Large cedar elm, lacy oaks, live oaks, sycamore, and little walnut trees grow along the bottoms of canyons. This portion of the Natural Area, known as the Backcountry, attracts species such as the Canyon Wren and Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay. In the warmer months, Black-and-white Warblers, Common Ravens and Summer Tanagers can be found.

The southern portion of the Natural Area lies below the escarpment and is relatively level with a mix of Blackland Prairie and juniper/oak savanna habitat. Here, in what is known as the Frontcountry, you are more likely to spot some of your favorite "backyard" birds. The open habitat attracts species such as American Kestrels, Lark Sparrows, Meadowlarks, and Vermilion Flycatchers. Many of the birds in this area can be found in multi-species foraging flocks.

When trails are closed due to significant amounts of rainfall, the roadways, Visitor Center, and Discovery Trail are still great places to find birds, including some of nature's showiest species such as the Northern Cardinal, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Painted Bunting, and Yellow-breasted Chat. The Visitor Center's location near the interchange of the Frontcountry and Backcountry means that species from both habitat types can be observed.

This checklist was updated by Jessica Bergner utilizing eBird and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It was originally compiled by Kelsey Woodward with help from the *Birds of Bexar County Checklist* by San Antonio Audubon Society, and from observations and input by Steve Hawkins, Georgina Schwartz, Helen Rejzek, Dodge and Lonna Engleman, Bob Doe, Keith Bartels, and Mark Lockwood.

You can contribute to this checklist by reporting new and unusual sightings or changes in status. Please record both sighting and photograph, if possible, in eBird or other Citizen Science platforms. You may also report your sightings at the Natural Area headquarters or mail them to the Natural Resource Program, Government Canyon State Natural Area, 12861 Galm Road, San Antonio, TX 78254. Nomenclature and organization for this checklist follow version 8.0.7 of The American Birding Association Checklist.

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

LEGEND

Seasons

Sp = spring (March, April, May)

S = summer (June, July, August)

F = fall (September, October, November)

W = winter (December, January, February)

Abundance

c = Common (Present, easy to find)

f = Fairly common (Present, should see or hear)

u = Uncommon (Present, harder to find)

r = Rare (May not occur every year)

x = Extremely Rare (Only one or two records exist in the Natural Area)

* = Indicates a potential breeding species in the Natural Area

CHECKLIST

	Sp	S	F	W
DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS				
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck*	u	u	r	
Wood Duck	X			
NEW WORLD QUAIL				
Northern Bobwhite*	f	f	u	u
PARTRIDGES, GROUSE, TURKEYS, AND OLD W	ORLI	QUAI	L	
Wild Turkey*	f	u	u	u
PIGEONS AND DOVES				
Rock Pigeon*	u	u		r
Eurasian Collared-Dove*	r	r		
Inca Dove*	u	u	r	r
Common Ground Dove*	c	c	c	c
White-tipped Dove	r	r		
White-winged Dove*	c	c	c	c
Mourning Dove*	c	c	c	c
CUCKOOS, ROADRUNNERS, AND ANIS				
Greater Roadrunner*	f	f	f	u
Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	f	f	r	
GOATSUCKERS				
Lesser Nighthawk*		r		
Common Nighthawk*	u	u		
Common Pauraque	r	r	r	r
Chuck-will's-widow*	u	u		

	Sp	S	F	W
SWIFTS				
Chimney Swift*	u	u	u	
HUMMINGBIRDS				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	u	u	r	
Black-chinned Hummingbird*	c	c	r	
Rufous Hummingbird	r		r	
CRANES				
Sandhill Crane			r	r
LAPWINGS AND PLOVERS				
Killdeer*	u	u	u	u
SANDPIPERS, PHALAROPES, AND ALLIES				
Upland Sandpiper	X	X		
Long-billed Curlew	X			
American Woodcock				r
GULLS, TERNS, AND SKIMMERS				
Franklin's Gull	r			
STORKS				
Wood Stork		X		
CORMORANTS				
Double-crested Cormorant				r
Neotropic Cormorant				X
PELICANS				
American White Pelican		r		r

	Sp	S	F	W
BITTERNS, HERONS, AND ALLIES				
Great Blue Heron	u	u	r	r
Great Egret	r	r	r	r
Snowy Egret	r			
Little Blue Heron	X			
Cattle Egret	r	r		
Green Heron	r			
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron		X		
NEW WORLD VULTURES				
Black Vulture*	c	c	c	c
Turkey Vulture*	c	c	c	c
OSPREYS				
Osprey			X	
HAWKS, KITES, EAGLES, AND ALLIES				
White-tailed Kite			X	
Northern Harrier	r		r	r
Sharp-shinned Hawk	u		u	u
Cooper's Hawk*	f	u	u	f
Mississippi Kite	r	r	r	
Harris's Hawk*			r	
White-tailed Hawk		X		
Red-shouldered Hawk*	f	f	f	f
Broad-winged Hawk	r	r	r	
Short-tailed Hawk	X			
Swainson's Hawk*	u	r	r	
Zone-tailed Hawk*	r	u		
Red-tailed Hawk*	f	f	f	f

	Sp	S	F	W
BARN OWLS				
Barn Owl				X
TYPICAL OWLS				
Eastern Screech-Owl*	u	r		r
Great Horned Owl*	r	u	r	r
Barred Owl*	u	u	u	u
KINGFISHERS				
Belted Kingfisher	r			
WOODPECKERS AND ALLIES				
Golden-fronted Woodpecker*	f	f	f	f
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	r		u	r
Downy Woodpecker	r	r	r	r
Ladder-backed Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
Northern Flicker			r	r
CARACARAS AND FALCONS				
Crested Caracara*	f	f	f	f
American Kestrel	f		c	c
Merlin	r		r	r
Peregrine Falcon			r	r
TYRANT FLYCATCHERS				
Ash-throated Flycatcher*	f	f	r	r
Great Crested Flycatcher*	u	u	r	
Brown-crested Flycatcher	u	u		
Great Kiskadee	r			
Couch's Kingbird	r	r	r	r
Western Kingbird*	u	f		

	Sp	S	F	W
Eastern Kingbird	r	r		
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*	f	f	u	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	u	r	r	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	u			
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	X			
Acadian Flycatcher*	r	r	r	
Willow Flycatcher	r			
Least Flycatcher	u	u	u	
Eastern Phoebe*	c	c	c	С
Say's Phoebe	r			r
Vermilion Flycatcher*	f	u	u	
SHRIKES				
Loggerhead Shrike	u	u	u	f
VIREOS				
Black-capped Vireo*	r	r		
White-eyed Vireo*	c	c	c	c
Bell's Vireo*	u	u	r	
Hutton's Vireo	f	f	u	f
Yellow-throated Vireo*	r	r		
Cassin's Vireo	r			
Blue-headed Vireo	u		u	u
Philadelphia Vireo	X			
Warbling Vireo	X			
Red-eyed Vireo*	r	u		
JAYS AND CROWS				
Green Jay	X			
Blue Jay	u	u	u	r
Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay*	f	f	c	c

	Sp	S	F	W
American Crow	u	r	r	r
Common Raven*	f	f	f	f
SWALLOWS				
Bank Swallow		X	X	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	r		r	
Purple Martin	u	u		
Barn Swallow*	f	f	u	
Cliff Swallow*	u	u	u	
Cave Swallow	r	u	u	r
CHICKADEES AND TITMICE				
Carolina Chickadee*	c	c	c	c
Black-crested Titmouse*	c	c	c	c
VERDIN				
Verdin	f	f	f	f
BUSHTITS				
Bushtit		r	r	r
NUTHATCHES				
Red-breasted Nuthatch	r			
WRENS				
Rock Wren				X
Canyon Wren*	f	f	f	f
House Wren	f		f	f
Carolina Wren*	c	c	c	c
Bewick's Wren*	c	c	c	c
Cactus Wren	r	r		r

	Sp	S	F	W
GNATCATCHERS AND GNATWRENS				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	c	c	f	u
KINGLETS				
Golden-crowned Kinglet	r		r	r
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	f		f	c
THRUSHES				
Eastern Bluebird*	r	r	r	u
Mountain Bluebird				r
Veery	X			
Swainson's Thrush	X		X	
Hermit Thrush	u		u	f
American Robin	u	r	r	f
MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS				
Gray Catbird	r		r	
Curve-billed Thrasher*	u	u	u	u
Brown Thrasher	r		r	r
Long-billed Thrasher	f	f	f	f
Sage Thrasher			r	r
Northern Mockingbird*	c	c	c	c
STARLINGS				
European Starling*	u	u	u	u
WAXWINGS				
Cedar Waxwing	f		r	c
OLD WORLD SPARROWS				
House Sparrow	u	f	u	u

	Sp	S	F	W
WAGTAILS AND PIPITS				
American Pipit				X
Sprague's Pipit	X			
FRINGILLINE AND CARDUELINE FINCHES AND	ALLII	ES		
House Finch*	f	f	f	f
Pine Siskin	r		r	r
Lesser Goldfinch*	c	c	c	c
American Goldfinch	u		r	c
TOWHEES AND SPARROWS				
Cassin's Sparrow*	u	r		
Grasshopper Sparrow	u		r	u
Olive Sparrow	f	f	u	u
Black-throated Sparrow	u	u	u	u
Lark Sparrow*	f	f	u	u
Lark Bunting				X
Chipping Sparrow*	f	u	u	c
Clay-colored Sparrow	u		u	r
Field Sparrow*	u	u	u	c
Fox Sparrow				r
Dark-eyed Junco	r		r	u
White-crowned Sparrow	u		u	f
Harris's Sparrow				r
White-throated Sparrow	u		r	f
Vesper Sparrow	u		u	f
Savannah Sparrow	u		u	f
Song Sparrow	r		r	u
Lincoln's Sparrow	f		u	c
Swamp Sparrow				X
Canyon Towhee	r	r	r	r

	Sp	S	F	W
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	f	f	f	f
Green-tailed Towhee				X
Spotted Towhee	c		c	c
YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS				
Yellow-breasted Chat*	f	c	r	
BLACKBIRDS				
Eastern Meadowlark	r		u	u
Western Meadowlark	r		u	u
Orchard Oriole*	u	u		
Hooded Oriole	X			
Bullock's Oriole*	u	u	r	
Audubon's Oriole	u	u	r	r
Baltimore Oriole	u	r	u	
Scott's Oriole	r	r	u	
Red-winged Blackbird	u	u	r	u
Bronzed Cowbird	r	r		
Brown-headed Cowbird*	c	c	u	u
Brewer's Blackbird				X
Common Grackle*	u	u	r	r
Great-tailed Grackle*	f	u	u	u
WOOD-WARBLERS				
Ovenbird	r		r	
Louisiana Waterthrush*	r	r		
Northern Waterthrush	r			
Golden-winged Warbler	X			
Black-and-white Warbler*	f	f	u	
Tennessee Warbler	X			
Orange-crowned Warbler	f		f	c

	Sp	S	F	W
Nashville Warbler	f	r	f	
Mourning Warbler			r	
Common Yellowthroat*	u		r	
Hooded Warbler	X			
American Redstart	r			
Northern Parula	u			
Magnolia Warbler	r			
Blackburnian Warbler	X			
Yellow Warbler	u	r	u	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	r			
Pine Warbler			r	u
Yellow-rumped Warbler	u		u	f
Yellow-throated Warbler	X			
Black-throated Gray Warbler				X
Golden-cheeked Warbler*	c	f		
Black-throated Green Warbler	u		r	
Canada Warbler	X			
Wilson's Warbler	u	r	u	
CARDINALS, PIRANGA TANAGERS AND ALLIES				
Summer Tanager*	f	c	u	
Scarlet Tanager	X			
Northern Cardinal*	c	С	С	c
Pyrrhuloxia	u	u	u	u
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	r		r	
Black-headed Grosbeak				X
Blue Grosbeak*	u	u		
Lazuli Bunting	X			
Indigo Bunting*	f	f	r	
Painted Bunting*	f	c	u	
Dickcissel*	u	u	r	

CITATION

Bergner, Jessica. January 2022. *Birds of Government Canyon State Natural Area and Vicinity: a field checklist*. Natural Resource Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife.

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