

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

BIRDS

OF

CAPROCK CANYONS STATE PARK



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2018

INTRODUCTION

Caprock Canyons State Park is located approximately 5 miles north of Quitaque on Hwy 1065 in Briscoe County. The park consists of 13,916 acres of canyon and prairie landscape including Lake Theo. The park contains a mixed-grass prairie with mesquite and juniper scrub along the breaks of the Caprock escarpment. Many birds make their home here and water sources like creek beds or Lake Theo are great spots for observation. Prairie wildlife including quail are common in the park and their presence helps to measure the health of the prairie ecosystem.

Dry Creek Lake is a small pond surrounded by cottonwood, hackberry, and various scrub plants that provide wildlife cover. A wildlife viewing blind is available at this location for visitor use. Bald eagle, golden eagle, and osprey are infrequent visitors, but it is not uncommon to see a few individuals during the fall and winter. Many song birds and birds of prey make their home in the park year-round. Look for red-tailed hawks soaring overhead and American kestrels hovering over the prairie grasslands. Seed eating birds such as the colorful painted bunting are seasonal visitors.

The park hosts a monthly bird walk on most every last Saturday of the month. Please check the online events calendar or ask a staff member in the Visitor's Center for more information.

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

Abundance

- c – Common (Present, easy to find)
- f – Fairly common (Present, should see or hear)
- u – Uncommon (Present, harder to find)
- r – Rare (Present, hard to find, or may not occur every year)
- x – Accidental (not usually present, lost, result of an event)

Seasons

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

Cover: Illustration of American Kestrel by Rob Fleming.

CHECKLIST

	Sp	S	F	W
_____ Snow Goose.....	f		f	f
_____ Ross' Goose.....	r		f	f
_____ Greater White-fronted Goose	r		r	u
_____ Cackling Goose.....	u		u	u
_____ Canada Goose.....	c		c	c
_____ Wood Duck	u		u	u
_____ Green-winged Teal.....	f		f	c
_____ Mallard.....	f	c	f	c
_____ Northern Pintail.....	u	r	f	u
_____ Blue-winged Teal	f		f	
_____ Cinnamon Teal.....	u		u	
_____ Northern Shoveler	c		f	f
_____ Gadwall	u	f	f	c
_____ American Wigeon	f	r	f	c
_____ Canvasback.....	r		r	u
_____ Redhead	r		f	u
_____ Ring-necked Duck.....	u		f	u
_____ Greater Scaup.....			r	r
_____ Lesser Scaup.....	c		u	c
_____ Common Goldeneye.....	u		u	u
_____ Bufflehead	f		u	u
_____ Hooded Merganser.....	r		c	c
_____ Common Merganser	r		r	c
_____ Ruddy Duck.....	c		c	u
_____ Northern Bobwhite.....	c	c	f	f

	Sp	S	F	W
_____ Scaled Quail	u	u	u	u
_____ Ring-necked Pheasant	u	u	u	u
_____ Wild Turkey	u	r	u	u
_____ Pied-billed Grebe.....	f	f	c	c
_____ Eared Grebe	u		u	u
_____ Western Grebe.....			x	
_____ Rock Pigeon	f	u	u	u
_____ Eurasian Collared-Dove	c	f	c	c
_____ White-winged Dove.....	u	f	f	r
_____ Mourning Dove.....	c	c	c	c
_____ Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....	f	f		
_____ Greater Roadrunner	c	c	c	f
_____ Common Nighthawk	c	c	f	
_____ Chuck-will's-widow.....			x	
_____ Common Poorwill.....	f	f	c	
_____ Chimney Swift	f	c	u	
_____ White-throated Swift			x	
_____ Black-chinned Hummingbird	u	c	u	
_____ Virginia Rail.....			x	
_____ Sora.....	u	u	u	r
_____ Common Moorhen	u	u	u	u
_____ American Coot.....	f	f	f	f
_____ Sandhill Crane	f		u	f
_____ Black-necked Stilt.....	u	u	f	
_____ American Avocet	f	r	f	
_____ Snowy Egret.....	f	f		

	Sp	S	F	W
_____ Killdeer.....	c	f	c	u
_____ Greater Yellowlegs.....	r		f	f
_____ Willet.....	u			
_____ Lesser Yellowlegs.....	r		f	
_____ Upland Sandpiper.....			c	
_____ Stilt Sandpiper.....			f	
_____ Sanderling.....			f	
_____ Baird's Sandpiper.....			f	
_____ Least Sandpiper.....	f		f	
_____ Semipalmated Sandpiper.....	u			
_____ Western Sandpiper.....	f	f		
_____ Wilson's Snipe.....			u	f
_____ Spotted Sandpiper.....	f		f	
_____ Solitary Sandpiper.....		c		
_____ Ring-billed Gull.....	u		u	f
_____ Black Tern.....		f		
_____ Forster's Tern.....	f	r	u	
_____ Red-throated Loon.....			x	x
_____ Common Loon.....			u	r
_____ Double-crested Cormorant.....	u		u	r
_____ American White Pelican.....	u		u	
_____ American Bittern.....	r		r	
_____ Least Bittern.....	r		r	
_____ Great Blue Heron.....	f		f	c
_____ Cattle Egret.....	f	c	f	
_____ Great Egret.....	u			

	Sp	S	F	W
_____ Green Heron.....	f	c	f	
_____ Black-crowned Night Heron	u	c		
_____ Yellow-crowned Night Heron			x	
_____ White-faced Ibis.....	u		f	
_____ Turkey Vulture.....	c	c	c	
_____ Osprey.....	f		f	
_____ Mississippi Kite.....	u	c	f	
_____ Bald Eagle			r	r
_____ Northern Harrier	u	r	f	f
_____ Cooper's Hawk	f		u	f
_____ Sharp-shinned Hawk	r		r	u
_____ Red-tailed Hawk.....	f	f	f	f
_____ Swainson's Hawk.....	f		c	
_____ Rough-legged Hawk.....				u
_____ Ferruginous Hawk.....			u	f
_____ Golden Eagle			u	u
_____ Barn Owl.....	u			u
_____ Great Horned Owl.....	u	u	f	c
_____ Burrowing Owl.....	u	c		
_____ Belted Kingfisher	u	f	f	f
_____ Red-headed Woodpecker	r	x	x	r
_____ Golden-fronted Woodpecker	f	f	f	c
_____ Red-bellied Woodpecker				r
_____ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....	r			u
_____ Ladder-backed Woodpecker.....	f	f	f	f
_____ Downy Woodpecker	u		f	f

	Sp	S	F	W
_____ Northern Flicker	f	f	c	c
_____ American Kestrel	c	f	c	c
_____ Merlin	f		r	r
_____ Prairie Falcon.....	u	r	u	u
_____ Peregrine Falcon	u			
_____ Least Flycatcher	f		f	
_____ Olive-sided Flycatcher.....	f			
_____ Eastern Phoebe.....	f	c	u	u
_____ Say's Phoebe.....	f	f	f	
_____ Ash-throated Flycatcher	c	f	u	
_____ Western Kingbird.....	f	f	f	
_____ Eastern Kingbird.....	u	f	f	
_____ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	f	c	c	
_____ Northern Shrike.....				r
_____ Loggerhead Shrike.....	u		u	u
_____ Bell's Vireo	r	r	r	
_____ Warbling Vireo			x	
_____ Blue Jay.....	u		u	u
_____ Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	f	f	u	u
_____ American Crow.....	u	f	f	f
_____ Chihuahuan Raven.....	f	f	f	f
_____ Common Raven	f	f		u
_____ Horned Lark.....	u	r	f	u
_____ Purple Martin	r			
_____ Tree Swallow	f		u	
_____ Northern Rough-winged Swallow.....	u	u	u	

	Sp	S	F	W
_____ Bank Swallow	u		u	
_____ Cliff Swallow	c	f	u	
_____ Barn Swallow.....	c	c	f	
_____ Carolina Chickadee.....				r
_____ Black-crested Titmouse	f	f	f	f
_____ Verdin	u		u	
_____ Bushtit.....	f	f	f	u
_____ Red-breasted Nuthatch	r		r	r
_____ Brown Creeper				r
_____ Cactus Wren	u	u	u	
_____ Rock Wren	f	f	f	f
_____ Canyon Wren	f	f	f	u
_____ Carolina Wren	u		f	c
_____ Bewick's Wren.....	f	f	u	c
_____ House Wren.....			u	f
_____ Winter Wren	u			f
_____ Marsh Wren.....	u		f	f
_____ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	f		u	
_____ Golden-crowned Kinglet				u
_____ Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	u		u	f
_____ Eastern Bluebird.....	f		u	u
_____ Western Bluebird.....	f		f	f
_____ Mountain Bluebird			u	c
_____ Townsend's Solitaire	r			u
_____ Swainson's Thrush.....	u			
_____ Hermit Thrush.....	u			f

	Sp	S	F	W
_____ American Robin.....	f		u	c
_____ Gray Catbird			x	
_____ Sage Thrasher.....	r			u
_____ Brown Thrasher	u		u	u
_____ Curve-billed Thrasher	f	f	f	u
_____ Northern Mockingbird.....	c	c	f	f
_____ European Starling.....	u		u	u
_____ Cedar Waxwing.....	f	r	u	u
_____ Bohemian Waxwing			x	x
_____ Phainopepla			u	u
_____ House Sparrow.....	u	u	u	u
_____ American Pipit.....	r			
_____ House Finch	f	f	f	f
_____ Red Crossbill	r		r	r
_____ Pine Siskin.....	u		u	f
_____ American Goldfinch.....	u		u	c
_____ Lesser Goldfinch.....	f	f	u	r
_____ Chestnut-collared Longspur				c
_____ McCown's Longspur.....				r
_____ Eastern Towhee				r
_____ Spotted Towhee	f		u	f
_____ Rufous-crowned Sparrow	f	f	u	f
_____ Canyon Towhee.....	u	f	r	f
_____ Cassin's Sparrow.....	f	u	f	
_____ American Tree Sparrow				r
_____ Chipping Sparrow.....	f	f	u	u

	Sp	S	F	W
_____ Clay-colored Sparrow	f		u	
_____ Brewer's Sparrow	u			
_____ Field Sparrow	u		u	f
_____ Vesper Sparrow	f		f	
_____ Lark Sparrow.....	c	f	f	u
_____ Black-throated Sparrow.....	r	r		
_____ Lark Bunting.....	u		f	u
_____ Grasshopper Sparrow.....	f	f		
_____ Savannah Sparrow	f		f	u
_____ Fox Sparrow	u		u	u
_____ Song Sparrow	u		u	c
_____ Lincoln's Sparrow.....	f		u	u
_____ Swamp Sparrow.....	u		f	u
_____ White-throated Sparrow.....	u		u	u
_____ Golden-crowned Sparrow.....				x
_____ White-crowned Sparrow	f		f	c
_____ Harris' Sparrow.....	r		r	u
_____ Dark-eyed Junco.....	f		u	c
_____ Yellow-breasted Chat	x			
_____ Red-winged Blackbird.....	f	f	f	f
_____ Eastern Meadowlark.....	u	f	u	u
_____ Western Meadowlark.....	f	f	f	c
_____ Yellow-headed Blackbird.....	u		f	
_____ Brewer's Blackbird.....			u	
_____ Great-tailed Grackle.....	u	f	f	u
_____ Common Grackle.....	u	f	u	

	Sp	S	F	W
_____ Brown-headed Cowbird.....	f	f	u	u
_____ Baltimore Oriole.....	f			
_____ Orchard Oriole.....	u	u		
_____ Bullock's Oriole.....	f	f	f	
_____ Northern Waterthrush.....			x	
_____ Black-and-white Warbler.....			x	
_____ Orange-crowned Warbler.....	u		f	u
_____ Tennessee Warbler.....			x	
_____ Nashville Warbler.....	u		u	
_____ Common Yellowthroat.....	u		f	
_____ American Redstart.....	r		r	
_____ Yellow Warbler.....	f		f	
_____ Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	f		u	
_____ Wilson's Warbler.....	f		f	
_____ Northern Cardinal.....	c	c	f	c
_____ Pyrrhuloxia.....			r	r
_____ Black-headed Grosbeak.....	u		u	
_____ Blue Grosbeak.....	f	f		
_____ Dickcissel.....	u			
_____ Indigo Bunting.....	f	f		
_____ Painted Bunting.....	f	f		

CITATION

Le'Ann Pigg. January 2018. Birds of Caprock Canyons State Park; a field checklist. Natural Resource Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

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