

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

BIRDS

of the

TRANS-PECOS

a field checklist



Black-throated Sparrow
by Kelly B. Bryan

Birds of the Trans-Pecos: a field checklist

THE CHIHUAHUAN DESERT

Traditionally thought of as a treeless desert wasteland, a land of nothing more than cacti, tumbleweeds, jackrabbits and rattlesnakes – West Texas is far from it. The Chihuahuan Desert region of the state, better known as the Trans-Pecos of Texas (Fig. 1), is arguably the most diverse region in Texas. A variety of habitats ranging from, but not limited to, sanddunes, desert-scrub, arid canyons, oak-juniper woodlands, lush riparian woodlands, plateau grasslands, cienegas (desert springs), pinyon-juniper woodlands, pine-oak woodlands and montane evergreen forests contribute to a diverse and complex avifauna. As much as any other factor, elevation influences and dictates habitat and thus, bird occurrence. Elevations range from the highest point in Texas at 8,749 ft. (Guadalupe Peak) to under 1,000 ft. (below Del Rio). Amazingly, 106 peaks in the region are over 7,000 ft. in elevation; 20 are over 8,000 ft. high. These montane islands contain some of the most unique components of Texas' avifauna. As a rule, human population in the region is relatively low and habitat quality remains good to excellent; habitat types that have been altered the most in modern times include riparian corridors and cienegas.

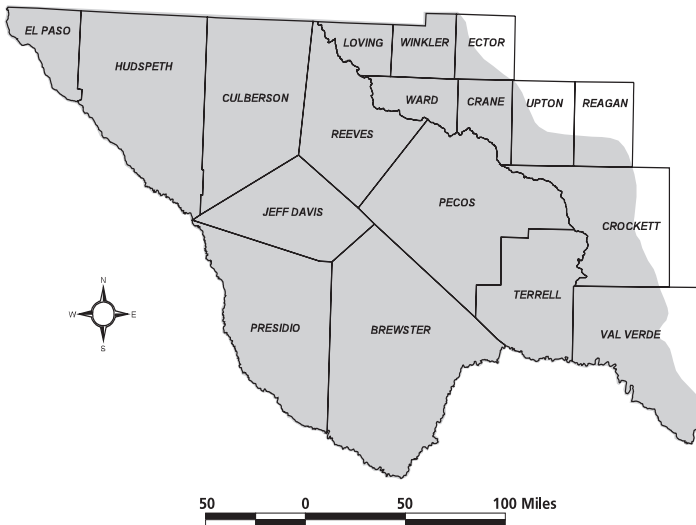


Figure 1: Coverage area is indicated by the shaded area. This checklist covers all of the area west of the Pecos River and a corridor to the east of the Pecos River that contains areas of Chihuahuan Desert habitat types. There is overlap in coverage of other regional checklists, specifically in Val Verde and Crockett counties (Birds of the Edwards Plateau by Lockwood) and in Ector, Upton and Reagan counties (Birds of the High Plains and Rolling Plains by Sieffert).

Also influenced by elevation, the region's climatic patterns read like a farmer's almanac for an entire state. Normally, one rainy season occurs here on an annual basis, associated with the onset of the southwestern monsoon pattern that usually begins in July and ends in September. Winter seasons can be mild except at the higher elevations. Spring seasons are usually dry and windy; and landscapes dominated by the brown and yellow colors of dormant grasses typically reflect that. Although not a wasteland, areas of low desert-scrub, especially along the Rio Grande can be inhospitable at times; 100°+ temperatures can begin as early as February and persist as late as November. Rainfall for these areas usually averages less than 6 inches annually, while the eastern portions of the region and the highest elevations can receive more than 20 inches. Summer seasons in the higher elevations are usually cool to warm at best and generally wet in contrast to the lower desert and much of the rest of Texas.

Although portions of the Chihuahuan Desert ecoregion extend north into southern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona, the major part of the region is found south of the border with Mexico. In fact, 65% of the physiographic area is in Mexico. Overall, the ecoregion covers 243,000 square miles. Still, the portion that occurs in Texas is large, covering approximately 50,000 square miles, or about one-fifth of the landmass of Texas. Most of the region remains privately owned, yet more public lands exist here than in any other region of the state. From a conservation (and birding) point of view several national parks (comprising ~956,208 acres) and numerous state holdings (~533,250 acres) provide access to many significant areas within the region. Many of these locations have well-developed bird lists with defined seasonal occurrence. There are several other publications that characterize the region's avifauna and/or portions thereof (see the references listed below). Nevertheless, this is the first stand-alone field checklist to embrace the region as a whole. This checklist includes all of the species recorded within the region along with their expected seasonal occurrence. The author has followed the nomenclature and taxonomy presented in the 7th edition of the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds* (1998) and supplements.

CHIHUAHUAN DESERT BIRDS

This checklist includes 505 species that have been observed in the region, which is 81% of the species known to occur in Texas. A total of 244 of the species listed herein (48%) have nested at least once or are suspected as nesters. A dedicated column denotes nesting status as well as geographic occurrence (where needed) and status to provide users of this checklist with additional information on selected species. Characterization of the region's avifauna is difficult at best because of the patchy nature of the habitats and the sporadic occurrence of numerous peripheral species.

In the southeastern portion of the region a number of eastern U.S. birds reach the western limits of their ranges. Red-shouldered Hawk, Chuck-will's-widow, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireo, Carolina Wren, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated and Black-and-white Warbler are representative of this group. Montane habitats also harbor species of limited distribution. Numerous species of birds associated with the Rocky Mountains and/or Mexican highlands bird guilds normally occur only in islands of montane habitats within the region. Examples include Band-tailed Pigeon, Flammulated and Northern Saw-whet Owl, Whip-poor-will, Blue-throated and

Magnificent Hummingbird, Williamson's Sapsucker, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Hutton's Vireo, Mexican and Steller's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Colima and Grace's Warbler, and Painted Redstart. Other "borderland" specialties help characterize the region's avifauna. Included would be Gray and Zone-tailed Hawk, Common Black-Hawk, Elf Owl, Lesser Nighthawk, Common Poorwill, Lucifer Hummingbird, Vermilion Flycatcher, Verdin, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Varied Bunting, and Hooded Oriole.

New discoveries are still being made in the region, especially in the Davis Mountains where increased access to private lands has allowed further study of Texas' most expansive mountain range. As an example, the recent discovery of Buff-breasted Flycatcher added a new species to the Texas list. The Trans-Pecos of Texas is a region prime for similar discoveries in the future. Other than the montane islands previously mentioned, additional habitats contain rich birdlife. Riparian corridors contain especially important bird habitats harboring high diversity in arid environments. The Rio Grande valley both above and below El Paso is one such area. Several species can often be found there that are considered rare within the region. The Limpia Creek system in Jeff Davis County, the Alamito/Cienega Creek systems in Presidio County, the Devils River system of central Val Verde County, and the Rio Grande/Pecos river systems contain highly diverse avifauna as well.

The distribution of common species within this region can also be of a patchy nature primarily due to the extent of the region being covered. For those utilizing this document the exact occurrence of most species must be determined by referring to the range maps in any number of popular field guides. The geographical distribution and nesting column preceding the months of the year will aid in that effort. However, just because a particular species is designated as SE (southeast-normally expected only in that area) for instance, does not mean that it does not or cannot occur at other locations within the checklist area. Keep in mind that the geographical distribution of many species may change with season, especially with respect to areas utilized for nesting. A species with nesting status N* may migrate through or winter elsewhere. More widespread nesting species (N) may also be tied to specific habitats and certain broader areas of the region, or excluded from certain areas. For example, one of the most common birds of the region, the Black-throated Sparrow, finds montane habitats unsuitable for occupation at any time of the year. This desert sparrow has been labeled an "indicator" species of the ecological region and for that reason has been chosen to grace the cover of this checklist.

The seasonal abundance codes (bar graphs) included herein represent a compilation of the most accurate objective data available as well as subjective evaluations by the author. Peripheral species and/or local species (e.g., Great Kiskadee, Juniper Titmouse, Mountain Chickadee, Colima Warbler, Grace's Warbler and Olive Sparrow) have abundance codes applied that reflect only their status where they normally occur. Many species show strong ties to certain habitats, or they may be quite localized such as to a particular mountain range, making it difficult to define their abundance across the entire region. To aid in that designation, letter codes (as provided in the legend) have been added to delineate areas occupied by localized species. As an example both Mexican Jay and Colima Warbler are expected to occur only in the Chisos Mountains, thus designated with letter code of 'C'. Also keep in mind that open water habitats for aquatic species are limited in the region. Less than ten permanent reservoirs exist, limited to two general areas - within the Pecos River and Rio Grande watersheds along the eastern edge of the region and in the

Rio Grande valley below El Paso. Accidentals are defined as those species that have occurred generally less than ten times in the area of coverage. Species listed as such are depicted with a closed circle. Numerous other species have been recorded only on a few occasions, as vagrants or very rare migrants, but are expected to occur again in the future. These species are listed as “rare”.

Like any species checklist, this is a *dynamic* document that will require constant updating. Please submit any changes, additions, comments, or questions to Kelly Bryan via e-mail at kellyb@nexus.as.utexas.edu or phone (915) 426-3897.

Selected references:

- Kutac, E. A. 1998. *Birder's Guide to Texas* (second edition). Gulf Publishing Co., Houston, TX.
- Lockwood, M.W., W.B. McKinney, J.N. Paton and B.R. Zimmer. 1999. *A Birder's Guide to the Rio Grande Valley*. American Birding Association, Inc. Colorado Springs, CO.
- Oberholser, H.C. 1974. *The Bird Life of Texas*. University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas.
- Paton, J.N. and B.R. Zimmer. 1998. *Birds and Birdfinding in the El Paso Area*. Local Pub. El Paso, Texas.
- Peterson, J. J. and B. R. Zimmer. 1998. *Birds of the Trans-Pecos*. UT Press, Austin, Texas.
- Wauer, R. H. 1996. *A Field Guide to Birds of the Big Bend*, 2nd ed. Gulf Publishing Co., Houston, Texas.
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Please help us protect the natural avian communities by refraining from using playback tapes of bird songs. Excessive use of these tapes disrupts normal avian activity patterns, including essential territorial behavior, and may lead to nest failure. Thank you for your cooperation.

LEGEND

Abundance (basically an abundance scale with abundant being the most common, accidental the least)

- Abundant - present and conspicuous in proper habitat and season indicated; often in large numbers
- Common - normally present, should be found in proper habitat and season; numbers vary
- Uncommon - usually present in proper habitat and season, but may be overlooked; typically in small numbers
- Occasional - normally encountered a few times during season indicated; may also occur in a narrow timeframe within a season or in very specialized habitat
- Rare - seldom observed; may not occur each year during season indicated
 - Accidental - generally one to three records region-wide each decade
 - Lingering accidentals (Note: accidental records include both documented records and selected sight observations)

Status, Geographic distribution and Nesting (SGN)

Shaded species are Texas Review Species; please submit details, photographs and/or recordings to the Texas Bird Records Committee, c/o Mark Lockwood, TBRC Secretary, Natural Resources Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744

- I - Irruptive species that may be abundant some years but absent, occasional or rare all others; also applies to species regularly occurring in the checklist area but exhibit movements of an irruptive nature into areas/habitats otherwise not normally occupied
- E - Extirpated or extinct
- W - Western portion of the region, specifically in El Paso and/or Hudspeth counties; abundance graph normally applies to this area only but migrants/vagrants may occur elsewhere
- G - Guadalupe Mountains; abundance graph normally applies to this area only but migrants/vagrants may occur elsewhere
- D - Davis Mountains; abundance graph normally applies to this area only but migrants/vagrants may occur elsewhere
- C - Chisos Mountains; abundance graph normally applies to this area only but migrants/vagrants may occur elsewhere
- PG - Plateau grasslands typically located at elevations ranging from 4,000' to 6,000'; abundance graph normally applies to this area only but migrants/vagrants may occur elsewhere
- RG - Rio Grande corridor (or portions thereof) from above Lake Amistad north to Brewster and Presidio counties; abundance graph normally applies to this area only but migrants/vagrants may occur elsewhere
- SE - Southeastern portion of region, specifically in Val Verde and Terrell counties including Lake Amistad; abundance graph normally applies to this area only but migrants/vagrants may occur elsewhere
- N - Regular and widespread nesting species
- N* - Rare and/or localized nesting species; also applies to species nesting in a specific geographic area or to those with only one or two nesting records
- N? - Status as a breeding species in the region is uncertain
- () - Sub-regional geographic area specified for selected species with nesting status N* or N?; many species whose nesting distributions are limited as indicated by use this symbol may be (or typically are) widespread at other times of the year, i.e. Sharp-shinned Hawk, Western Wood-Pewee, Hermit Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Western Tanager, Spotted Towhee, and Green-tailed Towhee

CITATION

Bryan, Kelly B. 2002. Birds of the Trans-Pecos: A Field Checklist. Natural Resources Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife. PWD BK P4000-809 (3/02)

CHECKLIST

Species	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<u>Red-throated Loon</u>		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....					.....	.....	.....
<u>Pacific Loon</u>		.....	.....	.....	.....						.....	.....	.....
<u>Common Loon</u>		████████	████████	████████	████████	████████				████████	████████	████████	████████
<u>Yellow-billed Loon</u>		•										•••	•
<u>Least Grebe</u>	SE	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<u>Pied-billed Grebe</u>	N*	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████
<u>Horned Grebe</u>		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<u>Red-necked Grebe</u>			••									••••	•
<u>Eared Grebe</u>	N*	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	.....	.....	.....	.....	████████	████████	████████
<u>Western Grebe</u>	N*	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████
<u>Clark's Grebe</u>	N*	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████
<u>American White Pelican</u>		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<u>Brown Pelican</u>		.....	••	•	•	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<u>Double-crested Cormorant</u>	N*	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████
<u>Neotropic Cormorant</u>	N*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<u>Anhinga</u>	SE	•		••••	•			•		••		•	
<u>American Bittern</u>		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<u>Least Bittern</u>	N*(RG)	••		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	••••	••
<u>Great Blue Heron</u>	N*	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████
<u>Great Egret</u>	N*	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████
<u>Snowy Egret</u>	N*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<u>Little Blue Heron</u>	SE	•	•		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<u>Tricolored Heron</u>	SE	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<u>Reddish Egret</u>		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<u>Cattle Egret</u>	N*	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████
<u>Green Heron</u>	N*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<u>Black-crowned Night-Heron</u>	N*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<u>Yellow-crowned Night-Heron</u>	SE	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<u>White Ibis</u>			•	•••	•••					•			
<u>Glossy Ibis</u>				••••	••••								
<u>White-faced Ibis</u>	N*	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████
<u>Roseate Spoonbill</u>		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<u>Wood Stork</u>	SE	.....	.....	.....	.....	••	•	•	
<u>Black Vulture</u>	N, RG, SE	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████
<u>Turkey Vulture</u>	N	•	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	•
<u>Black-bellied Whistling-Duck</u>	N*, SE	••	•	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Species	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck	SE	•	•	•••	•••	•••			•	•			•
___ Greater White-fronted Goose		.....	.....	.....	.....	•	•			.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Snow Goose		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Ross's Goose		.....	.....	.....	.....	•				.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Canada Goose		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Tundra Swan		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Wood Duck	N*(SE, W)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Gadwall		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Eurasian Wigeon		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ American Wigeon		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Mallard	N*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ "Mexican Duck" Mallard	N	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Mottled Duck	SE	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Blue-winged Teal	N*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Cinnamon Teal	N*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Northern Shoveler	N*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Northern Pintail	N*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Garganey					••	••							
___ Green-winged Teal	N*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Canvasback	N*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Redhead	N*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Ring-necked Duck		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Greater Scaup		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Lesser Scaup		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Surf Scoter		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ White-winged Scoter												•	•
___ Black Scoter												•	•
___ Long-tailed Duck		•	•		•••	••						•••	•••
___ Bufflehead		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Common Goldeneye		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Barrow's Goldeneye													•
___ Hooded Merganser		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Red-breasted Merganser		.....	.....	.....	.....	•	•					.....	.....
___ Common Merganser	I	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	•••	•••	•••	•••	.....	.....	.....
___ Masked Duck	RG			•				••	••				
___ Ruddy Duck	N*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Osprey		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Swallow-tailed Kite									•••	•••	•		

Species	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
___ White-tailed Kite	SE, N*(W)	.....										
___ Mississippi Kite	N*(W)				....	-----	-----		-----			
___ Bald Eagle		.....									.....
___ Northern Harrier	N*	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	N*(G, D, C)	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
___ Cooper's Hawk	N	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
___ Northern Goshawk		••	••		•					••	••	•••	••
___ Gray Hawk	N*, RG			.....	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			
___ Common Black-Hawk	N*(D, RG, SE)			-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----		
___ Harris's Hawk	N, SE, RG	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
___ Red-shouldered Hawk	N*, SE	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
___ Broad-winged Hawk	SE			•	.....	•		•	.....		
___ Swainson's Hawk	N			-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----		
___ White-tailed Hawk			•	•	•	•	•						
___ Zone-tailed Hawk	N				-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----		•
___ Red-tailed Hawk	N	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
___ Ferruginous Hawk	PG	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
___ Rough-legged Hawk	I	.....									.....
___ Golden Eagle	N*	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
___ Crested Caracara	SE	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
___ American Kestrel	N	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
___ Merlin		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	•			-----	-----	-----	-----
___ Aplomado Falcon	PG						•					•	•
___ Peregrine Falcon	N*(RG, C, G)	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
___ Prairie Falcon	N*	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
___ Ring-necked Pheasant		.....										
___ Lesser Prairie Chicken	E	•										•	
___ Wild Turkey	N	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
___ Scaled Quail	N	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
___ Gambel's Quail	N, RG, W	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
___ Northern Bobwhite	N*, SE	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
___ Montezuma Quail	N*	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
___ Yellow Rail			•										
___ King Rail			•	.....	•	•	•	•		•			•
___ Virginia Rail	N*	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
___ Sora	N*	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
___ Purple Gallinule				••	•	•	•	•					
___ Common Moorhen	N*	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Species	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
American Coot	N*	[Solid black bar]											
Sandhill Crane		[Solid black bar from Jan to Apr]											
Whooping Crane		[Dotted line from Sep to Oct, solid dot in Nov]											
Black-bellied Plover		[Dotted line from Apr to Jun, solid line from Aug to Sep]											
American Golden-Plover		[Dotted line from May to Jun, solid dots in Aug, dotted line to Nov]											
Snowy Plover	N*	[Dotted line from Jan to Apr, solid bar from May to Sep, dotted line to Dec]											
Semipalmated Plover		[Solid bar from Apr to May, dotted line from Jun to Sep, solid dots in Nov and Dec]											
Piping Plover		[Solid dot in May, solid dots in Aug and Sep, solid dot in Nov]											
Killdeer	N	[Solid black bar]											
Mountain Plover	N*(PG)	[Dotted line from Mar to Jun, solid bar from Jul to Oct, dotted line to Dec]											
Black-necked Stilt	N*	[Solid black bar from Jan to Dec]											
American Avocet	N*(W)	[Dotted line from Feb to Apr, solid bar from May to Sep, dotted line to Dec]											
Northern Jacana		[Solid dot in Oct]											
Greater Yellowlegs		[Solid black bar from Jan to Apr, dotted line from May to Jun, solid bar from Jul to Dec]											
Lesser Yellowlegs		[Dotted line from Jan to Apr, solid bar from May to Jun, solid bar from Jul to Oct, dotted line to Dec]											
Solitary Sandpiper		[Dotted line from Mar to Apr, solid bar from May to Jun, dotted line from Jul to Sep, solid bar from Oct to Dec]											
Willet		[Solid dots in Mar and Apr, solid bar from May to Jun, dotted line from Jul to Oct]											
Spotted Sandpiper	N?(G)	[Solid black bar from Jan to Dec]											
Upland Sandpiper		[Dotted line from Apr to Jun, solid bar from Jul to Sep, dotted line to Dec]											
Eskimo Curlew		[Solid dot in May]											
Whimbrel		[Dotted line from Apr to Jun]											
Long-billed Curlew	N*	[Solid black bar from Jan to Dec]											
Hudsonian Godwit		[Solid dots in Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug]											
Marbled Godwit		[Dotted line from Apr to Jun, solid bar from Jul to Oct, solid dot in Nov, solid dot in Dec]											
Ruddy Turnstone		[Dotted line from Apr to Jun, dotted line from Jul to Oct]											
Red Knot		[Solid dot in May, solid dots in Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct]											
Sanderling		[Solid dots in May, Jun, Jul, solid bar from Aug to Sep, dotted line to Dec]											
Semipalmated Sandpiper		[Dotted line from Apr to Jun, dotted line from Jul to Sep, solid bar from Oct to Dec]											
Western Sandpiper		[Solid black bar from Jan to Dec]											
Red-necked Stint		[Solid dots in Jul and Aug]											
Least Sandpiper		[Solid black bar from Jan to Dec]											
White-rumped Sandpiper		[Solid bar from Apr to May, dotted line from Jun to Oct]											
Baird's Sandpiper		[Solid dots in Feb and Mar, solid bar from Apr to Jun, dotted line from Jul to Oct, solid bar from Nov to Dec]											
Pectoral Sandpiper		[Solid bar from Apr to May, dotted line from Jun to Sep, solid bar from Oct to Dec]											
Dunlin		[Dotted line from Jan to Apr, solid dot in May, dotted line from Jun to Dec]											
Stilt Sandpiper		[Solid bar from Apr to May, solid dots in Jun and Jul, solid bar from Aug to Oct, dotted line to Dec]											
Ruff		[Solid dots in Sep and Oct]											
Short-billed Dowitcher		[Solid dot in Jul, dotted line from Aug to Dec]											

Species	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
___ Long-billed Dowitcher					■	■	.....		■	■	■		
___ Common Snipe					■	■	.....			■	■	■	■
___ American Woodcock	SE	●	●		●						●	●	●	
___ Wilson's Phalarope				.....	■	■	.....	■	■	■	.....		●
___ Red-necked Phalarope					.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	●
___ Red Phalarope		●								.....	.....	●
___ Parasitic Jaeger												●	●	
___ Long-tailed Jaeger							●			●				
___ Laughing Gull	N*(SE)	—————												
___ Franklin's Gull		●	●	.....	■	■	.....	.....	■	■	.....	.....	.....
___ Little Gull												●		
___ Bonaparte's Gull		■	■	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	■	■	■
___ Heermann's Gull													●	
___ Mew Gull		●	●	●	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	●
___ Ring-billed Gull		■	■	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	■	■	■
___ California Gull		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Herring Gull		■	■	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Thayer's Gull		●	●									●	●	
___ Lesser Black-backed Gull		●										●	●	
___ Western Gull						●								
___ Glaucous Gull		●	●	●										
___ Black-legged Kittiwake		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Sabine's Gull					●	●		●		.....	.....	.....	●
___ Caspian Tern						●	●	●	●		●	●		
___ Elegant Tern													●	
___ Common Tern						.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Arctic Tern							●							
___ Forster's Tern	N*, SE	■												
___ Least Tern	N*												
___ Sooty Tern									●					
___ Black Tern					.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	●
___ Black Skimmer									●					
___ Rock Dove	N	■												
___ Band-tailed Pigeon	N*(G, D, C)												
___ Eurasian Collared-Dove	N*	—————												
___ White-winged Dove	N	■												
___ Mourning Dove	N	■												
___ Inca Dove	N	■												

Species	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Common Ground-Dove	N*, SE, RG	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]											
Ruddy Ground-Dove			•	•••	•••	•							•
White-tipped Dove	SE, RG				•		••••	•	•	••			
Monk Parakeet	N*(W)	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]											
Black-billed Cuckoo					.....					.....
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	N				—	—	—	—	—	—			
Greater Roadrunner	N	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]											
Groove-billed Ani	SE, RG				.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Barn Owl	N	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]											
Flammulated Owl	N*(G, D, C)				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastern Screech-Owl	N*,SE	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]											
Western Screech-Owl	N	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]											
Great Horned Owl	N	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]											
Northern Pygmy-Owl					•••	••			••	•			
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	RG			•	••								
Elf Owl	N	•	•	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	•	
Burrowing Owl	N	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Spotted Owl	N*(G, D)	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]											
Barred Owl	N*, SE	[Shaded bar from Jan to Dec]											
Long-eared Owl	N*, I	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Short-eared Owl		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Northern Saw-whet Owl	N*(G)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lesser Nighthawk	N				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	•	
Common Nighthawk	N				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Poorwill	N	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Chuck-will's-widow	N*, SE				.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Whip-poor-will	N*(G, D, C)				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Black Swift									•				
Chimney Swift	N*, SE			.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
White-throated Swift	N	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broad-billed Hummingbird	N*(RG)	•	•	•	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	•••
White-eared Hummingbird						••••	••••	••••	••••	••••	••		
Berylline Hummingbird						••	••	••	••••	••			
Violet-crowned Hummingbird			•	•								••••	••
Blue-throated Hummingbird	N*(C)				.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Magnificent Hummingbird	N*(G, D, C)			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lucifer Hummingbird	N*(C)		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	I				.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Species	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black-chinned Hummingbird	N			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Anna's Hummingbird	N*	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Costa's Hummingbird			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Calliope Hummingbird	I	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	N*(G, D, C)	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Rufous Hummingbird		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Allen's Hummingbird								●	●	●	●	●	●
Elegant Trogon		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Ringed Kingfisher	N?(SE)	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Belted Kingfisher	N*	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Green Kingfisher	N*, SE	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Lewis's Woodpecker	I	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Red-headed Woodpecker						●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Acorn Woodpecker	N	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	N*, SE, RG	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Williamson's Sapsucker	I, D	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Red-naped Sapsucker		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Red-breasted Sapsucker												●	●
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	N	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Downy Woodpecker	N?, SE	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Hairy Woodpecker	N*, G	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Northern Flicker	N	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet								●	●	●	●	●	●
Tufted Flycatcher		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Olive-sided Flycatcher	N*(G)			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Greater Pewee		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Western Wood-Pewee	N*(D, G)			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Eastern Wood-Pewee	N*, SE			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher										●	●	●	●
Acadian Flycatcher	N?, SE												
Willow Flycatcher	N?												
Least Flycatcher													
Hammond's Flycatcher		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Gray Flycatcher	N*(D)	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Dusky Flycatcher	N*(D)	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Cordilleran Flycatcher	N*(G, D, C)	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Buff-breasted Flycatcher	N*(D)			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Species	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Phoebe	N												
Eastern Phoebe	N*(SE)												
Say's Phoebe	N												
Vermilion Flycatcher	N												
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	N*		•	•	.....						•		•
Ash-throated Flycatcher	N	.....										
Great Crested Flycatcher					•	•	•			.....	•	
Brown-crested Flycatcher	N*, SE, RG												
Great Kiskadee	N*, SE												
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher					•	•			•	•			
Piratic Flycatcher					•								
Tropical Kingbird	N*, RG												
Couch's Kingbird	N*, SE, RG												
Cassin's Kingbird	N												•
Thick-billed Kingbird	N*, RG				•	.....							•
Western Kingbird	N												
Eastern Kingbird								•	•	.....		
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	N												•
Rose-throated Becard								•	•				
Northern Shrike		•										•	•
Loggerhead Shrike	N												
White-eyed Vireo	N*, SE, RG												
Bell's Vireo	N												
Black-capped Vireo	N*, SE, C												
Gray Vireo	N												
Yellow-throated Vireo	N*(SE)												
Plumbeous Vireo	N*(G, D)												
Cassin's Vireo													
Blue-headed Vireo													
Hutton's Vireo	N*, G, D, C												
Warbling Vireo	N*(G, D)												
Philadelphia Vireo													
Red-eyed Vireo	N*(SE)												
Yellow-green Vireo													
Steller's Jay	N*, I, G, D												
Blue Jay	I												
Green Jay	I, SE												
Western Scrub-Jay	N, I												

Species	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
___ Mexican Jay	N*, C	[Shaded bar]											
___ Pinyon Jay	I	[Shaded bar]											
___ Clark's Nutcracker	I	[Dotted line]											
___ Black-billed Magpie			•	•									
___ American Crow	W, I	[Shaded bar]											
___ Chihuahuan Raven	N	[Shaded bar]											
___ Common Raven	N	[Shaded bar]											
___ Horned Lark	N	[Shaded bar]											
___ Purple Martin	N*, SE												
___ Tree Swallow													
___ Violet-green Swallow	N*(G, D, C)												
___ N. Rough-winged Swallow	N*(SE, RG)												
___ Bank Swallow	N*(SE)												
___ Cliff Swallow	N												
___ Cave Swallow	N												
___ Barn Swallow	N												
___ Carolina Chickadee	SE												
___ Black-capped Chickadee													
___ Mountain Chickadee	I, N*, G, D	[Shaded bar]											
___ Juniper Titmouse	I, N*, G	[Shaded bar]											
___ Black-crested Titmouse	N	[Shaded bar]											
___ Verdin	N	[Shaded bar]											
___ Bushtit	N	[Shaded bar]											
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	I, N*(G)	[Shaded bar]											
___ White-breasted Nuthatch	N*, G, D, C	[Shaded bar]											
___ Pygmy Nuthatch	N*, G, D	[Shaded bar]											
___ Brown Creeper	N*(G)	[Shaded bar]											
___ Cactus Wren	N	[Shaded bar]											
___ Rock Wren	N	[Shaded bar]											
___ Canyon Wren	N	[Shaded bar]											
___ Carolina Wren	N*, SE, RG	[Shaded bar]											
___ Bewick's Wren	N	[Shaded bar]											
___ House Wren	N*(G, D)	[Shaded bar]											
___ Winter Wren													
___ Sedge Wren													
___ Marsh Wren	N*	[Shaded bar]											
___ American Dipper													
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet													

Species	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Northern Parula	N*(SE)												
Tropical Parula	N*, SE												
Crescent-chested Warbler													
Yellow Warbler	N?												
Chestnut-sided Warbler													
Magnolia Warbler													
Cape May Warbler													
Black-throated Blue Warbler													
Yellow-rumped Warbler	N*(G, D)												
Black-throated Gray Warbler	N*(G)												
Townsend's Warbler													
Hermit Warbler													
Black-throated Green Warbler													
Golden-cheeked Warbler	SE												
Blackburnian Warbler													
Yellow-throated Warbler	N*, SE												
Grace's Warbler	N*(G, D)												
Pine Warbler													
Prairie Warbler													
Palm Warbler													
Bay-breasted Warbler													
Blackpoll Warbler													
Cerulean Warbler													
Black-and-white Warbler	N?(SE)												
American Redstart													
Prothonotary Warbler													
Worm-eating Warbler													
Swainson's Warbler													
Ovenbird													
Northern Waterthrush													
Louisiana Waterthrush													
Kentucky Warbler													
Mourning Warbler													
MacGillivray's Warbler	N?(D)												
Common Yellowthroat	N*(SE, RG, W)												
Hooded Warbler													
Wilson's Warbler													
Canada Warbler													

Species	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Red-faced Warbler					.....	•	•	.....			
Painted Redstart	I, N*(C, D)			....	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----		•	
Slate-throated Redstart					•••	•	•						
Rufous-capped Warbler	N?(SE)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Yellow-breasted Chat	N				-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Hepatic Tanager	N*(G, D)				-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Summer Tanager	N	•		..	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	•••	
Scarlet Tanager					.....	••			•	•		
Western Tanager	N*(G, D)		•••		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	••	
Flame-colored Tanager					••						•		
Olive Sparrow	N*, SE	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Green-tailed Towhee	I, N*(G, D)	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Eastern Towhee				•••									
Spotted Towhee	N*(G, D, C)	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Canyon Towhee	N	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Cassin's Sparrow	N	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Botteri's Sparrow	N*						•			•			
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	N	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
American Tree Sparrow				••								•	••
Chipping Sparrow	N*(D, G, SE)	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Clay-colored Sparrow		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Brewer's Sparrow		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Field Sparrow	N*(SE)	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Black-chinned Sparrow	N*, G, D, C	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Vesper Sparrow		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Lark Sparrow	N	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Black-throated Sparrow	N	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sage Sparrow		-----	-----	-----	-----	•						-----	-----
Lark Bunting	N?	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Savannah Sparrow		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Baird's Sparrow		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Grasshopper Sparrow	N*(D, SE)	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
LeConte's Sparrow		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	•	-----	-----	-----
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow													•
Fox Sparrow		-----	-----	-----	-----	•					-----	-----	-----
Song Sparrow		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Lincoln's Sparrow		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Swamp Sparrow		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Species	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
White-throated Sparrow					.....						..
Harris's Sparrow				.....								.....
White-crowned Sparrow										...			
Golden-crowned Sparrow				.....								.....
Dark-eyed Junco	N*(G)												
Yellow-eyed Junco		•		•	•	•		•				•	•
McCown's Longspur				.....								.....
Lapland Longspur				•		•						•	•
Smith's Longspur				•	•	•						•	
Chestnut-collared Longspur					.....	•						
Snow Bunting						•							•
Northern Cardinal	N												
Pyrrhuloxia	N												
Rose-breasted Grosbeak					.....		•	•	•	•	.....
Black-headed Grosbeak	N*(G, D, C)												
Blue Grosbeak	N	•	•	•									•
Lazuli Bunting		•	•	•					.....				•
Indigo Bunting	N*, SE	•											
Varied Bunting	N												
Painted Bunting	N	•										•	•
Dickcissel	I, N*(SE)											•	•
Bobolink						•	•	•	•				
Red-winged Blackbird	N												
Eastern Meadowlark	N												
Western Meadowlark	N*(W)												
Yellow-headed Blackbird	N?												
Rusty Blackbird													
Brewer's Blackbird	N*(D)												
Common Grackle	I												
Great-tailed Grackle	N												
Bronzed Cowbird	N												
Brown-headed Cowbird	N												
Black-vented Oriole													
Orchard Oriole	N												
Hooded Oriole	N*, SE, RG	•										•	•
Bullock's Oriole	N	•	•										•
Altamira Oriole	SE												
Audubon's Oriole	N?, SE												

Species	SGN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
___ Baltimore Oriole					.....		•	•	.....		
___ Scott's Oriole	N	••	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	•
___ Pine Grosbeak												•	
___ Purple Finch				•	•						••		••
___ Cassin's Finch	I	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		•		.....	.....	.....	.....
___ House Finch	N	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Red Crossbill	I, N*(G, D)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Common Redpoll													••
___ Pine Siskin	I, N*(G, D)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Lesser Goldfinch	N	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Lawrence's Goldfinch	I	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••						•••••	•••••	•••••
___ American Goldfinch		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
___ Evening Grosbeak	I, N*(G)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		•		.....	.....	.....	.....
___ House Sparrow	N	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

The following Texas Parks and Wildlife facilities are located within the coverage area of this checklist. Included are several prominent National Parks and private preserves. Site specific bird checklists are available for most of these units.

Amistad National Recreation Area
Balmorhea State Park (including Lake Balmorhea)
Big Bend National Park
Big Bend Ranch State Park (including Presidio)
Black Gap Wildlife Management Area
Bushy Canyon Preserve (Nature Conservancy)
Chinati Mountains State Natural Area
Davis Mountains Preserve (Nature Conservancy)
Davis Mountains State Park
Devils River State Natural Area
Diamond Y Preserve (Nature Conservancy)
Dolan Falls Preserve (Nature Conservancy)
Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area
Fort Lancaster State Historic Site
Franklin Mountains State Park
Guadalupe Mountains National Park
Hueco Tanks State Historic Site
Independence Creek Preserve (Nature Conservancy)
Las Palomas Wildlife Management Area (Ocotillo Unit)
Monahans Sandhills State Park
Seminole Canyon State Historic Site
Sierra Diablo Wildlife Management Area

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