TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

BIRDS of the EDWARDS PLATEAU a field checklist

BY MARK W. LOCKWOOD



Counties included in the coverage area of this checklist. Portion of counties that are not part of the Edwards Plateau (shaded area) are not covered.

Birds of the Edwards Plateau: a field checklist

THE EDWARDS PLATEAU

The Edwards Plateau is also known as the Texas Hill Country. It is an extensive plateau covering much of central and west-central Texas. It occupies over 36,000 square miles, roughly 17% of the state. The Hill Country is best known for two rare songbirds, the Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo. However, these are just two of the many species that can be found in the region.

This checklist includes all or part of 26 counties stretching from Travis in the east to Crockett in the west (see map). The Lampasas Cut Plains and the extreme northwestern portion of the Live Oak-Mesquite Savanna, which includes portions of the Concho Valley, are not included in this checklist.

The Edwards Plateau is the southernmost extension of the Great Plains. It is formed by Cretaceous limestone and slopes from northwest to southeast. The Balcones Escarpment forms the southern and eastern boundary of the region. The western boundary is marked by the Pecos River and the Rolling Plains border the plateau to the north.

There are several distinct habitat types found on the plateau. The region bordering the Balcones Escarpment is dominated by Ashe Juniper (*Juniperus ashei*)—oak woodlands, a habitat unique to the Edwards Plateau and a few nearby areas. This habitat is most associated with the Hill Country. Riparian woodlands are found following the many streams and rivers that meander across the plateau. These forests provide habitat to a distinctly different group of birds. Open grasslands and shrublands can be found throughout the region, but these habitats are most characteristic of the northern and western parts of the plateau.

EDWARDS PLATEAU BIRDS

The central location of the plateau is one of the reasons so many species of birds can be found there. The avifauna of the Edwards Plateau includes a mix of species from the surrounding ecological regions of the state. A total of 431 species are included in this checklist. The avifauna of the western plateau is influenced by the arid habitats found farther west. Cactus Wren, Black-throated Sparrow, and Pyrrhuloxia are often associated with desert habitats, but are also found on the plateau. Some of the Southwestern specialties also reach the western plateau, such as Zone-tailed Hawk, Gray Vireo, Varied Bunting, and Scott's Oriole. The riparian corridors of the region provide habitat to many species that more common farther east, such as Barred Owl, Acadian Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, and Northern Parula. Several species primarily found in South Texas can be found along the southern edge of the plateau. Green Kingfisher, Long-billed Thrasher and Olive Sparrow are probably the most common of these birds.

This checklist was compiled by Mark W. Lockwood of Alpine, Texas. Nomenclature and organization are based upon the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds* (7th Edition) as supplemented.

Please help us protect the natural avian communities in state parks by refraining from using playback tapes of bird songs. Frequent 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

- abundant normally present and easy to find in proper habitat, often in large numbers
- common normally present, and should be found, in proper habitat
- == uncommon normally present, but can be missed, in proper habitat in small numbers
- rare not expected, annual although occurring only a few times per year
- ooo very rare occurs at irregular intervals, but not on an annual basis
- **■** lingering individuals
 - accidental average of one or two records every ten years

Geographic occurrence/Status

- R Texas Bird Records Committee review species
- E Eastern half of the Edwards Plateau
- W Western half of the Edwards Plateau
- S Southern portion of the Edwards Plateau, generally referring to the Balcones Canyonlands subregion
- SW Southwestern portion of the Edwards Plateau, Val Verde and Kinney counties in particular
- NW Northwestern portion of the Edwards Plateau, Crockett, Schleicher and Sutton counties in particular
- NE Northeastern portion of the Edwards Plateau

Nesting status

- N regular and widespread breeding species
- N* regular breeding species, but has a more local distribution
- N** very rare as a breeding species, often only one record
- N? status as a breeding species is uncertain

CITATION

Lockwood, M. W. 2008. Birds of the Edwards Plateau: a field checklist. Natural Resources Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

CHECKLIST

	Geographic occurrence/	Nesting	_					_						
Species Plant halling Whintling Duch	Status E, S	status N*	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	E, 5	N.												
Greater White-fronted Goose														
Snow Goose			_	_							_		_	
Ross's Goose			-	•									-	•
Cackling Goose				-							_		_	
Canada Goose				_							_			
Tundra Swan	7.0		000	000	000								00	000
Wood Duck	E, S	N												
Gadwall	_													
Eurasian Wigeon	R		•											
American Wigeon	_													
American Black Duck	R		•											
Mallard										Ξ				
Mottled Duck		N**	000	000	000		-						000	000
Blue-winged Teal		N*												
Cinnamon Teal														
Northern Shoveler														
Northern Pintail											Ξ			
Green-winged Teal														
Canvasback						000						Ξ		
Redhead						00	000	000	000	000	00Ξ			
Ring-necked Duck														
Greater Scaup	Е													
Lesser Scaup														
Surf Scoter											•		•	•
White-winged Scoter			•	•										•
Long-tailed Duck			•	•	•									•
Bufflehead														
Common Goldeneye														_
Hooded Merganser														
Red-breasted Merganser														
Common Merganser			000	000	0								00	000
Ruddy Duck		N*												
Lesser Prairie-Chicken				,			e x	tirj	pat	e d		,		
Wild Turkey		N												
Scaled Quail	W	N												
Northern Bobwhite		N												
Montezuma Quail	SW	N												
Red-throated Loon				•										•
Pacific Loon			-			-			•					
Common Loon					-	000	0				000	0		
Least Grebe			000	000	000		-	•		00	000	000	000	000
Pied-billed Grebe		N*												

Species	Geographic occurrence/ Status	Nesting status	Ian	Feb	Mar	Apr	Mav	Iun	Iul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Horned Grebe						1					- 1			
Red-necked Grebe	R													-
Eared Grebe							▐▔							
Western Grebe	NE											=		
Blue-footed Booby	R		-											_
American White Pelican			000	00 –							_		-0	000
Brown Pelican					•		000			•				•
Neotropic Cormorant											- 00	000	0	•
Double-crested Cormorant							F	-						
Anhinga						000	000			000				
Magnificent Frigatebird												•		
American Bittern											_			
Least Bittern							000				000			
Great Blue Heron		N*												
Great Egret			000	000	00-								000	000
Snowy Egret					_				-				000	000
Little Blue Heron						000	000							
Tricolored Heron						000	000		_			000	000	000
Reddish Egret										•	•			
Cattle Egret														
Green Heron		N*												
Black-crowned Night-Heron														
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Е	N*											000	000
White Ibis	E									•	•			
White-faced Ibis						_			_					
Roseate Spoonbill											000			
Wood Stork								•	000	000	000			
Black Vulture		N												
Turkey Vulture		N												
Osprey					=									
Swallow-tailed Kite	Е									0	000			
White-tailed Kite					_									
Mississippi Kite														
Bald Eagle		N**				000	000	000	000	000	000	000		
Northern Harrier												=		
Sharp-shinned Hawk							▐▔				_			
Cooper's Hawk		N*									=			
Gray Hawk						-		-						
Common Black-Hawk					-	-	-		-				-	•
Harris's Hawk	NW, S	N*												
Red-shouldered Hawk	E, S	N					-	۰	-					
Broad-winged Hawk	E	N*												
Short-tailed Hawk	R			-		-		-						
Swainson's Hawk														
White-tailed Hawk					•									
	L	1			_	_	_		_					\Box

Species	Geographic occurrence/ Status	Nesting status	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Mav	Jun	Tul	Aug	Sen	Oct	Nov	Dec
_Zone-tailed Hawk	SW	N*	-	000		р-		Jun	J.4.2	8	ССР			000
Red-tailed Hawk		N												
Ferruginous Hawk														
Rough-legged Hawk			000	000	0								00	000
Golden Eagle					_								_	
Crested Caracara	NE, S	N												
American Kestrel		N*										_		
Merlin								•				_		
Peregrine Falcon														
Prairie Falcon				_							•			
King Rail		N**							•					
Virginia Rail					_						_			
Sora														
Purple Gallinule								•						
Common Moorhen		N?									_			
American Coot		N*												
Sandhill Crane					=									
Whooping Crane					0	0						00		
Black-bellied Plover						_				-				
American Golden-Plover					00	000	0				00			
Snowy Plover		N*					0	000	000					
Semipalmated Plover							00		_					
Killdeer		N												
Mountain Plover	NW													
Black-necked Stilt		N*					-0	000	000	0-				
American Avocet								_		_				
Northern Jacana	R						_	-						
Greater Yellowlegs					_				_					
Lesser Yellowlegs			000	000	00-				_	_	_ 00		000	000
Solitary Sandpiper Willet					_				_		- 00	0		
Spotted Sandpiper		N?												
Upland Sandpiper		IN:												
Eskimo Curlew	R													
Whimbrel	N.				_									
Long-billed Curlew														
Marbled Godwit														
Ruddy Turnstone							•				000	00		
Sanderling											000			
Semipalmated Sandpiper					_					_		L		
Western Sandpiper									_	=			000	000
Least Sandpiper									=					
White-rumped Sandpiper						_		0						
Baird's Sandpiper					_				_			_		
Pectoral Sandpiper					=				=					

Species	Geographic occurrence/ Status	Nesting status	Jan	Feb	Mar	Anr	May	Inn	Inl	Aug	Sen	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dunlin	- Cuita	Status	Jun	100			00	Jun	342	_	000			Dec
Stilt Sandpiper							١.							
Buff-breasted Sandpiper						00	00			00	00			
Short-billed Dowitcher					0									\vdash
Long-billed Dowitcher							_							
Wilson's Snipe														
American Woodcock		N?			-00	000	0							
Wilson's Phalarope									=			_		-
Red-necked Phalarope														\Box
Laughing Gull	SW	N*												_
Franklin's Gull											_	c	000	000
Bonaparte's Gull														
Ring-billed Gull														
California Gull					-								•	
Herring Gull														
Black-legged Kittiwake	R		•									•		-
Sabine's Gull											•			
Sooty Tern											•			
Least Tern	SW	N*												
Caspian Tern				0	000	000	0				000	000		
Black Tern						_			00-					
Forster's Tern	SW	N*		=										
Pomarine Jaeger											•			
Rock Pigeon		N												
Red-billed Pigeon												•		
Band-tailed Pigeon												-		•
Eurasian Collared-Dove		N												
White-winged Dove		N												
Mourning Dove		N												
Passenger Pigeon							١ (xt	i n c	t				
Inca Dove		N												
Common Ground-Dove	S	N												
White-tipped Dove	SW		•				•	-		-	•	•	•	-
Monk Parakeet	Е	N*												
Black-billed Cuckoo								0				-		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		N												
Greater Roadrunner		N												
Groove-billed Ani	SW	N*												
Barn Owl		N												\blacksquare
Flammulated Owl						-							-	\Box
Western Screech-Owl	W	N												\blacksquare
Eastern Screech-Owl		N												
Great Horned Owl		N												
Elf Owl	SW	N												•
Burrowing Owl						F					-			=
	-										_			

Species	Geographic occurrence/ Status	Nesting status	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barred Owl	E, S	N					Ė			Ĭ	Ė			
Long-eared Owl			000	000	000	0							000	000
Short-eared Owl														
Lesser Nighthawk		N?												
Common Nighthawk		N	000	000	000	-11						c	000	000
Common Poorwill		N												
Chuck-will's-widow	E, S	N								F				
Whip-poor-will	Е				-					-				
Chimney Swift		N												
White-throated Swift	SW					_								
Green Violetear	R						00	000	000	000	00			
Broad-billed Hummingbird			-											-
White-eared Hummingbird	R													
Buff-bellied Hummingbird						•	•							•
Violet-crowned Hummingbird	R											•		
Blue-throated Hummingbird						-	-		-				-	
Lucifer Hummingbird								•	•	•	•	•		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird					-		_							
Black-chinned Hummingbird		N												
Anna's Hummingbird					_						•	•	•	•
Costa's Hummingbird	R			-	-									
Calliope Hummingbird			000	000	000	000			С	000	000	000	000	000
Broad-tailed Hummingbird		N?	000	000	000	000	000		-				-00	000
Rufous Hummingbird			000	000	000	0								000
Allen's Hummingbird				-					-					
Ringed Kingfisher		N**												
Belted Kingfisher		N*												
Green Kingfisher	E, S	N												
Lewis's Woodpecker						-								-
Red-headed Woodpecker												_		
Acorn Woodpecker	С	N*	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000
Golden-fronted Woodpecker		N												
Red-bellied Woodpecker		N*												
Williamson's Sapsucker			•											
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker														
Red-naped Sapsucker						\vdash								
Ladder-backed Woodpecker		N												
Downy Woodpecker	Е	N*												
Hairy Woodpecker			000	000	0	0								oc
Northern Flicker														
Pileated Woodpecker								-	-				•	
Olive-sided Flycatcher														
Greater Pewee	R													
Western Wood-Pewee	W					_								
Eastern Wood-Pewee		N												
		,										1		

Species	Geographic occurrence/ Status	Nesting status	Ian	Feb	Mar	Apr	Mav	Iun	Iul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher								0		_	-			
Acadian Flycatcher		N				_				ļ .				
Willow/Alder Flycatcher						-		-	=					
Least Flycatcher									-					
Black Phoebe	SW	N												
Eastern Phoebe		N												
Say's Phoebe	W													
Vermilion Flycatcher		N	000	000										000
Ash-throated Flycatcher		N	•		=									
Great Crested Flycatcher	E, S	N				=								
Brown-crested Flycatcher	SW	N												
Great Kiskadee	SW	N*												
Couch's Kingbird	SW	N*												
Cassin's Kingbird						000	00							
Western Kingbird		N												
Eastern Kingbird		N?						000	oo≡					
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher		N			=	L							<u> </u>	
Loggerhead Shrike		N*									=			
White-eyed Vireo		N								E				
Bell's Vireo	W	N			=							_		
Black-capped Vireo		N			=						_	•		
Gray Vireo	SW	N			-						_			
Yellow-throated Vireo	E, S	N			=									
Plumbeous Vireo														
Cassin's Vireo						000	00			00	000	0		
Blue-headed Vireo			000	000	00					_	Ξ			
Hutton's Vireo		N**												
Warbling Vireo						_								
Philadelphia Vireo						0	000			0	000			
Red-eyed Vireo		N												
Steller's Jay												•	•	
Blue Jay		N												
Green Jay			000	000	000	00			-			0	000	000
Western Scrub-Jay		N							-					
Pinyon Jay						•					-			
American Crow	Е	N												
Chihuahuan Raven		N									=			
Common Raven	NINE/	N												
Horned Lark	NW	N												
Purple Martin		N	-						-					
Tree Swallow			•				<u> </u>		•		=			
Violet-green Swallow		¥1.0				000	_			°	000	•		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow		N*											\vdash°	000
Bank Swallow		N*					=0	000	000			-		
Cliff Swallow		N							,			<u> </u>		

Species	Geographic occurrence/ Status	Nesting status	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Mav	Iun	Tul	Aug	Sen	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cave Swallow	Julia	N	000	00≡		·-p-		Jun	Jui	8	_	000		_
Barn Swallow		N												
Carolina Chickadee		N					-							
Black-crested Titmouse		N												
Verdin		N												
Bushtit		N												
Red-breasted Nuthatch											_			
White-breasted Nuthatch			000	000								00	000	000
Brown Creeper												=		
Cactus Wren		N												
Rock Wren	W	N												
Canyon Wren		N												
Carolina Wren		N												
Bewick's Wren		N												
House Wren														
Winter Wren														
Sedge Wren											_			
Marsh Wren														
Golden-crowned Kinglet												_		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet											=			
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		N										F		
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	SW	N*												
Eastern Bluebird		N												
Western Bluebird			000	000	0								00	000
Mountain Bluebird												_		
Townsend's Solitaire														
Veery						_					0			
Gray-cheeked Thrush						_						•		
Swainson's Thrush								0			00			
Hermit Thrush														
Wood Thrush					0	0						0	00	
American Robin		N*												
Gray Catbird											T -		000	000
Northern Mockingbird		N												
Sage Thrasher												=		
Brown Thrasher												_		
Long-billed Thrasher	SW	N*												
Curve-billed Thrasher		N												
Crissal Thrasher	NW	N?												
European Starling		N												
American Pipit											_			
Sprague's Pipit														
Cedar Waxwing							=							
Phainopepla	SW						-		-	-			-	
Blue-winged Warbler												1		

	Geographic occurrence/	Nesting												
Species	Status	status	Jan	Feb	Mar			Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Golden-winged Warbler						00	0							
Tennessee Warbler														
Orange-crowned Warbler														
Nashville Warbler					=								_	
Northern Parula		N*												
Tropical Parula	SW	N*			_									
Yellow Warbler										=		H		
Chestnut-sided Warbler			•			_								
Magnolia Warbler						=								
Cape May Warbler												•		
Black-throated Blue Warbler							•					•	•	
Yellow-rumped Warbler							F					=		
Black-throated Gray Warbler						000	00			000	000	o _		•
Golden-cheeked Warbler		N*												
Black-throated Green Warbler			•		=			-					_	
Townsend's Warbler			-	-						00	000	000	0	
Hermit Warbler							•							
Blackburnian Warbler						_					00	000		
Yellow-throated Warbler		N*		0	0—									
Grace's Warbler	-													
Pine Warbler			000	000	000	0						0	000	000
Prairie Warbler		_		-		00	00			00	000			
Palm Warbler						00					000	000		
Bay-breasted Warbler												00		
Blackpoll Warbler														
Cerulean Warbler						0	0							
Black-and-white Warbler		N				Ť	_					000	000	000
American Redstart		-11			_									-
Prothonotary Warbler														
Worm-eating Warbler						000	00				00		_	
Swainson's Warbler						000	•				-			
Ovenbird							_							
Northern Waterthrush											000	000		
Northern waterthrush		N*								L	550	-500		-
Kentucky Warbler		14										-		-
Kentucky warbier Connecticut Warbler						_								
Mourning Warbler	E					_	_							
MacGillivray's Warbler	W													
_ ·	W	N*								<u> </u>				
Common Yellowthroat		N*				001	0							
Hooded Warbler				_	0	000	0			<u> </u>		_		
Wilson's Warbler				•						=				
Canada Warbler						=				-		<u> </u>		
Red-faced Warbler					•						•			
Painted Redstart		170									•			
Rufous-capped Warbler	R	N?	-											-

Species	Geographic occurrence/ Status	Nesting status	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Tun	Iul	Aug	Sen	Oct	Nov	Dec
Yellow-breasted Chat	SW	N	3					3	342		г			
Hepatic Tanager								•						
Summer Tanager		N												
Scarlet Tanager						0	000					-		
Western Tanager						_				_				
Olive Sparrow	SW	N*												
Green-tailed Towhee														
Spotted Towhee												=		
Eastern Towhee	Е					-						_	Ξ	
Canyon Towhee		N												
Cassin's Sparrow		N												
Rufous-crowned Sparrow		N												
American Tree Sparrow			•											•
Chipping Sparrow		N*												
Clay-colored Sparrow			000	00-									-00	000
Brewer's Sparrow											_			
Field Sparrow		N												
Vesper Sparrow							П			П				
Lark Sparrow		N				-								
Black-throated Sparrow		N												
Lark Bunting		N*												
Savannah Sparrow												ī		
Grasshopper Sparrow		N												
Baird's Sparrow	R					•								
Le Conte's Sparrow							0							
Fox Sparrow														
Song Sparrow						-0								
Lincoln's Sparrow							0							
Swamp Sparrow														
White-throated Sparrow												=		
Harris's Sparrow														
White-crowned Sparrow								0						
Golden-crowned Sparrow	R			-	П									
Dark-eyed Junco														
McCown's Longspur	NW												_	
Smith's Longspur													•	
Chestnut-collared Longspur	NW					<u> </u>						_		
Northern Cardinal		N												
Pyrrhuloxia		N												
Rose-breasted Grosbeak														
Black-headed Grosbeak														
Blue Grosbeak		N										L		
Lazuli Bunting														
Indigo Bunting	S, E	N*												
Varied Bunting	SW	N												
	I.	1												

Species	Geographic occurrence/ Status	Nesting status	Ian	Feb	Mar	Ane	May	Ine	Inf	Anc	Sen	Oct	Nov	Dec
Painted Bunting	Status	N	Jan	100	mai	Api	may	Juli	J41	Aug	БСР	ott	1101	БСС
Dickcissel		N				т								
Red-winged Blackbird		N												
Eastern Meadowlark		N												
Western Meadowlark		N		-										
Yellow-headed Blackbird														
Rusty Blackbird											_			
Brewer's Blackbird														
Common Grackle		N												
Great-tailed Grackle		N												
Shiny Cowbird	R						•							
Bronzed Cowbird		N			=									
Brown-headed Cowbird		N												
Orchard Oriole		N												
Hooded Oriole	SW	N*			-						_			
Bullock's Oriole		N												
Audubon's Oriole		N**												
Baltimore Oriole	Е									=		=		
Scott's Oriole	W, S	N	•	•	=									
Purple Finch					_								_	
Cassin's Finch			000	00									000	000
House Finch		N												
Red Crossbill			000	000	000								000	000
Pine Siskin							-							
Lesser Goldfinch		N												
American Goldfinch														
Evening Grosbeak			000	000	000	0							0	000
House Sparrow		N												

There are several Texas Parks and Wildlife Department facilities within the coverage area of this checklist. These parks and wildlife management areas are listed below. Site specific bird checklist are available for most of these state parks.

Blanco State Park
Colorado Bend State Park
Devils River State Natural Area
Enchanted Rock State Natural Area
Garner State Park
Government Canyon State Natural Area
Guadalupe River State Park
Hill Country State Natural Area
Inks Lake State Park

Kerr Wildlife Management Area Kerrville-Schreiner State Park Kickapoo Cavern State Park Longhorn Cavern State Park Lost Maples State Natural Area Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site Pedernales Falls State Park South Llano River State Park

For additional information about the birds of the Edwards Plateau see: Lockwood, M.W. 2001. *Birds of the Texas Hill Country.* University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas.





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