

Audubon important bird areas



# **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Birds of** Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge

## Welcome to Birding at Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge

More than 290 species of birds have been recorded in or near Balcones Canyonlands NWR, a large number for a relatively small area. One reason for this diversity: The Refuge lies in the zone where the east meets the west. Such typical western birds as the blackthroated sparrow reach the eastern edge of their ranges here, while many eastern birds such as the red-bellied woodpecker approach their western limits. For visiting birders, the most interesting species are two endangered songbirds, the black-capped vireo and the golden-cheeked warbler. With planning and a little luck, it's possible—though by no means guaranteed—to find both of them in a single morning (see elsewhere in this brochure for hints on finding these species).

# **Explanation of Symbols:** Seasons

### March 10-April 9 April 10-May 24 May 25-August 9 August 10-Sept. 30 October 1-Nov. 30 Dec. 1–March 9

# Detectability categories:

- Common (you'll always find this species C in appropriate habitat, often with minimal searching)
- Fairly common (should find it most of  $\mathbf{F}$ the time)
- U Uncommon (might find it)
- Rare (probably won't find it) R Irregular (a species present some T
- years, absent others)
- Accidental (not expected to occur again) Χ Believed to occur at this season, but status uncertain
- Нур. Hypothetical; reported, but with limited/no documentation

# **Area Covered**

A circle approximately 16 miles in diameter centered on the Refuge, including all Refuge tracts, the City of Lago Vista, and most of nearby Jonestown, but excluding the area south of Lake Travis. Included in this area are northwestern Travis County, southwestern Williamson county, and part of southeastern Burnet County.

# Notes

These detectability categories apply to the likelihood of finding (by sight or sound) a given species in appropriate habitat-not to the species' actual abundance. For example, wild turkeys are rather easily detectable in spring when males are gobbling, but they're often harder to find the rest of the year. Similarly, bushtits, though more numerous than red-tailed hawks, are encountered far less often. So bushtit rates a "U" while red-tailed hawk gets an "F" or "C."

Irruptive winter species such as pine siskins and breeding species such as Cassin's sparrows are examples which vary so much between years that they are regarded as "Irregular". Species naturally vary in abundance within the limits of our seasonal categories; each is marked with the highest abundance category that an observer might expect at that season. Most species vary widely in abundance among the diverse habitats within the Refuge. Some species occur very locally on the Refuge and may not be encountered in the regular public use



Black-capped vireo. © Greg W. Lasley. Used by permission

areas. Some species typical of nearby urban areas are seldom encountered within the Refuge proper.

Species known or suspected to breed in or near the Refuge area are marked with an asterisk (\*).

Nomenclature and sequence conform to the  $7^{\text{th}}$  edition of the Check-list of North American Birds of the American Ornithologists' Union and its supplements through July 2012.

	ES	LS	SU	EF	LF \	N
Ducks and Geese						
Blk-bel. Whistling-Duck	Х		Х		2	Х
Gr. White-fronted Goose					U	
Snow Goose					UZ	Х
Ross's Goose					Х	
Canada Goose					R	
Wood Duck* Gadwall	R	R	R	R	R I	R
Gadwall	U	R			UI	
American Wigeon	R				UI	$\mathbf{F}$
Mallard	R	R	R		UΙ	U
Blue-winged Teal	U	U		R	R I	Χ
Northern Shoveler	R				? ]	R
Northern Pintall	?			Х	R١	U
Green-winged Teal	U	R		R	UΙ	U
Canvaspack	?				R I	
Redhead	U				R I	R
Ring-necked Duck         Lesser Scaup         White-winged Scoter         Bufflehead	U				UI	
Lesser Scaup	?				Ū	
White-winged Scoter					X	
Bufflehead					RI	R
Hooded Merganser					R	
Ruddy Duck						R
New World Quail					-	
Northern Bobwhite*	U	С	С	U	UΙ	U
Turkeys			č	-		-
Wild Turkey*	F	F	U	U	UΙ	U
Grebes	-	-	C	C	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe*	U	R	R	R	UΙ	IJ
Eared Grebe	X				-	R
Pelicans					-	
American White Pelican	U	U			U	R
Cormorants	C	C			0.	
Neotropic Cormorant			Х			
Double-cr. Cormorant	$\mathbf{F}$	U			F I	F
Darters	•	U				•
Anhinga		Х				
Herons, Egrets, and Allies						
American Bittern	Х				Х	
Great Blue Heron*	F	$\mathbf{F}$	F	$\mathbf{F}$	F	F
Great Egret	R	R	-		R	
Snowy Egret	10	R	10	U	R	
Little Blue Heron		R		R	10	
Tricolored Heron		10	R	10		
Tricolored Heron Cattle Egret	R	U		?		
Green Heron*	т	U			RI	R
		U	U	U	10 1	

o	ES	LS	SU	EF	LF ۱	N
Spoonbills White-faced Ibis		R				
Roseate Spoonbill		10		Х		
New World Vultures						
Black Vulture*		$\mathbf{F}$			C	
Turkey Vulture*	С	С	С	С	С	C
Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and All		D		D	<b>D</b>	<b>.</b>
Osprey	U	R	Х	R	R	ι
White-talled Kite	R	F		U	Х	
White-tailed Kite Mississippi Kite Bald Eagle	X	г		U		Х
Northern Harrier	U	R			U	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	$\mathbf{F}$			C	
Cooper's Hawk*	R	R	R		U	
<ul> <li>Dard Lagle</li> <li>Northern Harrier</li> <li>Sharp-shinned Hawk</li> <li>Cooper's Hawk*</li> <li>Red-shouldered Hawk*</li> <li>Broad-winged Hawk</li> <li>Swainson's Hawk</li> </ul>	U	U	U		U	U
Broad-winged Hawk	U U	U F	R		R C	
Zone-tailed Hawk	X	Х	п	Х	U	
Red-tailed Hawk*	F	F	F		F	С
	-	-	-	-		Х
Ferruginous Hawk		Х			?	
Golden Eagle					Х	
Caracara and Falcons						
Crested Caracara*	U	U	U	U	U C	l
American Kestrel Merlin	? ?	к Х		U	R I	
Peregrine Falcon	X		Х		R	
Peregrine Falcon Prairie Falcon	11	10	11			X
Rails, Gallinules, and Coots					-	
Sora		R	R	R	R	
Purple Gallinule	D	Х	0	D	<b>D</b>	<b>.</b>
American Coot	R	R	?	R	R	ι
Cranes Sandhill Crane	F	R			Γ	T
Whooping Crane	ľ	10			X	C
Plovers						
American Golden Plove		R				
Killdeer*	F	-	$\mathbf{F}$	$\mathbf{F}$	F :	F
Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and				тт	р.	п
Spotted Sandpiper Solitary Sandpiper		U U			R	h
Greater Yellowlegs		R	10		R	R
Greater Yellowlegs Lesser Yellowlegs Upland Sandpiper	R	R		?		
Upland Sandpiper	U	U	R	U	Х	
l ong billod ('juplouz		R			-	
Western Sandpiper Least Sandpiper		R		? ?	R	
		R R		ł		
White-rumped Sandp. Baird's Sandpiper Pectoral Sandpiper		R		?		
Pectoral Sandpiper		Ũ		Ŕ		
Wilson's Snipe	R	?			R	
American Woodcock	R	Х			R	l
Wilson's Phalarope		R				
Gulls and Terns	тт	T.			ด	
Franklin's Gull Ring-billed Gull	U U	F R			? U !	T
Herring Gull	0	т				с Б
Forster's Tern	R	?		?	R	
Pigeons and Doves						
Rock Pigeon*	F				F	
		U			U	
White-winged Dove* Mourning Dove* Inca Dove*	F	C C				
Inca Dove*	C F	F			C ( F	
Common Ground-Dove	_	R	R		R	
Parrots	-	-	-		-	
Monk Parakeet				Х		
Cuckoos and Roadrunners		C	C	~		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo*		C X	C	С		
Black-billed Cuckoo Greater Roadrunner*	$\mathbf{F}$	л F	F	Ħ	U	T
Barn Owls	Τ.	Τ.	Τ.	0	0	
Barn Owl*	?	?	?	Х	? ]	Х
Typical Owls					_	_
<b>T</b> . ~ ~				$\mathbf{F}$	F :	F
Eastern Screech-Owl*	F					τ.
Eastern Screech-Owl* Great Horned Owl*	F U	F U			U	U
Great Horned Owl* Burrowing Owl	U	U	U	U	U T X	
Eastern Screech-Owl* Great Horned Owl* Burrowing Owl Barred Owl* Long-eared Owl Short-eared Owl				U	U	R

	FS	15	รบ	FF	IF	w
Goatsuckers	20	F	U			•••
Common Nighthawk*	U	U	U	U	U	R
Chuck-will's-widow* Whip-poor-will	R	C R	С	U		
Swifts Chimney Swift*	U	F	F	С	R	
Hummingbirds	U	•		Ŭ	10	
Green Violetear Ruby-throated Hum.	R	F	X U	F		
Black-chinned Hum.* Broad-tailed Hum.	R	С	С	С	R X	Х
Rufous Hummingbird Kingfishers	R	R		R	R	R
Belted Kingfisher*			U			
Green Kingfisher Woodpeckers	R	R		R	R	R
Lewis's Woodpecker Red-headed Wdp.	Х	X X			Х	Х
Golden-fronted Wdp.*	R	R			R	
Red-bellied Wdp.* Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Red-naped Sapsucker	R R	R X	R	К	R R	Ū
Red-naped Sapsucker Ladder-backed Wdp.*	F	F	F	F	F	X F
Downy Woodpecker*	R U	R	R	X R	R U	
Tyrant Flycatchers	U	_			U	U
Olive-sided Flycatcher. Eastern Wood-Pewee*		R U		R U		
Yellow-bellied Flycatche Acadian Flycatcher	r	U R	Х	?		
Willow Flycatcher		R	Х	R		
"Traill's" Flycatcher Least Flycatcher	•	R F	R	? U	Х	
Empidonax species Black Phoebe		F	R	F		Х
Eastern Phoebe* Say's Phoebe	C R	F R	F	F X		
Vermilion Flycatcher*	U	U	U	U		Х
Ash-throated Flyc.*	F F	F F	F F	R U		Х
Great Crested Flyc.* Western Kingbird* Eastern Kingbird		F U	F R	U R		
Scissor-tailed Flyc.	F		С		F	
Shrikes Loggerhead Shrike*	R	R	R	U	F	F
Vireos White-eved Vireo*	С	С	С	С	Х	
White-eyed Vireo* Bell's Vireo* Black-capped Vireo*	R F			R F		
Yellow-throated Vireo*	U	U		?		D
Hutton's Vireo	R	R			U	R X
Warbling Vireo Philadelphia Vireo		R R		R	Х	
Red-eyed Vireo*		F	F	U		
Blue Jay*	C			F		
Western Scrub-Jay* American Crow*	С	С	C C			
Common Raven*	F	U	U	U	F	F
Horned Lark						R
Swallows Purple Martin*	F	F	F	U		R
Tree Swallow N. Rough-winged Swallow*	U	R U	U	?		Х
Bank Swallow Cliff Swallow*	R C	R		R C		
Cave Swallow*	U	$\mathbf{C}$	С	$\mathbf{C}$		
Barn Swallow* Chickadees and Titmice	С	С	С	С	U	Х
Carolina Chickadee* Black-crested Titmouse*	C	C C	C C	${}^{\mathrm{C}}_{\mathrm{C}}$	${}^{\mathrm{C}}_{\mathrm{C}}$	
Verdins			Č			
Verdin* Bushtits	Х	Х	?	?	R	
Bushtit*	U	U	U	U	U	U
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Ι				?	Ι
Creepers Brown Creeper					R	R
Wrens Cactus Wren*	R	R	R	R		
Rock Wren Canvon Wren*	F	F	F	F	X U	
Carolina Wren*	С	С	С	$\mathbf{C}$	$\mathbf{C}$	С
Bewick's Wren* House Wren	U	C U	С		$\mathbf{F}$	U
Winter Wren Sedge Wren	R U	R			R R	$\mathbf{R}$
Marsh Wren	X			R	R	
Gnatcatchers Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	F	F	F	F	U	R

	ES	LS	SU	EF LF W
Kinglets Golden-cr. Kinglet Ruby-crowned Kinglet	R-I C			R-IR-I R C C
Thrushes Eastern Bluebird* Western Bluebird	F			UFF
Western Bluebird Mountain Bluebird Townsend's Solitaire	I			X X ?
Veery Swainson's Thrush	1	R U		?
Hermit Thrush American Robin*	U C	Х		$\begin{smallmatrix} U & F \\ R & C & C \end{smallmatrix}$
Varied Thrush Mockingbirds and Thrashers	п	п		X
Gray Catbird Northern Mockingbird*	R C R	R C	С	$\begin{array}{c} R \\ C \\ C \\ R \end{array}$
Sage Thrasher Brown Thrasher Long-billed Thrasher		R X		R R ?
Curve-billed Thrasher <b>Starlings</b> European Starling*	R C	С	C	R C C C
Pipits American Pipit	R		U	R U
Sprague's Pipit <b>Waxwings</b>	U			UR
Cedar Waxwing Longspurs	-	F	Х	C C I
Chestnut-coll. Longspur Wood-Warblers		_		
Ovenbird Louisiana Waterthrush*	R R	R R	R	? R
Northern Waterthrush Golden-winged Warbler	R	R R		?
Golden-winged Warbler Blue-winged Warbler Black-and-white W.*	Г	X F	F	R v
Prothonotary Warbler Swainson's Warbler	г	т Х Х	г	Λ
Tennessee Warbler Orange-crowned W.	F	R F		RFF
	F	Ċ		UF
MacGillivray's Warbler Mourning Warbler		R R		R
Common Yellowthroat Hooded Warbler	R	U X		R F
American Redstart Northern Parula	R	U R	R	U
Magnolia Warbler	п	U		?
Bay-breasted Warbler Blackburnian Warbler		R R		Х
Yellow Warbler Chestnut-sided Warbler		F R		$\overset{\mathrm{C}}{?}$
Blackpoll Warbler Palm Warbler	Х	Х		
Pine warbier		тт		R R
Yellow-rumped Warbler "Myrtle"	F F	U U		F
"Audubon's" Prairie Warbler	R	Х		? R
Black-throated Gray W. Golden-cheeked W.*	F	F	F	Х
Black-throated Green W.	U	Ū	T.	UU
Canada Warbler Wilson's Warbler		R U		? U
Yellow-breasted Chat* Towhees, Sparrows, and Allie	R s	F	F	F
Spotted Towhee Eastern Towhee	C R	U		$\begin{array}{c} C & C \\ R & R \end{array}$
Bufous-crowned Sp.*	C	С	С	FFF
Canyon Towhee* Cassin's Sparrow* Chipping Sparrow*	Ŭ		U [U-	IR X
Chipping Sparrow* Clay-colored Sparrow	С	F U	U	UCC ?UR
Clay-colored Sparrow Brewer's Sparrow Field Sparrow*	С	С	С	$\begin{smallmatrix} & R \\ F & C & C \end{smallmatrix}$
Vesper Sparrow	$\mathbf{C}$	$\mathbf{F}$		R C C
Black-throated Sparrow*	C R	C R	C R	F U U R R R
Sevenneh Sperrou	I C	F	х	$\begin{array}{c} I \\ C \end{array}$
Grasshopper Sparrow* Baird's Sparrow	Ū	U X		RUU
Le Conte's Sparrow Fox Sparrow	U	R		UU
Song Sparrow	X F			U F F C
Lincoln's Sparrow Swamp Sparrow	C R	F		C C R R
White-throated Sparrow	U R	R		F F U F
Harris's Sparrow White-crowned Sparrow	С	F		C C
Dark-eyed Junco "Slate-colored"	R R			U C U C
"Oregon"/"Pink-side	d"			UU

#### Summer Tanager\* R C F F Scarlet Tanager R Western Tanager Х Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings Northern Cardinal\* С $C \ C \ C \ C$ С Pyrrhuloxia Ι Ι ΙI Rose-breasted Grosbeak R Black-headed Grosbeak Χ F FUR Blue Grosbeak\* Lazuli Bunting R F R U C C R F-I I F RUU Indigo Bunting\* Painted Bunting\* Dickcissel\* Blackbirds Red-winged Blackbird\* F U U U F F Eastern Meadowlark\* C U R U C C $\mathbf{C}$ Western Meadowlark $\mathbf{F}$ C CYellow-headed Blackbird Brewer's Blackbird U ? Common Grackle\* Great-tailed Grackle\* Bronzed Cowbird Brown-headed Cowbird\* Orchard Oriole\* R R Bullock's Oriole **Baltimore** Oriole U U RRRR Scott's Oriole\* Х **Finches and Allies** Purple Finch R C I $\begin{smallmatrix} C & C & C \\ I \end{smallmatrix}$ House Finch\* С С Pine Siskin I Ī F F F C U Lesser Goldfinch\* F R R FC American Goldfinch Old World Sparrows House Sparrow\* СССССС Unconfirmed Species Short-tailed Hawk Costa's Hummingbird Calliope Hummingbird Brown-crested Flycatcher Cassin's Vireo Yellow-throated Warbler Henslow's Sparrow "Gray-headed" Junco Escaped/Released Species, Not Established Emu **Ring-necked** Pheasant For Additional Information We welcome comments on this checklist. Please send them to: **Refuge Manager** Balcones Canyonlands NWR 24518 FM 1431 Marble Falls, TX 78654 512/339-9432 E-mail: fw2\_rw\_Balcones@fws.gov www.fws.gov/refuge/balcones canyonlands/ Originally compiled by John Kelly and Chuck

ES LS SU EF LF W

Tanagers

Sexton. Data contributed by John Kelly and Chuck Sexton. Data contributed by Juan Pablo Assmus, Judy Bell, Marjorie Dearmont, Rob Fergus, Roger Frost, Jim Gilchrist, Shelia Hargis, John Ingram, Harold Jobes, John Kelly, Karen Kilfeather, Bill Lybarger, Dub Lyon, Kathy McCormack, Jeff Mundy, Jean Nance, Nancy Ragland, Roy Reinarz, Byron Stone, Paul Sunby, along with Refuge staff, members of the Friends of Balcones Canyonlands NWR, Travis Audubon Society, and other visitors to this Refuge.

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*Le Conte's sparrow.* © Greg W. Lasley. Used by permission