



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Birds

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge

Welcome to Birding at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge

Uniquely situated where the Gulf of Mexico, subtropical Mexico and the desert southwest meet, south Texas is home to many birds found nowhere else in the United States. South Texas is famous for its birds, and with 413 species of birds recorded, Laguna Atascosa is no exception.

Over 88,808 acres of barrier island, salt and freshwater marshes, coastal prairie, savannah and thorn brush attract a larger variety of bird species to Laguna Atascosa than to any other national wildlife refuge in the country.

Where to Look

Bayside Drive is good for wading birds and shorebirds all year long. The Visitor Center area, Kiskadee Trail, and Paisano Trail are places to look for brushland birds anytime. Drive to Osprey Overlook in winter to see an amazing variety of ducks. In spring, neotropical migrants can be found in the trees along Lakeside Drive, Lakeside Trail and around the Visitor Center. During wet periods, Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Groove-billed Anis, and Least Grebes may be seen along the resacas and small ponds in summer. Aplomado Falcons are seen throughout the year. Check at the Visitor Center for current best locations.

Did You Find a Rare Bird?

The Visitor Center has a sightings book for you to record your finds and to check out what others have been seeing. So Good Birding! And be sure to let us know if you find an accidental, hypothetical or unlisted bird. If it's really rare, remember a picture is worth a thousand words.

This list is in accordance with the seventh addition of the *American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds*, (1998) and its supplements through July 2008.

How to use your checklist

Seasons

Sp - Spring - period of spring migration (depending on species) from mid-February to early June



Aplomado falcon

Photograph by Carl Sandfort

- S** - Summer - June to August
- F** - Fall - period of fall migration (depending on species) from mid-July to November
- W** - Winter - December to February

Abundance

- A** - Abundant: a common and numerous species
- C** - Common: certain to be seen in suitable habitat
- U** - Uncommon: present, but not certain to be seen
- O** - Occasional: seen only a few times during a season
- R** - Rare: seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years
- X** - Accidental: has been seen only once or twice
- *** Has nested on the refuge
- ^** Exotic or introduced species
- +** Species of uncertain origin or escaped captivity

Underlined bird names indicate South Texas specialties.

Italicized bird names indicate threatened or endangered species.

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Ducks, Geese, and Swans				
<u>Blk-bel. Whistling-Duck</u> *	C		U	U
<u>Fulvous Whistling-Duck</u> *	U	R		U
<u>Gr White-fr. Goose</u>		U		C
<u>Snow Goose</u>		U		C
<u>Ross's Goose</u>				R
<u>Brant</u>				X
<u>+ Barnacle Goose</u>				X
<u>Canada Goose</u>	U		U	U
<u>Tundra Swan</u>				X
<u>Wood Duck</u>				R
<u>Gadwall</u>	U	R		C
<u>Eurasian Wigeon</u>		U	R	X
<u>American Wigeon</u>	U	R		C
<u>Mallard</u>		R		R
<u>Mottled Duck</u> *	C	C		C
<u>Blue-winged Teal</u> *	U	R		C
<u>Cinnamon Teal</u>	U			R
<u>Northern Shoveler</u>		C	R	C
<u>+ White-cheeked Pintail</u>	X			X
<u>Northern Pintail</u>	U	R		C
<u>Green-winged Teal</u>	U	R		C
<u>Canvasback</u>	U			U
<u>Redhead</u>	U	R		C
<u>Ring-necked Duck</u>	U			U
<u>Greater Scaup</u>				R
<u>Lesser Scaup</u>	U			U
<u>Surf Scoter</u>				X
<u>Long-tailed Duck</u>	X			
<u>Bufflehead</u>	U			R
<u>Common Goldeneye</u>				R
<u>Hooded Merganser</u>				U
<u>Common Merganser</u>				R
<u>Red-breasted Merganser</u>	R	R		R
<u>Masked Duck</u>		R		R
<u>Ruddy Duck</u>	C	R		C

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W	Common Name	Sp	S	F	W	Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Chachalacas					Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies, Continued					Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies, Continued				
__ Plain Chachalaca*	C	C	C	C	__ Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	U	U	U	__ Sanderling	U	R	U	U
Partridges, Pheasants, and Turkeys					__ Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U	U	__ Semipalmated Sandpiper	A	U	A	A
__ ^ Chukar	X	X	X	X	__ Northern Goshawk		X			__ Western Sandpiper	A	U	A	A
__ ^ Ring-necked Pheasant	X	X	X	X	__ Common Black-Hawk		X	X	X	__ Least Sandpiper	C	U	C	C
__ Wild Turkey*	R	R	R	R	__ Harris's Hawk*	C	C	C	C	__ White-rumped Sandpiper	U	R	X	
New World Quail					__ Red-shouldered Hawk	R	R	R	R	__ Baird's Sandpiper	U	U		
__ Scaled Quail			X	X	__ Broad-winged Hawk	U	U			__ Pectoral Sandpiper	U	R	U	X
__ Northern Bobwhite*	A	A	A	A	__ Gray Hawk			X		__ Dunlin	C	U	C	C
Loons					__ Swainson's Hawk	U	U	R		__ Curlew Sandpiper	X		X	
__ Red-throated Loon			X	X	__ White-tailed Hawk*	U	U	U	U	__ Stilt Sandpiper	U	U	U	U
__ Common Loon	X	X	R	R	__ Zone-tailed Hawk	X	X	X		__ Buff-breasted Sandpiper	U	U		
Grebes					__ Red-tailed Hawk	U	U	C		__ Short-billed Dowitcher	U	U		
__ Least Grebe*	U	U	U	U	__ Ferruginous Hawk	R	R	R		__ Long-billed Dowitcher	A	U	A	C
__ Pied-billed Grebe*	C	U	A	A	__ Rough-legged Hawk			X		__ Wilson's Snipe	U	U	U	U
__ Horned Grebe			R	R	__ Golden Eagle			X	X	__ American Woodcock	X			
__ Red-necked Grebe				X	Caracaras and Falcons					__ Wilson's Phalarope	U	R	U	X
__ Eared Grebe	U	R	U	U	__ Crested Caracara*	U	U	U	U	__ Red-necked Phalarope	R	R		
__ Western Grebe	R		R	R	__ American Kestrel	C	C	A		__ Red Phalarope	X	X		
Flamingos					__ Merlin	U	U	U	U	Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers				
__ +American Flamingo	R	R	R	R	__ <i>Aplomado Falcon</i> *	U	U	U	U	__ Bonaparte's Gull	U	U	U	R
Boobies and Gannets					__ Peregrine Falcon	U	R	U	U	__ Laughing Gull*	A	A	A	C
__ Northern Gannet				X	__ Prairie Falcon			R	R	__ Franklin's Gull	U	U		
Pelicans					Rails, Gallinules, and Coots					__ Ring-billed Gull	C	R	C	A
__ American White Pelican	U	U	C	C	__ Black Rail		X			__ Herring Gull	U	R	U	U
__ Brown Pelican	U	U	U	U	__ Clapper Rail	U	U	U	U	__ Lesser Black-backed Gull			X	
Cormorants					__ King Rail*	U	U	U	U	__ Great Black-backed Gull	X		X	
__ Neotropic Cormorant	U	U	U	U	__ Virginia Rail	U	U	U	U	__ Brown Noddy		X		
__ Double-cr. Cormorant	C	U	C	A	__ Sora*	U	R	U	U	__ Sooty Tern		R		
Darters					__ Purple Gallinule*	R	R	R		__ Least Tern*	C	C	C	R
__ Anhinga	U	U	U	U	__ Common Moorhen*	C	C	U	U	__ Gull-billed Tern*	C	C	C	U
Frigatebirds					__ American Coot*	A	U	A	A	__ Caspian Tern*	C	C	C	U
__ Magnificent Frigatebird	R	R	U		__ Carribean Coot+	X				__ Black Tern	U	U	U	X
Hérons, Bitterns, and Allies					Cranes					__ Common Tern	U	U	R	
__ American Bittern	U	R	U	U	__ Sandhill Crane	U	U	C		__ Forster's Tern*	C	C	C	C
__ Least Bittern*	U	U	U	U	__ Whooping Crane			X		__ Royal Tern*	U	U	U	U
__ Great Blue Heron*	A	A	A	A	Plovers					__ Sandwich Tern*	U	U	U	U
__ Great Egret*	C	C	C	C	__ Black-bellied Plover	C	U	C	C	__ Black Skimmer*	C	C	U	U
__ Snowy Egret*	C	C	C	C	__ American Golden-Plover	U		R	R	Jaegers				
__ Little Blue Heron*	U	U	U	U	__ Snowy Plover*	U	U	U	U	__ Parasitic Jaeger	X			
__ Tricolored Heron*	C	C	C	C	__ Wilson's Plover*	C	C	C	U	Pigeons and Doves				
__ Reddish Egret*	C	C	C	C	__ Semipalmated Plover	C	U	U	U	__ ^ Rock Pigeon	U	U	U	U
__ Cattle Egret*	U	U	U	U	__ Piping Plover	U	R	U	U	__ Red-billed Pigeon	X	X	X	X
__ Green Heron*	U	U	U	U	__ Killdeer*	C	C	C	C	__ Band-tailed Pigeon			X	
__ Black-cr. Night-Heron*	U	U	U	U	__ Mountain Plover	R	R	R		__ ^ Eurasian Collared-Dove			X	
__ Yellow-cr. Night-Heron*	U	U	U	U	Oystercatchers					__ White-winged Dove*	U	U	U	R
Ibises and Spoonbills					__ American Oystercatcher	R	R	R	R	__ Mourning Dove*	A	A	A	A
__ White Ibis	C	C	C	C	Stilts and Avocets					__ Inca Dove*	R	R	R	R
__ Glossy Ibis		X			__ Black-necked Stilt*	C	C	C	U	__ Common Ground-Dove*	C	C	C	C
__ White-faced Ibis	C	U	C	C	__ American Avocet*	C	C	C	U	__ Ruddy Ground-Dove	X		X	
__ Roseate Spoonbill	U	U	U	U	Jacanas					__ White-tipped Dove*	C	C	C	C
Storks					__ Northern Jacana	X	X		X	Parakeets, and Parrots				
__ Jabiru			X		Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies					__ Green Parakeet	R	R	R	R
__ Wood Stork	U	U	U	U	__ Spotted Sandpiper	U	R	U	U	__ Red-crowned Parrot	R	R	R	R
Vultures					__ Solitary Sandpiper	U	U	U	U	__ +Yellow-headed Parrot	X			
__ Black Vulture*	C	C	C	C	__ Greater Yellowlegs	C	U	C	C	__ +Budgerigar	X			
__ Turkey Vulture*	A	A	A	A	__ Willet*	A	A	A	A	Cuckoos, Roadrunners, and Allies				
Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies					__ Lesser Yellowlegs	C	U	C	C	__ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	C	C	U	X
__ Osprey	A	U	A	A	__ Upland Sandpiper	U	U			__ Mangrove Cuckoo	X	X	X	
__ Swallow-tailed Kite	R	R			__ Whimbrel	U	R	U	U	__ Black-billed Cuckoo	R		X	
__ White-tailed Kite*	C	C	C	C	__ Long-billed Curlew	C	U	A	C	__ Greater Roadrunner*	C	C	C	U
__ Snail Kite				X	__ Hudsonian Godwit	U				__ Groove-billed Ani*	U	C	C	U
__ Mississippi Kite	R	X			__ Marbled Godwit	U	R	U	U	Barn Owls				
__ Bald Eagle				X	__ Ruddy Turnstone	U	R	U	U	__ Barn Owl*	U	U	U	U
__ Northern Harrier	C	X	C	A	__ Red Knot	U		R	U					



Green Jay
Photograph by Larry Ditto

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Typical Owls				
__ Eastern Screech-Owl*	U	U	U	U
__ Great Horned Owl*	U	U	U	U
__ Elf Owl		X		
__ Burrowing Owl			R	R
__ Short-eared Owl	U		U	U
Goatsuckers				
__ Lesser Nighthawk*	U	U	U	R
__ Common Nighthawk*	C	A	A	
__ Common Pauraque*	C	C	C	U
__ Chuck-will's-widow	U		U	
__ Whip-poor-will	R			
Swifts				
__ Chimney Swift	U		U	U
Hummingbirds				
__ Buff-bel. Hummingbird*	C	U	U	
__ Blue-thr. Hummingbird	X			
__ Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	C		U	X
__ Black-ch. Hummingbird	U		U	
__ Rufous Hummingbird	R		R	R
Kingfishers				
__ Ringed Kingfisher	U	U	U	U
__ Belted Kingfisher*	C	U	C	C
__ Green Kingfisher	U	U	U	U
Woodpeckers				
__ Red-headed Woodpecker	X			
__ Golden-fr. Woodpecker*	A	A	A	A
__ Red-bellied Woodpecker			X	
__ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U		U	U
__ Ladder-bac. Woodpecker*	C	C	C	C
__ Northern Flicker			U	U
Tyrant Flycatchers				
__ No. Beardless-Tyrannulet	R	R	R	R
__ Olive-sided Flycatcher	R		R	
__ Western Wood-Pewee	R		R	
__ Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	X	C	
__ Yellow-bel. Flycatcher	U		U	
__ Acadian Flycatcher	U		U	
__ Alder Flycatcher	U		U	
__ Willow Flycatcher	U		U	
__ Least Flycatcher	U		U	

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Tyrant Flycatchers, Continued				
__ Black Phoebe			X	
__ Eastern Phoebe	C		C	C
__ Say's Phoebe	R		R	R
__ Vermilion Flycatcher*	U	R	U	U
__ Ash-thr. Flycatcher	X		R	
__ Great Cr. Flycatcher	U		U	X
__ Brown-cr. Flycatcher*	C	C	R	
__ Great Kiskadee*	C	C	C	U
__ Tropical Kingbird			X	
__ Couch's Kingbird*	C	U	C	U
__ Cassin's Kingbird			X	
__ Western Kingbird	U		U	
__ Eastern Kingbird	C	R	C	
__ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*	A	U	C	U
__ Rose-throated Becard	X		X	X
Shrikes				
__ Loggerhead Shrike	U		U	C



Great Kiskadee
Photograph by Larry Ditto

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Vireos				
__ White-eyed Vireo*	C	C	C	C
__ Bell's Vireo	R			
__ Yellow-throated Vireo	U		U	
__ Blue-headed Vireo	U		U	
__ Warbling Vireo	U		U	
__ Philadelphia Vireo	U		U	
__ Red-eyed Vireo	U		U	
__ Yellow-green Vireo*	R	R	R	R
Crows and Jays				
__ Blue Jay			R	R
__ Green Jay*	C	C	C	C
__ Tamaulipas Crow (for. range)	R			R
R				
__ Chihuahuan Raven*	U	U	U	U
Larks				
__ Horned Lark*	C	C	C	C
Swallows				
__ Purple Martin	U	R	U	X
__ Tree Swallow	A		U	R
__ No Rough-wing. Swallow	U	R	C	
__ Bank Swallow	U	R	U	
__ Cliff Swallow*	U	U	U	X
__ Cave Swallow*	U	U	U	
__ Barn Swallow*	C	U	C	
Titmice				
__ Black-crested Titmouse*	C	C	C	C
Verdins				
__ Verdin*	U	U	U	U
Nuthatches				
__ Red-breasted Nuthatch			X	
Wrens				
__ Cactus Wren*	U	U	U	U
__ Rock Wren				R
__ Canyon Wren			X	
__ Carolina Wren*	U	U	U	U
__ Bewick's Wren*	C	C	C	U
__ House Wren	R		U	U
__ Winter Wren	X		X	X
__ Sedge Wren	U		U	U
__ Marsh Wren	U		U	U
Kinglets				
__ Golden-crowned Kinglet				U
__ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U		U	U
Gnatcatchers				
__ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U	U	U	U
Thrushes				
__ Northern Wheatear			X	
__ Eastern Bluebird	R		R	R
__ Mountain Bluebird	R			R
__ Orange-bil. Nightingale-Thrush			X	
__ Veery	U		U	
__ Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		U	
__ Swainson's Thrush	U		U	
__ Hermit Thrush	U		U	U
__ Wood Thrush	U		U	
__ Clay-colored Thrush				R
__ American Robin	U		U	U
Mockingbirds and Thrashers				
__ Gray Catbird	C		U	R
__ Northern Mockingbird*	A	A	A	A
__ Sage Thrasher	R		R	R
__ Brown Thrasher				R
__ Long-billed Thrasher*	C	C	C	C
__ Curve-billed Thrasher*	U	U	U	U



Pyrrhuloxia
Photograph by Steve Bentsen

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Starlings				
__ ^ European Starling*	U	U	U	U
Pipits				
__ American Pipit	U		U	U
__ Sprague's Pipit	X		U	U
Waxwings				
__ Cedar Waxwing	U		U	U
Silky-flycatchers				
__ Gray Silky-flycatcher			X	
Wood-Warblers				
__ Blue-winged Warbler	U			
__ Golden-winged Warbler	U			
__ Tennessee Warbler	C		U	
__ Orange-crowned Warbler	C		C	U
__ Nashville Warbler	U		U	U
__ Virginia's Warbler				X
__ Northern Parula	U		U	
__ Tropical Parula		X		X
__ Yellow Warbler	C		U	
__ Chestnut-sided Warbler	U		U	
__ Magnolia Warbler	U		U	
__ Cape May Warbler	X			
__ Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		U	U
__ Black-thr. Gray Warbler	X		X	
__ Golden-cheek. Warbler	X	X	X	
__ Black-thr. Green Warbler	U		U	U
__ Townsend's Warbler			X	X
__ Hermit Warbler		X		
__ Blackburnian Warbler	U		U	
__ Yellow-throated Warbler	U		U	U
__ Pine Warbler				X
__ Prairie Warbler			X	
__ Palm Warbler	R		R	
__ Bay-breasted Warbler	U		U	
__ Blackpoll Warbler	R			
__ Cerulean Warbler	U		R	
__ Black-and-white Warbler	C	R	C	U
__ American Redstart	U		U	
__ Prothonotary Warbler	U		R	
__ Worm-eating Warbler	U		U	
__ Swainson's Warbler	R		R	
__ Ovenbird	U		U	U
__ Northern Waterthrush	U		U	
__ Louisiana Waterthrush	U		U	
__ Kentucky Warbler	U		U	
__ Mourning Warbler	U		U	

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Wood-Warblers, Continued				
__ MacGillivray's Warbler	X			
__ Common Yellowthroat*	C	U	C	C
__ Hooded Warbler	U		U	
__ Wilson's Warbler	U		U	U
__ Canada Warbler	U		U	
__ Red-faced Warbler			X	
__ Painted Redstart	X			
__ Golden-crowned Warbler	X			
__ Yellow-breasted Chat*	U	X	U	X
Tanagers				
__ Summer Tanager*	U	R	U	
__ Scarlet Tanager	U		U	
__ Western Tanager	R			R
Sparrows				
__ White-collared Seedeater	X	X	X	X
__ Olive Sparrow*	A	A	A	A
__ Green-tailed Towhee	U		U	U
__ Spotted Towhee				X
__ Eastern Towhee				R
__ Cassin's Sparrow*	C	C	C	U
__ Botteri's Sparrow*	C	C	U	
__ Rufous-crowned Sparrow				X
__ Chipping Sparrow	U		U	
__ Clay-colored Sparrow	U		U	U
__ Brewer's Sparrow	X			
__ Field Sparrow	U		U	U
__ Vesper Sparrow	U		U	U
__ Lark Sparrow*	U	U	U	U
__ Black-throated Sparrow	X			
__ Lark Bunting	R		R	R
__ Savannah Sparrow	C		C	C
__ Grasshopper Sparrow	U		U	U
__ Baird's Sparrow				X
__ Le Conte's Sparrow	X		U	
__ Nelson's Sharp-tail. Spar.				R
__ Seaside Sparrow*	U	U	U	U
__ Fox Sparrow				X
__ Song Sparrow	R		R	R
__ Lincoln's Sparrow	C		C	C
__ Swamp Sparrow	U		U	U
__ White-throated Sparrow	R		R	R
__ Harris's Sparrow	X		X	X
__ White-crowned Sparrow	U		U	U
__ Golden-crowned Sparrow				X
__ Dark-eyed Junco				R
Cardinals and Grosbeaks				
__ Northern Cardinal*	A	A	A	A
__ Pyrrhuloxia*	U	U	U	U
__ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	U		U	
__ Black-headed Grosbeak	R			R
__ Blue Grosbeak*	U	U	U	
__ Lazuli Bunting	R			
__ Indigo Bunting	C		U	U
__ Varied Bunting*	U	R		
__ Painted Bunting*	U	U	U	
__ Dickcissel*	C	C	C	

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Blackbirds				
__ Bobolink		X		
__ Red-winged Blackbird*	A	C	C	A
__ Eastern Meadowlark*	A	A	A	A
__ Western Meadowlark	U			U
__ Yellow-headed Blackbird	U			U
__ Brewer's Blackbird	U			U
__ Common Grackle				X
__ Great-tailed Grackle*	A	A	A	A
__ Bronzed Cowbird*	C	A	U	U
__ Brown-headed Cowbird*	C	C	C	U
__ Orchard Oriole	C	R	U	
__ Hooded Oriole	R	R	R	R
__ Bullock's Oriole	R			
__ Altamira Oriole	R		R	R
__ Audubon's Oriole*	X	X		
__ Baltimore Oriole	C			U
Finches				
__ House Finch				X
__ Pine Siskin				U
__ Lesser Goldfinch	R			R
__ American Goldfinch	U		U	U
Old World Sparrows				
__ ^ House Sparrow*	C	C	C	C
Hypothetical Birds				
These birds have been recorded in Cameron County but not on the refuge.				
Harlequin Duck				
Black Scoter				
Yellow-billed Loon				
Brown Booby				
Scarlet Ibis				
Hook-billed Kite				
Roadside Hawk				
Limppin				
Double-striped Thick-knee				
Eskimo Curlew				
Ruff				
California Gull				
Glaucous Gull				
Roseate Tern				
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl				
Barred Owl				
Long-eared Owl				
Elegant Trogon				
Brown Creeper				
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher				
Western Bluebird				
White-throated Thrush				
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
Connecticut Warbler				
Hepatic Tanager				
McCown's Longspur				
Chestnut-collared Longspur				
Crimson-collard Grosbeak				
Boat-tailed Grackle				