



# U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Birds of

## *Grulla National Wildlife Refuge*

The Grulla National Wildlife Refuge is centrally located in eastern New Mexico adjacent the Texas State line near the small town of Arch in Roosevelt County, approximately 25 miles southeast of Portales on State Highway 88. The refuge was established in 1969 as a wintering area for lesser sandhill cranes and other migratory birds. Grulla (pronounced *Gru-ya*) is the Spanish word for crane. The refuge consists of 3,236 acres, two-thirds of which comprise the saline lake bed called Salt Lake. The remainder of the refuge is composed of mostly native grama and buffalo grasses.

Wildlife use on the refuge varies depending upon the availability of water in Salt Lake which often remains dry or nearly dry for several years in a row. During wet years, Salt Lake provides resting areas for a variety of migratory birds including thousands of lesser sandhill cranes which nightly roost on the lake bed during October through mid-March.

Although wildlife inventory records for Grulla refuge are incomplete, this preliminary list comprises species either identified on the refuge or nearby. Visitors are encouraged to notify the Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge office of any unlisted species observations. The refuge is located approximately 28 miles southeast of the Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge and the phone number is 806/946-3341.

The entrance road at the northeast part of the refuge provides the only vehicle access and ends at a visitor parking area. Beyond the parking area is a short foot trail which provides a hill top view of Salt Lake. The entire refuge is open to the public for foot traffic for wildlife viewing.

“Birding” is the sport of watching, listening and marveling at the colors, shapes, sounds, and antics of birds. People of all ages are discovering that a little time and patience will be well rewarded by the ability to identify many species of birds. You may even learn to recognize some of the needs and traits we share with our feathered neighbors. A note of caution—birding is habit-forming! Should you become hooked on this delightful pastime there is no known cure!

The bird list in this leaflet is the first attempt to compile the recorded observations of the refuge staff and knowledgeable observers in this area. This list of 87 species are presented in taxonomic order based on the 7th edition (1998) A.O.U. checklist and 58<sup>th</sup> supplements through 2017. Accepted new names are used. So grab your book, binoculars and a pencil, and as you spot birds during your tour of the refuge, check them off on this list. Your bird sightings and numbers information will



*Ash-throated flycatcher.* © Christena Stephens

help us enhance our list, please let us know all sightings at Refuge Headquarters. We'll appreciate your help in updating our records.

Symbols used are defined as follows:

### Seasons

**Sp** Spring—period of spring migration from mid-February to early June

**S** Summer—June to August

**F** Fall—period of fall migration from mid-July to November

**W** Winter—December to February

### Abundance

**C** Common; suitable habitat is available; not be missed during appropriate season.

**U** Uncommon; present, but in moderate numbers; not seen on every visit.

**O** Occasional; present, only a few times per season; also includes those species that do not occur each year, while in some years may be fairly common.

**R** Rare; observed only every 1 to 5 years; records are sporadic and few.

**X** Accidental; Has been seen only once/twice.

\* Nests locally

*Italics = Federal Threatened or Endangered*

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Ducks, Geese, and Swans</b>				
___ Snow Goose	R		R	O
___ Canada Goose	O		O	O
___ Tundra Swan			R	R
___ Cinnamon Teal	R		R	
___ Northern Shoveler	U	R	U	U

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
___ Gadwall	U	R	U	U
___ American Wigeon	C	R	U	U
___ Mallard	C	O	C	C
___ Northern Pintail	C	R	C	C
___ Green-winged Teal	C	R	C	C
___ Redhead	R		R	
___ Ring-necked Duck	R		R	
___ Ruddy Duck	R		R	
<b>New World Quail</b>				
___ Northern Bobwhite*	C	C	C	C
___ Scaled Quail*	C	C	C	C
<b>Pheasants and Turkeys</b>				
___ Ring-necked Pheasant*	U	U	U	U
___ Lesser Prairie-Chicken	R	R	R	R
<b>Grebes</b>				
___ Eared Grebe	U	R	U	R
<b>Pigeons and Doves</b>				
___ Mourning Dove*	C	C	C	C
<b>Cuckoos and Roadrunners</b>				
___ Greater Roadrunner*	O	O	O	O
<b>Goatsuckers</b>				
___ Common Nighthawk	C	C	U	
<b>Rails and Coots</b>				
___ American Coot*	O		O	O
<b>Cranes</b>				
___ Sandhill Crane	C		C	C
___ Whooping Crane				X
<b>Stilts and Avocets</b>				
___ Black-necked Stilt	O	O	O	
___ American Avocet	C	C	C	
<b>Plovers</b>				
___ Black-bellied Plover				R
___ Snowy Plover*	U	U	O	
___ Semipalmated Plover				R
___ Killdeer*	C	C	C	U



Burrowing owl. © Christena Stephens

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Sandpipers and Phalaropes</b>				
___ Upland Sandpiper			U	
___ Long-billed Curlew	U	U	U	
___ Sanderling			O	
___ Baird's Sandpiper	U	U	U	
___ Least Sandpiper	U	U	U	
___ Pectoral Sandpiper			R	
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	O	O	O	
___ Western Sandpiper	U	U	U	
___ Long-billed Dowitcher	U	U	U	
___ Spotted Sandpiper	U		U	
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	U	C	C	R
___ Willet	R		R	
___ Greater Yellowlegs	U	C	C	R
___ Wilson's Phalarope	U	R	U	
___ Red-necked Phalarope			O	
<b>Gulls and Terns</b>				
___ Sabine's Gull			X	
___ Ring-billed Gull	O		O	O
___ California Gull			X	
___ Black Tern	O	O	O	
<b>Bitterns and Herons</b>				
___ Great Blue Heron	U	U	U	U
___ Snowy Egret	R	R	O	R
___ Cattle Egret			X	
<b>American Vultures</b>				
___ Turkey Vulture	R	U	O	
<b>Hawks, Kites, and Eagles</b>				
___ Mississippi Kite			X	
___ Bald Eagle	R		R	R
___ Northern Harrier*	U	O	U	C
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	U
___ Cooper's Hawk	U		U	R
___ Swainson's Hawk*	C	C	C	
___ Red-tailed Hawk	C	U	C	C
___ Rough-legged Hawk	U		U	U
___ Ferruginous Hawk*	C	U	C	C
___ Golden Eagle	U		C	C
<b>Barn Owls</b>				
___ *Barn Owl	U	U	U	U
<b>Typical Owls</b>				
___ Great Horned Owl	O	O	O	O
___ Burrowing Owl	U	U	U	R
___ Short-eared Owl	R		R	R

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Falcons</b>				
___ American Kestrel	C	O	C	C
___ Merlin	R		R	R
___ Prairie Falcon	O	R	O	R
<b>Tyrant Flycatchers</b>				
___ Western Kingbird*	C	C	U	
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	U	U	U	
<b>Shrikes</b>				
___ Loggerhead Shrike*	C	C	C	C
<b>Crows and Jays</b>				
___ American Crow	R		R	R
___ Chihuahuan Raven	R	O	R	R
<b>Larks</b>				
___ Horned Lark*	C	C	C	C

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Swallows</b>				
___ Cliff Swallow	U	O	U	
___ Barn Swallow	O	O	O	
<b>Wrens</b>				
___ Marsh Wren			O	
<b>Thrushes</b>				
___ Mountain Bluebird	R		R	
<b>Old World Sparrows</b>				
___ House Sparrow	C	C	C	C
<b>Pipits</b>				
___ American Pipit	O		O	R
___ Sprague's Pipit			U	
<b>Finches</b>				
___ Pine Siskin	O		O	R
<b>Longspurs</b>				
___ Chestnut-collared Longspur				U
___ McCown's Longspur				U
<b>New World Sparrows</b>				
___ Chipping Sparrow			U	
___ Clay-colored Sparrow			U	
___ Brewer's Sparrow	O			
___ Field Sparrow			O	
___ Vesper Sparrow			C	
___ Lark Sparrow*	C	C	C	O
___ Lark Bunting*	C	C	C	U
___ Savannah Sparrow	C		C	O
___ Grasshopper Sparrow	O	O	X	
___ Baird's Sparrow			R	
___ Lincoln's Sparrow			O	
___ White-crowned Sparrow	C		C	C
___ Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C
<b>Blackbirds</b>				
___ Dickcissel*	R	R		
___ Eastern Meadowlark*	C	C	C	C
___ Western Meadowlark*	C	C	C	C
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird	U	U	U	
___ Brewer's Blackbird	U		U	U
<b>Wood-Warblers</b>				
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler			O	
<b>Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Allies</b>				
___ Blue Grosbeak	U	C	U	

January 2018



Grasshopper sparrow. © Christena Stephens