



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 410 species of birds recorded, Laguna Atascosa is no exception.

Over 88,808 acres of barrier island, salt and freshwater wetlands, 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 and Kiskadee Trail are places to look for brushland birds anytime. Drive to Osprey Overlook in winter to see an amazing variety of waterfowl. In spring, neotropical migrants can be found in the trees along Lakeside Drive 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 in coastal prairies. Check at the Visitor Center for current best locations.

Did You Find a Rare Bird?

The Visitor Center has an eBird Trail Tracker for you to record your finds and to discover 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 the 53rd supplement (July 2012).



Redhead ducks. / © Steve Sinclair



Altamira orioles. / © Steve Sinclair

How to use your checklist

Seasons

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

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

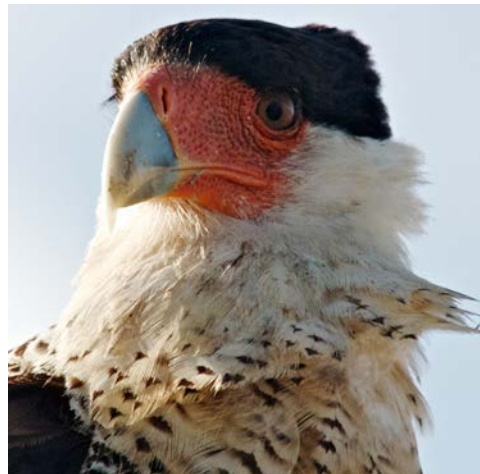
Common Name	Sp	S	F	W	Common Name	Sp	S	F	W	Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Chachalacas					Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies, continued					Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies, continued				
__ Plain Chachalaca*	C	C	C	C	__ Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	U	U	U	__ Buff-breasted Sandpiper	U	U		
New World Quail					__ Cooper's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



Green Jay. / © Steve Sinclair

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Hummingbirds				
Blue-thr. Hummingbird	X			
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	C		U	X
Black-ch. Hummingbird	U		U	
Rufous Hummingbird	R		R	R
Buff-bel. Hummingbird*	C	U	U	
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
Caracaras and Falcons				
Crested Caracara*	U	U	U	U
American Kestrel	C		C	A
Merlin	U		U	U
Aplomado Falcon*	U	U	U	U
Peregrine Falcon	U	R	U	U
Prairie Falcon			R	R
Parakeets, and Parrots				
Green Parakeet	R	R	R	R
Red-crowned Parrot	R	R		R
+ Yellow-headed Parrot			X	
+ Budgerigar			X	
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	
Black Phoebe				X
Eastern Phoebe	C		C	C
Say's Phoebe	R		R	R

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Tyrant Flycatchers, continued				
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 Beard	X			
Shrikes				
Loggerhead Shrike	U		U	C
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	



Crested caracara. / © Robert Burton

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Crows and Jays				
Green Jay*	C	C	C	C
Blue Jay			R	R
Tamaulipas Crow (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
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				
Rock Wren				R
Canyon Wren				X
House Wren	R		U	U
Winter Wren	X		X	X
Sedge Wren	U		U	U
Marsh Wren	U		U	U
Carolina Wren*	U	U	U	U
Bewick's Wren*	C	C	C	U
Cactus Wren*	U	U	U	U
Gnatcatchers				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U	U	U	U
Kinglets				
Golden-crowned Kinglet				U
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U		U	U
Thrushes				
Northern Wheatear				X
Eastern Bluebird	R		R	R
Mountain Bluebird	R			R
Orange-bil. Nightingale-Thrush				X
Veery	U		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
Rufous-backed Robin				X
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
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



Osprey. / © Robert Burton

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Wood-Warblers				
___Ovenbird	U		U	U
___Worm-eating Warbler	U		U	
___Louisiana Waterthrush	U		U	
___Northern Waterthrush	U		U	
___Golden-winged Warbler	U			
___Blue-winged Warbler	U			
___Black-and-white Warbler	C	R	C	U
___Prothonotary Warbler	U		R	
___Swainson's Warbler	R		R	
___Tennessee Warbler	C		U	
___Orange-crowned Warbler	C		C	U
___Nashville Warbler	U		U	U
___Virginia's Warbler				X
___MacGillivray's Warbler	X			
___Mourning Warbler	U		U	
___Kentucky Warbler	U		U	
___Common Yellowthroat*	C	U	C	C
___Hooded Warbler	U		U	
___American Redstart	U		U	
___Cape May Warbler	X			
___Cerulean Warbler	U		R	
___Northern Parula	U		U	
___Tropical Parula		X		X
___Magnolia Warbler	U		U	
___Bay-breasted Warbler	U		U	
___Blackburnian Warbler	U		U	
___Yellow Warbler	C		U	
___Chestnut-sided Warbler	U		U	
___Blackpoll Warbler	R			
___Palm Warbler	R		R	
___Pine Warbler				X
___Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		U	U
___Yellow-throated Warbler	U		U	U
___Prairie Warbler			X	
___Black-thr. Gray Warbler	X		X	
___Townsend's Warbler			X	X
___Hermit Warbler		X		
___Golden-cheek. Warbler	X	X	X	
___Black-thr. Green Warbler	U		U	U
___Golden-crowned Warbler	X			
___Canada Warbler	U		U	
___Wilson's Warbler	U		U	U
___Red-faced Warbler			X	
___Painted Redstart	X			
___Yellow-breasted Chat*	U	X	U	X

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Sparrows				
___White-collared Seedeater	X	X	X	X
___Olive Sparrow*	C	C	C	C
___Green-tailed Towhee	U		U	U
___Spotted Towhee				X
___Eastern Towhee			R	
___Rufous-crowned Sparrow				X
___Botteri's Sparrow*	C	C	U	
___Cassin's Sparrow*	C	C	C	U
___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
___Dark-eyed Junco				R
Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings				
___Summer Tanager*	U	R	U	
___Scarlet Tanager	U		U	
___Western Tanager	R			R
___Northern Cardinal*	A	A	A	A
___Pyrrhuloxia*	U	U	U	U
___Rose-breasted Grosbeak	U		U	
___Black-headed Grosbeak	R			R
___Blue Bunting	X		X	X
___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	
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	R
___Brewer's Blackbird	U		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	

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
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
- Common Merganser
- Yellow-billed Loon
- Brown Booby
- Scarlet Ibis
- Hook-billed Kite
- Roadside Hawk
- Limpkin
- 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
- Chestnut-collared Longspur
- McCown's Longspur
- Connecticut Warbler
- Black-throated Blue Warbler
- Hepatic Tanager
- Crimson-collard Grosbeak
- Boat-tailed Grackle

June 2013



Snowy egret. / © Robert Burton