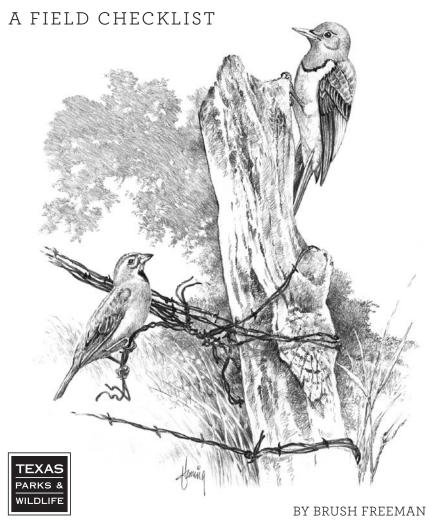
BIRDS OF THE

Oaks and Prairies and Osage Plains of Texas



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS This is the fifth ecoregional bird checklist for Texas in a series initiated by Texas Partners in Flight under the direction of Cliff Shackelford at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The following reviewers commented on an early version of this checklist: Fred Collins, Bert Frenz, Cliff Shackelford, and Ken Steigman. Also of great assistance in the development of this checklist were Keith Arnold, Kelly Cotten, Tim Fennell, Jeff Hanson, Mark Lockwood, Willie Sekula, and Matt White. We thank the Migratory Bird Office, Region 2 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for support.

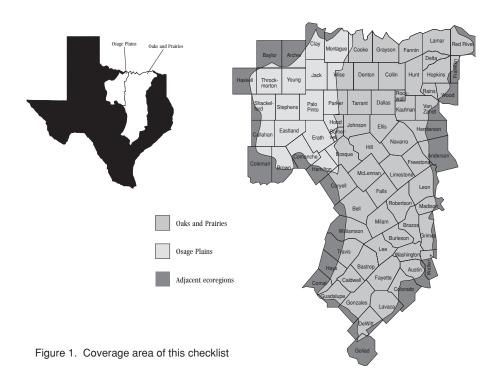
This checklist is dedicated to Rob, who died before this checklist was originally printed in 2003. His artwork has graced many of the department's bird publications for years. He will be missed.

Cover: Illustration of Dickcissel and Red-headed Woodpecker by Rob Fleming.

Birds of the Oaks and Prairies and Osage Plains of Texas: A Field Checklist

INTRODUCTION

he areas covered in this checklist include a rich birdlife from the western edge of the more eastern forested areas gradually changing to a more western grassland influence (Fig. 1). These two ecoregions are commonly known by other names; for example, the Oaks and Prairies refer to both the Post Oak Belt or Post Oak Savannah and the Blackland Prairie (including the Grand Prairie). The Osage Plains is commonly referred to as the (Western) Cross Timbers. Examples of some of the subregions in this coverage area include The Lost Pines, a variety of smaller prairies including the Grand Prairie, Fayette Prairie, and San Antonio Prairie. For a brief yet excellent description of the major plant communities, please see pages 14-16 in *Texas Wildscapes: Gardening for Wildlife* by Noreen Damude and Kelly Conrad Bender published in 1999 by Texas Parks and Wildlife Press (ISBN: 1-885696-30-2). A total of 471 species has been documented within the two combined areas. Since these areas lie almost in the middle of Texas and extend mostly in a north-south fashion, the avifauna is truly diverse. This checklist is the first of its kind for the coverage area and uses ecological boundaries instead of political ones. The checklist follows the nomenclature and taxonomy as published in the 7th edition of the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds* (1998) and its supplements.



There is no shortage of open water in the region due to a large number of manmade reservoirs. There are dozens of such impoundments, most of which occur in the northeast part of the coverage area. These bodies of water have produced some of the most surprising records in the region; products of an altered ecosystem.

A number of species in this checklist are considered very local or confined to either a southern or northern extreme. For example, Brown-crested Flycatchers will only be found in the southern portion of the coverage area, while American Tree Sparrows or Horned Grebes are primarily found in the northern part. It is also important to understand that most birds show preferences for specific habitat types; a good working knowledge of these preferences will provide the observer the ability to master the birds of the area.

A wide variety of published material was used to construct this booklet, including local bird checklists, published materials, records published in ABA's North American Birds (formerly Field Notes), the Texas On-line Clearinghouse www.texasbirding.net/txclrhouse/, many personal communications with other area-experts, and information provided by the Texas Bird Records Committee. Almost 35 years of birding experience in the region by the author was also used to develop this checklist. The abundance codes for some species are subjective evaluations where published data were insufficient.

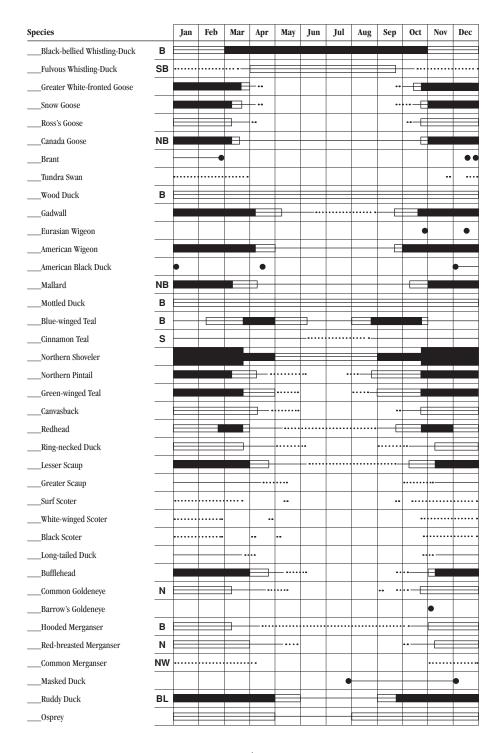
LEGEND

Abundant	
Common	
Uncommon	
Rare	
Very rare to casual	
Accidental or single occurrence	•
Lingering single occurrence	•••

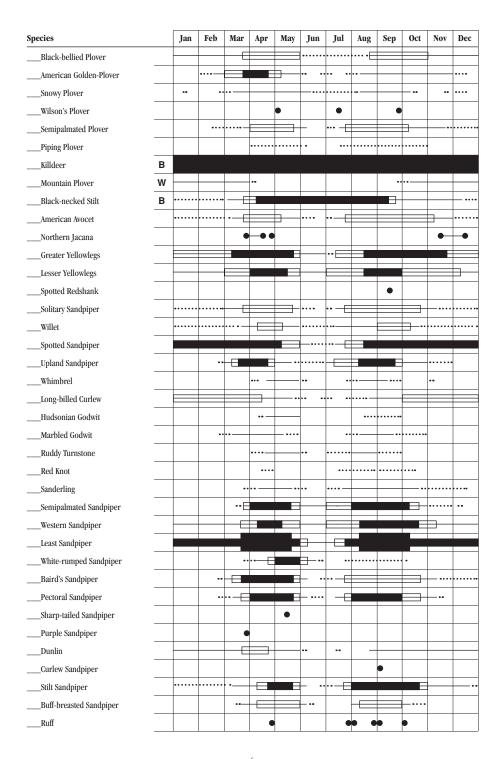
- **B** Breeds or has bred in area covered by this checklist
- **B?** Breeding suspected or questionable
- I Introduced
- **N** Primarily found only in the northern portion of region
- **S** Primarily found only in the southern portion of region
- **W** Primarily found only in the western portion of region
- **NW** Primarily found only in the northwestern portion of region
- **L** Found or breeds very locally
- **H** Historic records apply

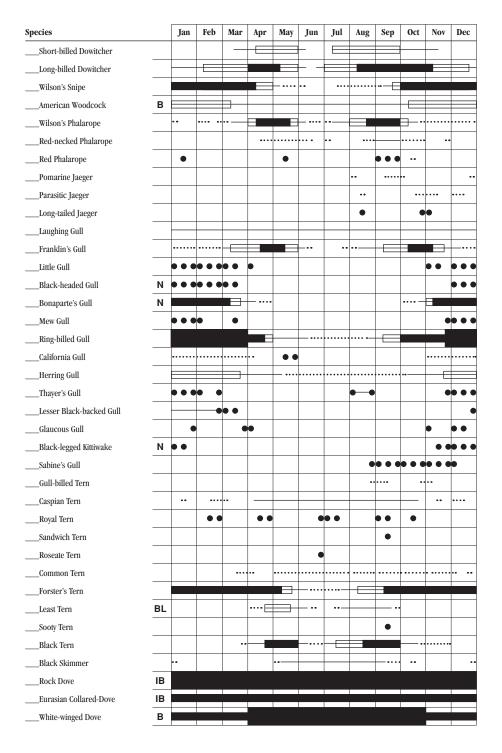
CHECKLIST

Species		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Red-throated Loon	N	•••••										•••••	• • • • • •
Pacific Loon	N	•••••			• • • • • • •		•	•					
Common Loon								• • • • • •					
Least Grebe	SB												
Pied-billed Grebe	В												
Horned Grebe	N												
Red-necked Grebe	N	•••••											
Eared Grebe													
Western Grebe								••					
Blue-footed Booby					•								•
American White Pelican													
Brown Pelican						•••••		••••	••			••	
Neotropic Cormorant	В												
Double-crested Cormorant	В												
Anhinga	В												
Magnificent Frigatebird							•			•	•		
American Bittern		•••••	••••			— ::	•		• • • • • • •	·•E			••••
Least Bittern	BL			•••								•••	
Great Blue Heron	В												
Great Egret	В												
Snowy Egret	В			F									
Little Blue Heron	В												
Tricolored Heron	В	•••••	••										 ••
Reddish Egret	S		••			•••••							••
Cattle Egret	В												
Green Heron	В												
Black-crowned Night-Heron	В												
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	В												
White Ibis	В												
Glossy Ibis	В?				••			•••••				••	
White-faced Ibis	BL							E					
Roseate Spoonbill					••-							···•	
Wood Stork					••••						<u> </u>		••
Black Vulture	В												
Turkey Vulture	В												

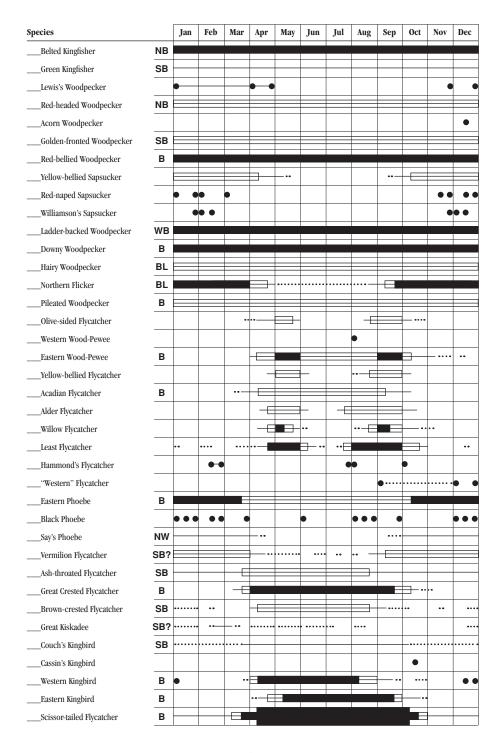


Swallow-tailed KiteBMississippi KiteB			••-				••	E				
White-tailed Kite Bald Eagle BL Northern Harrier Sharp-shinned Hawk B? Cooper's Hawk BL Northern Goshawk Harris's Hawk SE Red-shouldered Hawk B								E				
Bald Eagle BLNorthern Harrier NESharp-shinned Hawk B?Cooper's Hawk BLNorthern GoshawkHarris's Hawk SERed-shouldered Hawk B								•••••				
Northern Harrier								•••••				
Sharp-shinned Hawk B?Cooper's Hawk BLNorthern GoshawkHarris's Hawk SBRed-shouldered Hawk B												
Cooper's Hawk Northern Goshawk Harris's Hawk Red-shouldered Hawk B						1		•••••	 E			
Northern GoshawkHarris's Hawk SBRed-shouldered Hawk B												
Harris's Hawk SE Red-shouldered Hawk B												
Red-shouldered Hawk B		•	•									
_	-											
Duo ad reino ad Hel-												
Broad-winged Hawk BL			⊟							=	••••	
Swainson's Hawk			F									••
White-tailed Hawk SE												
Zone-tailed Hawk W										••		
Red-tailed Hawk B												
Ferruginous Hawk	 								••••			
Rough-legged Hawk N											••-	
Golden Eagle W										••	•••••	• • • • • •
Crested Caracara B												
American Kestrel BL												
Merlin					_			_				
Peregrine Falcon												
Prairie Falcon NV	,											
Ring-necked Pheasant IBI												
Wild Turkey BL												
Scaled Quail NW	3											
Northern Bobwhite B												
Yellow Rail	٠.										=	
Black Rail				••••						••••		
King Rail BL												
Virginia Rail BL								•••••				
Sora	1	•										
Sora Paint-billed Crake	1											
										•••		
Paint-billed Crake												
Paint-billed Crake Purple Gallinule Common Moorhen B B									-•••			
Paint-billed Crake Purple Gallinule Common Moorhen B							•					

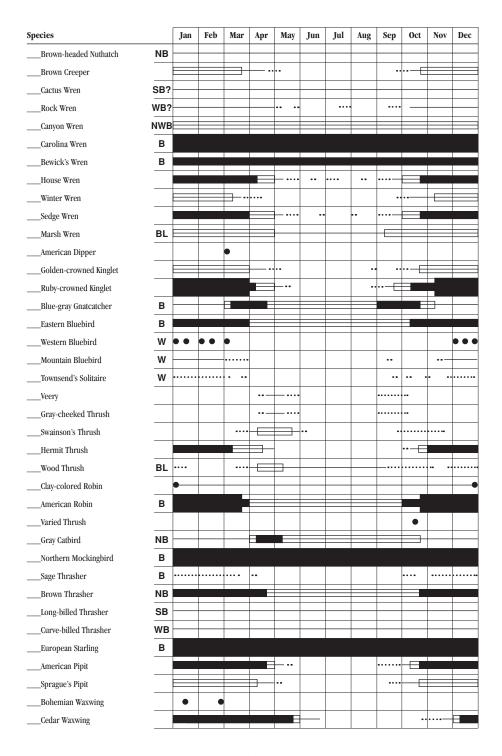


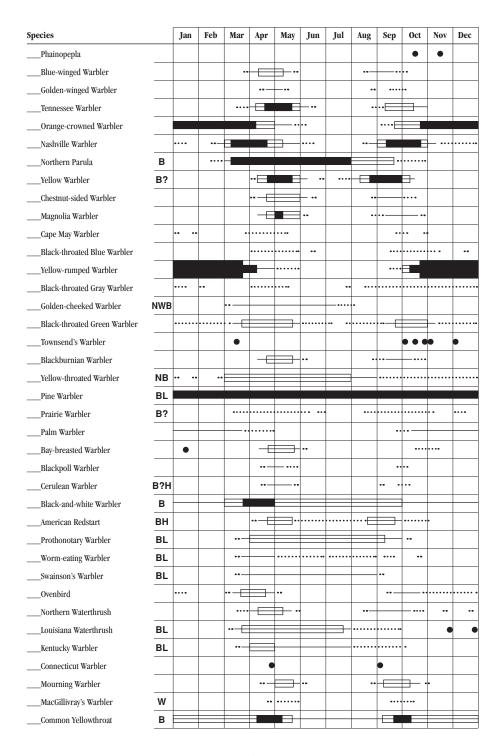


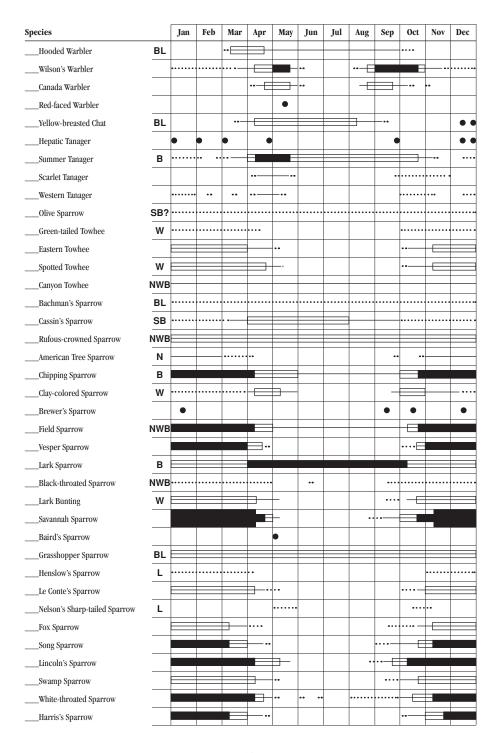
Species		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mourning Dove	В												
Inca Dove	В												
Common Ground-Dove	SB												
White-tipped Dove				•		• •			•				
Monk Parakeet	IBL												
Black-billed Cuckoo					••-	<u> </u>							
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	В			••••									
Greater Roadrunner	В												
Groove-billed Ani	SB				••••								
Barn Owl	В												
Eastern Screech-Owl	В												
Great Horned Owl	В												
Snowy Owl				•									•
Burrowing Owl	вн									••-			
Barred Owl	В												
Long-eared Owl	N	•••••											
Short-eared Owl													
N. Saw-whet Owl				•									•
Lesser Nighthawk	SB?				_								
Common Nighthawk	В	•••••											
Common Pauraque	S				••								
Common Poorwill	WB		····-										
Chuck-will's-widow	В			••••							••		
Whip-poor-will	В?				— ••								
Chimney Swift	В												
White-throated Swift		• •								• •			
Green Violet-ear						•••		• • •					
Broad-billed Hummingbird					•								
Buff-bellied Hummingbird	SB?	•••••											
Blue-throated Hummingbird								•	•				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	В	•••••											
Black-chinned Hummingbird	WB	••	–										
Anna's Hummingbird		••••											
Calliope Hummingbird		••								•••••			
Broad-tailed Hummingbird													
Rufous Hummingbird													
Allen's Hummingbird		•									•		
Ringed Kingfisher	B?	•	•	•		• • •	•					•	• •
											1		

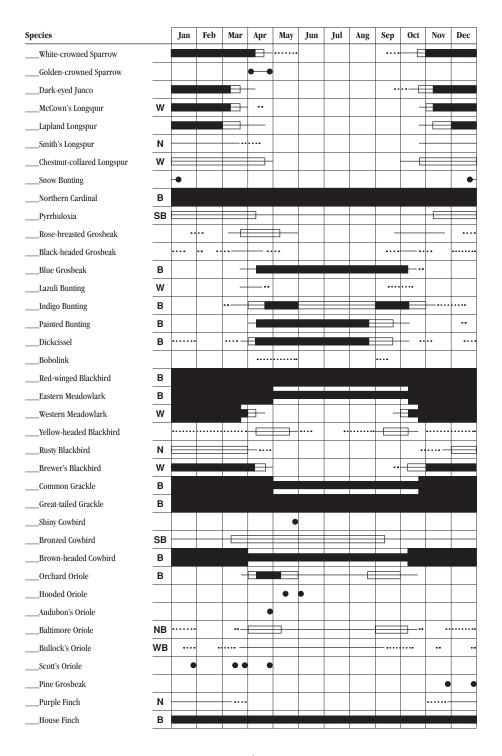


Species		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fork-tailed Flycatcher						• •							
Loggerhead Shrike	В												
Northern Shrike	N	• •	•								•	•	• •
White-eyed Vireo	В												
Bell's Vireo	NB										-••		
Black-capped Vireo	WB				•••••	· · · · · · · · ·		•••••	•••••				
Yellow-throated Vireo	В										•••••		
Plumbeous Vireo					•					•			
Blue-headed Vireo									••				
Hutton's Vireo			•	•									
Warbling Vireo	NB								E		— •		
Philadelphia Vireo					•• —	<u> </u>			••-			••	
Red-eyed Vireo	В			_							••		
Yellow-green Vireo	SB?					•••••		•••••	•••••				
Blue Jay	В												
Green Jay	SB?	•••••						• • • • • • •					• • • • • • •
Western Scrub-Jay	W	<u> </u>	••									••	•••
American Crow	В												
Fish Crow	NB												
Chihuahuan Raven	S	•••••	••								••		
Common Raven	W							••		_			
Horned Lark	BL												
Purple Martin	В	••••									<u> </u>		
Tree Swallow	В	•••••	••••										
Violet-green Swallow	W			••	••						••		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	В	•••••	•••••										•••••
Bank Swallow	В										<u> </u>	••••	
Cliff Swallow	В		••										
Cave Swallow	В												
Barn Swalow	В	•••••	····E										• • • • • •
Carolina Chickadee	В												
Tufted Titmouse	В												
Black-crested Titmouse	WB												
Verdin	WB												
Bushtit	NW	•••••			•••••			••	••	•••••		•••••	
Red-breasted Nuthatch									•••••				
White-breasted Nuthatch	NB												
Pygmy Nuthatch													• •









	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
					••			••		••		
	• •											
					•••••					••	-	
WB												
BL					-			••-				
				••••					••			
IB												
	BL	WB BL	● ● ● ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	WB BL	WB BL	WB BL	WB BL	WB BL	WB BL	WB BL	WB BL	WB BL

LEGEND

Abundant	
Common	
Uncommon	
Rare	
Very rare to casual	•••••
Accidental or single occurrence	•
Lingering single occurrence	•••

- **B** Breeds or has bred in area covered by this checklist
- **B?** Breeding suspected or questionable
- I Introduced
- ${f N}$ Primarily found only in the northern portion of region
- S Primarily found only in the southern portion of region
- $oldsymbol{W}$ Primarily found only in the western portion of region
- **NW** Primarily found only in the northwestern portion of region
- **L** Found or breeds very locally
- **H** Historic records apply

The following two Review Species were reported in the region prior to the creation of the Texas Bird Records Committee or were never submitted to this committee for review. Some of these reports likely represent valid records.

- Trumpeter Swan (undocumented report in 1867)
- Black-billed Magpie (undocumented reports in 1946, 1954, 1973, and 1990)

The following list includes Hypothetical Species that may appear in the region or have previously been reported without supporting documentation. A number of these species have occurred adjacent to the coverage area of this checklist.

Clark's Grebe Clark's Nutcracker
Common Black-Hawk Tropical Parula
Band-tailed Pigeon Hermit Warbler

Vaux's Swift Black-chinned Sparrow

Dusky FlycatcherVaried BuntingGray FlycatcherBoat-tailed GrackleCassin's VireoCassin's Finch

Extinct or extirpated species from the checklist area:

Greater Prairie-Chicken Carolina Parakeet

Lesser Prairie-Chicken Red-cockaded Woodpecker Eskimo Curlew Ivory-billed Woodpecker

Passenger Pigeon

NOTES







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