

Birds of the East Texas Baptist University Campus

with birds observed off-campus during
BIOL3400 Field course



Photo Credit: Talton Cooper



Photo Credit: Kenneth Anding

Species
Descriptions and Photos
by students of BIOL3400

Edited by Troy A. Ladine

Introduction

The accompanying guide to the birds of East Texas Baptist University is a compilation of the species accounts written by the students of my Field Course and pictures taken by some of the students in the course in lieu of the written assignment. As such, it is a continuing work in progress. Students are given the choice of doing an account for a species in which one does not exist in the guide. They can choose to do an account of an existing species with the knowledge that their written account may not be included in the guide unless it adds substantial material to what exists.

The written assignment to be completed consists of a written description of the bird, the geographical region in which the bird can be found, and a description of the habitat of the bird. Additionally, selected components of the life history of the species are to be included. These include the breeding season, number of eggs laid by the female per brood, number of broods per year, time for the young to hatch, fledge, and become independent, the age at maturity for both sexes, mating system, life span of the species in the wild, and the food habits of the species. The time the species spends in Texas is also required of the students.

A special thank you to the students for making the course possible and the work they have done in writing the accounts and taking pictures.

Statistics for May-term birding class.		Maximum		Minimum	
Total Number of Years for Course	15				
Total Number of Species observed at ETBU for May-	143				
Total Number of Species for May-Term Course	161				
Average Number of Species in One Year for the Cou	74	96	2015	61	2012
Average Number of Species per Year at ETBU, ESA	55	77	2015	44	2006
Average Number of Species per Day at ETBU, ESA	28	38	2015	14	2017
Average Number of Species for loop hike	29	34	2011	25	2012 & 2019
Average Number of Species per Year Off Campus	46	60	2016	33	
Average Number of Species per Day Off Campus	29	44	2015	18	2016
Number of Species at Caddo	37	44	2015	28	2012
Day 1 Average -- Campus Walk	22	26	2011	15	2018
Average Number of Days Observed	11				

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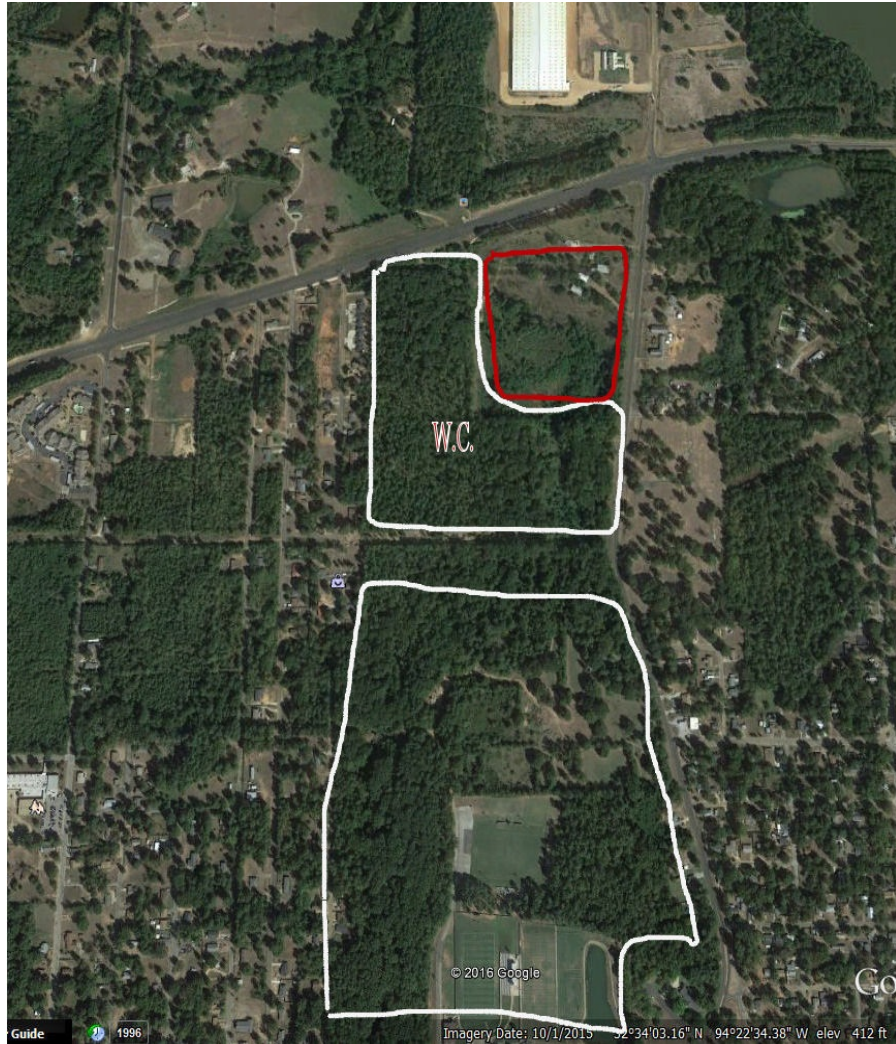


Figure 1. Location on the Environmental Studies Area (ESA). The area is located north of the ETBU campus and is surrounded on the east and west by houses. It is bordered on the north by a five-lane highway. Most of the observations taken during the Field Course occur in the boxed area on the southern portion of the ESA. There is one day each year in which the observations occur from the southern edge of the ESA to the loop at the north end of the ESA. The boxed region on the north labeled W.C. is the location of the winter bird counts from January to early March. The area marked in red was clear cut on 25 January 2015. The ETBU football field in located in the bottom center for scale.

Alphabetical List of Species with Accounts or Pictures With Contributors

Species	Student Contributors					
Acadian Flucatcher	Durham, Aaron					
American Bittern	Hansen, Lynlea					
American Coot	Bartlett, Jordan					
American Crow	Gruznina, Zane	Hastie, Rachel	Roberts, Darius			
American Goldfinch	Armendarez, Matthew	Santanello, Kathleen				
American Robin	Bartlett, Jordan	Brewer, Jordan	Burrell, Cameron	Harrison, Jessica	Phillips, Devin	
Bald Eagle	Collier, Rusty	Fletcher, Leslie	Kelehan, Shane	Nieto, Jovana		
Baltimore Oriole	Fitzsimmons, Pete	Plumlee, George	Wineland, Janae			
Barn Swallow	Brewer, Jordan	Gifford, Katy	Spikes, Kwame			
Barred Owl	Ledkins, Nathan	Purser, Stacy M.	Still, Rebekkah	Vasquez, Hallee		
Bay-Breasted Warbler	McConnell, Reece					
Bell's' Vireo	Lopez, Christy					
Belted Kingfisher	Sammons Travis W.					
Black Phoebe	Chanda, Mpanga					
Black Vulture	Alexander, Jeremy	Brown, Blair	Lewis, Brenta	Schlabs, Keely	Moseley, Brianna	
Black-and-White Warbler	Beeman, Sheridan A	Chandra, Mpanga	Shoulders, Genea			
Black-Billed Cuckoo	Tunnell, Abby					
Blackburnian Warbler	Stone, Jacob					
Black-Crested Titmouse	Mosier, Justin					
Blackpoll Warbler	Word, Hannah					
Black-Throated Blue Warbler	Stone, Jacob					
Blue Grosbeak	Brinker, Courtney	Gray, Anhre	Stevenson, Jennifer			
Blue Jay	Dicks, Austin	Gruznina, Zane	Potter, Holly R.	Ramage, Steven	Vazquez, Lindsey	Wineland, Janae
Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher	Carroll, Kristopher					
Blue-Winged Teal	Cass, Graydon	Fletcher, Leslie	Jones, John	Jones, Travis		
Blue-Winged Warbler	Lott, Grace					
Bobolink	Carroll, Kristopher					
Broad-Winged Hawk	Reyes, Rolando					
Brewer's Blackbird	Carroll, Kristopher	Johnson,Haley	Jones, John	Weaver, Taylor		
Brown-Headed Cowbird	Cooper, Talton	Hastie, Rachel	Hood, Katie R.	Ramage, Steven		
Brown-Headed Nuthatch	Armendarez, Matthew	Brewer, Jordan	Gruznina, Zane			
Canada Goose	Johnson,Haley	Jones, Cindy	Kemery, Josh			
Canada Warbler	Runion, Merideth					
Carolina Chickadee	McCloskey, Brittany	Murray, Grant	Wineland, Janae			
Carolina Wren	Cooper, Talton					
Cattle Egret	Ayers, Ashley	Cooley, Wayne	Walker, James R.	Williams, Darius		
Cedar Waxwing	Weaver, Taylor					
Cerulean Warbler	Godsey, Weston					
Chestnut-Sided Warbler	Purser, Stacy M.					
Chimney Swift	Backus, Michelle B,	Jones, Cindy	Roberts, Darius			
Chipping Sparrow	Baugh, Harrison	Hanson, Nicholas	Jones, Travis			

Alphabetical List of Species with Accounts or Pictures With Contributors (cont.)

Clay-Colored Sparrow	Sharp, Kolby					
Common Grackle	Edwards, Alyssa	Powell, Christopher				
Common Nighthawk	Burrell, Cameron	Word, Hannah				
Cooper's Hawk	Collier, Rusty	Dorough, Wes	Garay, Andrew			
Dickcissel	Nicholason, Kyle	Stevenson, Jennifer				
Double-Crested Comorant	Walker, James					
Double-Crested Comorant	Word, Hannah					
Downy Woodpecker	Harrison, Jessica					
Downy Woodpecker	Higginbotham, Savannah					
Eastern Bluebird	Bartlett, Jordan	Liles, Lacey	Sammons Travis W.			
Eastern Kingbird	Collier, Rusty	Cooper, Talton	Liles, Lacey			
Eastern Meadowlark	Nail, Clay	Savoie, Jeff A.				
Eastern Phoebe	Baugh, Harrison	Davis, Joshua L.				
Eastern Screech-Owl	McConnell, Reece	Tunnell, Abby				
Eastern Towhee	Massey, Grant					
Eastern Whip-Poor-Will	Tarver, Matt	Whitmire, Brian				
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Godsey, Weston					
Eurasian Collared Dove	Bethea, Dylan	Dunbar, Mcentry				
European Starling	Peña, Sulam	Welch, Rileigh				
Gray Catbird	Brinker, Courtney					
Great Egret	Hicks, Emily	Ledbetter, Kimberly				
Great-Blue Heron	Gifford, Katy	Hicks, Emily	Savoie, Jeff A.	Vasquez, Hallee		
Greater Roadrunner	Ledbetter, Kimberly					
Great-Horned Owl	Fortune, Thad	McCloskey, Brittany				
Great-Tailed Grackle	Franklin, Andrew					
Green Heron	Baugh, Harrison	Weaver, Taylor	Williams, Skylar	Still, Rebekkah		
Hairy Woodpecker	Patrick,, Reggie					
Hermit Thrust	Hansen, Lynlea					
House Finch	Patrick,, Reggie	Santanello, Kathleen				
House Sparrow	Anding, Kenneth	Liles, Lacey				
Indigo Bunting	Gray, Anhre	Santanello, Kathleen				
Killdeer	Anding, Kenneth	Davis, Joshua L.	Dunbar, Mcentry	Kelehan, Shane	Nelson, Spencer C.	Williams, Skylar
Lark Sparrow	Parrott, Chelsea	Runion, Merideth				
Least Sandpiper	O'Dell, Celeste					
Little Blue Heron	Baca, Brian	Tunnell, Abby				
Magnolia Warbler	Phillips, Luke					
Mallard	Bartlett, Jordan	Hicks, Nathan	Johnson,Haley	Parker, Benjamin Seth	Plumlee, George	
Mississippi Kite	Davis,Joshua L.	Nail, Clay	Reynolds, Aron			
Mourning Dove	Alexander, Jeremy	Baugh, Harrison	Garay, Andrew	Vasquez, Lindsey	Webb, Shekinah	
Northern Bobwhite	Webb, Shekinah					
Northern Cardinal	Alexander, Jeremy	Anding, Kenneth	Benge, Dylan	Dawkins, Marissa	Peña, Sulam	Phillips, Devin
Northern Flicker	Backus, Michelle B,	Liles, Lacey	Midgely, Shana	Plumlee, George	Roberts, Darius	

Alphabetical List of Species with Accounts or Pictures With Contributors (cont.)

Northern Mockingbird	Ebarb, Lisa	Liles, Lacey	Midgely, Shana	Plumlee, George	Roberts, Darius	Smith, Jake+Al
Northern Parula	Cooper, Talton					
Northern Pintail	Baca, Brian					
Orchard Oriole	Jones, John					
Osprey	Baca, Brian					
Painted Bunting	Phillips, Luke					
Painted Bunting	Still, Rebekkah					
Pileated Woodpecker	Phillips, Luke					
Pine Grosbeak	McConnell, Reece					
Pine Warbler	Shoulders, Genea	Stevenson, Jennifer				
Prothonotary Warbler	Little, Katy					
Purple Martin	Potter, Holly R.	Runion, Merideth	Tarver, Matt			
Red-Bellied Woodpecker	Fortune, Thad	Nicholoson, Kyle	Peña, Sulam	Velasquez, Justin		
Reddish Egret	Franklin, Andrew					
Red-Eyed Vireo	Lopez, Christy					
Red-Headed Woodpecker	Armendarez, Matthew	Backus, Michelle B.	Brewer, Jordan	Ledbetter, Kimberly		
Red-Shouldered Hawk	Massey, Grant	Vasquez, Hallee				
Red-Tailed Hawk	Brown, Blair	Dawkins, Marissa	Hicks, Nathan			
Red-Winged Blackbird	Franklin, Andrew					
Rock Pigeon	Mosier, Justin	Purser, Stacy M.				
Rose-Breasted Grosbeak	Phillips, Luke					
Ruby-Crowned Kinglet	Hansen, Lynlea					
Ruby-Throated Hummingbird	Benge, Dylan	Fortune, Thad	Little, Katy	Potter, Holly R.	Vasquez, Hallee	
Rufous Hummingbird	Sammons Travis W.					
Scarlet Tanager	Edwards, Alyssa					
Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher	Bartlett, Jordan	Dawkins, Marissa	Hastie, Rachel	Liles, Lacey	Webb, Shekinah	
Sharp-Shinned Hawk	Reyes, Rolando					
Snowy Egret	Cass, Graydon	Riley, Steven				
Song Sparrow	Buzzard, Samuel	Fletcher, Leslie	Patrick., Reggie			
Summer Tanager	Brinker, Courtney	Dicks, Austin	Williams, Skylar			
Tree Swallow	O'Dell, Celeste					
Tufted Titmouse	Armendarez, Matthew	Godsey, Weston	Ramage, Steven			
Turkey Vulture	Hicks, Emily	Kemery, Josh	Reynolds, Aron	Welch, Rileigh		
Western Kingbird	Jones, Cindy					
Western Tanager	Sharp, Kolby					
White-Breasted Nuthatch	Baugh, Harrison	Hicks, Emily	Hood, Katie R.	Vasquez, Lindsey		
White-Crowned Sparrow	Staton, Jasqueline					
White-Eyed Vireo	Lopez, Christy	Williams, Skylar				
White-Throated Sparrow	Ayers, Ashley					
White-Winged Dove	Burrell, Cameron					
Winter Wren	Lott, Grace					
Wood Duck	Edwards, Alyssa					

Alphabetical List of Species with Accounts or Pictures With Contributors (cont.)

Wood Stork	Moseley, Brianna	
Wood Thrush	Hood, Katie R.	
Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker	Harrison, Jessica	
Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher	Lott, Grace	
Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	Whitmire, Brian	
Yellow-Breasted Chat	Foster, Sarah	Stevenson, Jennifer
Yellow-Crowned Night Heron	Reyes, Rolando	
Yellow-Throated Warbler	Sharp, Kolby	

Alphabetical List of Contributors to Written Accounts

Student	Species		
Alexander, Jeremy	Black Vulture	Mourning Dove	Northern Cardinal
Baca, Brian	Northern Pintail	Little Blue Heron	Osprey
Backus, Michelle B,	Chimney Swift	Northern Flicker	Red-Headed Woodpecker
Beeman, Sheridan A	Black-and-White Warbler		
Benge, Dylan	Ruby-Throated Hummingbird		
Bethea, Dylan	Eurasian Collared Dove		
Brinker, Courtney	Gray Catbird	Summer Tanager	Blue Grosbeak
Brown, Blair	Black Vulture	Red-Tailed Hawk	
Burrell, Cameron	White-Winged Dove	Common Nighthawk	American Robin
Buzzard, Samual	Song Sparrow		
Carroll, Kristopher	Bobolink	Brewer's Blackbird	Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher
Cass, Graydon	Blue-Winged Teal	Snowy Egret	
Chandra, Mpanga	Black-and-White Warbler	Black Phoebe	
Collier, Rusty	Bald Eagle	Cooper's Hawk	Eastern Kingbird
Cooley, Wayne	Cattle Egret		
Davis, Joshua L.	Mississippi Kite	Killdeer	Eastern Phoebe
Dawkins, Marissa	Red-Tailed Hawk		
Dawkins, Marissa	Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher	Northern Cardinal	
Dicks, Austin	Blue Jay	Summer Tanager	
Dorough, Wes	Cooper's Hawk		
Dunbar, Mcentry	Killdeer	Eurasian Collared Dove	
Durham, Aaron	Acadian Flucatcher		
Ebarb, Lisa	Northern Mockingbird		
Edwards, Alyssa	Wood Duck	Scarlet Tanager	Common Grackle
Fitzsimmons, Pete	Baltimore Oriole		
Fletcher, Leslie	Blue-Winged Teal	Bald Eagle	Song Sparrow
Fortune, Thad	Great-Horned Owl	Ruby-Throated Hummingbird	Red-Bellied Woodpecker
Foster, Sarah	Tennessee Warbler	Yellow-Breasted Chat	Golden-Crowned Kinglet
Franklin, Andrew	Reddish Egret	Great-Tailed Grackle	Red-Winged Blackbird
Garay, Andrew	Cooper's Hawk	Mourning Dove	
Gifford, Katy	Great-Blue Heron	Barn Swallow	
Godsey, Weston	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Tufted Titmouse	Cerulean Warbler
Gruznina, Zane	American Crow	Blue Jay	Brown-Headed Nuthatch
Hansen, Lynlea	American Bittern	Ruby-Crowned Kinglet	Hermit Thrust
Harrison, Jessica	Downy Woodpecker	Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker	American Robin

Alphabetical List of Contributors to Written Accounts (cont.)

Hastie, Rachel	Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher	American Crow	Brown-Headed Cowbird
Hicks, Nathan	Mallard	Red-Tailed Hawk	
Higginbotham, Savannah	Downy Woodpecker		
Hood, Katie R.	White-Breasted Nuthatch	Wood Thrush	Brown-Headed Cowbird
Jones, Cindy	Canada Goose	Chimney Swift	Western Kingbird
Jones, John	Blue-Winged Teal	Brown Thrasher	Orchard Oriole
Jones, Travis	Blue-Winged Teal	Chipping Sparrow	
Kelehan, Shane	Bald Eagle	Killdeer	
Kemery, Josh	Canada Goose	Turkey Vulture	
Ledbetter, Kimberly	Great Egret	Greater Roadrunner	Red-Headed Woodpecker
Ledkins, Nathan	Barred Owl		
Lewis, Brenta	Black Vulture		
Little, Katy	Ruby-Throated Hummingbird	Prothonotary Warbler	
Lopez, Christy	Bell's' Vireo	Red-Eyed Vireo	White-Eyed Vireo
Massey, Grant	Red-Shouldered Hawk	Eastern Towhee	
McCloskey, Brittany	Great-Horned Owl	Carolina Chickadee	
McConnell, Reece	Eastern Screech-Owl	Bay-Breasted Warbler	Pine Grosbeak
Moseley, Brianna	Turkey Vulture		
Murray, Grant	Carolina Chickadee		
Nail, Clay	Mississippi Kite	Eastern Meadowlark	
Nelson, Spencer C.	Killdeer		
Nicholason, Kyle	Red-Bellied Woodpecker	Dickcissel	
Nieto, Jovana	Bald Eagle		
Parker, Benjamin Seth	Mallard		
Patrick,, Reggie	Hairy Woodpecker	Song Sparrow	House Finch
Peña, Sulam	Red-Bellied Woodpecker	European Starling	Northern Cardinal
Phillips, Devin	American Robin	Northern Cardinal	
Phillips, Luke	Pileated Woodpecker	Magnolia Warbler	Painted Bunting
Plumlee, George	Mallard	Northern Mockingbird	Baltimore Oriole
Potter, Holly R.	Ruby-Throated Hummingbird	Blue Jay	Purple Martin
Powell, Christopher	Common Grackle		
Purser, Stacy M.	Rock Pigeon	Barred Owl	Chestnut-Sided Warbler
Reynolds, Aron	Turkey Vulture	Mississippi Kite	
Riley, Steven	Snowy Egret		
Roberts, Darius	Chimney Swift	American Crow	Northern Mockingbird
Runion, Merideth	Purple Martin	Canada Warbler	Lark Sparrow
Sammons Travis W.	Rufous Hummingbird	Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Bluebird

Alphabetical List of Contributors to Written Accounts (cont.)

Santanello, Kathleen	Indigo Bunting	House Sparrow	American Goldfinch	House Finch
Savoie, Jeff A.	Great-Blue Heron	Eastern Meadowlark		
Sharp, Kolby	Yellow-Throated Warbler	Western Tanager	Clay-Colored Sparrow	
Shoulders, Genea	Black-and-White Warbler	Pine Warbler		
Spikes, Kwame	Barn Swallow			
Staton, Jasqueline	White-Crowned Sparrow			
Stone, Jacob	Black-Throated Blue Warbler	Blackburnian Warbler		
Tarver, Matt	Eastern Whip-Poor-Will	Purple Martin		
Tunnell, Abby	Little Blue Heron	Black-Billed Cuckoo	Eastern Screech-Owl	
Vasquez, Hallee	Great-Blue Heron			
Walker, James R.	Double-Crested Comorant	Cattle Egret		
Weaver, Taylor	Green Heron	Brown Thrasher	Cedar Waxwing	
Webb, Shekinah	Northern Bobwhite	Mourning Dove	Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher	
Whitmire, Brian	Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	Eastern Whip-Poor-Will		
Wineland, Janae	Blue Jay	Carolina Chickadee	Baltimore Oriole	
Word, Hannah	Double-Crested Comorant	Common Nighthawk	Blackpoll Warbler	

Alphabetical List of Contributors of Photos

Student		Species		
Anding, Kenneth	Killdeer	Northern Cardinal	House Sparrow	Northern Mockingbird (cover)
Armendarez, Matthew	Red-Headed Woodpecker	Tufted Titmouse	Brown-Headed Nuthatch	American Goldfinch
Ayers, Ashley	Cattle Egret	White-Throated Sparrow		
Bartlett, Jordan	Mallard	American Coot	Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher	American Robin Eastern Bluebird
Baugh, Harrison	Green Heron	Mourning Dove	Eastern Phoebe	White-Breasted Nuthatch Chipping Sparrow
Benge, Dylan	Northern Cardinal			
Brewer, Jordan	Red-Headed Woodpecker	Barn Swallow	Brown-Headed Nuthatch	American Robin
Cooper, Talton	Eastern Kingbird	Carolina Wren	Northern Parula	Brown-Headed Cowbird Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher (cover)
Gray, Anhre	Blue Grosbeak	Indigo Bunting		
Hanson, Nicholas	Chipping Sparrow			
Hicks, Emily	Great-Blue Heron	Great Egret	Turkey Vulture	White-Breasted Nuthatch
Johnson, Haley	Canada Goose	Mallard	Brown Thrasher	
Kelehan, Shane	Bald Eagle			
Liles, Lacey	Eastern Kingbird	Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher	Eastern Bluebird	Northern Mockingbird House Sparrow
Midgely, Shana	Northern Mockingbird			
Parrott, Chelsea	Lark Sparrow			
Ramage, Steven	Blue Jay	Tufted Titmouse	Brown-Headed Cowbird	
Schlabs, Keely	Black Vulture			
Smith, Jake	Killdeer	Northern Mockingbird		
Stevenson, Jennifer	Pine Warbler	Yellow-Breasted Chat	Blue Grosbeak	Dickcissel
Still, Rebekkah	Barred Owl	Hairy Woodpecker	Painted Bunting	
Vasquez, Hallee	Red-Shouldered Hawk	Barred Owl	Ruby-Throated Hummingbird	
Vasquez, Lindsey	Mourning Dove	White-Breasted Nuthatch	Blue Jay	
Velasquez, Justin	Red-Bellied Woodpecker			
Welch, Rileigh	Turkey Vulture	European Starling		
Williams, Darius	Cattle Egret			
Williams, Skylar	Green Heron	Killdeer	White-Eyed Vireo	Summer Tanager
Wood, Dominic	Great-Tailed Grackle	Mallard	Blue Jay	

Table 1. Number of species (Spp) and number of days (Day) observing birds during the field course from 2005 to 2019. Campus refers to days observing either directly on the main part of the East Texas Baptist University campus or the Environmental Studies Area. Generally, only 2 days were spent observing on the main part of campus. Caddo refers to the area immediately around the Starr Ranch of the Caddo National Wildlife Management Area. Observations at Lake of the Pines were in the area adjacent to the spillway. Other sites visited are the Texas Birding trail along Hut Horton Road in Harrison County south of Hallsville. A -- indicates trips were not taken to this location.

	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
	No. Sited	No. Days	No. Sited	No. Days	No. Sited	No. Days	No. Sited	No. Days	No. Sited	No. Days	No. Sited	No. Days
Totals-- ETBU	37	7	44	6	48	9	70	9	66	9	61	8
Totals -- Caddo	31	8	41	2	40	2	33	1	36	1	35	1
Totals -- Lake of the Pines	--	--	--	--	--	--	34	1	30	1	27	1
Totals -- Other Off Campus	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	38	0
Totals -- Course	45	15	64	8	65	11	83	11	82	11	80	10
Birds per Day on Campus	16		23		22		27		25		27	
Birds per Day off Campus	31		31		0		34		33		27	

2007 -- 30 students in course that semester. Interfered with observations.

2010 -- all days were very windy (>15 mph)

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	No. Sited	No. Days	No. Sited	No. Days	No. Sited	No. Days	No. Sited	No. Days	No. Sited	No. Days	No. Sited	No. Days
Totals-- ETBU	53	9	52	9	56	10	51	8	77	8	63	9
Totals -- Caddo	36	1	28	1	37	1	40	1	44	1	38	1
Totals -- Pleasant Hill	--	--	22	1	23	1	22	1	26	1	30	1
Totals -- Jefferson	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18	1
Totals -- Course	62	10	61	11	75	12	74	10	96	10	84	12
Birds per Day on Campus	26		24		20		24		31		24	
Birds per Day off Campus	33		25		30		31		35		29	

2011 -- All days were at least 5 degrees C above average. Start of extreme drought

2013 -- overcast days and rain interfered with observations.

2015 -- very wet and cool spring. all days were overcast and cool during counts.

2016-- most days overcast not cool

	2017		2018		2019	
	No. Sited	No. Days	No. Sited	No. Days	No. Sited	No. Days
Totals-- ETBU	47	9	48	8	56	8
Totals -- Caddo	33	1	34	1	35	1
Totals -- Pleasant Hill	23	1	20	1	27	1
Totals -- Course	62	11	66	10	76	10
Birds per Day on Campus	23		20		24	
Birds per Day off Campus	33		33		33	

2017 - Day 4 shortened due to rain

2018 - all days 10 - 15 degrees > average

2019 - loop hike overcast and misting

Table 2. Species observed during Field Course in May from 2005 - 2019. Total number of days observing on campus and Environmental Studies Area (113) and at various sites off-campus (38).

Total Species Count for May-term		161			
Total Species Observed on Campus		143			
Total Species Observed off Campus		131			
		ETBU		Off Campus	
Species	Days Sighted	% Days Observed	Days Sighted	% Days Observed	
Acadian Flycatcher	1	0.9%	2	5.3%	
Alder flycatcher	3	2.7%	1	2.6%	
American Coot			1	2.6%	
American Crow	115	101.8%	29	76.3%	
American Goldfinch	1	0.9%		76.3%	
American Redstart	5	4.4%	7	18.4%	
American Robin	106	93.8%	10	26.3%	
Anhinga			4	10.5%	
Bald Eagle			2	5.3%	
Baltimore Oriole	5	4.4%	2	5.3%	
Barn Swallow	51	45.1%	19	50.0%	
Barred Owl	2	1.8%	5	13.2%	
Bay-Breasted Warbler	1	0.9%	1	2.6%	
Bell's Vireo	1	0.9%	3	7.9%	
Belted Kingfisher	4	3.5%	1	2.6%	
Bewick's Wren			1	2.6%	
Black Phoebe	3	2.7%			
Black Throated Blue Warbler			1	2.6%	
Black Vulture	68	60.2%	21	55.3%	
Black-and-White Warbler	8	7.1%	3	7.9%	
Black-Billed Cuckoo	2	1.8%	2	5.3%	
Blackburnian Warbler	8	7.1%	8	21.1%	
Black-Crested Titmouse	1	0.9%			
Blackpoll Warbler	3	2.7%	1	2.6%	
Blue Grosbeak	9	8.0%	13	34.2%	
Blue Jay	125	110.6%	27	71.1%	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	6	5.3%	9	23.7%	
Blue-Winged Teal	1	0.9%	3	7.9%	
Blue-winged Warbler	1	0.9%			
Bobolink	1	0.9%			
Bobwhite	1	0.9%	10	26.3%	
Brewer's Blackbird	16	14.2%	2	5.3%	
Broad-Winged Hawk	3	2.7%	1	2.6%	
Brown Thrasher	67	59.3%	4	10.5%	

Table 2 (cont.)	ETBU		Off Campus	
	Species	Days Sighted	% Days Observed	Days Sighted
Brown-Headed Cowbird	36	31.9%	19	50.0%
Canada Goose	2	1.8%	1	2.6%
Canada Warbler			4	10.5%
Carolina Chickadee	68	60.2%	22	57.9%
Carolina Wren	19	16.8%	7	18.4%
Cattle Egret	4	3.5%	15	39.5%
Cedar Waxing	14	12.4%	3	7.9%
Cerulean Warbler	2	1.8%	5	13.2%
Chestnut-Sided Warbler	2	1.8%		
Chimney Swift	68	60.2%	9	23.7%
Chipping Sparrow	35	31.0%	4	10.5%
Clay-Colored Sparrow	3	2.7%		
Cliff Swallow	6	5.3%	4	10.5%
Common Grackle	90	79.6%	13	34.2%
Common Nighthawk	1	0.9%	1	2.6%
Common Yellowthroat	6	5.3%		
Connecticut Warbler	1	0.9%		
Cooper's Hawk	11	9.7%	1	2.6%
Dark-Eyed Junco	2	1.8%		
Dickcissel	1	0.9%	9	23.7%
Double-crested Cormorant			2	5.3%
Downy Woodpecker	12	10.6%	1	2.6%
Eastern Bluebird	114	100.9%	19	50.0%
Eastern Kingbird	99	87.6%	17	44.7%
Eastern Meadowlark			11	28.9%
Eastern Phoebe	31	27.4%	11	28.9%
Eastern Wood Pewee	29	25.7%	4	10.5%
Eurasian Collared Dove	6	5.3%	1	2.6%
European Starling	127	112.4%	10	26.3%
Field Sparrow	3	2.7%	5	13.2%
Fish Crow	13	11.5%	13	34.2%
Gray Catbird	17	15.0%	2	5.3%
Great Blue Heron	5	4.4%	20	52.6%
Great Egret	14	12.4%	19	50.0%
Great-Crested Flycatcher	24	21.2%	6	15.8%
Greater Roadrunner			1	2.6%
Great-Tailed Grackle	5	4.4%		
Green Heron	42	37.2%	6	15.8%
Hairy Woodpecker	1	0.9%		
Hermit Thrush	8	7.1%	2	5.3%
Hooded Warbler	1	0.9%		
House Finch	28	24.8%	2	5.3%
House Sparrow	125	110.6%	7	18.4%

Table 2 (cont.)	ETBU		Off Campus	
	Species	Days Sighted	% Days Observed	Days Sighted
Inca Dove	4	3.5%		
Indigo Bunting	42	37.2%	20	52.6%
Killdeer			1	2.6%
Lark Sparrow			1	2.6%
Least Flycatcher	8	7.1%	1	2.6%
Least Sandpiper	1	0.9%	1	2.6%
Little Blue Heron			8	21.1%
Magnolia Warbler	2	1.8%		
Mallard	1	0.9%	6	15.8%
Marsh Wren	1	0.9%	1	2.6%
Mississippi Kite	52	46.0%	6	15.8%
Mourning Dove	121	107.1%	31	81.6%
Mourning Warbler	1	0.9%	1	2.6%
Nashville Warbler	1	0.9%		
Northern Cardinal	125	110.6%	31	81.6%
Northern Flicker	43	38.1%	13	34.2%
Northern Mockingbird	126	111.5%	28	73.7%
Northern Parula	6	5.3%	13	34.2%
Olive-Sided Flycatcher	2	1.8%	1	2.6%
Orchard Oriole	13	11.5%	10	26.3%
Osprey			3	7.9%
Ovenbird	1	0.9%	2	5.3%
Painted Bunting	4	3.5%	7	18.4%
Pileated Woodpecker	26	23.0%	17	44.7%
Pine Grosbeak	1	0.9%		
Pine Warbler	7	6.2%	3	7.9%
Prothonotary Warbler	36	31.9%	15	39.5%
Purple Finch	1	0.9%		
Purple Martin	11	9.7%	7	18.4%
Red-Bellied Woodpecker	120	106.2%	20	52.6%
Reddish Egret			1	2.6%
Red-Eyed Vireo	16	14.2%	10	26.3%
Red-Headed Woodpecker	11	9.7%	10	26.3%
Red-Shouldered Hawk	13	11.5%	6	15.8%
Red-Tailed hawk	15	13.3%	14	36.8%
Red-Winged Blackbird	9	8.0%	13	34.2%
Rock Dove	14	12.4%	1	2.6%
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	7	6.2%		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	13	11.5%	9	23.7%
Rufous Hummingbird			1	2.6%
Rusty Blackbird	1	0.9%	1	2.6%
Savannah Sparrow	1	0.9%		
Scarlet Tanager	1	0.9%	2	5.3%

Table 2 (cont.) Species	ETBU		Off Campus	
	Days Sighted	% Days Observed	Days Sighted	% Days Observed
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	109	96.5%	16	42.1%
Sharp-Shinned Hawk	1	0.9%		
Smith's Longspur	5	4.4%	2	5.3%
Snowy Egret	1	0.9%	7	18.4%
Song Sparrow	4	3.5%	2	5.3%
Summer Tanager	50	44.2%	14	36.8%
Swainson's Thrush	6	5.3%		
Swainson's Warbler	2	1.8%		
Tennessee Warbler	1	0.9%		
Townsend's Solitaire	1	0.9%		
Townsend's Warbler	1	0.9%		
Tree Swallow			1	2.6%
Tufted Titmouse	78	69.0%	17	44.7%
Turkey Vulture	76	67.3%	28	73.7%
Veery	14	12.4%	5	13.2%
Vermillion Flycatcher	2	1.8%		
Vesper Sparrow	1	0.9%	1	2.6%
Warbling Vireo	1	0.9%	1	2.6%
Western Kingbird	1	0.9%	1	2.6%
Western Tanager			1	2.6%
Whip-poor-will	1	0.9%		
White-Breasted Nuthatch	6	5.3%	2	5.3%
White-Crowned Sparrow	2	1.8%	1	2.6%
White-Eyed Vireo	11	9.7%	4	10.5%
White-Rumped Sandpiper	6	5.3%	1	2.6%
White-Throated Sparrow	1	0.9%		
White-Winged Dove	3	2.7%	2	5.3%
Willow Flycatcher	3	2.7%	2	5.3%
Wilson's Warbler	3	2.7%		
Wood Duck	2	1.8%	9	23.7%
Wood Stork			3	7.9%
Wood Thrush	14	12.4%		

Table 3. Species observed on the ETBU campus during the May-term Field Course from 2005 - 2019 by year.

Species	Year / Number of Days Observed During the Course/ Total Number of Species Observed During the Course																
	Total Days Sighted	% Days Observed	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
			16.29	23.33	22.00	27.91	26.73	27.10	27.20	24.18	23.27	26.11	32.33	24.64	23.80	21.50	24.40
			7	6	8	9	9	8	9	9	10	9	10	9	9	8	8
			37	44	48	70	66	61	53	52	56	51	77	63	47	48	56
Acadian Flycatcher	1	0.8%													1		
Alder flycatcher	3	2.3%				1							2				
American Crow	115	89.8%	3	6	8	9	9	8	9	9	8	8	9	9	9	3	8
American Goldfinch	1	0.8%															1
American Redstart	5	3.9%				2			1				1				1
American Robin	106	82.8%	5	6	8	9	5	7	8	7	5	8	10	7	8	5	8
Baltimore Oriole	5	3.9%		1	1				1	1	1						
Barn Swallow	51	39.8%		3		1	5	5	5	5	8	3	5	2	4	2	3
Barred Owl	2	1.6%										1			1		
Bay-Breasted Warbler	1	0.8%											1				
Bell's Vireo	1	0.8%						1									
Belted Kingfisher	4	3.1%	1			1											2
Black Phoebe	3	2.3%							2				1				
Black Vulture	68	53.1%	2	2	4	5	2	6	4	5	6	8	9	4	6		5
Black-and-White Warbler	8	6.3%	1			1			1	2			1	1			1
Black-Billed Cuckoo	2	1.6%												2			
Blackburnian Warbler	8	6.3%				1	2	1	1			1		1			1
Black-Crested Titmouse	1	0.8%											1				
Blackpoll Warbler	3	2.3%				1			1								1
Blue Grosbeak	9	7.0%		1			1	3	1	2					1		
Blue Jay	125	97.7%	5	6	8	9	9	8	9	9	10	9	9	9	9	8	8
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	6	4.7%			1			2			2						1
Blue-Winged Teal	1	0.8%			1												
Blue-winged Warbler	1	0.8%											1				
Bobolink	1	0.8%					1										
Bobwhite	1	0.8%						1									
Brewer's Blackbird	16	12.5%				1	1		1	2	2	4	3	1	1		
Broad-Winged Hawk	3	2.3%								1		1		1			
Brown Thrasher	67	52.3%	4	2	2	6	3	4	4	6	4	2	7	4	5	8	6
Brown-Headed Cowbird	36	28.1%	2	1	2	2	7	6	5	1	2	5	2				1
Canada Goose	2	1.6%			1		1										
Carolina Chickadee	68	53.1%	2	5	6	4	8	7	5	5	5	4	6	6	3	1	1
Carolina Wren	19	14.8%	1			6		2	4		3			1		1	1
Cattle Egret	4	3.1%		1			1							2			
Cedar Waxing	14	10.9%		1	1			2	3		1		2		4		
Cerulean Warbler	2	1.6%								1				1			
Chestnut-Sided Warbler	2	1.6%				1					1						
Chimney Swift	68	53.1%	3	3	6	6	7	3	7	8	1	8	6	1	4	2	3
Chipping Sparrow	35	27.3%	3	2	4	3	3				1	2	9	3	1	1	3
Clay-Colored Sparrow	3	2.3%					1						2				

Table 3 (cont.)	Days	Percent	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Cliff Swallow	6	4.7%		1		2			1		1	1					
Common Grackle	90	70.3%		4	5	5	6	7	7	9	7	7	10	7	8	5	3
Common Nighthawk	1	0.8%				1											
Common Yellowthroat	6	4.7%		1		1		1			2			1			
Connecticut Warbler	1	0.8%												1			
Cooper's Hawk	11	8.6%	1								1	3	1		2	1	2
Dark-Eyed Junco	2	1.6%							1		1						
Dickcissel	1	0.8%												1			
Downy Woodpecker	12	9.4%	1			1	1	1	2	1	1		2		1	1	
Eastern Bluebird	114	89.1%	6	6	8	9	9	7	9	7	6	8	10	8	9	6	6
Eastern Kingbird	99	77.3%	7	6	8	7	8	8	9	6	6	5	9	7	7	2	4
Eastern Phoebe	31	24.2%			1	2	3	1	5	1	4	4	6	2		2	
Eastern Wood Pewee	29	22.7%	2	1	3	2	1	3	5	2	1	2	4	2			1
Eurasian Collared Dove	6	4.7%			2		1				2					1	
European Starling	127	99.2%	7	6	8	9	9	8	9	9	10	9	10	9	9	8	7
Field Sparrow	3	2.3%								1		1		1			
Fish Crow	13	10.2%			1	3		2		1		3	3				
Gray Catbird	17	13.3%	1	1		3	1	1		2	1		2	3		1	1
Great Blue Heron	5	3.9%						1			2	1					1
Great Egret	14	10.9%	1		1	2	1				2	1	1	1	3	1	
Great-Crested Flycatcher	24	18.8%		2		2	1	1		1		1	2		7	4	3
Great-Tailed Grackle	5	3.9%			1					1	1		1		1		
Green Heron	42	32.8%	2	1	6	4	6	2	3	4			5	4	2	1	2
Hairy Woodpecker	1	0.8%													1		
Hermit Thrush	8	6.3%				2	1	1			1		1			2	
Hooded Warbler	1	0.8%											1				
House Finch	28	21.9%	4	5		1	1	3	4	2	1	1	4	1			1
House Sparrow	125	97.7%	7	6	8	9	9	7	9	9	10	9	9	9	9	8	7
Inca Dove	4	3.1%	1		1	1	1										
Indigo Bunting	42	32.8%		2	2	4	4	2	4	2	3	5	5		4	2	3
Killdeer	85	66.4%	5	5	6	7	8	7	2	3	5	6	8	2	7	7	7
Least Flycatcher	8	6.3%		1	1	1				1	2						2
Least Sandpiper	1	0.8%				1											
Magnolia Warbler	2	1.6%							2								
Mallard	1	0.8%								1							
Marsh Wren	1	0.8%							1								
Mississippi Kite	52	40.6%				3		1	6	6	3	3	9	6	5	2	8
Mourning Dove	121	94.5%	6	6	8	8	9	8	9	9	10	9	9	7	9	8	6
Mourning Warbler	1	0.8%						1									
Nashville Warbler	1	0.8%					1										
Northern Cardinal	125	97.7%	5	6	8	8	9	8	9	9	10	9	10	9	9	8	8
Northern Flicker	43	33.6%		4	4	6	3	3	1	3	3	3	7	3		2	1
Northern Mockingbird	126	98.4%	6	6	8	9	9	8	9	9	10	9	10	9	9	8	7
Northern Parula	6	4.7%				1		1	1				2	1			
Olive-Sided Flycatcher	2	1.6%				1	1										
Orchard Oriole	13	10.2%		1	1	1		1			1	1	1	2	1	3	

Table 3 (cont.)	Days	Percent	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Ovenbird	1	0.8%											1				
Painted Bunting	4	3.1%										1	2	1			
Pileated Woodpecker	26	20.3%	1				3	1	1	6		2	4	3	1	3	1
Pine Grosbeak	1	0.8%				1											
Pine Warbler	7	5.5%				1	1	2					2	1			
Prothonotary Warbler	36	28.1%				1	6	4	5	1	5	1	1	4	2	3	3
Purple Finch	1	0.8%											1				
Purple Martin	11	8.6%	1	1	1		1	1					5			1	
Red-Bellied Woodpecker	120	93.8%	4	6	7	9	9	8	7	9	8	9	10	9	9	8	8
Red-Eyed Vireo	16	12.5%			1	2	1	2	2		2		2	3		1	
Red-Headed Woodpecker	11	8.6%	1	1			1	1	1	1		1		2		1	1
Red-Shouldered Hawk	13	10.2%	1		1	2	1	2			1		2	2			1
Red-Tailed hawk	15	11.7%			1	3			2		1	2	1	2	1		2
Red-Winged Blackbird	9	7.0%									2		1	4	2		
Rock Dove	14	10.9%			1	2	3		4	1	1		1	1			
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	7	5.5%	1		1			1			1		2			1	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	13	10.2%			1	2	1	2	3		1				2	1	
Rusty Blackbird	1	0.8%													1		
Savannah Sparrow	1	0.8%								1							
Scarlet Tanager	1	0.8%														1	
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	109	85.2%	6	5	8	9	9	8	9	7	10	9	10		7	4	8
Sharp-Shinned Hawk	1	0.8%															1
Smith's Longspur	5	3.9%												5			
Snowy Egret	1	0.8%					1										
Song Sparrow	4	3.1%				1				1	1	1					
Summer Tanager	50	39.1%		4	2	6	1	6	6	3	5	8	5		1	1	2
Swainson's Thrush	6	4.7%					1							4			1
Swainson's Warbler	2	1.6%											2				
Tennessee Warbler	1	0.8%				1											
Townsend's Solitaire	1	0.8%							1								
Townsend's Warbler	1	0.8%					1										
Tufted Titmouse	78	60.9%	1	3	1	5	1	6	9	6	6	8	9		9	8	6
Turkey Vulture	76	59.4%	4	6	4	4	4	4	7	5	4	7	6	7	6	2	6
Veery	14	10.9%				1	5		1	1		1		4			1
Vermillion Flycatcher	2	1.6%							1					1			
Vesper Sparrow	1	0.8%											1				
Warbling Vireo	1	0.8%											1				
Western Kingbird	1	0.8%						1									
Whip-poor-will	1	0.8%											1				
White-Breasted Nuthatch	6	4.7%				1	1					1	1		1		1
White-Crowned Sparrow	2	1.6%		1													1
White-Eyed Vireo	11	8.6%				2	1	1		3			1		2		1
White-Rumped Sandpiper	6	4.7%					2							4			
White-Throated Sparrow	1	0.8%								1							
White-Winged Dove	3	2.3%			1	1	1										
Willow Flycatcher	3	2.3%					1						1			1	

Table 3 (cont.)	Days	Percent	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Wilson's Warbler	3	2.3%											1	2			
Wood Duck	2	1.6%								2							
Wood Thrush	14	10.9%					1				1	1	3		1	5	2
Worm-Eating Warbler	5	3.9%		1		1		1					1	1			
Yellow Warbler	2	1.6%		1										1			
Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher	1	0.8%								1							
Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker	6	4.7%								1	1	1				3	
Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	13	10.2%					2			1	4		1			3	1
Yellow-Breasted Chat	2	1.6%						1						1			
Yellow-Crowned Night Heron	1	0.8%												1			
Yellow-Rumped Warbler	1	0.8%									1						
Yellow-Throated Vireo	1	0.8%											1				

Table 4. Species observed during off-campus trips during the May-term Field Course from 2005 - 2019 by year.

Species	Year / Number of Days Observed During the Course / Total Number of Species Observed During the Course																	
	Total Days Sighted	% Days Observed	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Acadian Flycatcher	2	5.3%		1											1			
Alder flycatcher	1	2.6%								1								
American Coot	1	2.6%									1							
American Crow	29	76.3%		2	2	2	2	4	1	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	
American Redstart	7	18.4%				1		1				1		1	1	1	1	
American Robin	10	26.3%				2	1	2		1		2				2		
Anhinga	4	10.5%								1				2			1	
Bald Eagle	2	5.3%				1								1				
Baltimore Oriole	2	5.3%											1	1				
Barn Swallow	19	50.0%	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1		2	1		1	1	
Barred Owl	5	13.2%			2	1							1		1			
Bay-Breasted Warbler	1	2.6%									1							
Bell's Vireo	3	7.9%					1				1						1	
Belted Kingfisher	1	2.6%				1												
Bewick's Wren	1	2.6%									1							
Black Throated Blue Warbler	1	2.6%											1					
Black Vulture	21	55.3%	1		2	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	
Black-and-White Warbler	3	7.9%						1				1		1				
Black-Billed Cuckoo	2	5.3%					1							1				
Blackburnian Warbler	8	21.1%	1						2		1	1	1	1			1	
Blackpoll Warbler	1	2.6%						1										
Blue Grosbeak	13	34.2%		1	1	1	1	1		1		1	2	1	1	1	1	
Blue Jay	27	71.1%	1	2	2	2	2	4	1	2	1	1	1	3	2	2	1	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	9	23.7%		1		2	1	2	1		1	1						
Blue-Winged Teal	3	7.9%		1									1	1				
Bobwhite	10	26.3%					1	1	1			1	2	1	1	1	1	
Brewer's Blackbird	2	5.3%								1			1					
Broad-Winged Hawk	1	2.6%												1				
Brown Thrasher	4	10.5%	1	1			1			1								
Brown-Headed Cowbird	19	50.0%	1		1		2	3	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	
Canada Goose	1	2.6%												1				
Canada Warbler	4	10.5%						1						1		1	1	
Carolina Chickadee	22	57.9%	1	2	2	2	2	4		2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Carolina Wren	7	18.4%		1	1	2					1			1		1		
Cattle Egret	15	39.5%			1	1	2	2		2		1	2	3			1	
Cedar Waxing	3	7.9%										1	1		1			
Cerulean Warbler	5	13.2%				1					1	1		1			1	
Chimney Swift	9	23.7%	1			2	1	2			1		1			1		
Chipping Sparrow	4	10.5%					1	1							1		1	

Table 4. (cont.)	Days	Percent	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Cliff Swallow	4	10.5%				2		1				1					
Common Grackle	13	34.2%			1	2	1	3	1	1		2		1			1
Common Nighthawk	1	2.6%									1						
Cooper's Hawk	1	2.6%				1											
Dickcissel	9	23.7%						1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Double-crested Cormorant	2	5.3%						1	1								
Downy Woodpecker	1	2.6%									1						
Eastern Bluebird	19	50.0%	1	2		2	1	2	1	2	1	1		3	1	1	1
Eastern Kingbird	17	44.7%	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2		1	1	1
Eastern Meadowlark	11	28.9%				1	1	1		2	1	1		1	1	1	1
Eastern Phoebe	11	28.9%			1			1	1	1		2	2	2		1	
Eastern Wood Pewee	4	10.5%	1		1		1				1						
Eurasian Collared Dove	1	2.6%												1			
European Starling	10	26.3%	1			2	1	2				2			1		1
Field Sparrow	5	13.2%					1	1			1	1					1
Fish Crow	13	34.2%	1	1		2	2	1			1	1	1	1		1	1
Gray Catbird	2	5.3%							1					1			
Great Blue Heron	20	52.6%	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	2
Great Egret	19	50.0%	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1		1
Great-Crested Flycatcher	6	15.8%		2				1					1		1	1	
Greater Roadrunner	1	2.6%			1												
Green Heron	6	15.8%	1	1				1		1	1		1				
Hermit Thrush	2	5.3%						1						1			
House Finch	2	5.3%	1						1								
House Sparrow	7	18.4%	1			1	1	1	1		1						1
Indigo Bunting	20	52.6%		1	2	1	1	2		1	2	1	2	2	2	1	2
Killdeer	5	13.2%	1					1					1			1	1
Lark Sparrow	1	2.6%												1			
Least Flycatcher	1	2.6%			1												
Least Sandpiper	1	2.6%												1			
Little Blue Heron	8	21.1%		1	2		1	1		1					1		1
Mallard	6	15.8%				2	1	1						2			
Marsh Wren	1	2.6%									1						
Mississippi Kite	6	15.8%			1		1		1	1	1		1				
Mourning Dove	31	81.6%	1	2	2	2	2	4	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2
Mourning Warbler	1	2.6%			1												
Northern Cardinal	31	81.6%	1	2	2	2	2	4	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2
Northern Flicker	13	34.2%	1	1	1		1	2	1		1			1		2	2
Northern Mockingbird	28	73.7%	1	2	2	2	2	3	1	2	1	2	1	3	2	2	2
Northern Parula	13	34.2%			2	2		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Olive-Sided Flycatcher	1	2.6%											1				
Orchard Oriole	10	26.3%		2	1		1	3	1			1	1				
Osprey	3	7.9%									1			1	1		
Ovenbird	2	5.3%											1			1	

Table 4. (cont.)	Days	Percent	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Painted Bunting	7	18.4%						1			1	1	1	1	1	1	
Pileated Woodpecker	17	44.7%	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	
Pine Warbler	3	7.9%	1	1										1			
Prothonotary Warbler	15	39.5%		2	2	1		2	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1
Purple Martin	7	18.4%		2			1	1			1	1	1				
Red-Bellied Woodpecker	20	52.6%	1		1	1	2	3	1		1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Reddish Egret	1	2.6%		1													
Red-Eyed Vireo	10	26.3%		2		1		2				2		1	1		1
Red-Headed Woodpecker	10	26.3%		1	1	1	1	1		1			1	1	1	1	
Red-Shouldered Hawk	6	15.8%	1	1									2	1	1		
Red-Tailed hawk	14	36.8%			1	1		1			2	1	1	2	2	1	2
Red-Winged Blackbird	13	34.2%	1	2				1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	
Rock Dove	1	2.6%													1		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	9	23.7%			1			1	1		2	1	1			1	1
Rufous Hummingbird	1	2.6%														1	
Rusty Blackbird	1	2.6%											1				
Scarlet Tanager	2	5.3%		1								1					
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	16	42.1%	1	1		1	2	3		1	1	1	1		1	1	2
Smith's Longspur	2	5.3%												2			
Snowy Egret	7	18.4%		2			1	1	1		1	1					
Song Sparrow	2	5.3%					1						1				
Summer Tanager	14	36.8%	1	2	2		1	3	1		1	1	1		1		
Tree Swallow	1	2.6%											1				
Tufted Titmouse	17	44.7%			2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Turkey Vulture	28	73.7%	1	2	2	2	2	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2
Veery	5	13.2%			1				1					3			
Vesper Sparrow	1	2.6%													1		
Warbling Vireo	1	2.6%															1
Western Kingbird	1	2.6%								1							
Western Tanager	1	2.6%					1										
White-Breasted Nuthatch	2	5.3%															2
White-Crowned Sparrow	1	2.6%										1					
White-Eyed Vireo	4	10.5%				1									1	1	1
White-Rumped Sandpiper	1	2.6%												1			
White-Winged Dove	2	5.3%								1				1			
Willow Flycatcher	2	5.3%			1								1				
Wood Duck	9	23.7%		1	2	1	1		1		1	1			1		
Wood Stork	3	7.9%							1					1			1
Worm-Eating Warbler	1	2.6%															1
Yellow Warbler	1	2.6%											1				
Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher	2	5.3%								1			1				
Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker	1	2.6%														1	
Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	8	21.1%		1			1	2	1		1	1	1				
Yellow-Breasted Chat	5	13.2%						1				1				1	2

Table 5. Number of days, by year, species have been observed during a winter count of birds on the Environmental Studies Area of ETBU. Days refers to total number of days the species was observed, % days refers to the percentage of the total number of days the species was observed during the 7 years. Number below each year is the number of days observing for that year. Pre-clear cut and post-clear cut indicate the timing of an adjacent tract of land that was clear cut on 26 January 2015. NUmber below cut status is total days observing for each state of cut. No data were collected for 2018.

Species	Pre-Clear Cut		Post-Clear Cut		% change	Pre-clear cut						Post-clear Cut		
	45		16			2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2015	2016	2017
	Days Sighted	% Days Sighted	Days Sighted	% Days Sighted		8	10	10	10	5	2	3	5	8
American Bittern	1	2.2%					1							
American Crow	14	31.1%	8	50.0%	160.7%	3	4	5		2		4	4	
American Goldfinch	6	13.3%	4	25.0%	187.5%		1	1	2	2		2	2	
American Robin	27	60.0%	9	56.3%	93.8%	4	5	7	6	5		1	8	
Bell's Vireo	1	2.2%	1	6.3%	281.3%			1				1		
Black Vulture	0	0.0%	3	18.8%								0	3	
Black-and-White Warbler	2	4.4%				1	1							
Black-Crowned Night Heron	1	2.2%					1							
Blue Jay	34	75.6%	12	75.0%	99.3%	8	7	7	9	3		5	7	
Brown Creeper	10	22.2%	3	18.8%	84.4%	1	4	2	2	1		1	1	
Brown Thrasher	3	6.7%							3					
Canada Goose	1	2.2%							1					
Carolina Chickadee	20	44.4%	7	43.8%	98.4%	7	3	1	4	4	1	2	3	
Carolina Wren	17	37.8%	4	25.0%	66.2%	3	4	3	3	2	2	3	1	
Cedar Waxwing	3	6.7%	3	18.8%	281.3%	1	1		1				3	
Chipping Sparrow	6	13.3%	3	18.8%	140.6%		1	1		4		2	1	
Common Grackle	2	4.4%							1	1				
Dark-Eyed Junco	6	13.3%	3	18.8%	140.6%		2		1	3		1	2	
Downy Woodpecker	8	17.8%	4	25.0%	140.6%	2	1		1	3	1	1	3	
Eastern Phoebe	5	11.1%	4	25.0%	225.0%	2		1	1		1	1	3	
Eastern Screech Owl	1	2.2%					1							
Eastern Towhee	1	2.2%							1					
Field Sparrow	2	4.4%						1	1					
Golden-Crowned Kinglet	4	8.9%	1	6.3%	70.3%		3	1					1	
Great Blue Heron	5	11.1%	2	12.5%	112.5%		2	2	1			1	1	
Great Horned Owl	0	0.0%	2	12.5%								2		
Hairy Woodpecker	4	8.9%						3	1					
Hermit Thrush	3	6.7%	1	6.3%	93.8%		1	1	1				1	
House Finch	1	2.2%	1	6.3%	281.3%		1					1		
Lesser Scaup	0	0.0%	1	6.3%									1	
Mallard	1	2.2%								1				
Marsh Wren	1	2.2%								1				
Mourning Dove	8	17.8%	3	18.8%	105.5%				1	2	4	1	2	
Northern Bobwhite	1	2.2%					1							
Northern Cardinal	33	73.3%	13	81.3%	110.8%	4	9	10	7	1	2	3	4	
Northern Flicker	25	55.6%	10	62.5%	112.5%	5	7	2	8	1	2	5	5	
Northern Mockingbird	3	6.7%	1	6.3%	93.8%		2		1				1	
Northern Pintail	2	4.4%					1	1						
Pileated Woodpecker	17	37.8%	9	56.3%	148.9%	1	1	6	5	2	2	2	4	
Pine Warbler	1	2.2%	2	12.5%	562.5%		1						2	
Red-Bellied Woodpecker	28	62.2%	12	75.0%	120.5%	3	7	3	10	4	1	3	3	
Red-Breasted Nuthatch	1	2.2%							1					
Red-Headed Woodpecker	3	6.7%	2	12.5%	187.5%	1	1	1				2		
Red-Tailed Hawk	2	4.4%	1	6.3%	140.6%		1			1			1	
Red-Winged Blackbird	2	4.4%				2								
Rough-Legged Hawk	0	0.0%	2	12.5%									2	
Ruby-Crowned Kinglet	2	4.4%	1	6.3%	140.6%		2					1		
Sharp-Shinned Hawk	0	0.0%	1	6.3%									1	
Song Sparrow	9	20.0%	2	12.5%	62.5%	1		2	4	2		1	1	

Table 5. (cont.)

Species	Pre-Clear Cut		Post-Clear Cut		% change	Pre-clear cut						Post-clear Cut		
	45		16			2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2015	2016	2017
	Days Sighted	% Days Sighted	Days Sighted	% Days Sighted		8	10	10	10	5	2	3	5	8
Swainson's Warbler	0	0.0%	1	6.3%										1
Tufted Titmouse	22	48.9%	14	87.5%	179.0%		3	7	8	2	2	3	5	6
Turkey Vulture	2	4.4%	5	31.3%	703.1%		1			1			1	4
Vesper Sparrow	2	4.4%	1	6.3%	140.6%				1	1				1
White-Breasted Nuthatch	12	26.7%	4	25.0%	93.8%			2	2	7	1		2	2
White-Crowned Sparrow	8	17.8%	3	18.8%	105.5%			3	1	1	2	1	2	1
White-eyed Vireo	4	8.9%				4								
White-Throated Sparrow	8	17.8%	7	43.8%	246.1%				3	5			2	2
Wilson's Snipe	1	2.2%								1				3
Winter Wren	1	2.2%						1						
Wood Duck	15	33.3%	5	31.3%	93.8%			2	6	6	1	2	2	1
Woodcock	1	2.2%						1						
Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker	4	8.9%	3	18.8%	210.9%			2	1	1				3
Yellow-Rumped Warbler	20	44.4%	9	56.3%	126.6%	5	1	3	5	5	1	2	0	7

Table 6. Species observed from 1 September to 1 October 2009. Days refers to number of days the species was observed. Total days observing 9. A * indicates the species has been observed on the campus of ETBU only during these 9 days.

Species	Days	Species	Days	Species	Days
American Crow	8	Eastern Bluebird	5	Ovenbird	1
American Redstart	1	Eastern Kingbird	1	Pileated Woodpecker	1
American Robin	6	Eastern Phoebe	6	Red-bellied Woodpecker	3
Black Vulture	3	Eastern Towhee*	1	Red-headed Woodpecker	1
Black-throated Warbler*	1	Eastern Wood Pewee	3	Red-shouldered Hawk	2
Blue Jay	8	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	Red-tailed Hawk	1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4	Gray Catbird	2	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	4
Brown Thrasher	2	Great Egret	1	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	4
Carolina Chickadee	5	Indigo Bunting	1	Summer Tanager	4
Carolina Wren	4	Killdeer	1	Tufted Titmouse	4
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	Mourning Dove	2	Turkey Vulture	5
Chimney Swift	1	Northern Bobwhite	1	White-eyed Vireo	5
Chipping Sparrow	3	Northern Cardinal	9	Willow Flycatcher*	1
Common Grackle	1	Northern Flicker	5	Yellow Warbler*	1
Downy Woodpecker	1	Northern Mockingbird	8	Yellow-rumped Warbler	2

Order Anseriformes

Family Anatidae

Blue-Winged Teal *Anas discors*

Author: Graydon Cass, John Jones, Leslie Fletcher, Travis Jones

Description: Length of both sexes: 14.2–16.1 in Wingspan of both sexes: 22–24.4 in Weight of both sexes: 8.1–19.2 oz. Male with large white crescent on front of face and white patch on rear flank; female dull gray-brown. Female Gray-brown overall, with small white area at base of bill. Bill dark. Light blue upper wing patch with narrow white border. Back of wing mostly brown, with little green.

Geographical Range: North America, mainly in prairie region, from British Columbia east to Newfoundland, south to California, New Mexico, Texas, Tennessee, and North Carolina in the summer months but move down south during the winter

Habitat: Shallow ponds and seasonal and permanent wetlands. They often use both temporary and permanent ponds. During breeding season, blue-winged teal remain near the water's edge in ponds and wetlands, preferring to breed in areas of calm, sluggish water

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Spring

Number of eggs: 6 - 14

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 19 - 29 days

Time to independence: 40 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: Monogamous

Life span: 17 years, most do not survive first few years

Food habits: aquatic insects but also eat vegetation and grains. In the winter, grains and seeds are their main foods

Time in Texas: Summer in northeast Texas. Winter in Southeast Texas.

Migration period in Mid to West Texas and Year round in Mid East Texas

Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

Author: Cindy Jones, Josh Kemery

Description:

Mass: 4741 g

Length: 55 – 114 cm;

Phenotypically they are distinguished by having a white chin with a black head and neck with a gray and brown color on the backside and a light gray breast on the front. Large wings are used as weapons by these geese

Geographical Range: can be found throughout North America. There are four subspecies which are the western, southern, northern, and Aleutian-Canadian populations. The populations are located based on their subspecies name. Most of the populations migrate south during the winter

Habitat: wooded lakes, ponds, bays, marshes, and urban areas and located in the biomes of grasslands, chaparral regions, and arctic tundra

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: winter or during migration

Number of eggs: 4 - 7

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 23 - 30 days

Time to independence: 38 - 78 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 2 - 3 years

Females: 2 - 3 years

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 24 years

Food habits: herbivore, feed on grasses, barely, wheat, rice, corn, and beans, occasionally berries

Time in Texas: most migratory, some permanent residents



Photo: Haley Johnson

Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

Author: Nathan Hicks, George Plumlee, Benjamin Seth Parker

Description:

Length: 50-65 cm;
Wingspan: 82-95 cm;
Mass: 1000-1300 g

The male Mallard has an iridescent green head, white collar neck, pale gray body, chestnut colored chest, yellow bill, reddish legs, black rump and under tail, and a white tail with black middle feathers. The female Mallard is a brown in color with a mixture of white and dark brown, a dark line through the eye, an orange bill with a dark center, dark streak on the crown, and reddish-orange legs. Juvenile mallards look much like the female mallard.

Geographical Range: Their permanent residence is from the East to the West coast of the U.S. from the border with Mexico to the border with Canada. However, when they migrate they can travel as far South as Cuba and as far North as the northern part of Alaska

Habitat: They prefer wetlands, where highly productive waters produce large amounts of floating, emergent and submerged vegetation. Wetlands also produce a lot of aquatic invertebrates on which mallards feed.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: October - March

Number of eggs: 8 - 14

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 27 - 38 days

Time to independence: 52 - 70 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: same date as fledging

Females: 100 days

Mating System: seasonally monogamous

Life span: 5 - 10 years

Food habits: Seeds, acorns, grain, insects, larvae, aquatic invertebrates, and aquatic vegetation

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Jordan Bartlett



Photo: Dominic Wood



Photo: Haley Johnson

Northern Pintail

Anas acuta

Author: Brian Baca

Description:

Length: 63-74 cm;

Wingspan: 91 cm;

Mass: 480-1450 g

The Northern Pintail is a medium sized duck with a slim and long neck. The Pintail also is identifiable by its gray legs and dark gray bill, and can live on water and land. The male, in breeding season has a dark brown head, white breast and throat, and the body is light gray while the belly is white. The female, is brown blackish, and has a dark bronze speculum on the wings.

Geographical Range: The geographical range is all across North America, going from Canada in the summer to southern U.S. in the winter.

Habitat: The duck's habitat during the breeding season, which is late winter through spring, is shallow ponds and marshes in open areas. In the winter, their habitats are shallow wetlands, and flooded fields or lakes.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: October - March

Number of eggs: 6 - 12

Broods per year:

Time of hatching: 21 - 25 days

Time to independence:

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 22 years

Food habits: seeds, waste grain, roots, and aquatic invertebrates

Time in Texas: August - February

Wood Duck

Aix sponsa

Author: Alyssa Edwards

Description

Average length: M 20", F 19"

Average mass: M 1.5 lbs., F 1.4 lbs

Males have a crested head that is iridescent green and purple with a white stripe leading from the eye to the end of the crest. The throat is white and chest is burgundy with white flecks. The bill is brightly patterned black, white, and red. The female wood duck has a gray-brown head and neck with a brownish-green glossy crest. The throat is white and breast is gray-brown striped with white, fading into the white belly. The back is olive brown with a shimmer of iridescent green, and the bill is blue-gray.

Geographic Range

Woods ducks are only found in North America.

Habitat

Wooded swamps, marshes, streams, beaver ponds, and small lakes. They stick to wet areas with trees or extensive cattails.



Photo: Troy A. Ladine

Life History Data

Time of breeding: Pair up in late winter and begin breeding in early spring

Number of eggs: Average of 12

Broods per year: 1-2

Time to hatching: 28-37 days

Time to fledging: 56-68 days

Time to independence: 56-70 days

Age at reproductive maturity

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating system: Monogamous

Life span: Usually do not live past 4 in the wild. In captivity they have the potential to live well into their teens.

Food Habits: The young duckling's diet consists of insects, small fish, aquatic invertebrates, and other high-protein animal material. After six weeks they switch to 90 percent vegetative material primarily aquatic plants such as algae and pondweed. Adult ducks feed on nuts and fruits, aquatic plants and seeds, and aquatic insects.

Order Galliformes

Family Odontophoridae

Northern Bobwhite

Colinus virginianus

Author: Shekinah Webb

Description: Mass: 6-8 ounces, females heavier than males; Length: 9.75 in.; Medium-sized quail that runs on the ground, small round head with a slight crest and a round body with very short tail: reddish and brown in coloring, pale throat and eyestripe white in male, buff in female, females show little variation among the different forms, but the males can vary dramatically. Some bobwhite from Mexico have little banding across the chest, are uniformly rufous, and have all black heads.

Geographical Range: Distributed throughout the eastern United States and Mexico year round..In the summer, it is found in Nebraska, Wisconsin, southern Ontario and Massachusetts southward to Florida and southern Mexico.

Habitat: Preferences: agricultural lands, grasslands, herbaceous and wooded vegetation, lowland forests, prairie wetlands, domestic haylands, Eastern plains. Overgrown hedgerows and fencerows

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Mid-April - September

Number of eggs: 6 - 28

Broods per year: 1 - 3

Time of hatching: 23 - 24 days

Time to independence: 14 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: ambisexual polygamy

Life span: 6 years

Food habits: seeds and less quantities of green plant matter, fruit, and insects

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Troy A. Ladine

Order Pelecaniformes

Family Phalacrocoraciidae

Double-Crested Cormorant

Phalacrocorax auritus

Author: James R. Walker, Hannah Word

Description: Mass: 1200-2500 g; Length: 74–91 cm; Large, dark waterbird with a long, hooked bill and long tail, long, thin neck, gular area squared off and orange, extending straight down across throat, orange lores

Geographical Range: Found as far north as Alaska and as far south as Mexico and the Bahamas

Habitat: Preferences: freshwater habitats on lakes, rivers, swamps, bays and coasts

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: April - early May

Number of eggs: 3 - 4

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 25 - 29 days

Time to independence: 10 weeks

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: at least 2 years

Females: at least 2 years

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 6 years

Food habits: Fish, Occasional food sources amphibians and crustaceans

Time in Texas: winter months

Order Pelecaniformes

Family Anhingidae

Anhinga
Anhinga anhinga

Order Ciconiformes

Family Ardeidae

American Bittern

Botaurus lentiginosus

Author: Lynlea Hansen

Description of Bird

Mass: 13.1 17.6 oz.

Length: 60 85 cm

Wingspan: 92 cm

A streaked brown heron. Outer wing appears blackish brown, while the inner wing and body are a lighter brown. Adults have a black stripe down the side of their throat, while younger have shorter necks and are stockier. The American bittern is known to be heard than seen.

Geographical Range

Breeds from southeastern Alaska, Manitoba, and Newfoundland south to California, New Mexico, Arkansas, and the Carolinas. The American bittern winters north to coastal British Columbia, Southwest, Illinois, and along the Atlantic Coast to southern New England.

Habitat

Found around freshwater and brackish marshes and marshy lakeshores. Regular in salt marshes during migration and winter. In winter they move to areas where water bodies don't freeze, especially near the coast, where they may occasionally use brackish marshes.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Summer

Number of Eggs: 1 5

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 24 28 days

Time to independence: 7 14 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 8 years

Food habits: Hunts for insects, such as dragonflies and grasshoppers, and small mammals, amphibians, and reptiles.

Time in Texas: March - May, September -November

Cattle Egret

Bulbulcus ibis

Author: Wayne Cooley, James R. Walker

Description of Bird

Mass: 340-388 g

Length: 47- 57 cm

They are white with orange buff colored plumes on their head and back during the breeding season, relatively short yellow bill, pale yellow eyes and greenish-yellow legs.

Geographical Range

Breeds from California east to the Great Lakes and Maine and south to the Gulf Coast. It is also found in the tropics, South America, Europe, Asia, Australia and Africa. The cattle egret is a nonnative species in North America. It probably flew to South America from Africa and then moved up to the United States

Habitat

Found foraging in many habitats, terrestrial and aquatic, such as ponds, cattle pasture, roadsides, farmland, dumps, parks, sports fields, and lawns.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: early April- late July

Number of Eggs: 1-5

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 22- 26 days

Time to independence: 45 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: spring of 3rd year

Females: spring of 3rd year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 6-8 years

Food habits: following animals like cows in North America and eating insects like grasshoppers, crickets, spiders, and flies that are disturbed by the livestock

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Ashley Ayers



Photo: Darius Williams

Great-Blue Heron

Dumetella carolinensis

Author: Katy Gifford, Jeff A. Savoie

Description of Bird

Length: 97-137 cm

Wingspan:

Mass: 2.1-2.5 kg

Large, gray birds with bluish gray bodies, wings and bellies. The reddish-gray neck is long and S-shaped with white, black, and rusty brown streaks on the front. The long legs are brownish or greenish with rust colored thighs and the bill is long, thick and yellowish. Additional markings include a white crown stripe, a black plume extending from behind the eye to off the back of the neck, a black patch at the bend of the wing, black on upper side of flight feathers, and a cinnamon colored patch on the front of the underside of the wing.

Geographical Range

Found year-round in southern half and along the coasts of the United States. Found in Central America during the winter and in the northern United States, Canada, and southern Alaska in the summer

Habitat

Forage on stream and pond edges, wet meadows and upland fields. They form nesting colonies in dead trees



Photo: Hallee Vasquez

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: March-May in north, November -April in south

Number of Eggs: 2-6

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 27-30 days

Time to independence: 60-81 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 22 months

Females: 22 months

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 15 years

Food habits: Eats fish, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and small mammals. Preys by walking slowly, standing and quickly lunging to stab prey with bill

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Emily Hicks

Great Egret

Ardea alba

Author: Kimberly Ledbetter

Description of Bird

Length: 89-104 cm

Wingspan: 1.4m

Mass: 2.2 lbs.

This bird is large, all white heron with a yellow bill and black legs. In breeding plumage, has a long lacy plume on back. Much smaller Snowy Egret has black bill and legs and yellow feet.

Geographical Range

Breeds locally from Oregon south to western Mexico, and from Minnesota to Mississippi Valley and Southeast, and along Atlantic Coast north to southern New England. Winters regularly from Oregon south through Southwest, Texas, and Gulf Coast states to Mexico, and on Atlantic Coast north to New Jersey. Also in tropical America and warmer part of Old World

Habitat

Fresh and salt marshes, marshy ponds, and tidal flats. Forage on stream and pond edges, wet meadows and upland fields. They form nesting colonies in dead trees.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: April

Number of Eggs: 3-5 pale blue-green eggs

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 23-26 days

Time to independence: 21 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 2 years

Females: 2 years

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 23 years

Food Habits: Fish, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and small mammals.

Time in Texas: Primarily found along the coast, northern Texas, panhandle, El Paso.



Photo: Emily Hicks

Green Heron

Butorides virescens

Author: Taylor Weaver

Description of Bird

Length:
Wingspan: 64-68 cm
Mass: 240 g
Crown black, back and wings dark gray, green or grayblue the neck is chestnut colored. Bill is dark, legs bright orange. Immature green herons have streaks on neck, breast, and sides. Female adults tend to be smaller, with duller and lighter plumage than that seen in males, particularly in the breeding season.

Geographical Range

They occur as far north as southern Canada and as far south as northern South America. They are found throughout the eastern United States as far west as North Dakota and the Great Plains states. During the breeding season they are found primarily in the eastern United States, with some populations in the Pacific Northwest as well. Non-breeding individuals are found in Mexico and Central America, Texas, southern New Mexico and Arizona, and the Caribbean islands

Habitat

Favored habitats are mangrove-lined shores and estuaries, and dense, woody vegetation fringing ponds, rivers and lakes. They frequent both fresh and salt water



Photo: Skylar Williams

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: March -July

Number of Eggs: 2-6

Broods per year: 2

Time of hatching: 19-21 days

Time to independence: 30-35 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 11 years

Food habits: Small fish, invertebrates, insects, frogs, and other small animals.

Time in Texas:



Photo: Harrison Baugh

Little Blue Heron

Egretta caerulea

Author: Abby Tunnell, Brian Baca

Description of Bird

Mass: 340 g

Length: 60 cm

Wingspan: 102 cm

The Little Blue Heron is a small Heron, with a slight body, and a slender neck, and long legs. It has rounded wings that are long and straight, and a spear like bill that is thick at the base. The bird also has a purple-maroon head and neck, with a blueish body, and yellow eyes.

Geographical Range

Its geographical range spaces from New England, to Florida, Mexico, and the Caribbean. It also breeds in the southern United States and Gulf Coast.

Habitat

Enjoys shallow marshy ponds, swamps, low thickets. Nests in trees with colonies of other Little Blue Herons. Prefers salt water to fresh water.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Summer

Number of Eggs: 3-4

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 22-23 days

Time to independence: 35-49 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: Breeds in colonies, monogamous.

Life span: 167 months (approx.)

Food habits: Foraging, fish, frogs, rodents, insects.

Time in Texas: Year round

Snowy Egret

Egretta thula

Author: Steven Riley, Graydon Cass

Description of Bird

Mass: 360 g

Length: 56-66 cm

Wingspan:

Males slightly larger than females and similar in appearance. Entirely white plumage, a long, slender black bill, yellow lores, and long, slender black legs with yellow feet.

Geographical Range

Found throughout North America, prefers coastal states. Migrates to Northern United States and Summers in the Southwest and Southwest

Habitat

Found in marshes, swamps, shorelines, mudflats and ponds

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: February-July

Number of Eggs: 3-6

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 22-26 days

Time to independence: 40-55 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 2 years

Females: 2 years

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 17 years

Food habits: Fish (Marine and Freshwater), crustaceans (crabs, crawfish, shrimp), earthworms, snakes and lizards

Time in Texas: year round, southern populations migrate north

Reddish Egret

Egretta rufescens

Author: Andrew Franklin

Description of Bird

Mass: 870 g

Length: 70 - 80 cm

Wingspan: average - 116 cm

The Reddish Egret is a medium sized wading egret with long legs and neck. It has a long-pointed pink-based bill with a black tip as well as dark legs and feet. It typically holds its neck in an s curve and will sometimes actively feed by flapping its wings and running through shallow water. While there are no significant differences in the appearance of the male and female of the species, there are two distinct color variations of the adult Reddish Egret. The dark morph variation has a blue-grey body with a brownish head and shaggy plumes on the neck. The white morph variation also has shaggy plumes on the neck but has a white body, head, and neck. The immature Reddish Egret has a brown body, head, and neck regardless of the morph that will become evident in adulthood.

Geographical Range

The range of the Reddish Egret extends from the coastal beaches of Texas to Florida in the Gulf of Mexico up to North Carolina on the Atlantic coast, throughout the Caribbean, and along both coasts of Mexico and Central America. In Florida, it is most common along the Gulf coast from Florida Bay north to Tampa Bay. However, individuals have been documented as far north as St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge on the Gulf coast and Fernandina Beach on the east coast

Habitat

The reddish egret is exclusively a coastal species, often associated with mangrove forests. The species frequents shallow coastal waters, salt-pans, open marine flats and shorelines; it is rarely recorded away from the coast and almost all recorded cases of this have been juveniles. It breeds on islands and in mangroves

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: March - July

Number of Eggs: 3 - 4

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 21 - 36 days

Time to independence: 63 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 4 years

Females: 4 years

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 12 -22 years

Food habits: Small fishes (at least 32 species), crustaceans (e.g., shrimp, crabs), and insects. In Texas the diet of the Reddish Egret has been observed to primarily consist of the Sheepshead Minnow and the Longnose Killifish.

Time in Texas: mostly permanent, some migrate south for winter

Yellow-Crowned Night Heron

Nyctanassa violacea

Author: Rolando Reyes

Description:

Mass: 650-800g

Length: 55-70cm

Wingspan: 107-112cm

Yellow-crowned Night Herons are beautiful colored birds. Adults are cloudy gray in their underparts with a black head and white cheeks. They get their name from the yellowish cream streak on top of their heads that looks like a crown. The adults also have long feathers that sprout from the back of their heads. The juveniles are mostly brown and white streaked all around.

Geographical Range:

Yellow-crowned Night Herons are distributed from central North America all the way down into the northern coastal regions of South America. They have also been recorded as residents in the Caribbean and Galapagos Islands.

Habitat:

Yellow-crowned Night Herons can be found in most coastal areas such as southeast United States, western and eastern Mexico and the northern coastal areas of South America where they can find their preferred food source: crustaceans. They mostly live in coastal lowlands, inland lowlands, mangroves, rivers, and lakes.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: March-mid July

Number of eggs: 2-6

Broods per year:

Time of hatching: 24-25 days

Time to independence: 25 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males:

Females:

Mating System: Monogamous

Life span: 6 years

Food habits: Crustaceans, fish, amphibians, and aquatic insects

Time in Texas: during breeding season (about 5 1/2 months)

Order Falconiformes

Family Cathartidae

Black Vulture

Coragyps atratys

Author: Brent Lewis, Jeremy Alexander, Blair Brown, Brianna Moseley

Description of Bird

Mass: 1.6-2.7 kg Length:
60-70 cm
Wingspan: 137 - 150 cm

The Black Vulture has black feathers that are iridescent. The wings are broad. The bases of the primary feathers are white, producing a white patch on the underside of the wing's edge, which is visible in flight. The tail is short and square, barely reaching past the edge of the folded wings. The head and neck are featherless, and the skin is dark gray with wrinkles. In juveniles their body is black with wing feathers usually duller, and less iridescent. The skin of head is smooth, and a darker black than an adult. The legs are grayish white, while the two front toes of the foot are long and have small webs at their bases.

Geographical Range

Southeastern United States, Mexico, Central America, and South America

Habitat

Prefers an open habitat and avoids dense forests as much as possible. Such habitats include lowlands with adjacent highlands, open fields, desert terrain, garbage dumps, and urban or rural centers



Photo: Keely Schlabs

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Jan.-May

Number of Eggs: 2

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 28-41 days

Time to independence: 75-80 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 14 years

Food habits: tend to gather around garbage dumps, sewers, and slaughterhouses in search of carrion and scavenge along roadsides for road kill. These vultures are known to kill baby herons on nesting colonies, and feed on domestic ducks, newborn calves, small mammals, small birds, eggs, skunks, opossums, ripe or rotten fruit or vegetables and young turtles.

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Troy A. Ladine

Turkey Vulture

Cathartes aura

Author: Josh Kemery, Aron Reynolds

Description of Bird

Mass: 848- 2000 g

Length: 64-81 cm

Wingspan: 170-183 cm

The turkey vulture is a brownish color with grey on the underwing that extends the full length of the wing. The sexes do not differ on color or appearance they both have a bare head that can be a light pink to a bright red.

Geographical Range

Turkey vultures can be found as far north as the southern border of Canada and as far South as Tierra del Fuego, Chile.

Habitat

Turkey vultures occupy a very diverse habitat. They can be found in wooded areas as well as in open areas. As long as the turkey vulture has a good source of food it can settle in almost any habitat

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: March-June

Number of Eggs: 1-3

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 30-40 days

Time to independence: 150-170 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 17 years

Food habits: scavenger that feeds primarily on carrion of other animals

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Emily Hicks



Photo: Rileigh Welch

Order Falconiformes

Family Pandionidae

Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

Author: Brian Baca

Description of Bird

Mass: 1.2 - 2.0 kg

Length: 55 - 58 cm

Wingspan: 145 - 170 cm

These birds are brown above and white below, with a white head that has a brown stripe through the eye. The female Osprey is larger than the male. Juveniles have white spots on their back.

Geographical Range

The Osprey is a very diverse bird, found on every continent besides Antarctica, and usually resides along the U.S coasts and large inland lakes.

Habitat

You will find the Osprey around any body of water, like salt marshes, rivers, ponds, reservoirs, estuaries, and even coral reefs.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Apr - May

Number of Eggs: 1 - 4

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 36 - 42 days

Time to independence: 50 - 55 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 3 year

Females: 3 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 15 - 20 years

Food habits: fish.

Time in Texas: mid-Mar - late May; early Sept - mid Nov

Order Falconiformes

Family Accipitridae

Bald Eagle

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

Author: Rusty Collier, Shane Kelehan, Leslie Fletcher, Jovana Nieto

Description of Bird

Length of both sexes: 71.96 cm

Wingspan of both sexes: 203 cm

Mass of both sexes: 3.63 kg

Female Bald Eagles tend to be 25% larger than male Bald Eagles. On average weight females are 12 lbs and male eagles to 9 lbs. Based on both appearances blackish-brown back and breast a white head, neck, and tail and yellow feet and beak.

Geographical Range

Most of North America from Alaska and Canada to Northern Mexico

Habitat

Bald Eagles prefer areas with lots of fish or forest areas such as lakes, reservoirs, rivers, marshes, and coasts. During the winter season, Bald Eagles can be spotted near unfrozen lakes and hunting along coastlines, reservoirs and rivers.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: South: Sept. to Nov.

Great Plains and Mountain West: Jan.

Number of Eggs: 1-3

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 35 days

Time to independence: 10-13 weeks

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 4-5 years

Females: 4-5 years

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 30-40 years

Food habits: primarily eat fish and other small animals such as snakes, ducks, and muskrats occasionally eat dead animals

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Shane Kelehan

Broad-Winged Hawk

Buteo platypterus

Author: Rolando Reyes

Description of Bird

Mass: 265 - 280 g

Length: 33 - 44 cm

Wingspan: 81 - 100 cm

Adult Broad-winged Hawks typically have reddish-brown heads with small white streaks. These reddish-brown and white streaks get slightly larger in the underside of the bird. The juveniles are lighter brown with less white and brown streaks. In the West, there are dark morphs of Broad-winged Hawks which are just dark brown all around, but these are rarely found.

Geographical Range

Southeastern Canada, Eastern United States, Southern Central America, and Southern Central America. Some year round in Caribbean Islands.

Habitat

Their habitat is mostly deciduous forests in Southeastern Canada and Eastern United States. They like to nest in forest areas that are near bodies of water that are far from any human disturbance.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: mid May - July

Number of Eggs: 2 - 5

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 28 - 31 days

Time to independence: 29 -31 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males:

Females:

Mating System: monogamous

Life span:

Food habits: mostly frogs, toads, and small rodents

Time in Texas: during breeding season and migration

Cooper's Hawk

Accipter cooperi

Author: Andrew Garay, Rusty Collier, Wes Dorough

Description of Bird

Mass: Males - 220-410 g
Females - 330-680 g
Length: 41 cm
Wingspan: 79 cm
Broad round wings, long rounded tail, broad shoulders, large head, adults are steel blue gray, reddish bars on belly, dark bands on tail Juveniles are brown with brown streaks on their breast

Geographical Range

Breeds across southern Canada southward to southern United States and into central Mexico. In the winter you can find them throughout the United States and Mexico

Habitat

Preferences: breeds in deciduous, mixed, and coniferous forests, becoming more common in urban and suburban areas. The Cooper.s Hawk Captures birds from low, stealthy approach flight or after a short chase. Uses cover, including manmade structures, to conceal approach. In open areas may drop on prey from high flight.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Summer

Number of Eggs: 1- 7

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 32-36 days

Time to independence: 60 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 2 year

Mating System: monogamous, some for life

Life span: 12 years

Food habits: European starling, mourning doves, and rock pigeons, American robins, jays, northern flicker, quail, pheasants, grouse, chickens, chipmunks, hares, mice, squirrels, and bats

Time in Texas: year round

Mississippi Kite

Ictinia mississippiensis

Author: Clay Nail, Joshua L. Davis, Aron Reynolds

Description of Bird

Mass: 213-340 g

Length: 32 cm

Wing span: 91 cm

Males and Females similar in appearance: Pale grey head, the pale extending to the back of its neck and its secondary flight feathers, the secondaries being tipped with white. The mantle is dark grey, becoming black on the bend of the wing. The tail and primaries are black

Geographical Range

Spend the summer in the southern United States and migrate as far south as northern Argentina in the winter

Habitat

Woodlands, riparian zones, and tree clusters

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: late Spring-Summer

Number of Eggs: 1-2

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 31-32 days

Time to independence: 30-34 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 7 years

Food habits: Insects and smaller reptiles and amphibians

Time in Texas: March-October

Red-Shouldered Hawk

Buteo lineatus

Author: Grant Massey

Description of Bird

Mass: 550-700 g

Length: 43-61 cm

Wingspan:

Sexes similar: Female slightly larger than male. Brown heads, dark brown backs and reddish underparts with dark brown streaks, reddish secondary upper wing coverts

Geographical Range

Found in Eastern half of United States and Mexico and the West Coast of America

Habitat

Tall trees in mature lowland forests

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: April-July

Number of Eggs: 3-4

Broods per year: 2-4

Time of hatching: 33-40 days

Time to independence: 17-19 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 26 years

Food habits: Mammals, (squirrels, rabbits), reptiles (snakes, lizards), amphibians (toads frogs), occasional food sources Small birds, large insects, crayfish

Time in Texas: year round, northern populations rare in west Texas



Photo: Troy A. Ladine



Photo: Halee Vasquez

Red-Tailed Hawk

Buteo jamaicensis

Author: Blaire Brown, Nathan Hicks, Marissa Dawkins

Description of Bird

Mass: 550-700 g

Length: 43-64 cm

Wingspan: 122 cm

Due to sexual dimorphism, females are typically 25% larger than males.

Red-tailed hawk feather coloring includes light auburn to dark brown. The underbelly is lighter than the upper portions of body, with a dark belly band going across it. The cere, legs and feet are yellow and the tail is red. Juveniles look similar to the adults one main difference is that the juveniles have yellow-gray eyes that change to dark brown when they mature

Geographical Range

The red-tailed hawk is found throughout the United States and Canada, into Mexico and Central America. Many birds are year round occupants although the birds of the far north will migrate south during the fall to escape the harsh winter

Habitat

Grasslands along fields and perched on telephones poles, fencepost, or trees standing alone or along edges of fields. This includes desert, scrublands, grasslands, roadsides, fields and pastures, parks, broken woodland, and (in Mexico) tropical rainforest

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Spring

Number of Eggs: 1-5

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 28- 35 days

Time to independence: 10 weeks

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 3 year

Females: 3 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 21.5 years

Food habits: Majority of diet consists of small rodents. Reptiles and other birds make up the rest of the diet

Time in Texas: year round

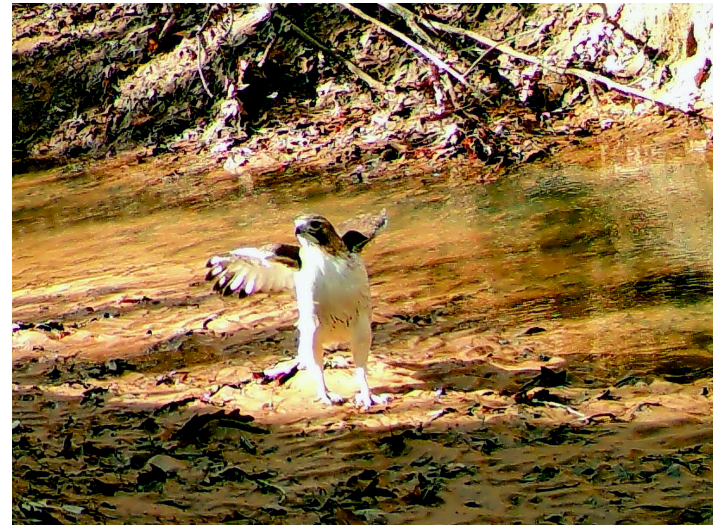


Photo: Troy A. Ladine

Sharp-Shinned Hawk

Accipiter striatus

Author: Rolando Reyes

Description:

Mass: 87-218 g

Length: 24-34 cm

Wingspan: 43-56 cm

Sharp-shinned hawks are the smallest hawks found in North America. The adult male Sharp-shinned Hawk is mostly bluish-gray on the top and has horizontal orange and white stripes across the chest and belly. The females are almost exactly the same but are about one third larger in size than the males. The juvenile Sharp-shinned is mostly reddish-brown on top with vertical white and brown stripes across the chest and belly.

Geographical Range:

Sharp-shinned Hawks breed mostly in Canada and in some northern states of the U.S. and be all year-round residents of southern Central America.

Habitat:

Sharp-shins favorite dense coniferous forest areas that contain closed canopies for them to build their nests. However, they can also be found in less dense areas during winter such as towns and open parks mostly where bird feeders are available.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: May-August

Number of eggs: Usually 4-6

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 30-35 days

Time to independence: 21-28 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males:

Females:

Mating System: Monogamous

Life span:

Food habits: Small songbirds, occasionally quail or doves

Time in Texas:

Order Gruiformes

Family Rallidae

American Coot
Fulica americana



Photo: Jordan Bartlett

Order Ciconiformes

Family Ciconiidae

Wood Stork

Mycteria americana

Author: Brianna Moseley

Description of Bird

Mass: 2.0 - 2.6 kg

Length: 85 - 115 cm

Wingspan: 150 - 175 cm

The Wood Stork is a large, bald-headed wading bird. The head and neck are bare of feathers and dark grey in color. The plumage is mostly white, with the exception of the tail and some of the wing feathers, which are black with a greenish-purplish sheen. The juvenile differs from the adult, with the former having a feathered head and a yellow bill, compared to the black adult bill. The sexes are similar. The black downward-curved bill is long and very wide at the base. The legs and feet are dark, and the flesh-colored toes are pink during the breeding season. They fly with their neck and legs outstretched but tend to perch with the neck drawn in, giving them a humpbacked appearance.

Geographical Range

Their permanent residence is southeastern swamps and wetlands.

Habitat

They prefer freshwater and estuarine wetlands, primarily nesting in cypress or mangrove swamps. They feed in freshwater marshes, narrow tidal creeks, or flooded tidal pools.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Dec. - Apr

Number of Eggs: 1 - 5

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 27 - 32 days

Time to independence: 50 - 55 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males:

Females: 4 years

Mating System: seasonally monogamous

Life span: 11 - 18 years

Food habits: Fish and other aquatic invertebrates

Time in Texas: year-round

Order Charadriiformes

Family Charadriidae

Killdeer

Charadrius vociferus

Author: Shane Kelehan, Joshua L. Davis, Spencer C. Nelson, Mcentry Dunbar

Description of Bird

Mass: 75-128 g

Length: 23-28 cm

Wing span: 32-36 cm

Double breasted bands, top band completely encircling the breast, another band is located around the head, bright reddish orange rump visible in flight

Geographical Range

found over much of North America and in parts of South America. From the Gulf of Alaska coastline the range extends southward throughout the United States and reaches the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Distribution continues through the Nearctic zone and into South America, runs along the Andes Mountain Range and terminates at the southern border of Peru

Habitat

open grasslands, wetlands, fields, croplands and short-grass prairies

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Spring Summer

Number of Eggs: 2 6

Broods per year: 1 3

Time of hatching: 24 28 days

Time to independence: 20 31 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 12 years

Food habits: omnivorous since berries are known to be included within the diet. Primarily though, the diet consists of various aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, insects and crustaceans.

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Kenneth Anding



Photo: Jake Smith



Photo: Skylar Williams

Order Charadriiformes

Family Scolopacidae

Least Sandpiper

Calidris minutilla

Author: Celeste O'Dell

Description of Bird

Mass: 12 - 14 g

Length: 13 - 17 cm

Wingspan: 21 - 24 cm

Has brown upperparts and white underparts. Bills are black, and their legs are yellowish-green. Juveniles have crisp plumage that is rustier and that of adults. In flight, they show whitish rumps bisected by a longitudinal (vertical) black line.

Geographical Range

Breed in northern North America from Alaska eastward through Newfoundland, Canada. Long-distance migrant. Migrate in broad swath across North America with the eastern population over the ocean to South America and the western population through the interior of North America or down the Pacific coast. They winter in southern North America, southern United States and throughout Mexico, and into South America.

Habitat

They breed in tundra and boreal forests across the extreme northern regions of North America, and they nest in coastal wetlands, bogs, sedge meadows, and tussock heaths. At the southern reaches of their breeding range, in Nova Scotia and British Columbia, they also nest in sand dunes. During migration they stop on coastal mudflats, rocky shorelines, and inland habitats including wet meadows, flooded fields, and muddy edges of lakes, ponds, and ditches. They winter from the southern United States through the northern half of South America in lagoons, mangrove forests, wet ditches, swamps, wet fields, mudflats, saltmarshes, tidal sloughs, and the edges of lakes, ponds, and rivers.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: May and August

Number of Eggs: 3-4

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 19 - 20 days

Time to independence: 14 - 16 days after hatching

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 11 years

Food habits: on the breeding grounds and in inland areas, primarily eat fly larvae and other insects. On the coast, they eat small crustaceans, snails, and other marine creatures.

Time in Texas: summer months

White-Rumped Sandpiper
Calidris fuscicollis

Wilson's Snipe
Gallinago delicata

Order Columbiformes

Family Columbidae

Eurasian Collared Dove

Streptopelia decaocto

Author: Mcentry Dunbar, Dylan Bethea

Description of Bird

Mass: 153 g

Length: 25-31 cm

Wingspan:

Gray with pale gray under parts and brown eyes and a dark stripe on the back of its neck. The collar is a narrow, black crescent around the nape of the neck. A large dove, larger and heftier than a Mourning Dove. Wings are broad and slightly rounded. Tail is broad and squared at the tip.

Geographical Range

Found also in the southeastern parts of America from Florida to Texas and are beginning to be more prominent in the western parts of America as well. native of India and Sri Lanka, wide spread in Europe.

Habitat

Primarily found in big cities and can be sparsely found in near desert areas

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: early Spring

Number of Eggs: 1-2

Broods per year: 3-6

Time of hatching: 12-14 days

Time to independence: 15-19 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monoamous

Life span: 15-17 years

Food habits: seed and cereal grains such as millet, sunflower, milo, wheat, and corn. also eats berries, green parts of some plants and insects

Time in Texas:



Photo: Troy A. Ladine

Inca Dove
Columbina inca



Photos: Troy A. Ladine

Mourning Dove

Zenaida macroura

Author

Shekinah Webb, Andrew Garay, Jeremy Alexander

Description of Bird

Mass: 85-171 g

Length: 23-33 cm

Wing span:

Medium-sized bird with small head and long, pointy tail with white on the outer edges, light brown or black grayish brown underside buffy, black spots on wings, black comma-shaped spot below and behind eye, tail graduated, with inner feathers longest, tail gray, with white tips bordered by black on outermost feathers with the bill small and thin, and black. Legs and feet dull red and its eyes are dark brown, surrounded by blue skin. Wings make whistling noise in flight. Sexes similar, but males slightly larger and slightly more colorful, with bluish crown and pink chest

Geographical Range

year round all over the United States and several parts of Central America. The Mourning Dove breeding birds are often spotted in the northern ,central part of the US, such as Montana and North and South Dakota, as well as several parts of southern Canada. Several of the non-breeding doves can be spotted in the southern part of Central America.

Habitat

open habitats which includes agricultural areas, open woods, forest edges, deserts, cities and suburbs. They are abundant in agricultural and suburban areas.



Photo: Lindsey Vasquez

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: February-October

Number of Eggs: 2

Broods per year: 3-6

Time of hatching: 14 days

Time to independence: 23- 30 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 85 days

Females: 85 days

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 1.5 years

Food habits: Seeds make up 99 percent of a Mourning Dove's diet, including cultivated grains and even peanuts, as well as wild grasses, weeds, herbs, and occasionally berries. They sometimes eat snails. Mourning Doves eat roughly 12 to 20 percent of their body weight per day, or 71 calories on average.

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Harrison Baugh

Rock Pigeon

Columba livia

Author: Stacy M. Purser

Description of Bird

Mass: ca. 270 g

Length: 30-35 cm

They have 4 main plumage variations: natural, checkered, dark and brown, but all have pink legs and white cere. Natural is the most typical coloring, which is a bluish-gray head, neck and chest with glossy multicolored iridescence along their neck; two dark bands across the wings are seen in most and one bluish-gray band across the tail.

Geographical Range

Wild *Columba livia* are native to Europe, North Africa, and southwestern Asia.

Feral pigeons are found worldwide, including throughout all of North America

Habitat

wild rock doves nest in crevices along rocky seaside cliffs, close to agriculture or open shrub vegetation. Feral pigeons tend to live in old farm buildings in rural areas, and in skyscrapers in cities.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: year round, peak during spring and fall

Number of Eggs: 1-2

Broods per year: 1-4

Time of hatching: 17-19 days

Time to independence: 30-37 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 5 years

Food habits: Mainly seeds (corn, oats, cherry along with knotweed, elm, poison ivy and barley) , Occasional food sources In cities they are often fed popcorn, cake, peanuts, bread and currants, they suck water through their beaks like straws

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Justin Mosier

White-Winged Dove

Zenaida asiatica

Author: Cameron Burrell

Description of Bird

Mass:

Length:

Wingspan:

The plumage is grayish-brown with a slightly rounded tail and white tips. The wings have a white edge along the lower portion when the wing is folded. The breast is slightly darker than the rest of the body. The beak is grayish-black while the legs and feet are pinkish-red. Males and females are very similar but the males tend to be slightly more colorful and have a hint of purple on the neck and head

Geographical Range

They are found in Southern American, Mexico, South America, and the Caribbean. They are mainly found in the southern states of the U.S. although they can be seen in various parts throughout the country

Habitat

White-winged dove prefer to live in dense areas of woodlands along with a warm environment. These thick canopies can be found in trees such oak, ash, citrus, and elm trees. They are found to live in urban areas with large shade trees. Agricultural fields aren't normally attractive to the dove unless there is an abundance of food.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Spring-August

Number of Eggs: 2

Broods per year: 1-3

Time of hatching: 14 days

Time to independence: 14-16 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 2-3 years

Females: 2-3 years

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 12 years

Food habits: Mostly grain but also eats fruit, seeds, and pollen or nectar

Time in Texas:



Photo: Troy A. Ladine

Order Cuculiformes

Family Cuculidae

Black-Billed Cuckoo

Coccyzus erythrophthalmus

Author: Abby Tunnell

Description of Bird

Mass: 40-65 g

Length: 28-31 cm

Wingspan: 34-40 cm

Dark bill, small white spots of tail, little rufous, slender body, off white belly.

Can be a soft brown morphing into a gray color at the tail.

Geographical Range

Neartic, Neotropical regions.

Habitat

Wet openings with willows, thickets. Solitary life style.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Summer

Number of Eggs: 2-5

Broods per year: 1-2

Time of hatching: 10-14 days

Time to independence: 17 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: Unknown

Females: Unknown

Mating System: Monogamous

Life span: 5 years

Food habits: Caterpillars, large insects, seeds and fruits. Will occasionally eat eggs of other birds.

Time in Texas: Migratory

Greater Roadrunner

Geococcyx californianus

Author: Kimberley Ledbetter

Description of Bird

Length/height: 61cm.

Approximately 300g.

Bigger than an American crow. A long-legged, long-tailed, streaked, gray-brown ground bird with a bushy crest. This bird has bright yellow eyes.

Geographical Range

Resident from northern California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana southward into Mexico.

Habitat

Open arid country with scattered thickets.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: August-September

Number of Eggs: 3-5 ivory-colored eggs

Broods per year: 1-2

Time of hatching: 20 days

Time to independence: 18 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 2-3 years

Females: 2-3 years

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 7-8 years

Food habits: insects, scorpions, lizards, snakes, rodents, small birds, and young of ground nesting birds.

Time in Texas: Resides year-round in most sections of Texas, but is less common in the eastern portions of the state. Can be seen across the desert or plains and can be encountered in the East Texas Piney Woods

Yellow-Billed Cuckoo

Coccyzus americanus

Author: Bryan Whitmire

Description of Bird

Mass: 55-65 g

Length: 26-30 cm

Wingspan:

Have grayish-brown plumage on head and back with white underparts and long tails. They also have a short to medium beak that curves downward and has a yellow or orange lower mandible

Geographical Range

Yellow-billed cuckoos are found in the Nearctic and Neotropical regions. They breed throughout eastern North America, in southeast Canada, northern Mexico and the Greater Antilles. They winter primarily in South America

Habitat

Open woodlands with a dense shrub layer and clearings

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: mid-late May

Number of Eggs: 1-5

Broods per year: 1-2

Time of hatching: 9-11 days

Time to independence: 28-30 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 4 years

Food habits: exclusively insects

Time in Texas: April-November



Photos: Troy A. Ladine

Order Strigiformes

Family Strigidae

Barred Owl

Strix varia

Author: Nathan Ledkins, Stacy M. Purser

Description of Bird

Length: 40-63 cm

Wingspan:

Mass: 500-1050 g

Medium-sized gray-brown owl streaked with white horizontal barring on the chest and vertical barring on the belly. Round-headed with a whitish/brown facial disk with dark brown trim. Brown eyes, yellow beak almost covered by feathers and a long tail. No difference in plumage between males and females

Geographical Range

Found in the U. S. and Southern Canada east of the Rocky Mountains

Habitat

Wetland forests with large mature trees with cavities for nesting



Photo: Rebekkah Still

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Dec-Mar

Number of Eggs: 1-5 (avg 2-3)

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 28-33 days

Time to independence: 4-6 months

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 2 year

Females: 2 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 10-18 years

Food habits: Generalist carnivores feeding on small mammals up to the size of rabbits, birds, reptiles, and amphibians Other food sources Fish, insects, invertebrates.

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Hallee Vasquez

Eastern Screech-Owl

Megascops asio

Author: Reece McConnell, Abby Tunnell

Description of Bird

Mass:166-194 g

Length: 16-24 cm

Wingspan:

A screech owl is a small, grayish owl with small ear tufts, yellow eyes, and greenish-yellow beak. Males are grey with bold chest marks, and females are very similar. The young owls are gray or grayish-brown with less distinct chest markings

Geographical Range

These owls are found east of the Rocky Mountains, from southern Canada south into Mexico

Habitat

Forests, riparian areas, parks, suburban areas. Nocturnal. Lives in woodpecker holes, cavities in trees and any type of tree will do. Prefers trees near water. Can live in any area such as farms, woods, and suburban areas as long as few dense trees are around. Solitary.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: end March-mid May

Number of Eggs: 3-4, but up to 7

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 26 days

Time to independence: 56 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous for life

Life span: 14 years

Food habits: Most hunting is done during the first four hours of darkness. It hunts in woodlands, open fields, or wetlands. There are many different types of prey, but mainly small rodents and deer mice.

Time in Texas: year round



Photos: Troy A. Ladine

Great-Horned Owl

Bubo virginianus

Author: Thad Fortune, Brittany McCloskey

Description

Length: 46-63 cm

Wingspan: 101–145 cm

Weight: 32.1–88.2 oz

The Great Horned Owl is a large and bulky bird with distinct, widely spread and broad ear tufts that create a cat like head shape. The coloration of the bird is an overall grayish on the upper side and is heavily barred underneath. The face of the owl is a rusty-orange color. The owl's throat is white and leads to a dark brown breast above the barred underside of the owl, (Sibley, 2011). The male and female are fairly uniform in weight, length and wingspan with the female being slightly larger in most cases, which are as follows:

Geographic Range

The Great Horned Owl can be found year round all over the United States and several parts of Canada and South America. The bird is more prominent in North America but is very abundant in several locations in South America as well

Habitat

Over the years the Great Horned Owl has adapted too many different habitats and climates. They may be found everywhere from dense forests to residential areas. They have also been known to habitat in the same place as the diurnal Red-tailed Hawk

Life History Data

Time of breeding: January and February

Number of eggs: 2-4

Broods per year: 1

Time to hatching: 26-35 days

Time to fledging: 35 days)

Time to independence: Young cannot fly well until 9-10 weeks. They are slowly weaned for a few more weeks. Families are loosely associated for the summer before the young leave in the fall.

Age at reproductive maturity

Males: 730 days

Females: 730 days

Mating system: The owl's courtship begins in late January and early February. The male sings love songs to the female. After mating the pair occupies another bird's or squirrel's nest.

Life span: Birds in captivity have been known to live up to 38 years old, with the average being around 34 years old. Birds in the wild can live up to 13 years old.

Food Habits: The owl eats their food whole. Any parts not wanted (bones) are regurgitated in pellet form. The best way to study the eating habits of owls is to study their pellets. They hunt at night targeting small mammals like rabbits, skunks, and squirrels. They will also feed on birds including other large birds such as falcons.



Photo: Troy A. Ladine

Order Caprimulgiformes

Family Caprimulgidae

Common Nighthawk

Chordeiles minor

Author: Cameron Burrell, Hannah Word

Description of Bird

Mass: 62 g

Length: 20-25cm

Wingspan: 51-61 cm

They are mottled gray and black birds with small black beaks. The beaks open wide and they have bristles that aid in catching insects. They have a white bar on the wings but the females are a little darker. The male has a thin white band on the tail whereas the female does not. Both genders have dark legs and feet.

Geographical Range

Breeds from the Yukon east of Nova Scotia. It is found all of the U.S. except Hawaii. In the winter they migrate to South America.

Habitat

Common Nighthawks nest in both rural and urban habitats including coastal sand dunes and beaches, logged forest, recently burned forest, woodland clearings, prairies, plains, sagebrush, grasslands, open forests, and rock outcrops. They also nest on flat gravel rooftops, though less often as gravel roofs are being replaced by smooth, rubberized roofs that provide an unsuitable surface. During migration, Common Nighthawks stop in farmlands, river valleys, marshes, coastal dunes, and open woodlands. Their South American wintering habitat is not well known.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: April-July

Number of Eggs: 1-2

Broods per year: 1-2

Time of hatching: 1-20 days

Time to independence: 30 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 4-5 years

Food habits: eat flying insects almost exclusively. Queen ants, wasps, beetles, caddisflies, moths, bugs, mayflies, flies, crickets, grasshoppers, and other insects

Time in Texas:

Eastern Whip-Poor-Will

Antrostomus vociferus

Author: Matt Tarver, Brian Whitmire

Description

Mass: 30-40 g

Length: 22-25 cm

Wingspan: 48 cm

The Whip-poor-will is known for its particular song, (*WHIP puwih WEEW*), and also for its concealment capabilities. They are often heard more than they are seen. They use their plumage to conceal themselves on the forest floor or along a branch. Males have a white necklace that borders their black colored throat while females have a buffed, gray colored necklace. Males are also distinguishable by white on their tails, which is used in breeding as a way to win a mate.

Geographic Range

Found North to South, from northern Mexico to southern Canada; ranging from the eastern Midwest to the east coast.

Habitat

Likes to perch on the forest floor or perched parallel on a branch that way it can use its plumage as camouflage from predators.

Life History Data

Time of breeding: May-August

Number of eggs: 2

Broods per year: 1, sometimes females will have two within the same area

Time to hatching: 7-20 days

Time to fledging: 15 days

Time to independence: 20 days after hatching

Age at reproductive maturity

Males: after 1 yr old

Females: after 1 yr old

Mating system: Male looks for the female. A courtship takes place where the male tries to win over the pursued female. If she chooses him they will mate and the male will leave the female after mating has taken place

Life span: 2 to 3 yrs

Food Habits: Nocturnal Insectivores; catches nocturnal insects such as moths, beetles, and mosquitos, and eats them while flying.

Time in Texas

Order Apodiformes

Family Apodidae

Chimney Swift

Chaetura pelagica

Author: Cindy Jones, Darius Roberts, Michelle B. Backus

Description of Bird

Mass: 21.33 g

Length: 13 cm

Wingspan 39.1 mm

Males and females display sexual dimorphism in which both have large eyes and are dark gray to brownish gray in appearance. A maximum of seven spiny feather tips are displayed on the tail end which contributes to the similar appearance of a .flying cigar

Geographical Range

Found in Canada (below the Arctic Circle), southern Alaska, the United States and northern Mexico in the summer. Found in southern Mexico, Central America and South America in the winter

Habitat

Found in areas settled by humans in temperate zones. In tropics, they are found near irrigated agricultural lands. They are also found at elevations of 2500 m.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: May-June

Number of Eggs: 3-7

Broods per year: 1, may have more

Time of hatching: 19-21 days

Time to independence: 14-19 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 2 year

Females: 2 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 14 years

Food habits: considered insectivores which feed while flying and catch insects while hovering over tree limbs

Time in Texas:

Order Apodiformes

Family Trochilidae

Rufous Hummingbird

Selasphorus rufus

Authors: Travis W. Sammons, Jeff A. Savoie

Description of Bird

Mass: 2.8 - 4 g

Length: 7.3 - 9.1 cm

Males have a white breast with greenish back and crown. The bill is long, straight, thin, black or dark brown in color. The feet are a dusky color.

Females have a metallic bronze-green back, and from the chin and the throat, down to the breast is a dull white color

Geographical Range

Western and coastal North America from March- August, and migrates to Mexico in the winter months from October-February

Habitat

Breeding Season: forests, on seed-tree harvest units, riparian shrub, and spruce-fir habitats. Winter: lives wherever flowers are present, then migrates to lowland stream bottoms, foothill brush land, seacoast and high mountain meadows.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: April - end July

Number of Eggs: 2

Broods per year: 1 occasionally 2

Time of hatching: 12 -14 days

Time to independence: 7 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: polygamous

Life span: 8 years

Food habits: flies, ants, small beetles, tiny wasps and other small insects for a source of protein. Nectar such as honeysuckle, scarlet sage, horsemint, and black locust.

Time in Texas: during migration

Ruby-Throated Hummingbird

Archilochus colubris

Author: Katy Little, Thad Fortune, Holly R. Potter, Dylan Benge

Description:

Length: 3.75 inches.

Wingspan: 4.5 inches.

Mass: .11 ounces.

They have a solid green back with a white upper neck. Their belly is a greenish-white color. The male has a red throat. The female has a white throat. Both have a green crown, while the male has a little more black on his head, the female doesn't have any black on her head.

Geographical Range:

This Neotropical bird ranges from most of the east half of the United States and Southern Canada. It migrates to Southern Mexico, Central America and the West Indies across the Gulf of Mexico or through Texas

Habitat:

These birds live in woodlands, forest edges, meadows, grasslands, parks, gardens, backyards, orchards, stream borders, dry forests, citrus groves, hedgerows, and scrub.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: March - July

Number of eggs: 2

Broods per year: 1 - 3

Time of hatching: 12 - 16 days

Time to independence: 22 - 30 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: polygynous

Life span: 13 years

Food habits: nectar, insects

Time in Texas: summers, migrates through central and west Texas, year round along parts of Gulf Coast



Photo: Hallee Vasquez

Order Coraciiformes

Family Alcedinidae

Belted Kingfisher

Megaceryle alcyon

Author: Travis W. Sammons

Description of Bird

Mass: 140-170 g

Length: 28-35 cm

Medium-sized, stocky birds with blue-gray plumage, except for a white collar and belly. Males and females have a gray chest band, but females also have an additional reddish brown chest band. Large head and bill compared to the size of their body, which includes a ragged, double-pointed crest that reaches from the base of the bill to the back of the neck.

Geographical Range

Native only to the Nearctic region, northern Canada and Alaska. During the winter, as far south as Central America and the Caribbean Islands .

Habitat

widespread around any sheltered open water with small fish

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: South: Jan. North: June

Number of Eggs: 5-8

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 22-24 days

Time to independence: 21 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 10 months

Females: 10 months

Mating System: monogamous

Life span:

Food habits: Fish (brown trout, blunt nose, minnows, bluegill sunfish, sculpin, Atlantic salmon) Other food sources: Snails, crustaceans, insects, amphibians, reptiles, young birds, small mammals, and berries

Time in Texas: year round but not common

Order Piciformes

Family Picidae

Downy Woodpecker

Picoides pubescens

Author: Savannah Higginbotham, Jessica Harrison

Description of Bird

Mass: 18-26 g

Length: 14-17 cm

Wingspan: 25-30 cm

Small woodpecker with black-and-white upperparts and white underparts. Boldy striped head. Broad white stripe down center of back. Hindcrown patch is red. Tail is black with black spotted white outer tail feathers. Female and juvenile are similar, but without red patch on head. Straight, chisel-like bill, blocky head, wide shoulders, and straight backed posture as they lean away from tree limbs and onto their tail feathers. The bill tends to look smaller for the bird's size than in other woodpeckers. Acrobatic Foraging

Geographical Range

Alaska across Canada and south throughout the U.S. Absent from most of the lowlands of the desert Southwest. Not a migratory species, but disperses long distances.

Habitat

Preferred habitats include open woodlands (deciduous woods), parks, gardens, and along streams. Also in urban areas: orchards, parks, and suburbs. Open areas as well, where they can nest along fence rows and feed amid tall weeds.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: late winter in south, early spring in north

Number of Eggs: 3-8

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 12 days

Time to independence: 3 weeks

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 years

Females: 1 years

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 11 years

Food habits: insects, beetle larvae that live inside wood or tree bark, ants, caterpillars, and various pests. 1/4 of their diet consists of plant material, particularly berries, acorns, and grains. Downy Woodpeckers are common feeder birds, eating suet and black oil sunflower seeds and occasionally drinking from hummingbird feeders

Time in Texas: winter months

Hairy Woodpecker

Picoides villosus

Author: Reggie Patrick

Description of Bird

Both Male and female are about 2217 cm

Wing span 38-43 cm.

Mass: 71 g

The Hairy Woodpecker adults are mainly black on the upper breast and wings. Their back, throat and belly are all white and also have white spotting on their wings. There is a white line above and below the eye. Their tails are black with white feathers on the outside. The only difference between the males and females is the red patch on the back of the head of the males, which the females lack

Geographical Range

The Hairy Woodpecker is found just about everywhere in the U.S. and up into Canada except for southern parts of Texas, California and also Arizona. The central to northeastern United States are well more prominent for Hairy Woodpecker sightings than the south and south eastern parts. They can be seen year round except for in central to northwest Texas where they are very rare.

Habitat

The preferred habitat of the Hairy Woodpecker is deciduous forest. These birds are also found in Hardwood and mixed forests. They have also been sited in places including wooded parks and conifer-lined streams and shorelines. They like to nest in soft or rotten wood mainly in deciduous forests.



Photo: Troy A. Ladine

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: late winter

Number of Eggs:

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 11-15 days

Time to independence: 3 weeks

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 4-11 years

Food habits: Beetle larvae in dead and dying trees, caterpillars, and gypsy moths, are preferred of Hairy Woodpeckers. They also feed on sap from sapsucker holes, berries, nuts, seeds, and suet.

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Rebekah Still

Northern Flicker

Colaptes auratus

Author: Michelle B. Backus

Description of Bird

Mass:

Length: 28 cm

Wing span:

Brown back and wings barred with black. Black crescent on upper breast

Beige breast and belly spotted heavily with black, White rump (obvious in flight). Tail dark above, Two color forms, formerly separate species

Geographical Range

North America to Central America

Habitat

Found in wooded areas with dead trees, as well as open areas, forest edges, clear-cut areas, burnt areas, and agricultural lands

Life History Data

Time of Breeding:

Number of Eggs: 3-10

Broods per year: 1, 2 in the south

Time of hatching: 11-14 days

Time to independence:

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males:

Females:

Mating System:

Life span:

Food habits: Insects, mostly ants, and fruit

Time in Texas: year round



Photos: Troy A. Ladine

Pileated Woodpecker

Dryocopus pileatus

Author: Luke Phillips

Description of Bird

Mass: 250-349 g

Length: 40-49 cm

Wing span: 66- 75 cm

Pileated Woodpeckers are large sized woodpeckers that have a mostly black body with conspicuous white wing linings. They have a distinct bright red head with white face and neck stripes. The bill is grey. The Female is not so vibrant having a black not red moustache stripe and cap.

Geographical Range

Pileated Woodpeckers live from northeastern provinces throughout British Columbia east across southern Canada to Nova Scotia and south to northern California, southern Idaho, eastern North Dakota, south to central Texas, and east across the states to Florida. They do not live the desert, Rocky Mountains, and plains states.

Habitat

mature forests and borders.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: February-March

Number of Eggs: 3-5

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 15-18 days

Time to independence: 24- 28 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 13 years

Food habits: Eats insects such as ants and boring beetle larvae, also fruits and nuts. Readily eats Suet, sunflower seeds, nuts, sugar water, and fruit

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Troy A. Ladine

Red-Bellied Woodpecker

Melanerpes carolinus

Author: Kyle Nicholson, Thad Fortune, Sulam Peña

Description of Bird

Mass: 75 g (mean)

Length: 22.9-26.7 cm

Wing span: 38-46 cm

Males are about 8-9% larger, on average, than females.

Two characteristics that distinguish red-bellied woodpeckers from woodpeckers native to North America are the black and white zebra pattern on their backs, and the red belly found in a small section of the ventral region.

The face and belly are a dull grayish color. Male red-bellied woodpeckers have a bright red cap that covers from the forehead to the nape of the neck. Females have red only on the napes of their necks. The legs and zygodactyl feet (two toes forward, two toes back) are dark gray, and the chisel shaped bill is black.

Geographical Range

The woodpecker can be found a year round throughout the eastern United States. It is rarely seen in central and west Texas as well as eastern New Mexico, also rarely seen in the southern and southeastern regions of Canada

Habitat

They are most commonly associated with mature hardwood forests, they also thrive in mixed pine hardwood forests, mesic pine flatwoods, heavily timbered bottomlands, swampy woods, and riparian forests.

They usually live below 600 m elevation, but can be found at up to 900 m in the Appalachian mountains.

They will also often venture from forests to appear at backyard feeders.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: early May

Number of Eggs: 2-6

Broods per year: 1-3

Time of hatching: 24-27 days

Time to independence: 5-6 weeks

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 12 years

Food habits: They eat a wide variety of fruits, nuts, seeds, berries and tree sap, as well as arboreal arthropods and other invertebrates. These include ants, flies, grasshoppers, beetle larvae and caterpillars. Red-bellied woodpeckers also take small vertebrates, including brown and green anoles, tree frogs, small fish, nestling birds and bird eggs

Time in Texas: year round



Photos: Justin Velasquez

Red-Headed Woodpecker

Melanerpes erythrocephalus

Author: Kimberly Ledbetter, Michelle B. Backus

Description of Bird

Mass: 70g.

Length: 23cm.

Head: red. Back: black with white patches. Belly: White. The head, neck, and upper chest are uniform with bright crimson with a semi-circular band of black across the chest. The back and shoulders are glossy blue/black and the wings are black with white tipping. The under parts below the upper chest are white with the abdomen having a dull yellowish or salmon color (may also be bright red). The bill is bluish-white. The iris is a deep brown or reddish-brown color.

Geographical Range

They are found sporadically throughout most of North America

Habitat

Prefer open woodlands and forest edges. Often found in deciduous woodlands, river bottoms, open woods, orchards, parks, open country, savannas and grasslands with scattered trees

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: April-July

Number of Eggs: 4-6

Broods per year: 1-2

Time of hatching: 12-14 days

Time to independence: 24-31 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous, some polygyny

Life span: 12 years

Food habits: insects (grasshoppers), spiders, flies, earthworms, nuts (beech), seeds, cultivated fruit, corn, eggs of poultry and pigeons, berries, and occasionally small mammals.

Time in Texas: Panhandle region, North Texas, and East Texas



Photo: Jordan Brewer



Photo: Matthew Armendarez

Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker

Sphyrapicus varius

Author: Jessica Harrison, Lauren Schultz

Description of Bird

Length: 18.22 cm

Wingspan: 34.40 cm

Weight: 43.54 g

Fairly small woodpeckers with stout, straight bills and brush-tipped tongues. Black-and-white barred back, buff breast, white wing patches, red cap and throat, and yellowish underparts. Females differ with a white throat and paler underparts.

Geographical Range

Native to Nearctic and Neotropical regions: North and Middle America, wintering in the southern United States, Central America, and the West Indies. Females tend to migrate farther south than males. Summer breeding months spent across South-central Canada, and Northeastern United States.

Habitat

Spring & Summer: favor young forests and edge habitat, regenerating forests. Fast-growing trees for sapwells. Decayed heartwood or dead limbs for their cavity nests. Winter: forests of hickory or pines and oaks. Range from bottomland hardwood forests to as high as 10,000 feet, though never in pure conifer stands

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Summer months

Number of Eggs: 4-7

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 10-13 days

Time to independence: unknown

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 6 years

Food habits: Tree sap, ants & spiders in bark, flying insects, occasional fruit

Time in Texas: non-mating season

Order Passeriformes

Family Tyrannidae

Acadian Flycatcher

Empidonax virescens

Author: Aaron Durham

Description of Bird

Mass: 11 -14 g

Length: 15cm

Wingspan: 23 cm

Bird call: Often identified by its very distinct “peet-sah” song.

One of the smallest Flycatchers. It is typically greenish-brown with very definitive wingbars and a ring around the eye that contrasts against the surrounding green. It is extremely maneuverable in the air, even to the point of being able to fly backward.

Geographical Range

Southeast United States: As far west as Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas, and as far north as Illinois and Pennsylvania. It will be more commonly be seen to the south and east of these regions. Migrates through the southern regions of Central America into the northernmost parts of South America for the winter.

Habitat

Prefers humid, forested areas, and will often build it's nest ten to twenty feet off the ground. The nest will usually be loose, shallow, and semi-pensile.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: March - June

Number of Eggs: 2 - 4

Broods per year: 2

Time of hatching: 13-15 days

Time to independence: 12 - 18 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous, polygamous

Life span: 10 - 12 years

Food habits: insects such as, mosquitoes, flies, insect larvae, small moths, flying ants, small beetles and spiders.

Time in Texas: mid-Mar - mid-May

Alder Flycatcher

Empidonax alnorum

Author: Brianna Moseley

Description of Bird

Mass: 12 - 14 g

Length: 13 - 17 cm

Wingspan: 21 - 24 cm

A small flycatcher that is Grayish-olive above and pale below with thin white eye ring. Wings dark with bold white wing bars.

Geographical Range

They permanently reside in the U.S. and Canada in the summer and South America in the winter

Habitat

They prefer willows, alders, and brushy swamps. They breed in thickets of deciduous trees and shrubs, usually near water, as around streams, ponds, or bogs. In the winters in woodland edges or second growth in the tropics, especially near water.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: May and August

Number of Eggs: 3-4

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 12 - 14 days

Time to independence: 13 - 14 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: same as fledgling

Females: 12 days

Mating System: monogamous and polygynous

Life span: 9 years

Food habits: Mostly insects like sawflies, bees, wasps, and ants. Some fruits in winter.

Time in Texas: summer months

Black Phoebe

Sayornis nigricans

Author: Mpanga Chanda

Description of Bird

Mass: 14 - 23 g

Length: 15 - 18 cm

Wingspan: 28 cm

Large, triangular head. Entirely black except for white belly, under tail coverts and outer tail feathers its tail is usually wagging as it is an active bird. It has an erect posture and lacks wing bars. Juveniles are dark grey with some brown edges to upperparts

Geographical Range

Western U.S(California, southern Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, West Texas), south through middle and South America to Argentina

Habitat

Sparse vegetation of shoals, shady areas near banks and bars along ponds, rivers and streams. In winter, city parks and open chaparral. Manmade structure has also accommodated the black phoebe and sometime caused them to live much further off than would be optimal for their survival.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: late Feb - early July

Number of Eggs: 3 - 6

Broods per year: 1 - 2

Time of hatching: 15 - 17 days

Time to independence: 42 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous, polygamous

Life span: 8 years

Food habits: Usually eats insects primarily bees and wasps but also flies.

It does this by snapping them in the air, they occasionally catch small fish at waterholes. Blue elderberries are also known to have been eaten

Time in Texas: year around

Eastern Kingbird

Tyrannus tyrannus

Author: Rusty Collier

Description of Bird

Mass: 33-55 g

Length: 19-23 cm

Wingspan:

Medium-sized songbird. Head and back are dark. Throat, chest, and belly are white. White tip or dark tail

Geographical Range

Across all of the eastern United States and southward in the western states to northern Nevada, northern New Mexico, and southern Texas

Habitat

Open environments with scattered perches such as fields. Uses urban parks and golf courses

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Summer

Number of Eggs: 2-5

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching:

Time to independence: 8 weeks

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males:

Females:

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 7 years

Food habits: flying insects and fruits

Time in Texas: summer



Photo: Talton Cooper



Photo: Lacey Liles

Eastern Phoebe

Sayornis phoebe

Author: Joshua L. Davis

Description of Bird

Mass: 20 g
Length: 18 cm
Wingspan: 28 cm

Geographical Range

The breeding range of the Eastern Phoebe extends from northern Canada down into the southeastern U.S. It winters primarily in the southeastern U.S., with especially heavy concentrations in Texas and Florida. The winter range can also reach well into Mexico.

Habitat

Woodlands, often near water. May also be found in urban areas

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Spring / Summer

Number of Eggs: 3-6

Broods per year: 2

Time of hatching: 13-16 days

Time to independence: 21 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monoamous

Life span: 7-8 years

Food habits: insects

Time in Texas: November- March, year round in northeast



Photo: Troy A. Ladine



Photo: Harrison Baugh

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Contopus virens

Author: Weston Godsey

Description of Bird

Mass: 10-19 g

Length: 15 cm

Wingspan: 23-26 cm

Olive-gray birds with dark wings, and little to no yellow on the underparts. The sides of the breast are dark with an off-white throat and belly. They have a white eye ring. Adults have thin, white wing bars, distinguishing them from the Eastern Phoebe. The underside of the bill is mostly yellow-orange, except in some juveniles.

Geographical Range

Breeds from eastern Great Plains to the Atlantic Ocean, ranging from southern Canada to northern Florida, the Gulf coast and central Texas. Winters in the tropics.

Habitat

Usually found in clearings and forest edges, Eastern Wood-Pewees breed in nearly any type of wooded habitat in the eastern United States and southeastern Canada, including mature woodlands, urban shade trees, roadsides, woodlots, and orchards. They prefer deciduous forest but also live in open pine woodlands of the south and mixed hardwood-conifer forest of the north. Although they usually avoid streams in eastern forests, they often nest in riverside habitat in the Great Plains. During spring and fall migration, Eastern Wood-Pewees stop in a variety of habitats with trees and shrubs, including edges, clearings, primary forest, and secondary forest. They spend the winter in wooded, partially cleared, and shrubby habitats of northern South America and possibly Central America, usually below 4,300 feet of elevation.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: May-June

Number of Eggs: 2-4

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 12-14 days

Time to independence: 16-18 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 5 years

Food habits: glean insects from foliage or the ground, sometimes taking advantage of locally abundant prey during insect emergences. Its diet includes flies, bugs, butterflies, moths, bees, wasps, beetles, grasshoppers, crickets, stoneflies, and mayflies. The pewee also eats small amounts of vegetable matter, including the berries and seeds of dogwood, blueberry, raspberry, and poison ivy.

Time in Texas: Winters: April-May, Sept. Oct. for migration Summers: eastern and central Texas

Great Crested Flycatcher
Myiarchus crinitus

Least Flycatcher
Empidonax minimus

Olive-sided Flycatcher
Contopus cooperi

Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher

Tyrannus forficatus

Author: Rachel Hastie, ShekinahWebb, Marissa Dawkins

Description of Bird

Mass: 42 g

Length: 25-38 cm

Wingspan:

The adult has bright salmon-pink sides and belly, head, upper back and its breast is a pale grayish white, it has an about nine inch long black and white forked tail, males usually have a longer tail than their mates, tail feathers get longer from inner to outer feathers adult females and juveniles are paler with cream-colored or very light pink flanks, belly and wing linings

Geographical Range

Scissor-tailed flycatchers can be seen from eastern Colorado and Nebraska to Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and sometimes in western Louisiana and southwestern Missouri during breeding time. At migration time they will go to and winter in Central America. Their wintering grounds can be anywhere within southern Mexico to central Costa Rica

Habitat

Preferences: open areas with scattered trees, mangroves, shrubby marsh borders, and residential areas near coast



Photo: Jordan Bartlett

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: late March - late August

Number of Eggs: 3 - 6

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 14 - 17 days

Time to independence: 28 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 3 - 5 years

Food habits: insects, some berries

Time in Texas: summer



Photo: Lacey Liles

Western Kingbird

Tyrannus verticalis

Author: Cindy Jones

Description of Bird

Mass: 37-46 g

Length: 17.8 cm

Wingspan:

Males and females have a large bill and head with a yellow belly and gray head and chest. This flycatcher is characterized by a black square tail and white feathers

Geographical Range

North America west of the Mississippi River

Habitat

open places and nest in trees, on poles, or on fences

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: April-late July

Number of Eggs: 3-5

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 18-19 days

Time to independence: 48-50 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 7 years

Food habits: primarily insects, some berries

Time in Texas: summer

Willow Flycatcher

Empidonax traillii

Author: Lauren Schulz

Description of Bird

Mass: 11 - 16 g

Length: 13 -17 cm

Wingspan: 19 -24 cm

Geographical Range

Long-distance migrant. Breeds in the United States and Canada and spends the winters in Mexico, Central America, and northern South America.

Habitat

They breed in shrubby areas with standing water or along streams. In some parts of their range, they also nest in woodland edges and dry, brushy thickets. In winter they use tropical shrubby clearings, pastures, and woodland edges, often near water.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: May - June

Number of Eggs: 3 - 5

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 12 - 15 days

Time to independence: 14 - 15 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 3 - 5 years

Food habits: Primarily eat insects that they catch in midair or pick from leaves while hovering. They eat bees, wasps, ants, beetles, damselflies, butterflies, moths, and flies. In the fall they occasionally eat blackberries, raspberries, currants, and dogwood berries.

Time in Texas: summer

Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher

Empidonax flaviventris

Author: Grace Lott

Description of Bird

Mass: 9 - 16 g

Length: 13 - 15 cm

Wingspan: 18 - 20 cm

Yellowish olive overall with a strong white eyering and two whitish wingbars. It has yellowish underparts all the way from its chin to its lower belly

Geographical Range

Yellow-bellied flycatchers breed from southern Arctic Canada, across Canada from east of the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic provinces and the north-easternmost states. In the spring and fall, they migrate in the eastern half of the United States. Their wintering grounds are in southern Central America.

Habitat

They breed from western Canada - from central and northern British Columbia and west central and southern Mackenzie east to Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. Their breeding range stretches south into northeastern USA - east from northern Minnesota and Great Lakes region, south into Pennsylvania and central New York. Disjunct populations exist in in West Virginia and on Saint Pierre Island in the northwestern Atlantic Ocean near Canada. Their breeding habitat are mossy muskeg forests and peatlands. The Yellow-bellied Flycatchers remain in their breeding territory only for about 70 days or up to 3 months. Soon after having raised their young, they migrate south to southern Mexico and Central America for the winter. They overwinter in southeastern and southwestern Mexico - specifically along the Caribbean slope from southern Tamaulipas; and on the Pacific slope from Oaxaca south through Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua to western Panama. They can be found in temperate, tropical and subtropical forests, in shade-grown coffee plantations and wetland areas, such as rivers, marshes, swamps and peatlands.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: May - August

Number of Eggs: 2 -5

Broods per year: 1 -2

Time of hatching: 15 days

Time to independence: 13 - 15 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: Male sings in spring to defend territory and attract a mate.

In courtship, male perches near female, with wings half-opened and fluttering, tail spread and moving from side to side, while he sings or calls. Male may have more than one mate. Nest site is in any kind of natural cavity close to the ground (lower than about 6'), including holes among upturned roots of downed trees, cavities in rotten stumps, old woodpecker holes, crevices among rocks, holes in streambanks, sometimes under porches of cabins. Within cavity, both sexes help build nest of grass, weeds, moss, rootlets, lined with animal hair and feathers. Male may also build several unlined "dummy" nests.

Life span: 48 months

Food habits: Mostly insects. Feeds on a wide variety of insects, including many beetles, caterpillars, true bugs, ants, small wasps, and many others. Also eats many spiders, plus some millipedes and snails. Occasionally may eat tiny fish. Also sometimes eats berries, perhaps mainly in fall and winter.

Time in Texas: during migration

Order Passeriformes

Family Vireonidae

Bell's Vireo

Vireo bellii

Author: Christy Lopez

Description of Bird

Length: 11-12 cm

Wingspan: 18 cm

Mass: 7-10 g

Small insectivorous song bird that is drab grey to green on top and white to yellow below. It tends to have a prominent wing bar and a fainter one above, and eyes tend to be dark with a faint white color around them. Its beak is slightly flat and colored gray, which is the same color as its legs. This bird species tends to be more yellow the farther east it gets in its range and it gets grayer the more it moves farther to the west.

Geographical Range

Breeds from southern California, Colorado, Dakotas, and Indiana southward. Absent from eastern third of the U.S. Spends winters along the Pacific coast from northern Mexico south to northern Nicaragua.

Habitat

Thickets, orchards, dense, low, shrubby vegetation, brushy fields, mesquite brush lands, old fields, savannas, streamside thickets, forest undergrowth, and woodlands.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: March-Aug

Number of Eggs: 3-5

Broods per year:

Time of hatching: 14 days

Time to independence:

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males:

Females:

Mating System:

Life span: 7 years

Food habits: Plants, Fruits, seeds, spiders, ticks, scorpions, mites, daddy longlegs, and insects.

Time in Texas:

Red-Eyed Vireo

Vireo olivaceus

Author: Christy Lopez

Description of Bird

Mass: 12-16 g

Length: 12-13 cm

Wing span: 23-25 cm

The back of this small drab bird tends to be olive-green and turns whiter underneath. It has a gray to blue-gray crown and has a white eye brow with a black stripe through the eye. The eyes tend to be a dark red.

Geographical Range

Breeds from the Northwest Territories east to Ontario and Gulf of Saint Lawrence and south through British Columbia to Oregon, Colorado, the Gulf Coast, and Florida.

Habitat

Breeds in deciduous and mixed deciduous forests, is more abundant in forest interiors, and lives in urban areas and parks with large trees.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: April-August

Number of Eggs: 3-5

Broods per year:

Time of hatching: 11-14 days

Time to independence: 35-37 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 7-10 years

Food habits: Primarily insectivores, but also sometimes eat fruit. Butterflies, larvae, beetles, mosquitoes, cicadas, wasps, ants, grasshoppers, and dragonflies make up their main source of food.

Time in Texas:

Warbling Vireo
Vireo gilvus

White-eyed Vireo

Sitta carolinensis

Author: Christy Lopez

Description of Bird

Mass: 10-14 g

Length: 11-13 cm

Wingspan: 17 cm

Small to medium-size songbird that is olive-green on upper parts has yellow sides and spectacles, white throat and eyes, and have two white wing bars. It is one of the few birds to have a jet black mouth lining and blue-gray legs.

Geographical Range

Breeds from Nebraska to Massachusetts, south to eastern Mexico and throughout Florida. The Also found in the southeastern United States, including New Jersey, northern Missouri, Texas, Florida, northern Central America, Cuba and the Bahamas. Most northern populations in North America will migrate south in winter months, searching for warmer climates

Habitat

Found in deciduous scrub, overgrown pastures, old fields, wood margins, streamside thickets, mangroves, cypress swamps, scrubby edges of roads, and ponds

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: March-August

Number of Eggs: 3-5

Broods per year:

Time of hatching: 13-15 days

Time to independence: 23 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous for one season

Life span: unknown

Food habits: This is a foliage gleaning species it locates a prey and captures it by hovering, lunging, or picking insects from plants. Caterpillars, damselflies, mayflies, beetles, cockroaches, stinkbugs, leafhoppers, bees, ants, wasps, and grasshoppers make up their main source of food.

Time in Texas:



Photo: Skylar Williams

Order Passeriformes

Family Corvidae

American Crow

Corvus brachyrhynchos

Author: Rachel Hastie, Zane Gruzina, Darius Roberts

Description of Bird

Mass: 316-620 grams

Length: 44-45 cm

Wingspan: 85-00 cm

Crows are completely black with a glossy look. Bill is black with a slight hook on the end

Geographical Range

Breeds from British Columbia, central interior Canada, and Newfoundland south to southern California, Gulf Coast, and Florida. Winters north to southern Canada.

Habitat

Growth along rivers and streams, orchards and city parks. Also mixed and coniferous woods, but avoids closed coniferous forests and desert expanses.



Photos: Troy A. Ladine

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: late winter to early summer

Number of Eggs: 3-7; generally 4 bluish green with brown marks

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 17-18 days

Time to independence: stay with parents until young find a home of their own

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 2 year

Females: 2 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 6-10 years

Food habits: omnivorous: seeds, insects, small reptiles, frogs, mice, and young rabbits, eggs, nestling of other birds, clams, carrion, nuts, fruit, earthworms, and crops such as corn, roadkill, eat from bird feeders and sometimes garbage

Time in Texas: year round



Blue Jay

Cyanocitta cristata

Author: Holly R. Potter, Zane Gruzina, Janae Wineland, Austin Dicks

Description of Bird

Mass: 70-100 g

Length: 24-30 cm

Wingspan: 34-43 cm

Blue jays are bright blue on top and whitish gray on the belly and chin. They have a gray-blue, feather crested head, which they can raise and lower. The feathers on their wings and tails are bright blue with white and black bands.

Blue jays also have a collar of black feathers across the throat and continuing around the head. Their bills, legs, feet, and eyes are black.

Geographical Range

Resident from southern Canada through eastern United States to Gulf Coast, westward to central Texas. Small, local, expanding populations westward to Washington.

Habitat

These birds live in woodlands, around forest edges, towns, cities and parks and are often found where oak trees are located

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: March-July

Number of Eggs: 3-6

Broods per year: 2

Time of hatching: 17-18 days

Time to independence: 30-60 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous, A group of seven or more blue jays including one female would gather on top of a tree. When the female flies away, she will be followed by the males until she lands in another location. The males will show off by nodding their heads up and down. The female will then choose her mate and the nesting cycle comes next.

Life span: 14 years

Food habits: omnivore, seeds, grains, and nuts, fruit, birds, mammals, amphibians, small reptiles, eggs, insects, terrestrial non-insect arthropods

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Dominic Wood



Photo: Lindsey Vasquez



Photo: Steven Ramage

Order Passeriformes

Family Hirundinidae

Barn Swallow

Hirundo rustica

Author: Katy Gifford, Kwame Spikes

Description of Bird

Length of both sexes: 15-18 cm

Wingspan of both sexes: 29-32 cm

Mass of both sexes: 17-20 g

The birds are small and slender with long wings and a long, forked tail. These birds have a small, black bill with tiny legs and feet and are very acrobatic fliers. Both the male and female have blue upperparts and rufous underparts, but the male has a deeper chestnut color on his underparts and a longer tail than the female.

Geographical Range

Found in Canada (below the Arctic Circle), southern Alaska, the United States and northern Mexico in the summer. Found in southern Mexico, Central America and South America in the winter

Habitat

The barn swallow forages over fields and ponds and builds its mud nests on house eaves, road bridges and other man-made structures, and sometimes on cliffs

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: May-Aug

Number of Eggs: 3

Broods per year: 2

Time of hatching: 13-15 days

Time to independence: 2 weeks

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous, polyandrous, cooperative breeder

Life span: 4 years

Food habits: Flies, beetles, bees, wasps, ants, butterflies, moths, and other flying insects primarily while in flight.

Time in Texas:



Photo: Jordan Brewer

Cliff Swallow
Petrochelidon pyrrhonota

Purple Martin

Progne subis

Author: Matt Tarver, Holly R. Potter, Merideth Runion

Description of Bird

Mass: 45-60 g

Length: 19-20 cm

Wing span:

Adult males are a glossy dark, purple, and females are dark on top with some purple on the back and lighter underparts. Juveniles are grayish-brown about and whitish below, gaining some purple feathers by their first winter.

Geographical Range

Can be found stretching throughout the Midwest to the East coast in about every state. Have also been found in some west coast states west of the Rocky Mountains

Habitat

These birds enjoy being near open areas close to water. They also enjoy living in saguaro cactus, and in western montane forests around beaver ponds. Another place they will live is near human settlements because they can find nest houses.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Summer months

Number of Eggs: 2-7

Broods per year: 2

Time of hatching: 16-18 days

Time to independence: 5-6 weeks

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 4-5 years

Food habits: Feeds on all flying Insects: flies, dragonflies, Junebugs, moths, grasshoppers, bees, butterflies, Japanese beetles

Time in Texas: summer breeding season

Tree Swallow

Tahycineata bicolor

Author: Celeste O'Dell

Description of Bird

Mass: 16 - 25 g

Length: 12 - 15 cm

Wingspan: 30 - 35 cm

Adult males are blue green above and white below with blackish flight feathers and a thin black eye mask. Females are duller with more brown in upperparts, and juveniles completely brown above. Juveniles and some females can show weak, blurry gray-brown breast band

Geographical Range

Breed throughout central and northern North America. Northernmost limit of the swallow breeding range coincides approximately with the tree line. They winter in southern North America, primarily in Florida and along Caribbean coast of Central America.

Habitat

Breed in fields, marshes, shorelines, wooded swamps, and beaver ponds throughout northern North America, preferring to live near bodies of water that produce multitudes of flying insects for food. For nesting they need old trees with existing cavities, typically made by a woodpecker, or human-made nest boxes. Migrating and wintering birds use habitats similar to their breeding habitat, except they may have no need for cavities and are free to live in open areas.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: 24 May - 21 June

Number of Eggs: 4 - 7

Broods per year: 1 - 2

Time of hatching: 11 - 20 days

Time to independence: 18 - 22 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous; polygamy documented at low rates in some populations

Life span: 2.7 years

Food habits: Bayberries, dragonflies, damselflies, flies, mayflies, caddisflies, true bugs, sawflies, bees, ants, wasps, beetles, stoneflies, butterflies, and moths as well as spiders, mollusks, and roundworms. During breeding season, they eat high-calcium items like fish bones, crayfish exoskeletons, clamshells, and eggshells of gulls or loons.

Time in Texas: July - Feb.

Order Passeriformes

Family Paridae

Black-Crested Titmouse
Baeolophus atricristatus



Photo: Justin Mosier

Carolina Chickadee

Poecile carolinensis

Author: Janae Wineland, Grant Murray. Brittany McCloskey

Description of Bird

Mass: 9-12 g

Length: 12 cm

Sexes similar: Female slightly smaller than male Black crown, throat and lower neck, white cheek and underparts with grey wings and tail

Geographical Range

abundant in the southeastern and eastern part of the United States. Also not found in any other part of North America or Central and South America

Habitat

found in a variety of habitats that include deciduous and mixed deciduous and coniferous woodlands as well as swamps, open woods, parks, and suburban and urban areas



Photo: Troy A. Ladine

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: early April-mid June

Number of Eggs: 3-10

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 12-15 days

Time to independence: 37-40 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 10-12 years

Food habits: omnivore feeding on both plants and animals throughout the winter and then eating animals as about eighty-five percent of their diet throughout the rest of the year with a smaller amount of plants during that time. Insects and spiders are what make up most of the chickadees diet, as well as some seeds and berries. Their actual feeding habits are to glean insects from foliage and tree bark, often hanging upside down to do so

Time in Texas: year round

Tufted Titmouse

Baeolophus bicolor

Author: Weston Godsey

Description of Bird

Mass: 18-26 g

Length: 14-16 cm

Wingspan: 20-26 cm

Small sparrow-sized birds. Slate-gray on their upper parts with white and reddish on the under parts. The bills are short and stout with long and rounded wings. The tail is shorter than the wings and is slightly rounded. They have a black crest on its forehead and a dull white eye region. The ear region is pale gray. The irises of these birds are brown and have a dull white coloring passing down the sides and flanks to a rusty coloring.

Geographical Range

These birds are normally found in the Eastern United States. North to South Pennsylvania and New Jersey, central Ohio, northern Indiana, northern Illinois, southern Iowa, and northeastern Nebraska, Connecticut, Southern New York, southern Minnesota, west to eastern portion of the Great Plains south to the Gulf coast, including south-central Florida and eastern and central Texas.

Habitat

Tufted Titmice can be found in most eastern woodlands below 2,000 feet elevation, including deciduous and evergreen forests. Tufted Titmice are also common visitors at feeders and can be found in backyards, parks, and orchards.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: March-May

Number of Eggs: 3-9

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 12-14 days

Time to independence: 15-16 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 1-2 years

Food habits: insects in the summer, including caterpillars, beetles, ants and wasps, stink bugs, and treehoppers, as well as spiders and snails. Tufted Titmice also eat seeds, nuts, and berries, including acorns and beech nuts. Experiments with Tufted Titmice indicate they always choose the largest seeds they can when foraging.

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Steven Ramage



Photo: Matthew Armendarez

Order Passeriformes

Family Sittidae

Brown-Headed Nuthatch

Sitta pusilla

Author: Zane Gruznina

Description of Bird

Mass: 10 g

Length: 10-11 cm

Wingspan: 16-18 cm

Sex Differences: Sexes alike. Immature: similar to adult, but duller and with more gray and less brown. White neck spot indistinct or absent.

Geographical Range

South Eastern United States from Texas to Virginia.

Habitat

Coniferous and mixed forests

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: March-June

Number of Eggs: 3-9

Broods per year:

Time of hatching: 14 days

Time to independence: 18-19 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males:

Females:

Mating System:

Life span:

Food habits: Forages over branches, twigs, creeps up and down tree trunks in search of beetles, bugs, roaches, caterpillars, moths, ants, grasshoppers, scale insects, pine seeds and spiders

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Jordan Brewer



Photo: Matthew Armendarez

Red-Breasted Nuthatch
Sitta canadensis

White-breasted Nuthatch

Sitta carolinensis

Author: Katie R. Hood

Description of Bird

Mass: 20 g

Length: 13 cm

Wingspan:

Straight gray bill, Black crown and nape, White face and underparts, Blue-gray upperparts, Rusty undertail coverts, Short tail, Sexes similar but female duller

Geographical Range

North America, including the continental United States, southern regions of Canada, and central Mexico

Habitat

large trees in areas such as forests, farm woodlots, country towns and parks

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: April-May

Number of Eggs: 3-10

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 12 days

Time to independence: 20-30 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 2 years

Food habits: insects, nuts, seeds, 65% plant material during winter, 100 % animal foods during summer

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Emily Hicks



Photo: Harrison Baugh



Photo: Lindsey Vasquez

Order Passeriformes

Family Certhidae

Brown Creeper
Certhia americana

Order Passeriformes

Family Troglodytidae

Bewick's Wren
Thryomanes bewickii

Carolina Wren
Thryothorus ludovicianus



Photo: Talton Cooper

Marsh Wren
Cistothorus palustris

Winter Wren

Troglodytes hiemalis

Author: Grace Lott

Description of Bird

Mass: 8 - 12 g

Length: 8 - 12 cm

Wingspan: 12 - 16cm

Plump round ball with a stubby tail that it usually holds up. Brown overall with barring on the belly, tail, and wings. Small wren with a short tail and thin bill. Brown overall, but paler below and darker barring on the wings, tail, and belly

Geographical Range

Winter wrens have a range of approximately 5,430,000 square kilometers with about 36,000,000 individuals. They are found in the temperate northern hemisphere, including Europe, much of Asia, and North America. There are some gaps in this range, including a large part of Turkmenistan. Winter wrens are most common in eastern and western North America and Eurasia.

Habitat

Forests, In the winter they travel south or to lower elevations with lower temperatures

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: April - July

Number of Eggs: 1 -9

Broods per year: 1 - 2

Time of hatching: 14 - 17 days

Time to independence: 15 - 17 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: During the breeding season males sing with vigor from prominent perches in the understory. When a female enters a male's territory, he continues to sing, flutters his wings, and cocks his tail side to side. During courtship, the male leads the female around to each of several nests he has built in his territory. The female then chooses which nest to use.

Life span: 2 years

Food habits: insects and spiders

Time in Texas: during the winter

Order Passeriformes

Family Regulidae

Golden-Crowned Kinglet

Regulus satrapa

Author: Sarah Foster

Description of Bird

Mass: g

Length: cm

Wingspan: cm

Boldly marked with a black eyebrow stripe and flashy lemon-yellow crest.

Geographical Range

Golden-crowned Kinglets in the Appalachians and mountainous West tend to stay in one place year-round, while birds that breed across Canada move south to spend winters across the U.S. Banding records suggest that kinglets head due south when they migrate

Habitat

Life History Data

Time of Breeding:

Number of Eggs: 3 - 11

Broods per year: 1 - 2

Time of hatching: 15 days

Time to independence: 16 - 19 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males:

Females:

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 6.3 years

Food habits: insects

Time in Texas: non-breeding season

Ruby-Crowned Kinglet

Regulus calendula

Author: Lynlea Hansen

Description of Bird Life History Data

Mass: 5.5-11.5 g.

Length: 10-11 cm

Wingspan: 16-18 cm

Very tiny. Green. No face pattern except for narrow white-eye ring. Males have tuft of red feathers on crown, however kept concealed unless bird is aroused.

The upper parts are olive while the under parts are a grayish color, and there are two pale wing-bars. Have stubbier tails than warblers

Geographical Range

Breeds from Alaska east to Newfoundland, and south to southern California and New Mexico in West, and to Great Lakes region and northern New England in East. Winters from southern British Columbia and California across southern tier of states to southern New England.

Habitat

Though Ruby-crowned Kinglets are most often found in spruce-fir forests in the northwestern United States and Canada, they also live in mixed woods, in isolated trees in meadows, in coniferous and deciduous forests, in mountain shrub habitat, or in floodplain forests of oak-pine, spruce or aspen.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Spring

Number of Eggs: 5-12

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 12-14 days

Time to independence: 16-18 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 6 years

Food habits: Eats spiders and many different types of insects, such as ants and wasps. Eats small amounts of seeds and fruit.

Time in Texas: September-May

Order Passeriformes

Family Turdidae

American Robin

Turdus migratorius

Author: Jessica Harrison, Devin Phillips, Cameron Burrell

Description of Bird

Length: 20-28 cm.

Wingspan: 31-40 cm.

Weight: 75-85 g

Large, round body, long legs, and fairly long tail. Gray-brown with warm orange underparts and dark heads. Underparts vary from deep, rich reddish maroon to gray-scalloped, peachy orange. White throats, black streaks. In flight, a white patch on the lower belly and under the tail is observable. Bill color yellow with variable, season-dependent, black tip. Males are generally darker, and females have paler heads that contrast less with the gray. Regional differences: Western populations are often paler than eastern populations and have almost no white at the tail corners. Breeding robins on the Canadian Atlantic coast are richly colored, with black on the upper back and neck.

Geographical Range

Native to Nearctic region: frequent the lower 48, along the Sierra Madre in Mexico, and Southern Canada year-round. Winter in southern tips of the US, Mexico, and West Indies (rare). Summer reeding months are spent in Canada, Alaska, and various Northern states.

Habitat

lawns, fields, and city parks, as well as in more wild places like woodlands, forests, mountains up to near treeline, recently burned forests, and tundra. During winter many robins move to moist woods where berry-producing trees and shrubs are common

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: April-July

Number of Eggs: 3-5

Broods per year: 1-3

Time of hatching: 12-14 days

Time to independence: 14-16 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 6 years

Food habits: large numbers of both invertebrates and fruit. Particularly in spring and summer they eat large numbers of earthworms as well as insects and some snails. (They have rarely been recorded eating shrews, small snakes, and aquatic insects.) Robins also eat an enormous variety of fruits, including chokecherries, hawthorn, dogwood, and sumac fruits, and juniper berries.

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Jordan Brewer



Photo: Jordan Bartlett

Eastern Bluebird

Sialia sialis

Author: Travis W. Sammons

Description of Bird

Mass: 27-34 g

Length: 16-21 cm

Wingspan:

Small birds with short, slender beaks and short legs. Brightly colored, blue upper body, red breast, and white abdomen. Males have blue wings and tail feathers with black or gray shaft and tips. Heads are light blue that fade into the red throat. Females are similar, but they do have duller color and more gray

Geographical Range

Found east of the Rocky Mountains, spanning from southern Canada to the Gulf States and on into Mexico and Honduras

Habitat

Preferences: open fields and trees orchards, golf courses, and parks

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: spring-summer

Number of Eggs: 3-7

Broods per year: 2

Time of hatching: 13-16 days

Time to independence: 7-21 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous, may be polygynous

Life span: 6 years

Food habits: Beetles, crickets, caterpillars, grasshoppers, fruits and plants (blackberries, honeysuckle, dogwood, red cedar, wild grapes)

Time in Texas: year round, migrates south during winter



Photo: Jordan Bartlett



Photo: Lacey Liles

Hermit Thrush

Catharus gutatus

Author: Lynlea Hansen

Description of Bird Life History Data

Mass: 23-36 g

Length: 14-18 cm

Wingspan: 25-29 cm

Upper parts are a dull, russet-brown, and the chest has large spots of grayish brown. Has dull white eye-ring. Sides of head are a sooty color with narrow shaft streaks of dull white-sooty streak below cheeks on each side of throat.

Geographical Range

Breeds from central Alaska east to Newfoundland, and south to southern California, northern New Mexico, Wisconsin, and Virginia. Winters from Washington and southern New England southward. Occasionally heard in spring before birds head north to nest.

Habitat

Coniferous and mixed forests, swampy woods during migration and winter, deciduous woodlands and thickets

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Spring

Number of Eggs: 3-6

Broods per year: 1-2

Time of hatching: 11-13 days

Time to independence: 10-15 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 10 years

Food habits: In spring and summer the Hermit Thrush feeds mainly on insects, but in fall and winter it eats mainly wild fruits and berries.

Time in Texas: October-May

Swainson's Thrush
Catharus ustulatus

Townsend's Solitaire
Myadestes townsendi

Veery
Catharus fuscescens



Photo: Troy A. Ladine

Wood Thrush

Hylocichla mustelina

Author: Katie R. Hood

Description of Bird

Mass: 40-59 g

Length: 18 cm

Wingspan:

large forest thrush, just slightly smaller than an American Robin. Back brown, chest white with large dark spots. Both sexes look alike

Geographical Range

Eastern North America, Southern Canada

Habitat

cool mature, lowland, mixed or more typically, deciduous forests, damp woodlands with an abundance of saplings, often near swamps or water

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Spring- summer

Number of Eggs: 2-8

Broods per year: 2

Time of hatching: 13 days

Time to independence: 33-43 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 8 years

Food habits: insects, fruits, worms

Time in Texas:



Photo: Troy A. Ladine

Order Passeriformes

Family Mimidae

Brown Thrasher

Toxostoma rufum

Author: John Jones, Taylor Weaver

Description of Bird

Mass: 61-90 g

Length: 23-30 cm

Wingspan: 29-32 cm

Large long-tailed songbird. Upperparts bright rufous. Underparts white or buff. with black streaking. Tail long and rufous. Two whitish wingbars. Bill straight. Eyes yellow

Geographical Range

Brown thrashers are found from southeastern Canada through eastern, central, and southeastern United States. During the breeding season brown thrashers primarily inhabit areas of southern Canada south to east central Texas. Migration is over short distances and at night. In winter, these birds migrate from the northern parts of their range into the southern parts of their range.

Habitat

brushy open country, thickets, shelter belts, riparian areas, and suburbs. It winters in hedgerows, gardens, thickets, and brushy woodland edges.



Photo: Troy A. Ladine

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Summer

Number of Eggs: 3-5

Broods per year: 2-3

Time of hatching: 11-14 days

Time to independence: 9-13 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 12 years

Food habits: eat mainly insect, fruits, nuts, and occasionally lizards

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Haley Johnson

Gray Catbird

Dumetella carolinensis

Author: Courtney Brinker

Description of Bird

Length: 21-24 cm

Wingspan: 22-30 cm

Mass: 23-56 g

Medium-sized songbird. Small bill. Long tail. Uniform gray all over. Black cap. Undertail rufous. Eyes black. Legs and feet black. Bill black.

Geographical Range

Summer Range: Breeds across southern Canada, southward to northeastern Arizona, and eastward to northern Florida. Winter Range: Winters along East Coast from southern Massachusetts to Florida, and from the Gulf Coast southward into Central America and the Caribbean.

Habitat

Found in dense, shrubby habitats, such as abandoned farmland, fencerows, roadsides, streamsides, forest edges, and some residential areas

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Summer

Number of Eggs: 1-5

Broods per year: 2

Time of hatching: 14 days

Time to independence: 10-15 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 years

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 2-4 years

Food habits: insects and small fruits

Time in Texas: summer

Northern Mockingbird

Mimus polyglottos

Author: George Plumlee, Darius Roberts, Lisa Ebarb

Description of Bird

Mass: 47-51 g

Length: 21-25 cm

Wing span: 31-35 cm

Northern Mockingbirds are of medium size. They have a pale gray under with a darker gray body. Dark wings with white wing bars are present. They have long black beaks that have little to no curvature. Northern Mockingbirds also have long legs and long tails. Large patches of white on the wings are very noticeable during flight. Females are slightly smaller in size and usually have darker tail feathers. Juveniles look much like adults but usually have brownish spots on the underbody.

Geographical Range

They can be found throughout North America, including Canada & Mexico, however, they are most common in the southern U.S., especially Texas.

Habitat

They prefer residential areas, farmlands, along roads, city parks, open grassy areas with thickets and brushy deserts

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: March-August

Number of Eggs: 2-6

Broods per year: common 2, but up to 4

Time of hatching: 11-14 days

Time to independence: 10-15 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 8 years

Food habits: insects in summer, fruit in fall and winter

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Shana Midgely



Photo: Jake Smith



Photo: Lacy Liles

Order Passeriformes

Family Sturnidae

European Starling *Sturnis vulgaris*

Author: Sulam Peña

Description of Bird

Mass: 70-100 g

Length: 21.50 cm

Both males and females have similar iridescent green glossed feathers covering the back, nape, and breast. Both sexes also share similarities in leg color, iris color and in the seasonal changes in bill color (yellow during mating season, otherwise black). Males have elongated feathers over the breast, whereas females have short and petite plumes. Males sport a bluish spot at the base of their beaks, while the female displays a reddish pink speck. In juvenile birds, the fine gloss is not as noticeable as in the adults.

Geographical Range

Dispersed mainly over its natural Palearctic region (from Central Siberia in the east and the Azores in the west to Norway in the north and the Mediterranean in the south), starlings were introduced to North America in 1890. The European Starling is found today sprawled from the Atlantic to the Pacific (east to west) and from Southern Canada to Northern Mexico

Habitat

Starlings typically live around people, using mowed lawns, city streets, and agricultural fields for feeding and trees, buildings, and other structures for nesting. Their main requirements are open, grassy areas in which to forage, a water source, and trees or buildings that contain suitable cavities or niches for nesting. They avoid large, unbroken stretches of forest, chaparral, and desert. Starlings too plunder on other birds' nests and use them as their own.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: March-June

Number of Eggs: 4-7

Broods per year: 3

Time of hatching: 15 days

Time to independence: 25-27 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 15 years

Food habits: seeds, insects, vertebrates, invertebrates, plants, and fruits. The most common animals eaten by the starling are centipedes, spiders, moths, earthworms. The most popular plants are berries, seeds, apples, pears, plums, and cherries

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Rileigh Welch

Order Passeriformes

Family Bombycillidae

Cedar Waxwing

Bombycilla cedrorum

Author: Taylor Weaver

Description of Bird

Length: 14-17 cm,
Wingspan: 22-30 cm,
Mass: 32 g

Grayish-brown plumage with pale yellow on the breast and belly. The secondary wing feathers are tipped with red wax-like droplets, and the tail is square with a bright yellow band at the tip. Cedar waxwings have a crest and a black mask edged with white.

Geographical Range

breeding range extends throughout the southern half of Canada and the northern half of the United States. The winter range includes the United States, Mexico and Central America as far south as Panama. They also winter in the Caribbean region. Many birds in the northern United States and extreme southern Canada are year-round residents

Habitat

nest in open woodlands (deciduous, coniferous and mixed) or oldfield habitats. They prefer habitats with numerous small trees and shrubs for nesting and food. They frequently inhabit riparian areas, which provide nesting shrubs and trees, fruits and emerging aquatic insects, but also use farms, orchards, conifer plantations, and suburban gardens



Life History Data

Time of Breeding: June-August

Number of Eggs: 2-5

Broods per year: 1-2

Time of hatching: 11-13 days

Time to independence: 17-23 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 7 years

Food habits: Feed mainly on fruits year round, such as serviceberries, strawberries, mulberries, raspberries, and cedar berries. In the summer they will also feed on insects, such as mayflies and dragonflies, often congregating around ponds to catch the insects in the air.

Time in Texas: winter



Photos: Troy A. Ladine

Order Passeriformes

Family Calcaridae

Smith's Longspur
Calcarius pictus

Order Passeriformes

Family Parulidae

American Redstart
Setpohaga ruticilla

Bay-Breasted Warbler

Stephaga castanea

Author: Reece McConnell

Description of Bird

Mass: 12.5 g

Length: 14 cm

Wingspan:

Male has chestnut cap, throat, and sides blackish face, pale patch on the side of the neck. Females are like males. Young warblers have 2 white wing bars with dark legs and a rust color on flanks.

Geographical Range

Adults appear to migrate west of the Appalachians, while immatures may follow more easterly. Few are encountered in the southern United States.

Habitat

Mature, low elevation, dense, boreal spruce-fir forests near water.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: March-May

Number of Eggs: 3-7

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 12-13 days

Time to independence: 10-11 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous for life

Life span:

Food habits: Forages in and out along branches, mostly at mid-level trees.

Rarely catches flying insects in the air. They eat small insects.

Time in Texas: Very uncommon, only in the east part of Texas during the winter

Black-and-White Warbler

Mniotilta varia

Author: Sheridan A. Beeman, Genea Shoulders, Mpanga Chanda

Description of Bird

Length: 13 cm

Wingspan: 19 cm

Mass: 10 g

Female . striped on crown and upper body, moderate contrast between cheeks, chin, and chin has whitish or gray color, upperpart mostly white with gray streaks.

Male . strong white between stripes on head and upperparts, two white wingbars, white eye, gray streaks.

Geographical Range

breeds across Canada; from southern Mackenzie, northern Alberta, and central Manitoba east to Newfoundland, and south to southern US east of Rockies. Winters from southern parts of Gulf Coast states southwards, eastern Mexico, and Central America to northern South America; West Indies

Habitat

Deciduous and mixed forest, riparian and oak woodlands, thorn forest. During migration, parks, gardens, and lawn areas with trees and shrubs.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Late spring and summer.

Number of Eggs: 4-6

Broods per year: 1-2

Time of hatching: 10 days

Time to independence:

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 years

Females: 1 years

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 11 years

Food habits: Eats primarily insects. Moth and butterfly larvae form the bulk of their diet during spring migration and throughout the breeding season. Other arthropod prey includes ants, flies, spiders, click and leaf beetles, wood-borers, leafhoppers, and weevils. They also feed on insects attracted to Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker sap wells.

Time in Texas: Mar - Apr; Aug - Sep

Black-Throated Blue Warbler

Setophaga caerulescens

Author: Jacob Stone

Description of Bird

Mass:

Length:

Male: Back, tail, and top of head blue-gray. Face and throat black. Black extending in line down sides to flanks. White below. Base of primaries white, showing as a large white patch in flight, but a small white spot near the edge of the wing when folded. Outer tail feathers with large white spots and black tips.

Female: Tail, wings, back, and head grayish olive-green. Yellowish to cream white stripe above eye. Darkish spot in front of eye extending to ear feathers. Lower eyelid white. Underside whitish to yellowish. White spot at base of primaries. Indistinct pale spot on outer tail feathers

Geographical Range

A bird of the deep forest, the Black-throated Blue Warbler breeds in the northeastern United States and southeastern Canada. On migration to its Caribbean wintering grounds it can be seen in a variety of habitats, including parks and gardens.

Habitat

Breeds in mature deciduous and mixed coniferous-deciduous woodlands with a thick understory, often in hilly or mountainous terrain. Winters in dense tropical forests. On migration, found in variety of habitats, including forest, forest edges, parks, and gardens.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: late summer

Number of Eggs: up to 4

Broods per year:

Time of hatching:

Time to independence: 14-21 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: during 1st year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 10 years

Food habits: insects and some small fruit

Time in Texas: migration

Blackburnian Warbler

Setophaga fusca

Author: Jacob Stone

Description of Bird

Length:

Mass:

Male: Throat and upper breast deep orange. Sides of neck, eye stripe, line on fore crown, and eye arc Yellow-orange. Face patch, crown, and back black. Lower breast yellowish with black streaks on Sides. Belly white or yellowish. Wings black with broad white wing bars that run together into a white Patch. Back black with two creamy white lines. Tail black with large white patches in outer tail feathers.

Female: Throat, upper breast, eye stripe, fore crown stripe, and sides of neck orange yellow. Crown, Face patch, and flank streaks greenish gray. Back gray with dark and light streaking. Two broad white wing bars.

Geographical Range

They breed in eastern North America, from southern Canada, westwards to the southern Canadian Prairies the Great Lakes region and New England, to North Carolina. Blackburnian Warblers are migratory, wintering in southern Central America and in South America and are very rare vagrants to western Europe.

Habitat

Breeds in mature coniferous and mixed coniferous/deciduous forests. Winters in montane forests.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: April-May

Number of Eggs: 3-5

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 12-13 days

Time to independence: 3 weeks

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 2 years

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 8 years

Food habits: insects and spiders

Time in Texas:

Blackpoll Warbler

Setophaga striata

Author: Hannah Word

Description of Bird

Mass: 9.7 to 21 g

Length: 12.5 to 15 cm

Wingspan: 20 to 25 cm

Medium-sized warbler with black- streaked, gray upper parts, white under parts, and black-white sides. Head has black cap and prominent white cheek patch. Bill is black. Wings are dark with two white bars. Bright orange, pink legs and feet. They have a swift, direct flight with rapidly beating wings.

Female Blackpolls look similar in body plumage to males, but lack the distinctive head pattern.

Geographical Range

Breeds in northern North America, from Alaska, through most of Canada, and into the Great Lakes region and New England. They are a common migrant through much of North America move down to northwestern South America in the winter.

Habitat

Preferred breeding habitat is coniferous forests during migration found mainly in tall trees

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Spring and Summer

Number of Eggs: 3-5

Broods per year: 1-2

Time of hatching: 12-13 days

Time to independence: 2-3 weeks

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 years

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 7-8 years

Food habits: insects such as aphids, beetles, mosquitoes, ants, wasps, gnats and spiders

Time in Texas:

Blue-Winged Warbler

Vermivora cyanoptera

Author: Grace Lott

Description of Bird

Mass: 7.9 - 10.5 g

Length: 12 cm

Wingspan: 17 cm

Blue-winged Warblers are small, well-proportioned birds with a sharp and pointed bill. Compared to other warblers, the rather heavy black bill and eyeline give them a pointy-headed look.

Geographical Range

Blue-winged warblers are native to North America and migrate seasonally between North and South America. During their breeding season, they can be seen in the Midwest, as well as the northeastern and southeastern United States; specifically, as far west as Nebraska and as far south as northern Georgia and northern Alabama. More recently, their geographic range has expanded further north, to southern Maine, as environmental impacts have limited suitable forests. During winter, this species migrates south, where they can be found in Mexico, throughout Central America (but sparingly in Panama), and northern Colombia.

Habitat

Blue-winged Warblers breed in shrublands, scrubby areas, thickets, and forest edges. During migration they rest and forage in open woodlands, shrublands, thorn forests, gardens, and parks. On the wintering grounds they frequent evergreen and tropical deciduous forest and edge, scrubby areas, and hedgerows; often associating with mixed-species flocks.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: May - June

Number of Eggs: 4 - 7

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 10 - 11 days

Time to independence: 8 - 10 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: Hybridizes with Golden-winged Warbler. Hybrids, known as "Brewster's Warblers," are fertile, and they backcross with the parent species and with each other; second-generation hybrids include a rare type known as "Lawrence's Warbler." Males sing two types of songs, one in territorial interactions and one in courting a mate. Nest site is well concealed in grass or blackberry vines, sometimes under a bush or sapling, close to or on the ground. Attached to upright stems of grass or weeds, especially goldenrod. The bulky nest is a narrow, deep, inverted cone, usually built by the female alone. Constructed of dead leaves, grass, and beech or grapevine bark, and lined with plant fibers or animal hair.

Life span: 2.5 years

Food habits: spiders and insects

Time in Texas: uncommon



Photo: Jennifer Stevenson

Canada Warbler

Cardellina canadensis

Author: Merideth Runion

Description of Bird

Mass: 9-13 grams

Length: 12-15 cm

Yellow underparts, blue-gray upperparts, yellow eye-ring and thin pointed bill.

Adult males have black forehead and black necklace, females have faint grey necklace

Geographical Range

Across Canada east of the Rockies and eastern United States; Migrate to northern South America

Habitat

Hardwood forests, usually near water

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: May-June

Number of Eggs: 3-5

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 12 days

Time to independence: 22-26 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 8-10 years

Food habits: insects in flight and spiders

Time in Texas: summer breeding season

Cerulean Warbler

Setophaga cerulea

Author: Weston Godsey

Description of Bird

Mass: 8-10 g

Length: 11 cm

Wingspan: 20 cm

Male: Deep cerulean blue above. White throat and underparts. Blue streaking down sides of breast. Dark band across throat. Black stripe into eye, creating a blue eye stripe above. Faint black streaks on back.

Female: Bluish-green above. White washed with yellow below. White or yellowish line over eye. Dusky streaking down sides of breast, two white wing bars and back unstreaked.

Geographical Range

The breeding range of the cerulean warbler extends from Quebec and Ontario, Canada, south to northern Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia in the USA. The cerulean warbler migrates south for winter where it can be found in Colombia and Venezuela, south to eastern Peru and northern Bolivia

Habitat

During the breeding season the Cerulean Warbler inhabits mature deciduous forest, generally with open understory, between 30-1,000 meters above sea level. Over winter, the cerulean warbler can be found in broad-leaf evergreen forests and woodland on the east slopes of the Andes and in the montane forests of Venezuela, at elevations of about 500-1,500 meters.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Mid-May to July

Number of Eggs: 3-5

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 11-13 days

Time to independence: 10-11 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 5 years

Food habits: insects, with some plant material taken in winter.

Time in Texas: May-August

Chestnut-Sided Warbler

Setophaga pensylvanica

Author: Stacy M. Purser

Description of Bird

Mass: 9.6 g

Length: 10.8 -12.7 cm.

Both male and female have distinct chestnut sides in spring: immature females are without chestnut. Females can be identified by their bright, unstreaked green back, yellow wing bars, white underparts and narrow wing eye. Male has a black and yellow striped back with a black tail and white under parts with the chestnut sides year round. Nearly always holds tail raised at an angle strikingly different seasonal plumage, the male lacks a lot of its black plumage during the winter season.

Geographical Range

Spring to summer: northern hardwood and mixed forests of southern Canada and northeastern United States. Winter: Central America

Habitat

common in deciduous brush as well as orchards and along roadsides

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Spring, early summer

Number of Eggs: 3-5

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 11-12 days

Time to independence: 30 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 7 years

Food habits: Almost exclusively insects and other arthropods: gleans from bottoms of leaves Occasionally fruit during the winter

Time in Texas: spring and fall migration

Common Yellowthroat

Geothlypis trichas

Connecticut Warbler

Oporornis agilis

Hooded Warbler
Setophaga citrina

Magnolia Warbler

Setophaga magnolia

Author: Luke Philips

Description of Bird

Mass: 6-15 g

Length: 11-13 cm

Wing span: 6-15 cm

Black tipped tail with large white spots forming a band. Belly is mostly yellow with black streaks along the breast. Male: black head Female: gray head with more dull colors than male

Geographical Range

During their breeding season, magnolia warblers can be found throughout the central and southern parts of Canada along with some northern states in the US. Winter migration takes the birds into Mexico and Panama along with some southwestern regions of the US.

Habitat

Found mostly in damp coniferous forests with trees such as pine, red maple, spruce, hemlocks, and balsam firs

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Spring-Summer

Number of Eggs: 3-5

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 11-13 days

Time to independence: 8-10 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males:

Females:

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 7 years

Food habits: mostly insects, occasionally berries

Time in Texas:

Mourning Warbler
Geothlypis philadelphia

Nashville Warbler
Oreothlypis ruficapilla

Northern Parula
Setophaga americana



Photo: Talton Cooper

Ovenbird

Seiurus aurocapilla

Pine Warbler

Setophaga pinus

Author: Genea Shoulders

Description of Bird

Mass: 12 g

Length: 14 cm

Wing span: 22 cm

Male . Brownish upper body, bright yellow throat, dark streaks on sides, two white wing-bars, and legs are blackish, with eyes being small and black.

Female . Brownish tinged upper body, yellow throat and dark streaks on sides, two white wing-bars, and legs are blackish, with eyes being small and black.

Geographical Range

Southern United States

Habitat

Pine Forest or open pine woods in Eastern North America

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: mid March-early June

Number of Eggs: 3-5

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 10 days

Time to independence: 21-35 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 5 years

Food habits: primarily arthropods, some fruits and seeds.

Time in Texas:



Photo: Troy A. Ladine

Prothonotary Warbler

Protonotaria citrea

Author: Katy Little

Description of Bird

Mass: 16 g

Length: 12-14 cm

Wing span:

Males have a brilliant orange, yellow head and blue-grey wings. Very bright yellow on head, with thin, pointed, long bill and mostly white undertail. Eyes black to black-greenish. Wings grey without wingbars with white spots in tail

Geographical Range

Ranges from southern Minnesota and southern Ontario southward to central Texas and around Florida in summer. Winters in Central America and northern South America

Habitat

wooded swamps or lowland deciduous forest with ponds or other standing water. Flooded bottomland hardwood forests, cypress swamps Winters in mangrove swamps and coastal tropical forests

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Spring-early Summer

Number of Eggs: 3-8

Broods per year: 2

Time of hatching: 12-14 days

Time to independence: 18 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: mostly monogamous

Life span: 2-3 years

Food habits: Insects such as caterpillars, flies, midges, spiders, mayflies.

Snails When wintering: Seeds, Fruit, Nectar

Time in Texas: Spring and early summer, leave for winter grounds in late July

Swainson's Warbler

Limnothlypis swainsonii

Tennessee Warbler

Oreothlypis peregrina

Author: Sarah Foster

Description of Bird

Mass: 8 - 13 g

Length: 10 - 13 cm

Wingspan: 20 cm

Small, short-tailed warbler with a thin, pointy bill. Breeding males are yellow-green above with a gray cap and pale eyebrow. The underside is plain whitish

Geographical Range

Tennessee warblers breed across most of the northern United States. They also breed as far north as Yukon and in adjacent areas of southern Alaska. Breeding also reaches east to Newfoundland. In August they migrate from the Gulf coast and head on to wintering grounds in October. The same route is followed in spring. Return migration begins in April with arrival at the breeding grounds by May.

Habitat

They prefer mixed forests and in migration they nest in groves, shrubs and brush. They breed in bogs, swamps and forests.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding:

Number of Eggs: 5 - 6

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 11 - 12 days

Time to independence: 11 - 12 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males:

Females:

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 77 months

Food habits: invertebrates

Time in Texas:

Townsend's Warbler
Setophaga townsendi

Wilson's Warbler
Cardellina pusilla

Worm-Eating Warbler
Helmitheros vermivorum

Yellow-Breasted Chat

Icteria virens

Author: Sarah Foster

Description of Bird

Mass: 21.6 - 31.2 g

Length: 18 cm

Wingspan: 25 cm

Chats are olive-green above with a bright yellow breast and bold face markings. The face is gray, with a white eyering that connects to the bill, forming “spectacles.” They also have a white malar or mustache stripe bordering the cheek. The lower belly is white.

Geographical Range

Breeding season they live from Canada to Mexico. In the fall they migrate to Southern Mexico to the Atlantic coast.

Habitat

thickets and dense bushes

Life History Data

Time of Breeding:

Number of Eggs: 3 - 6

Broods per year: 2

Time of hatching: 11 days

Time to independence: 8 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males:

Females:

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 8.9 years

Food habits: spiders and insects

Time in Texas: breeding season



Photo: Jennifer Stevenson

Yellow-Throated Warbler

Setophaga dominica

Author: Kolby Sharp

Description of Bird

Mass: 0.33 oz

Length: 5.5 inches

Wingspan: 8 inches

Small sized black and white warbler with a bright yellow throat. Has a black mask, and white on sides on the neck and usually has yellow lores and yellow chin. Gray unstreaked upper parts. Both males and females are alike.

Geographical Range

In the winter they are mostly found from the Gulf Coast states southward. They breed from Illinois, Ohio, and New Jersey south to Missouri, Texas, Gulf Coast, and Northern Florida.

Habitat

Common in forests of pine, cypress, sycamore, and oak, in both swampy places and dry uplands.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Spring

Number of Eggs: 4 purple-spotted greenish eggs

Broods per year: 2

Time of hatching: 12 days

Time to independence: 10 days after hatching

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1-2 years

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: Oldest recorded at 6 years old

Food habits: Small insects and their larvae

Time in Texas: Summer through Winter

Order Passeriformes

Family Thraupidae

Scarlet Tanager

Piranga olivacea

Author: Alyssa Edwards

Description of Bird

Mass: 28 g

Length: 18 cm

The Scarlet Tanager males are distinctive being a bright red bird all over with black wings and tail. The females have an olive green to yellow body, brightest on throat and under tail. They also have brownish olive wings and tail edged green.

Geographical Range

The Scarlet Tanager is found in the eastern U.S. and northern South America.

Habitat

Found in the woodlands, mature forests, and suburban areas with large trees and in the winter are found in evergreen forests.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: May-August

Number of Eggs: 1-6

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 13-14 days

Time to independence: 14-28 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 5 years

Food habits: Feeds on insects, larvae from leaves, spiders, earthworms, and fruits

Time in Texas:

Summer Tanager

Piranga rubra

Author: Courtney Brinker, Austin Dicks

Description of Bird

Mass: 30 g

Length: 17 cm

Wingspan:

Male: Entirely bright red. Wings slightly darker or more gray, especially in winter

Female: Upperparts plain yellowish olive green. Brighter yellow on crown and rump. Under parts dull yellow, with olive green wash on sides. Wing feathers grayish brown with yellow edge

Geographical Range

Across the southern United States, extending as far north as Iowa. These birds migrate to Mexico, Central America and northern South America. This tanager is an extremely rare vagrant to Western Europe.

Habitat

Their breeding habitat is open wooded areas, especially with oaks across the southern United States. They build a cup nest on a horizontal tree branch.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Summer

Number of Eggs: 3 -4

Broods per year: 2-3

Time of hatching: 12-13 days

Time to independence: 20-30 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 years

Females: 1 years

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 5 years

Food habits: Insects, especially bees and wasps, fruit outside of breeding season

Time in Texas: summer



Photo: Skylar Williams

Western Tanager

Piranga ludoviciana

Author: Kolby Sharp

Description of Bird

Mass: 28 g

Length: 19 cm

Wing span: 30 cm

The adult breeding male has a bright red head while a nonbreeding male has only a slight red color surrounding their black beaks. The adult females have yellow-green above and yellow below. Both sexes have similar wing bars, black wings with white bars.

Geographical Range

Breeds from southern Alaska and Mackenzie southward. Winters in tropics

Habitat

Common in both coniferous and deciduous forests.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Spring

Number of Eggs: 3-5 speckled bluish-green eggs

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 13 days

Time to independence: 11-15 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1-3 years

Females: 1-3 years

Mating System: Male and female stay together. Male will feed his female while she is sitting on the nest and are almost always together when she is not sitting on the nest

Life span:

Food habits: Eat mostly insects during breeding season, Fruit during fall and winter

Time in Texas: Migration



Photo: Troy A. Ladine

Order Passeriformes

Family Emberizidae

Chipping Sparrow

Spizella passerina

Author: Travis Jones

Description of Bird

Mass: 12 g

Length: 14 cm

This is a small bird with a long, thin tail. It has an unstreaked whitish underside, distinct dark eyeline extending to bill, and usually grayish rump

Geographical Range

common and widespread throughout most of North America, except for the far northeastern portion of Canada. This bird breeds from very eastern Alaska through Canada, southward to southern United States and into Mexico and Central America. Absent from southern Great Plains and Florida.

Habitat

Breed in open woodlands with grass, along river and lake shorelines, orchards, farms, and in urban and suburban parks. They typically spend winter in similar areas

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: summer or rainy seasons

Number of Eggs: 2- 7

Broods per year: 1, at times 2

Time of hatching: 10-15 days

Time to independence: 21-35 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 2-5 years

Food habits: seeds during the winter and insects during the summer. Their choice of prey usually consists of whatever insects are most common and easiest to catch. They forage by scratching at the ground looking for insects and seeds, pulling them off of vegetation, picking them off the ground, or gleaning insects from vegetation.

Time in Texas:



Photo: Harrison Baugh



Photo: Nicholas Hanson

Clay-Colored Sparrow

Spizella pallida

Author: Kolby Sharp

Description of Bird

Mass: 12 g

Length: 14 cm

Wing span: 19 cm

Small sparrow similar to the Chipping Sparrow but is brighter with rump brownish buff and buff cheek patch bordered above and below with black. Has streaked crown and buffy upperparts and clear gray breasts.

Geographical Range

Winters in southern Texas. Breeds from north-central Canada to Colorado and Michigan.

Habitat

Brushy grasslands and prairies

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Spring

Number of Eggs: 3-5 pale blue eggs, spotted with dark brown

Broods per year: 1-2

Time of hatching: 10-14 days

Time to independence: 7-9 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: Males are territorial and will remain in the same area for years, while females choose a different breeding area each season

Life span: Oldest known is 6 years, 11 months

Food habits: Seeds and leaf buds of various grasses, forbs, and shrubs.
Insects

Time in Texas: Migration period and Winter

Dark-eyed Junco
Junco hyemalis



Photo: Troy A. Ladine

Eastern Towhee

Pipila erythrophthalmus

Author: Grant Massey

Description of Bird

Mass: 40 g

Length: 22 cm

Sexes similar: Female slightly larger than male. Male with black head back and wings while female is brown. Conical bill, rusty sides, white underbelly, white primary bases

Geographical Range

Eastern United States

Habitat

Ground low nesting, scrub

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: midApril-August

Number of Eggs: 2 -6

Broods per year: 2-3

Time of hatching: 12-13 days

Time to independence: 4-6 weeks

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 14 months

Females: 14 months

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 4-6 years

Food habits: seeds, fruits, nuts, small insects and spiders

Time in Texas: east during winter, rare elsewhere

Lark Sparrow

Chondestes grammacus

Author: Merideth Runion

Description of Bird

Mass: 24-33 grams

Length: 15-17 cm

Male slightly larger; Dark-streaked brown back and white underparts with a dark central spot. The cheeks and crown sides are chestnut with white eyebrow and crown stripes

Geographical Range

Distributed throughout North America

Habitat

Grasslands with scattered bushes and trees; open country generally in winter

Life History Data

Time of breeding: Summer

Number of eggs: 3-6

Broods per year: 1

Time to hatching: 11-12 days

Time to fledging: 9-10 days

Time to independence:

Age at reproductive maturity

Males: 1 year (average)

Females: 1 year (average)

Mating system: Monogamous

Life span: 10 years

Food Habits: Mainly seeds, sometimes insects

Time in Texas: Year round



Photo: Chelsea Parrott

Savannah Sparrow
Passerculus sandwichensis

Song Sparrow

Melospiza melodia

Author: Samual Buzzard, Leslie Fletcher, Reggie Patrick

Description of Bird

Mass: 14-49.6 g

Length: 12.7-17.8 cm

Wingspan: 17.8-22.9 cm

The Song Sparrow is small and rounded. They are mainly brown on their backs and white underneath. Underneath the bird it has a few brown streaks with a spot in the middle of the chest. There are two thick brown stripes on each side of the neck with grayish white eyebrows. The song sparrow also has a long rounded tail. Both female and male species look alike

Geographical Range

The Song sparrow is found in all parts of the U.S., northern Mexico, and up into Canada. It is found in Central to South eastern U.S. down into Mexico during the winter months, north central to southern Canada during the summer and all of western and northeastern U.S. all year round

Habitat

The preferred habitats of the Song sparrow include forest edges, somewhat clear and also dense forests, and marshes. They are also found in open grasses for feeding and in parks that are heavily wooded around them. Most of the time, they are found in shrubs or low grasses

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: February-May

Number of Eggs: 2-6

Broods per year: 3

Time of hatching: 12-14 days

Time to independence: 33-40 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 years

Females: 1 years

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 1 years

Food habits: Fish (Marine and Freshwater), Crustaceans (crabs, crawfish, shrimp), Earthworms, Snakes and Lizards

Time in Texas: winters through the U.S. to the Gulf coast

Vesper Sparrow
Pooecetes gramineus

White-Crowned Sparrow

Zonotrichia leucophrys

Author: Jasqueline Staton

Description of Bird

Mass: 14-49.6 g

Length: 18 cm

Wingspan: cm

The adult bird has a clear pearly grey breast and a puffy crown that's black and white with strips

Geographical Range

found in different parts of the world such as Alaska, and cross Canada to Northeast United States, to California and Arizona

Habitat

often found in brushy places, edges and towns

Life History Data

Time of Breeding:

Number of Eggs: 3 - 7

Broods per year: 1 -3

Time of hatching: 10-14 days

Time to independence:

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 years

Females: 1 years

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 2 years

Food habits: insects, grass, weeds and seeds

Time in Texas: Oct - May

White-Throated Sparrow
Zonotrichia albicollis



Photo: Ashley Ayers

Order Passeriformes

Family Cardinalidae

Blue Grosbeak

Passerina caerulea

Author: Cortney Brinker

Description of Bird

Mass: 26-31 g

Length: 15-16 cm

Wingspan: 38 cm

Large silver-gray bill. Male deep blue with two brown wingbars. Female mostly brown with two brown wingbars.

Geographical Range

Summer: Breeds from central California across the central United States, as far northward as southern North Dakota, to northern New Jersey. Generally does not breed along Gulf Coast. Also breeds throughout Mexico and Central America. Winter: from Mexico to Panama. Also recorded in winter in South America

Habitat

Forest edge, fields, powerline cuts, riparian areas, hedgerows, and other areas with medium-sized trees and low shrub density.



Photo: Jennifer Stevenson

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Summer

Number of Eggs: 2-5

Broods per year: 2

Time of hatching: 12-14 days

Time to independence: 10-15 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 6-8 years

Food habits: insects, and other invertebrates, and seeds. Gathers in rice fields during migration

Time in Texas: summer



Photo: Anhre Gray

Dickcissel

Spiza americana

Author: Kyle Nicholson

Description of Bird

Length: 14-16 cm

Wingspan: 25 cm

Mass: 23-28 g

Adult Dickcissels are small songbirds with a stout, pointed bill. Has Rusty patch on shoulders with a yellow or yellowish chest. A breeding male has large black "V" on yellow chest. Male Dickcissels are more vibrantly colored than the female Dickcissel

Geographical Range

Breeds from eastern Montana to the Great Lakes through the Mississippi River Valley south through Texas and the Gulf Coast. They spend the winter in the Tropics from southern Mexico south.

Habitat

Dickcissels prefer open country in grain or hay fields with and/or weed patches

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: In Texas, breeding takes place in the third week of May. Time is later the further North the Dickcissels have to fly: in Oklahoma, first week of Jun, Kansas, third week of Jun, Wisconsin, fourth week of Jun.

Number of Eggs: 3-5

Broods per year: 1, possibly 2

Time of hatching: 12-13 days

Time to independence: 8-10 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 years

Females: 1 year

Mating System: polygamous

Life span: 4-5 years

Food habits: Seeds, grass, and insects, the younger birds eat more insects. They readily eat Safflower, Apple Slices, Suet, Millet, Peanut Kernels, and Fruit.

Time in Texas: summer



Photo: Jennifer Stevenson

Indigo Bunting

Passerina cyanea

Author: Kathleen Santanello

Description of Bird

Length: 11.5-13 cm

Wingspan:

Mass: 12-18 g

Males are bright blue with a slightly darker head than rest of body.

Females are brown with a slight bit of blue on the tail

Geographical Range

Indigo buntings breed throughout eastern North America from the Great Plains eastward, south of the coniferous forest region. There are also some breeding populations in the western United States, including Utah, Arizona, California. Indigo buntings winter in the coastal regions of Mexico, Central America, northern South America, and the Caribbean.

Habitat

brushy and weedy habitats along the edges of farmed land, woods, road, power lines, railways, and riparian habitats

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: early Spring-winter

Number of Eggs: 3-6

Broods per year: 1-2

Time of hatching: 11-14 days

Time to independence: 18-21 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 8-10 years

Food habits: During the breeding season, indigo buntings eat small spiders and insects, seeds of grasses and herbs, and berries. Major food items taken include caterpillars, grasshoppers, bugs, beetles, seeds and berries. In winter, indigo buntings eat small seeds, buds, and some insects. Their main food in winter is small seeds of grasses. They also frequent feeders, and eat the seeds of rice in rice fields.

Time in Texas: summer, winter in extreme southeast



Photo: Anhre Gray

Northern Cardinal

Cardinalis cardinalis

Author: MARRISA DAWKINS, DEVIN PHILLIPS, SULAM PEÑA, JEREMY ALEXANDER

Description of Bird

Mass: 42-48 g

Length: 21-23 cm

Wing span: 25-31 cm

The Northern Cardinal is a fairly large, long-tailed finch with a short, very thick bill and a prominent crest. Cardinals often sit with a hunched over posture and with the tail pointed straight down. Male cardinals are brilliant red all over, with a reddish bill and black face immediately around the bill. Females are pale brown overall with warm reddish tinges in the wings, tail, and crest. They have the same black face and red orange bill.

Geographical Range

They are found throughout eastern and central North America from southern Canada into parts of Mexico and Central America

Habitat

dense shrubby areas such as forest edges, overgrown fields, hedgerows, backyards, marshy thickets, mesquite, regrowing forest, and ornamental landscaping. Cardinals nest in dense foliage and look for conspicuous, fairly high perches for singing

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: early Spring-Summer

Number of Eggs: 3-4

Broods per year: 2-5

Time of hatching: 12-13 days

Time to independence: 25-56 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous, occasional polygyny

Life span: 16 years

Food habits: Northern Cardinals eat mainly seeds and fruit, supplementing these with insects (and feeding nestlings mostly insects). Common fruits and seeds include dogwood, wild grape, buckwheat, grasses, sedges, mulberry, hackberry, blackberry, sumac, tuliptree, and corn. Also eat beetles, crickets, katydids, leafhoppers, cicadas, flies, centipedes, spiders, butterflies, and moths.

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Kenneth Anding



Photo: Dylan Bengé

Painted Bunting

Passerina ciris

Author: Luke Phillips

Description of Bird

Mass:

Length:

Wing span:

Male: dark blue head, red eye ring, yellow-green back, dusky flight feathers,
other wing feathers are dull blue, red belly

Female: dull green, pale yellowish belly

Geographical Range

Breeding: SE United States, NE Mexico Winter: Florida, Bahamas, Cuba,
Costa Rica, W. Panama

Habitat

Found in thickets & shrubby areas, edge of woods, overgrown fields

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: March-August

Number of Eggs: 3-5

Broods per year: 2

Time of hatching: 11-12 days

Time to independence: 8-9 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 2-3 years

Females: 2 years

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 12 years

Food habits: seeds

Time in Texas:

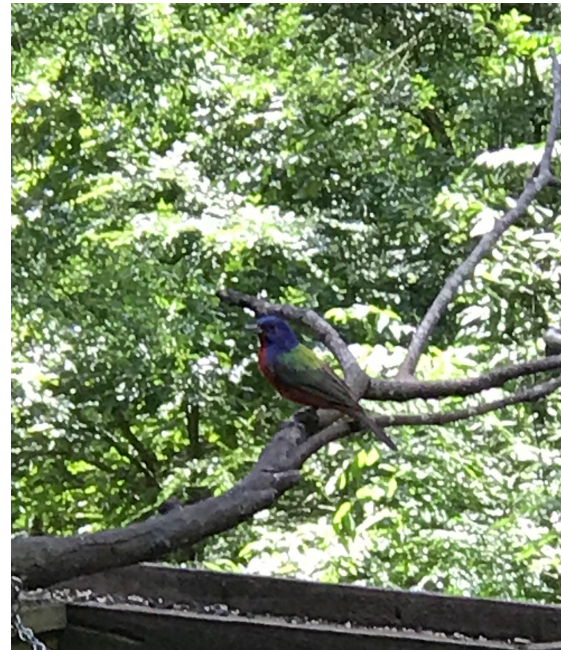


Photo: Rebekah Still

Pine Grosbeak

Pinicola enucleator

Author: Reece McConnell

Description of Bird

Mass: 56.7 g

Length: 23 cm

Wingspan:

Males are mostly red with gray underparts, black wings, and white wingbars.

Females are mostly gray with some yellow on the head and back. Wings are black with white wingbars. Both have black tails and bills are short.

Geographical Range

Northern part of America and in Canada. They are also found in the western part of the United States.

Habitat

Conifers and some other trees. In the winter, they are often found in deciduous trees, especially fruiting trees.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Spring

Number of Eggs: 2-5

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 13-14 days

Time to independence: 15 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous for life

Life span:

Food habits: Seeds, fruit, buds, berries, and some insects make up the majority of their diet.

Time in Texas: rare

Rose-Breasted Grosbeak

Pheucticus ludovicianus

Author: Luke Philips

Description of Bird

Mass:

Length: 19 0 22 cm

Male: black head, wings, back, and tail, bright rose red patch on breast, wings have 2 white patches with rose red linings, underside is white

Female: dark grey upper parts/darker wings and tail, white supercilium buff strip on head, black streaked belly

Geographical Range

Relatively common throughout much of eastern and central N. America.

Migrate to Central America

Habitat

Open deciduous forests across Canada and NE United States

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: May-July

Number of Eggs: 1-5

Broods per year: 1-2

Time of hatching: 13-14 days

Time to independence: 21 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 9 years

Food habits: forages in shrubs/trees for insects, seeds, and berries while also catching insects in flight and occasionally eats nectar

Time in Texas:

Order Passeriformes

Family Icteridae

Baltimore Oriole

Icterus galbula

Author: Janae Wineland, George Plumlee, Pete Fitzsimmons

Description of Bird

Mass:

Length: 17-20 cm

There is sexual dimorphism in plumage and in size males are 1-5% larger than females in a variety of measurements.

Adult males have a black head, bill, and back, and a bright orange breast, rump, and underparts.

Adult females are paler than males, olive-brown to orange. Their wings are brown with white wing bars, and the bill is gray.

Geographical Range

Baltimore Orioles spend summer in the Eastern portion of the United States and spend winter in northern Mexico and the southern coast of the United States.

Habitat

Prefers open wooded areas. They are very adaptable to urban parks and residential areas. During winter in Mexico they are found in flowering canopy trees.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: May-June

Number of Eggs: 3 -7

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 11-14 days

Time to independence: 11-14 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: usually monogamous but polygamous known

Life span: 11 years

Food habits: primarily caterpillars, including many pest species. They also eat other insects, some small fruits, and nectar. They are an important predator of the nuisance forest tent caterpillar, which it eats in both its larval and pupal forms

Time in Texas:

Bobolink

Dolichonyx oryzivorus

Author: Kristopher Carroll

Description of Bird

Length: 11-12 cm

Wingspan: 27 cm

Mass: 28-56 g

Description: Medium-sized songbird. Short, pointed tail. Short conical bill

Male: Face, chest, belly, tail, and wings black. Shoulders, lower back, and rump white to pale gray. Straw-colored back of head. Bill glossy black.

Female: Underparts yellowish buff. Black streaks on sides, back, and under tail. Black stripe behind eyes and on top of head

Geographical Range

South America, Colombia and Venezuela, Florida peninsula to Texas and Louisiana.

Habitat

tall-grass prairies, hay fields, and similar open areas, irrigated hay fields and other agricultural crops. During migration they can be found in freshwater marshes, especially rice fields, and at coastal areas.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: May-June

Number of Eggs: 1-7 bluish gray or pale reddish brown irregular spots and blotches

Broods per year:

Time of hatching: 11-13 days

Time to independence: 14 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males:

Females:

Mating System: polygynous

Life span: 5 years

Food habits: Primarily seed-eaters. Feed heavily on rice, weed seeds, and other grains during the fall and winter. During the breeding season they also eat insects and other invertebrates.

Time in Texas:

Brewer's Blackbird

Euphagus cyanocephalus

Author: Kristopher Carroll

Description of Bird

Length:

Wingspan:

Mass: 60-80 g

A small, fairly long-legged songbird with the well proportioned look of many blackbirds: the fairly long tail is balanced by a full body, round head, and long, thick-based beak

Male: Glossy black all over with a staring yellow eye. Blue sheen on the head grading to greenish iridescence on the body.

Female: Females are plainer brown, darkest on the wings and tail, with a dark eye.

Geographical Range

Western half of North America, from below sea level in southern California to more than 8,000 feet in the Rocky Mountains

Habitat

open habitats of the West, such as coastal scrub, grasslands, riversides, meadows, as well as lawns, golf courses, parks, and city streets.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: May-June

Number of Eggs: 3-7 Pale gray to greenish white, clouded or spotted with brown, pink, yellow, violet, and gray.

Broods per year: 1-2

Time of hatching: 11-17 days

Time to independence: 14-15 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males:

Females:

Mating System: polygynous

Life span: 3 years

Food habits: mostly seeds and grain, lots of insects, occasionally frogs and young voles. Anything not closely guarded,

Time in Texas:

Brown-Headed Cowbird

Molothrus ater

Author: Rachel Hastie, Katie R. Hood

Description of Bird

Mass: 40-50 g

Length: 15-20 cm

Wingspan:

Medium size with a stout, dark, sparrow-like bill, short tail.

Male: has a brown head and black body with a greenish, glossy iridescence.

Female: uniformly grayish brown with no markings

Geographical Range

Breeds in most of North America. Winters from USA and Mexico

Habitat

Preferences: pastures, edges of woods, thickets, forest clearings, farmland and suburban gardens and lawns

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: spring-mid June

Number of Eggs: 1 egg per host nest: female can lay up to 40 eggs per season

Broods per year: brood parasite

Time of hatching: 10-13 days

Time to independence: 9-11 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous to polygamous

Life span: 13 years

Food habits: grains, grasses and weed seeds on the ground, insects

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Talton Cooper



Photo: Steven Ramage

Common Grackle

Quiscalus quiscula

Author: Christopher Powell, Alyssa Edwards

Description of Bird

Mass: 92-131 g

Length: 28-34 cm

Wingspan:

Common grackles are large and lanky blackbirds with long legs and long tails. The head is flat and the bill is longer than most blackbirds with more of a downward curve. In flight, wings appear short in comparison to the tail. Males are slightly larger than the females. Common grackles appear black but up close have glassy purple heads with bronzy-iridescent bodies, and they also have a bright golden eye. Females are slightly less glossy than males.

Geographical Range

Found year round from Central Texas up into South Dakota across to the Eastern shore. During summer they can be found as west as Arizona and up into Canada

Habitat

Found around agricultural fields, feedlots, city parks, suburban lawns, woodland, forest edges, meadows, and marshes

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: March-July

Number of Eggs: 4-7

Broods per year: 1-2

Time of hatching: several weeks

Time to independence: 9-11 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1-2 years

Females: 1-2 years

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 15 years

Food habits: Particularly seeds, but during summer a small number of grackles are known to eat beetles, grasshoppers, caterpillars, spiders, crustaceans, mollusks, fish, frogs, salamanders, mice, and other birds

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Troy A. Ladine

Eastern Meadowlark

Sturnella magna

Author: Clay Nail, Jeff A. Savote

Description of Bird

Mass: 90-150 g

Length: Males: 21-25

Females: 19- 23 cm

Wingspan:

Males have a broad white moustachial stripe and a yellow chin, which is divided from the under parts by a broad black breast band. The under parts turn offwhite on the streaked flanks and under the tail coverts. The pale undertail coverts are streaked and spotted dusky black. Females are similar to males except that they are smaller, paler, and have a narrower breast band.

Geographical Range

widespread in the eastern US and south eastern Canada extending as far west as Arizona. It is also resident in the Bahamas and extends south to Mexico

Habitat

Grasslands, pastures, savannas, alfalfa and hay fields, cropland borders, roadsides, orchards, golf courses, airports, reclaimed strip mines, overgrown fields, and other open areas. In the western range, tallgrass prairies and desert grassland. In the winter they are generally found in open country, cultivated fields, feedlots, and marshes

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Summer

Number of Eggs: 3-5

Broods per year: 2

Time of hatching: 13-15 days

Time to independence: 2 weeks

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: polygamous

Life span: 5 years

Food habits: flying insects and fruits

Time in Texas: year round

Great-Tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*

Author: Andrew Franklin

Description of Bird

Mass: 125 - 190 g

Length: 33 - 43 cm

Wingspan: 58 cm

The Great-Tailed Grackle has a long tail and bill as well as pale eyes. Male Great-tailed Grackles are long-legged, slender blackbirds with a flat-headed profile and stout, straight bills. The male's tapered tail is nearly as long as its body and folds into a distinctive V or keel shape. The male also has black plumage with purple iridescence. The female is smaller with a pail brown throat and belly. The rest of its body is a brownish black.

Geographical Range

Range stretches from Kansas in the northeast to southern California in the northwest down to northwest Peru and northwest Venezuela in the south. It is common in Texas and Arizona.

Habitat

Groves, thickets, farms, towns, city parks. Found in many kinds of open and semi-open country, mostly in the lowlands, including farmland, marshes, irrigated fields, suburban lawns, brushy areas. Avoids true desert situations but may be common around streams or ponds in dry country



Photo: Dominic Wood

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Early Spring

Number of Eggs: 3-5

Broods Per Year: 1-2

Time to Hatching: 13-14 days

Time to Fledging: 20-23 days

Time to Independence: 21-23 days

Age to Reproductive Maturity:

Males: 2 years

Females: 1 year

Mating System: Polygynous. Males may have several "social mates" within their territory. Females have one "social mate" but may copulate with others in the area.

Life Span: 12.5 years

Food Habits: Grains such as corn, sorghum, and oats as well as fruits, grasshoppers, beetles, spiders, bees, wasps, snails, worms, slugs, and moths. Grackles also feed on tadpoles, frogs, lizards, snakes, fish, and small mammals such as mice and shrews, as well as bird eggs and nestlings.

Time in Texas: Permanent Resident



Photo: Troy A. Ladine

Orchard Oriole

Icterus spurius

Author: John Jones

Description of Bird

Mass: 16-25 g

Length: 15-18 cm

Wing span:

Breeding adult males are black on the head, neck, upper breast, nape, back, and scapulars. The rump, upper-tail coverts, and underparts from breast to under-tail coverts are rich chestnut. The wings are primarily black, except for chestnut epaulets and white wing bar and tips. The tail is black with narrow brownish-white tips.

Breeding adult females are brownish olive from forehead to upper-tailcoverts on upperparts. This coloring is brighter on the forehead, more yellow on the rump and upper-tail coverts, and fades to olive on the flanks or gray tips on the tail may be more noticeable than on the breeding male.

Geographical Range

Canada to Mexico

Habitat

preference for settling near a source of water, such as a lake or river, and may be found in narrow riparian zones, floodplains, or marshes

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: May-August

Number of Eggs: 2-7

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 12-14 days

Time to independence: 21 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 9 years

Food habits: omnivore, Animal Foods: insects, terrestrial noinsect arthropods. Plant Foods: fruit, nectar, flowers

Time in Texas: Summer

Red-Winged Blackbird

Agelaius phoeniceus

Author: Andrew Franklin

Description of Bird

Mass: 17.1 - 42/7g

Length: 18 - 24 cm

Wingspan: 30 - 37 cm

Red-winged Blackbirds are small and stocky with broad shoulders, a medium length tail, and a sharply pointed, slender, conical bill. The male of the species has glossy black plumage and a distinctive bright red patch on the wings bordered by yellow. The female has no red patch and has a pale, supercilium heavily streaked underparts, brown and white upperparts, and often has a yellow tinge to the face and throat.

Geographical Range

The range of red-winged blackbirds extends from southern Alaska at its northern most point, to the Yucatan peninsula in the south and covers the greater part of the continent reaching from the Pacific coast of California and Canada to the eastern seaboard.

Habitat

Fresh and saltwater marshes, along watercourses, water hazards on golf courses, and wet roadsides, as well as drier meadows and old fields. In winter, the Red-winged Blackbird can be found in crop fields, feedlots, and pastures.



Photo: Troy A. Ladine

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: Early Spring-Early Summer

Number of Eggs: 3-4

Broods Per Year: 2-3

Time to Hatching: 10-12 days

Time to Fledging: 11-14 days

Time to Independence: 2-3 weeks

Age to Reproductive Maturity:

Males: 2-4 years

Females: 2 years

Mating System: polygynous ; polygynandrous

Life Span: 2 years (avg)-20 years (max)

Food Habits: Red-winged blackbirds are omnivorous and will feed on almost any plant material they can consume, preferring seeds and agricultural products, such as corn and rice. Adult red-winged blackbirds will consume a wide variety of foods including snails, frogs, fledgling birds, eggs, carrion, worms and a wide array of arthropods. Insects, especially Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies), Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths), and Diptera (true flies) are preferred, although arachnids and other insect and non-insect arthropods are consumed.

Time in Texas: Northern populations migrate south to the southern United States and Central America beginning in September or October (or occasionally as early as August). Most western and middle American populations are non-migratory.

Order Passeriformes

Family Passeridae

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

Author: Kathleen Santanello

Description:

Mass:

Length:

Wingspan:

They are short and stocky with shorter legs and thicker bills than native sparrows. The back is brown with black streaking. The breast and belly are unstreaked dull gray. Males in breeding plumage have a gray crown, with chestnut bordering the crown and extending down the back of the neck. A black bib extends to the throat and meets the black stripe in front of the eye. Fall and winter males may lack the bright colors and black bib. Females have a grayish brown crown and a grayish buff superciliary stripe. They lack the chestnut and black colors of the male, and their upperparts and wings are much grayer than the male

Geographical Range:

The House Sparrow is distributed worldwide (excluding the Poles). It is native to Eurasia and North Africa. It was introduced into S. Africa, South America, Australia, New Zealand, and America. Its introduction into North America occurred in 1851, when a group of 100 birds from England was released in Brooklyn, New York.

Habitat:

House Sparrows like areas that have been modified by humans, including farms, residential, and urban areas. They are absent from uninhabited woodlands, deserts, forests, and grasslands



Photo: Lacy Liles

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: mid-Winter - Spring

Number of eggs: 3-5

Broods per year: 2-3

Time of hatching: 10-13 days

Time to independence: 2 weeks

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 13 years

Food habits: corn, oats, wheat, and other types of grain or weed seeds. The birds primarily forage on the ground. During spring and summer when feeding nestlings, the birds will switch their feeding habits to insects and spiders.

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Kenneth Anding

Order Passeriformes

Family Fringillidae

American Goldfinch

Spinus tristis

Author: Kathleen Santanello

Description of Bird

Mass:

Length: 11.4-12.8 cm

During mating season the male goldfinch has a bright yellow body, black wings with white stripes, a black cap on its head, and a white rump. Females and winter males have duller feathers that are an olive-yellow color. The male's black cap may disappear in the winter or turn a dull black. Females don't have the black cap on their heads. Both males and females have a small cone-shaped bill.

Geographical Range

winter and breeding range includes southern Canada, most of the continental United States and parts of Mexico. The goldfinch can be found year round on the upper east coast, on the west coast and in the mid-section of the United States. Northern populations winter in the southern U.S. and northern Mexico

Habitat

weedy fields and floodplains as well as cultivated land, orchards and gardens



Photo: Troy A. Ladine

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: mid-late summer

Number of Eggs: 4-6

Broods per year: 1

Time of hatching: 14 days

Time to independence: 10-16 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 11 years

Food habits: mostly of the seeds of grasses, weeds and other plants. It also eats the seeds of trees like birch, alder and elm. It feeds during the day.

The goldfinch usually gets seeds that are still on the plant

Time in Texas: winters



Photo: Matthew Armendarez

House Finch

Haemorhous mexicanus

Author: Kathleen Santanello, Reggie Patrick

Description of Bird

Length: Males: 14 cm
Females 12.5 cm
Wingspan: 16.8 cm
Mass: Males: 19-22 g
Females: 16-19 g

Pinkish throat and rump. Red stripes over eyes and a little down their backs. Whitish belly streaked with brown. Brown streaked wings and tails. The females are brownish all over with a slight pink coloring on some

Geographical Range

Found in Southern parts of Canada and in all of the U.S down into Mexico all year round

Habitat

In the East, found almost exclusively in urban and suburban habitats, especially in areas with buildings, lawn, and small conifers. In West, found around people, but also in desert, chaparral, oak savanna, riparian areas, and open coniferous forests

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: March-August

Number of Eggs: 1-6

Broods per year: 1-3

Time of hatching: 12-17 days

Time to independence: 12-17 days

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 11 years

Food habits: Weeds, seeds, occasionally fruit and small insects

Time in Texas: year round



Photo: Troy A. Ladine



Photo: Troy A. Ladine

Purple Finch

Haemorhous purpureus

Author: Lauren Schultz

Description of Bird

Mass: 18 - 32 g
Length: 12 - 16 cm
Wingspan: 22 - 26 cm

Geographical Range

Short-distance migrant. Purple Finches are erratic migrants that follow cone crops. Typically they leave Canadian breeding grounds to winter widely across central and southeastern U.S, returning to specific regions roughly every other year. Birds that breed in northeastern U.S. and along the Pacific Coast may not migrate.

Habitat

Woods, groves, suburbs. Breeds mostly in coniferous and mixed woods, both in forest interior and along edges. In Pacific states, also breeds in oak woodland and stream-side trees. In migration and winter, found in a wide variety of wooded and semi-open areas, including forest, suburbs, swamps, and overgrown fields.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: March-August

Number of eggs: 4-5

Broods per year: 1-2 depending on the region

Time of hatching: 13 days

Time to independence: 2 weeks

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating system: monogamous

Life span: 11 years

Food habits: seeds of coniferous trees and elms, tulip poplars, maples, and others, soft buds, nectar, many berries and fruit, including blackberries, honeysuckle, poison ivy, crabapples, juniper berries, cherries, and apricots. Some insects, including aphids, caterpillars, grasshoppers, and beetles .

Time in Texas: winter time

Order Passeriformes

Family Polioptillidae

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher

Polioptila caerulea

Author: Kristopher Carroll

Description of Bird

Length: 20-28 cm.

Wingspan: 10-11 cm.

Weight: 5-7 g

Tiny bird with a long tail. The gnatcatcher has a white underside with white eyeing. The outer feathers are also white and a small, thin bill, no wingbars.

Male: Black line meeting over the bill and extending around head above the eyes to just behind the eyes.

Female: Face is all gray with white eyeing.

Geographical Range

Breeding in Southern New England, Pennsylvania, California, Mexico, Winter: South Carolina through the coastal states to California to Central America.

Habitat

Breeding: Open, moist woodlands interspersed with brushy clearings, often oak, pine, or mixed woods, bottomland forests with closed canopies, wooded swamps, stream-side thickets. Favors tall trees.

Life History Data

Time of Breeding: late April-May

Number of Eggs: 3-6 pale blue with small dark spots

Broods per year: 1-2

Time of hatching: 19-15 days

Time to independence:

Age to reproductive maturity:

Males: 1 year

Females: 1 year

Mating System: monogamous

Life span: 8 years

Food habits: insects, spiders, vegetables obtain water from food

Time in Texas:

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allaboutbirds.org

animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu

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Appendix 1. Species requiring written accounts

Species

Anhinga
American Coot
White-Rumped Sandpiper
Wilson's Snipe
Inca Dove
Great Crested Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Olive-Sided Flycatcher
Warbling Vireo
Cliff Swallow
Black-Crested Titmouse
Red-Breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Bewick's Wren
Carolina Wren
Marsh Wren
Swainson's Thrush
Townsend's Solitaire
Veery
Smith's Longspur
Americna Redstart
Common Yellowthroat
Connecticut Warbler
Hooded Warbler
Mourning Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Northern Parula
Ovenbird
Swainson's Warbler
Townsend's Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Worm-Eating Warbler
Dark-eyed Junco
Savannah Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
White-Throated Sparrow
