



Birds of Texas Mid-coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex

The Texas Mid-coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex has been designated as an internationally significant shorebird site by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. This designation indicates that the combined complex hosted over 100,000 shorebirds during spring migration. Dowitchers, dunlins, lesser yellowlegs, semipalmated and western sandpipers can best be observed in the spring between mid-March and mid-May and in the fall between July and September.

This 320 species list is in accordance with the 7th edition (1998) A.O.U. checklist and the 45th Supplement (July 2004). The refuge complex provides habitat for numerous Central Flyway waterfowl which spend the winter months on the Texas coast. This combined with a varied habitat and warm climate provides for excellent birding year round. Birding on the refuge is most interesting during the winter months. Large concentrations of 100,000 geese and 80,000 ducks (24 species) can be a great spectacle. Thirteen species of sparrows winter on the refuge and fifteen species of wading birds nest here. Birdwatchers are treated to a spectacular variety of more than 50 migrants including 30 warbler species during the spring and fall migration. During a "fallout" which typically occurs after a rainy cold front, lucky birders may view literally dozens of species of neotropical migrants. The refuge is a good place to view most kinds of rails. The Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge is in the Freeport Christmas Bird Count circle which consistently produces over 210 species and is usually number one or two in the nation in number of species sighted.

Contact the Refuge staff if you should find an unlisted or rare species during your visit and provide a description. The refuge birds do not recognize traditional calendar seasons, therefore, season designations for species are intended as general guidelines.

Symbols used in this list are defined as follows:

Sp Spring March - May
S Summer June - August
F Fall September - November
W Winter December - February
* - Nests locally

Federally Endangered or Threatened Species are listed in *italics*

A Abundant
Common species that is very numerous.
C Common
Certain to be seen in suitable habitats.
U Uncommon
Present, not certain to be seen.
O Occasional
Seen few times during the season
R Rare
Seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years.
X Accidental
Has been seen only once or twice.
AW Austin's Woods
A bottomlands breeding bird

Common Name	Sp	Su	F	W	Common Name	Sp	Su	F	W
Ducks, Geese, and Swans					Ibises and Spoonbills				
___ *Black-bel. Whistling-Duck	U	C	U	U	___ *White Ibis	C	C	C	C
___ *Fulvous Whistling-Duck	U	U	U	O	___ Glossy Ibis	R			R
___ Gr. White-fronted Goose	O		C	C	___ White-faced Ibis	C	U	C	U
___ Snow Goose	O	A	A	A	___ *Roseate Spoonbill	C	C	C	C
___ Ross's Goose	U		U	U	Storks				
___ Canada Goose	R		O	O	___ Wood Stork		U	U	
___ Tundra Swan				X	Vultures				
___ *Wood Duck	U	U	U	U	___ *Black Vulture	C	C	C	C
___ Gadwall	U	R	C	C	___ Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	C
___ American Wigeon	U	R	C	C	Kites, Eagles, and Hawks				
___ Mallard	U		U	U	___ Osprey	U		U	U
___ *Mottled Duck	C	C	C	C	___ Swallow-tailed Kite	R			
___ *Blue-winged Teal	C	O	C	C	___ *White-tailed Kite	C	U	C	C
___ Cinnamon Teal	R	R	R	R	___ Mississippi Kite	R	R		
___ Northern Shoveler	C	R	C	C	___ *Bald Eagle	R	R	O	O
___ Northern Pintail	U		C	C	___ *Northern Harrier	C	U	C	C
___ Green-winged Teal	C	R	C	C	___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	U
___ Canvasback	U	R	U	U	___ Cooper's Hawk	U		U	U
___ Redhead	U		U	U	___ *Red-shouldered Hawk	C	C	C	C
___ Ring-necked Duck	U		U	U	___ Broad-winged Hawk	R		R	
___ Greater Scaup	R		R	R	___ Swainson's Hawk	O		O	
___ Lesser Scaup	U		U	U	___ *White-tailed Hawk	U	U	U	U
___ Surf Scoter				R	___ *Red-tailed Hawk	C	X	C	C
___ White-winged Scoter				R	___ Ferruginous Hawk				X
___ Black Scoter				R	___ Rough-legged Hawk				R
___ Bufflehead	U		O	U	Caracaras and Falcons				
___ Common Goldeneye			R	O	___ *Crested Caracara	U	U	U	U
___ Hooded Merganser	U		O	U	___ American Kestrel	C		C	C
___ Red-breasted Merganser	U		U	U	___ Merlin	O		O	O
___ Masked Duck	X			X	___ <i>Aplomado Falcon</i>	X			X
___ Ruddy Duck	O	X	U	U	___ Peregrine Falcon	U		U	U
Turkeys					Rails, Gallinules, and Coots				
___ Wild Turkey	R	R	R	R	___ Yellow Rail	O		O	O
New World Quail					___ *Black Rail	O	O	O	O
___ *Northern Bobwhite	C	C	C	C	___ *Clapper Rail	C	C	C	C
Loons					___ *King Rail	U	U	U	U
___ Common Loon	O			O	___ Virginia Rail	U		U	U
Grebes					___ Sora	U		U	U
___ *Least Grebe ^{AW}	R	R	R	R	___ *Purple Gallinule	U	U	O	
___ *Pied-billed Grebe	C	U	C	C	___ *Common Moorhen	C	C	C	C
___ Horned Grebe				R	___ American Coot	A	R	A	A
___ Eared Grebe	U		U	C	Cranes				
Gannets					___ Sandhill Crane	U		C	C
___ Northern Gannet	O			O	___ Whooping Crane	X			X
Pelicans					Plovers				
___ American White Pelican	C	O	C	C	___ Black-bellied Plover	U	R	U	U
___ *Brown Pelican	U	U	U	U	___ American Golden-Plover	O		O	
Cormorants					___ Snowy Plover	U	R	U	U
___ *Neotropic Cormorant	C	C	U	O	___ *Wilson's Plover	U	U	O	
___ Double-crested Cormorant	C	O	C	C	___ Semipalmated Plover	U	R	U	U
Anhinga					___ <i>Piping Plover</i>	U	X	U	U
___ Anhinga	O	O	O	O	___ *Killdeer	C	C	C	C
Frigatebirds					Oystercatchers				
___ Magnificent Frigatebird	O	U	O		___ American Oystercatcher	O	O	O	O
Hérons, Bitterns, and Egrets					Stilts and Avocets				
___ American Bittern	U	R	O	O	___ *Black-necked Stilt	C	C	C	O
___ *Least Bittern	U	U	U	R	___ American Avocet	U	U	U	U
___ *Great Blue Heron	A	A	A	A	Jacanas				
___ *Great Egret	C	C	C	C	___ Northern Jacana		X		
___ *Snowy Egret	C	C	C	C	Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies				
___ *Little Blue Heron	C	C	C	C	___ Greater Yellowlegs	C	U	C	C
___ *Tricolored Heron	C	C	C	C	___ Lesser Yellowlegs	C	U	C	C
___ *Reddish Egret	U	U	U	U	___ Solitary Sandpiper	U	R	U	R
___ *Cattle Egret	C	C	C	C	___ *Willet	C	C	C	C
___ *Green Heron	C	C	U	O	___ Spotted Sandpiper	U		U	U
___ *Black-cr. Night-Heron	C	C	C	U	___ Upland Sandpiper	O	R	O	R
___ *Yellow-cr. Night-Heron	U	U	U	O	___ Whimbrel	U		U	R

Common Name	Sp	Su	F	W	Common Name	Sp	Su	F	W	Common Name	Sp	Su	F	W
Long-billed Curlew	U	O	U	U	Say's Phoebe				X	Pine Warbler	R		R	O
Hudsonian Godwit	R		R		Vermilion Flycatcher	O	O	U		Palm Warbler	U		U	U
Marbled Godwit	U	O	U	U	Ash-throated Flycatcher				O	Bay-breasted Warbler	U			O
Ruddy Turnstone	U	O	U	U	*Gr. Crested Flycatcher ^{AW}	U	U	U		Blackpoll Warbler	U			
Red Knot	O	O	O		Brown-crested Flycatcher				R	Cerulean Warbler	R		R	
Sanderling	C	R	C	C	Western Kingbird	R		R	X	Black-and-White Warbler	U	R	U	U
Semipalmated Sandpiper	A	O	C		*Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C		American Redstart	C	U	U	
Western Sandpiper	A	R	C	C	*Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	C	C	C	R	*Prothonotary Warbler ^{AW}	U	U	U	
Least Sandpiper	C	R	C	C	Shrikes					Worm-eating Warbler	U			O
White-rumped Sandpiper	U	R	U	U	*Loggerhead Shrike	C	C	C	C	*Swainson's Warbler ^{AW}	O	O	O	
Baird's Sandpiper	O	R	O		Vireos					Ovenbird	U		O	R
Pectoral Sandpiper	C	R	U		*White-eyed Vireo	C	C	U	O	Northern Waterthrush	U		U	R
Dunlin	A	R	C	C	*Yellow-throated Vireo ^{AW}	O	O	O		Louisiana Waterthrush	U	R	R	
Stilt Sandpiper	C	R	U	O	Blue-headed Vireo	O	O	O	U	Kentucky Warbler	O	O	O	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	O	R	O		Warbling Vireo	U			O	Mourning Warbler	R			O
Short-billed Dowitcher	A	U	C	C	Philadelphia Vireo	O			O	MacGillivray's Warbler				X
Long-billed Dowitcher	A	R	C	C	*Red-eyed Vireo ^{AW}	C	U	U		*Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	C
Wilson's Snipe	U		C	C	Jays and Crows					*Hooded Warbler ^{AW}	U	U	U	
American Woodcock ^{AW}	O		O	O	*Blue Jay ^{AW}	C	C	C	C	Wilson's Warbler	U		U	U
Wilson's Phalarope	U	O	O		*American Crow	C	C	C	C	Canada Warbler	U		U	
Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers					Larks					*Yellow-breasted Chat ^{AW}	U	O	U	R
Pomarine Jaeger				R	*Horned Lark	U	U	U	U	Tanagers				
*Laughing Gull	C	C	C	C	Swallows					*Summer Tanager ^{AW}	U	U	U	
Franklin's Gull	O		O		*Purple Martin	C	C	U		Scarlet Tanager	O		R	
Bonaparte's Gull	U		R	U	Tree Swallow	U		U	O	Sparrows, Towhee, and Allies				
Ring-billed Gull	C		C	C	No. Rough-winged Swallow	C	R	C	R	Green-tailed Towhee	R			R
Herring Gull	C		C	C	Bank Swallow	U		U		Spotted Towhee				R
*Gull-billed Tern	U	U	U	O	*Cliff Swallow	O	O	O		Eastern Towhee				O
*Caspian Tern	U	O	U	U	Cave Swallow	U	O	U	O	Chipping Sparrow	O		O	O
*Royal Tern	U	U	U	U	*Barn Swallow	C	C	C	O	Clay-colored Sparrow	R		R	R
*Sandwich Tern	U	U	U	R	Titmice					Field Sparrow	U		U	U
Common Tern	U	R	U	U	*Carolina Chickadee	C	C	C	C	Vesper Sparrow	U		U	U
*Forster's Tern	C	U	C	C	*Tufted Titmouse	C	C	C	C	Lark Sparrow	O	R	O	R
*Least Tern	C	C	U		Creepers					Lark Bunting		X		
Black Tern	U	C	U		Brown Creeper				R	Savannah Sparrow	C		U	C
*Black Skimmer	U	U	U	U	Wrens					Grasshopper Sparrow	O		O	O
Pigeons and Doves					*Carolina Wren	C	C	C	C	Henslow's Sparrow				O
Rock Dove	O	O	O	O	Bewick's Wren				R	LeConte's Sparrow	C		C	C
White-winged Dove	R	R	R	R	House Wren	U		U	U	Nelson's Sharp-sh. Sparrow	U		O	U
*Mourning Dove	C	C	C	C	Winter Wren				R	*Seaside Sparrow	C	C	C	C
Inca Dove	O	O	O	O	Sedge Wren	C		C	C	Fox Sparrow				R
Common Ground-Dove	O	R	O	O	*Marsh Wren	C	O	C	C	Song Sparrow	U		U	U
Cuckoos, Roadrunners, and Anis					Kinglets and Gnatcatchers					Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U	U
Black-billed Cuckoo	R				Golden-crowned Kinglet				R	Swamp Sparrow	U		U	C
*Yellow-billed Cuckoo	O	U	O		Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U		U	C	White-throated Sparrow	U		U	U
Groove-billed Ani	R		R	R	Old World Gnatcatcher					White-crowned Sparrow	O		O	O
Barn Owls					Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U		U	U	Dark-eyed Junco				O
*Barn Owl	U	U	U	U	Thrushes and Allies					Slate-colored				O
Typical Owls					*Eastern Bluebird	U	U	U	U	Oregon				A
*Eastern Screech-Owl	U	U	U	U	Veery	U			O	Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings				
*Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U	Gray-cheeked Thrush	U			R	*Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C
Burrowing Owl				R	Swainson's Thrush	U			O	Pyrrhuloxia				X
*Barred Owl ^{AW}	C	C	C	C	Hermit Thrush	U		U	U	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	R		R	R
Short-eared Owl				O	Wood Thrush	U	X	U	R	Blue Grosbeak	U		U	
Goatsuckers					American Robin	U		U	U	Indigo Bunting	C	R	U	R
Lesser Nighthawk	R				Mockingbirds, Thrashers, and Allies					*Painted Bunting	U	U	U	
*Common Nighthawk	C	C	C		Gray Catbird	U		U	U	*Dickcissel	C	C	C	
Chuck-will's-widow	U		R		*Northern Mockingbird	C	C	C	C	Blackbirds, Orioles, and Allies				
Whip-poor-will	R		R		Sage Thrasher				X	Bobolink	R		R	
Swifts					Brown Thrasher	U		U	C	*Red-winged Blackbird	A	A	C	C
Chimney Swift	U	U	U		Starlings					*Eastern Meadowlark	A	A	C	C
Hummingbirds					*European Starling	C	C	C	C	Yellow-headed Blackbird	R		R	
*Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	C	O	U	R	Pipits					Rusty Blackbird	R		R	R
Kingfishers					American Pipit	U		C	C	Brewer's Blackbird	O		O	O
Belted Kingfisher	C	R	C	C	Sprague's Pipit	O		R	O	Common Grackle	C	O	C	C
Woodpeckers					Waxwings					*Boat-tailed Grackle	C	C	C	C
Red-headed Woodpecker	R	R	R	R	Cedar Waxwing	C			C	*Great-tailed Grackle	C	C	C	C
*Red-bellied Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	Wood-Warblers					*Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C	C
Yellow-bellied Woodpecker	U		U	U	Blue-winged Warbler	U			O	*Orchard Oriole	U	U	U	
Ladder-backed Woodpecker				X	Golden-winged Warbler	O			O	Bullock's Oriole	R		R	
*Downy Woodpecker ^{AW}	C	C	C	C	Tennessee Warbler	U		U	U	Baltimore Oriole	C		U	
Northern Flicker	U	U	U	U	Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U	C	Finches, Goldfinches, and Allies				
*Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	Nashville Warbler	O			O	Purple Finch				X
Tyrant Flycatchers					*Northern Parula ^{AW}	C	C	U	R	Pine Siskin				R
Olive-sided Flycatcher	O		O	O	Tropical Parula	X				Lesser Goldfinch				X
Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	R	C	C	Yellow Warbler	C	X	U		American Goldfinch	U	X	R	C
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	O		O	O	Chestnut-sided Warbler	O			O	Old World Sparrow				
*Acadian Flycatcher ^{AW}	U	C	U	R	Magnolia Warbler	U		U		House Sparrow	U	U	U	U
Alder Flycatcher	O		O		Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		U	C					
Willow Flycatcher	R		O		Black-thr. Green Warbler	U		U						
Least Flycatcher	U		U	O	Blackburnian Warbler	O			O					
Eastern Phoebe	U		U	C	Yellow-throated Warbler	U	R		O					