

CONTACT INFORMATION

Bird sightings:

Anthony Hewetson terrverts@yahoo.com
(806) 793-6315

Rich Kostecke rkost73@yahoo.com

Brandon Best sandfalcon@sbcglobal.net

General information:

Llano Estacado Audubon Society
PO Box 6066
Lubbock, TX 79493-6066
(806) 793-6315
www.leas.bizland.com

BIRDS OF THE TEXAS SOUTH PLAINS

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Compiled by Anthony Hewetson, Rich Kostecke, Brandon Best

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LLANO ESTACADO AUDUBON SOCIETY



KEY

- █** **Abundant:** present in large numbers, widespread and conspicuous in proper habitat
- ▬▬▬** **Common:** easily found, usually in numbers, in proper habitat
- ▬▬▬▬** **Uncommon:** present, but not certain to be seen
- ▬▬▬▬▬** **Occasional:** not necessarily present on a daily basis but seen during the month on an annual basis
- - - - -** **Casual:** seen at intervals of 2-4 years
- **Rare:** not normally seen (i.e., accidental) during the month
- **Nesting:** eggs, fledglings, nest, or nestlings recorded at least once on the Southern Plains

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WATERFOWL												
Greater White-fronted Goose			•	•	•					•		
Snow Goose						•			•			
Ross's Goose					•					•		
Cackling Goose						•	•	•				
Canada Goose *												
Tundra Swan			•	•								
Wood Duck						•		•				
Gadwall*												
American Wigeon *												
Mallard *												
Blue-winged Teal *												
Cinnamon Teal *												
Northern Shoveler *												
Northern Pintail *												
Green-winged Teal						•	•					
Canvasback					•	•	•	•	•			
Redhead *												
Ring-necked Duck						•			•			
Lesser Scaup *												
Greater Scaup										•		
Bufflehead					•				•			
Common Goldeneye				•								
Hooded Merganser					•	•	•	•	•			
Common Merganser				•						•		
Red-breasted Merganser					•					•		
Ruddy Duck *												
PHEASANT, QUAIL, ETC												
Ring-necked Pheasant *												
Wild Turkey *												
Lesser Prairie Chicken*												

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Scaled Quail*												
Northern Bobwhite*												
LOONS												
Common Loon				•	•	•	•					
GREBES												
Pied-billed Grebe *												
Horned Grebe				•	•	•	•	•	•			
Eared Grebe *												
Western Grebe				•	•	•	•	•	•			
PELICANS												
American White Pelican												
CORMORANTS												
Double-crested Cormorant						•						
EGRETS, HERONS, ETC.												
American Bittern	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Great Blue Heron *											•	•
Great Egret*	•	•										
Snowy Egret*			•									•
Little Blue Heron				•		•			•	•		
Cattle Egret *	•	•										•
Green Heron *	•											•
Black-crowned Night-heron *												•
Yellow-crowned Night-heron *	•	•									•	•
IBIS												
White-faced Ibis *												
VULTURES												
Turkey Vulture *	•										•	•
KITES, EAGLES, HAWKS												
Osprey	•	•				•						•
Mississippi Kite *												•
Bald Eagle				•				•	•		•	

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Northern Harrier *	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Sharp-shinned Hawk *	=====	=====	=====	=====	~~~~~	•	•	•	=====	=====	=====	=====
Cooper's Hawk	=====	=====	=====	=====	~~~~~	•	•	•	=====	=====	=====	=====
Harris's Hawk *	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Red-shouldered Hawk *	•				•	•	•	-----	-----	•		•
Broad-winged Hawk				-----	•		•	-----	=====	=====	=====	=====
Swainson's Hawk *		•		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	•	•
Red-tailed Hawk *	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Ferruginous Hawk *	=====	=====	=====	=====	•	•	•	-----	=====	=====	=====	=====
Rough-legged Hawk	=====	=====	=====	=====	•	•	•	-----	=====	=====	=====	=====
Golden Eagle *	-----	-----	-----	-----	•	•	•	•	•	-----	-----	-----
FALCONS												
American Kestrel *	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Merlin					•	•	•	•	-----	=====	=====	=====
Peregrine Falcon						•	•	-----	=====	=====	=====	=====
Prairie Falcon						•	•	-----	=====	=====	=====	=====
RAILS & COOTS												
Virginia Rail						•		-----	=====	=====	=====	=====
Sora *								-----	=====	=====	=====	=====
Common Moorhen *								-----	=====	=====	=====	=====
American Coot *	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
CRANES												
Sandhill Crane	=====	=====	=====	-----	•	•	•	•	-----	=====	=====	=====
Whooping Crane	•	•	•							-----	-----	-----
SHOREBIRDS												
Black-bellied Plover		•		•	-----	-----	•	-----	-----	-----	•	
American Golden-plover			•	•	•	•	•	-----	•	•		
Snowy Plover *								-----	-----	•		•
Semipalmated Plover			•			•		-----	-----	•	•	•
Killdeer *	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Black-necked Stilt										-----	•	

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
American Avocet *	•	•		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	-----	•
Greater Yellowlegs				=====	=====	•	=====	=====	=====	=====	-----	=====
Lesser Yellowlegs	•	•	-----	=====	=====	-----	=====	=====	=====	=====	-----	-----
Solitary Sandpiper			•	-----	-----	-----	-----	=====	=====	=====	•	•
Willet				-----	-----	•	-----	-----	-----	•		
Spotted Sandpiper	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	•	=====	=====	=====	-----	-----	-----
Upland Sandpiper				=====	=====	-----	-----	-----	-----	•	-----	•
Long-billed Curlew	•	•				•	-----	=====	=====	=====	=====	•
Marbled Godwit			•	-----	•		•	-----	•	•		
Semipalmated Sandpiper				-----	-----	•	=====	=====	=====	=====	•	•
Western Sandpiper	-----	•	-----	=====	=====	•	=====	=====	=====	=====	•	•
Least Sandpiper				=====	=====	•	=====	=====	=====	=====	-----	-----
White-rumped Sandpiper			•	=====	=====	•	•	-----	•	•		
Baird's Sandpiper		•		=====	=====	•	=====	=====	=====	•	-----	•
Pectoral Sandpiper				-----	-----	-----	-----	=====	=====	=====	-----	-----
Dunlin	•	•	•	-----	•		•	-----	•	-----	-----	•
Stilt Sandpiper				=====	=====	•	-----	=====	=====	=====	•	•
Short-billed Dowitcher		•		=====	=====	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	•	•
Long-billed Dowitcher	-----	-----	-----	=====	=====	•	-----	=====	=====	=====	•	
Wilson's Snipe				=====	=====	-----	-----	=====	=====	=====	-----	-----
Wilson's Phalarope*	•	•	•	=====	-----	-----	=====	=====	=====	-----	•	•
Red-necked Phalarope	•			•	•	•	-----	-----	-----	-----	•	
GULLS & TERNS												
Franklin's Gull						•	•	•	-----	-----	•	•
Bonaparte's Gull	-----	-----	-----	•		•			•	•	-----	-----
Ring-billed Gull	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	•	-----	-----	=====	=====	=====	=====
Herring Gull	=====	-----	-----	•	•		•	•	•	-----	-----	-----
Common Tern				•	-----	•	•	•	-----	-----	-----	-----
Forster's Tern			•	-----	-----	•	-----	-----	-----	-----	•	•
Least Tern			•	-----	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Black Tern				=====	-----	-----	-----	=====	=====	•		

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
STARLINGS	=====											
European Starling *	=====											
PIPITS	=====											
American Pipit	=====											
WAXWINGS	=====											
Cedar Waxwing	=====											
WARBLERS	=====											
Tennessee Warbler			•	-----	-----	•		•	-----	-----	-----	-----
Orange-crowned Warbler	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Nashville Warbler			•	-----	-----		•	-----	-----	-----	-----	•
Northern Parula			•	-----	-----		•	•	-----	-----	•	•
Yellow Warbler			•	-----	-----	-----	•	-----	-----	•	•	
Chestnut-sided Warbler			•	•	-----			•	•	•	•	
Black-throated Blue Warbler				•	-----			•	•	•		•
Yellow-rumped Warbler	=====	=====	=====	=====	-----			•	-----	•	•	=====
Black-throated Gray Warbler				-----	•			•	-----	•	-----	=====
Blk-throated Green Warbler					•			•	-----	•	•	
Townsend's Warbler				-----	-----			•	-----	-----	•	
Blackburnian Warbler					•				-----	•		
Pine Warbler	-----	•	•	•	•				-----	•	-----	-----
Palm Warbler	•				•				•	•	•	•
Black-and-white Warbler	•	•	-----	-----	-----	•	•			•	•	•
American Redstart				-----	-----	-----	•	•	-----	-----	•	•
Prothonotary Warbler				•	•		•	-----	-----	•	•	
Worm-eating Warbler				-----	-----				•	•	•	
Ovenbird				-----	-----	•		•	•	•		•
Northern Waterthrush			•	-----	-----	•	•	-----	-----	-----		
Louisiana Waterthrush				-----	-----		•	-----	-----	-----		
Mourning Warbler				-----	-----		•	-----	-----	-----		
MacGillivray's Warbler				-----	-----	•	•	-----	-----	-----	•	

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Common Yellowthroat *	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----				•	•		
Hooded Warbler				-----	-----	-----			•	•		
Wilson's Warbler			-----	-----	-----	•			=====	=====	•	
Yellow-breasted Chat*				-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	=====	-----		
TANAGERS	=====											
Summer Tanager				-----	-----	•	•	-----	-----	•		
Western Tanager					-----	•	-----	-----	-----	•		
SPARROWS	=====											
Green-tailed Towhee	•	•	•				•	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Spotted Towhee	=====	=====	=====	=====		•	•	•	-----	-----	=====	=====
Eastern Towhee	-----	-----	-----	-----						•	-----	-----
Canyon Towhee *												
Cassin's Sparrow *	-----	-----	-----	-----	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	-----	-----	-----
Rufous-crowned Sparrow *												
American Tree Sparrow				•						•		
Chipping Sparrow	-----	-----	-----	=====	=====		•	-----	-----	=====	-----	-----
Clay-colored Sparrow	•	•	-----	-----	-----	•	•	•	-----	-----	-----	-----
Brewer's Sparrow	•	•		-----	-----			•	-----	-----		•
Field Sparrow *	=====	=====	-----	-----	-----				-----	-----	=====	=====
Vesper Sparrow	=====	=====	-----	=====	-----	-----	-----	-----	=====	=====	=====	=====
Lark Sparrow *	=====	=====	-----	=====	-----	-----	=====	=====	=====	-----	-----	-----
Black-throated Sparrow	•	•		-----	•	•	•	•	•	-----	•	•
Sage Sparrow	•	•		•	•					•	-----	•
Lark Bunting *	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	-----	-----	-----	=====	=====	=====	=====
Savannah Sparrow	=====	=====	-----	-----	-----	•	•	•	-----	-----	=====	=====
Grasshopper Sparrow *	•	-----	-----	-----	-----				-----	-----	-----	•
LeConte's Sparrow	-----	-----	-----	-----					•	•	-----	-----
Fox Sparrow				•	•				•	-----	-----	-----
Song Sparrow	=====	=====	=====	-----	-----	•			-----	=====	=====	=====

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lincoln's Sparrow						•						
Swamp Sparrow					•				•			
White-throated Sparrow					•	•			•			
Harris's Sparrow				•	•				•	•		
White-crowned Sparrow						•	•	•				
Dark-eyed Junco						•	•		•			
McCown's Longspur					•							
Lapland Longspur				•								
Chestnut-collared Longspur												
CARDINALS & GROSBEAKS												
Northern Cardinal *												
Pyrrhuloxia *												
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			•			•	•	•		•	•	•
Black-headed Grosbeak			•			•						
Blue Grosbeak *			•									
Lazuli Bunting						•					•	
Indigo Bunting*	•	•	•								•	
Painted Bunting *												
Dickcissel *	•			•								•
BLACKBIRDS & ORIOLES												
Red-winged Blackbird *												
Eastern Meadowlark *												
Western Meadowlark *												
Yellow-headed Blackbird *												
Rusty Blackbird		•	•					•			•	
Brewer's Blackbird *						•	•	•				
Common Grackle *												
Great-tailed Grackle *												
Bronzed Cowbird *												
Brown-headed Cowbird *												
Orchard Oriole *												
Bullock's Oriole *	•	•	•							•	•	•

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
FINCHES												
Purple Finch				•	•					•	•	•
House Finch *												
Red Crossbill			•	•	•				•	•		
Pine Siskin							•	•				
Lesser Goldfinch *												
American Goldfinch						•						
Evening Grosbeak	•	•	•	•	•				•	•		•
OLD WORLD SPARROWS												
House Sparrow *												

This checklist has been compiled from data gathered over the past 70 yrs. It includes 442 species, 306 that occur regularly, and 136 that are accidental or hypothetical. All records were taken from the Llano Estacado Audubon Society (LEAS) territory, which includes Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, Kent, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry, and Yoakum Cos. LEAS territory covers 12,713 square miles with elevations ranging from 800' to > 4,400'. Positioned in the Central Flyway and encompassing diverse habitats (e.g., canyons, farmlands, grasslands, playa lakes, rangelands, reservoirs, riparian areas, salt lakes, and urban areas), the LEAS territory is vital for birds, especially neotropical migrants and wetland species.

Please note that this is a work in progress. Abundance and distribution of birds on the Southern Plains will continue to change under the influences of humans and nature. All abundance codes refer to what would be expected by searching for birds in appropriate habitat - due to extreme annual variation in rainfall, habitat can, in some years, be unavailable for certain species. Information concerning bird sightings is appreciated and needed.

ACCIDENTAL AND HYPOTHETICAL SPECIES WITH MONTHS OBSERVED

Accidental = < 10 records for the South Plains

Hypothetical (in **bold**) = unsubstantiated by multiple observers or other evidence

Numbers in parentheses indicate months in which observed

Black-bellied Whistling Duck (4-8)
 Fulvous Whistling Duck (5, 7)
 Brant (1-4, 11)
 Mute Swan (1-4, 10-12)
 Trumpeter Swan (1-3, 11-12)
 Eurasian Wigeon (4, 10-11)
 American Black Duck (1-4, 10-12)
 Surf Scoter (3-4, 10-11)
 White-winged Scoter (1-3, 10-11)
 Black Scoter (5)
 Long-tailed Duck (1-5, 11-12)
 Red-throated Loon (1-2, 4)
 Pacific Loon (1-2, 11-12)
 Yellow-billed Loon (12)
 Red-necked Grebe (1-3, 5, 9-12)
 Clark's Grebe (2-3, 11-12)
 Brown Pelican (2, 5-7)
 Neotropic Cormorant (2-6, 8-12)
 Anhinga (5, 9)
 Least Bittern (5, 7, 9-10)
 Tri-colored Heron (4-9)
 Reddish Egret (2, 8-12)
 White Ibis (4)
 Roseate Spoonbill (7, 9)
 Black Vulture (4-5, 7-9)
 Swallow-tailed Kite (4, 9)
 White-tailed Kite (2, 5-6, 9-11)
 Northern Goshawk (1, 9-12)

Gray Hawk (4)
 Common Black-hawk (2-11)
 Aplomado Falcon (11)
 Gyrfalcon (1-4)
 Yellow Rail (5, 9-12)
 Black Rail (5, 9-12)
King Rail (4)
 Purple Gallinule (5-6, 11)
Common Crane (2)
 Mountain Plover (1, 3-5, 8-9)
 Whimbrel (4-6, 8)
 Hudsonian Godwit (4-5)
 Ruddy Turnstone (4-5, 9)
 Red Knot (7-9)
 Sanderling (5, 7-10)
 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (11)
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper (4-5, 8-9)
 American Woodcock (3, 10-12)
 Red Phalarope (5, 9-11)
 Pomarine Jaeger (7)
 Laughing Gull (4-5, 8, 10)
 Little Gull (4)
 California Gull (3-4, 6-7, 11)
 Lesser Black-backed Gull (3, 11)
Western Gull (1)
 Glaucous Gull (1-3)
 Great Black-backed Gull (6-7)
 Sabine's Gull (8-10)

Black-legged Kittiwake (11)
Gull-billed Tern (10)
 Caspian Tern (4, 8-11)
 Band-tailed Pigeon (4, 6, 10-11)
 Common Ground-dove (1, 4-5, 9-11)
 Monk Parakeet (2, 7)
 Black-billed Cuckoo (5-9)
 Groove-billed Ani (7-10)
 Flammulated Owl (4, 8-11)
Northern Pygmy-owl (2)
 Barred Owl (1-2, 9-11)
 Northern Saw-whet Owl (2, 10, 12)
 Lesser Nighthawk (4-6, 8-10)
 Whip-poor-will (4-5, 9)
 White-eared Hummingbird (7)
 Blue-throated Hummingbird (10)
 Allen's Hummingbird (9)
 Green Kingfisher (11)
 Lewis's Woodpecker (1-5, 10-12)
 Acorn Woodpecker (1-3, 5, 12)
 Williamson's Sapsucker (2-5, 10-11)
 Hairy Woodpecker (1-12)
Greater Pewee (4, 9)
 Eastern Wood-pewee (5-9, 12)
Acadian Flycatcher (9)
 Alder Flycatcher (8)
Northern Beardless-tyrannulet (5, 10)
 Brown-crested Flycatcher (4)

ACCIDENTAL AND HYPOTHETICAL SPECIES CONTINUED

Great Kiskadee (9-12)
 Couch's Kingbird (9-10)
 White-eyed Vireo (4-5, 9)
Black-capped Vireo
 Steller's Jay (1-4, 6, 8, 10, 12)
 Pinyon Jay (10-11)
 Clark's Nutcracker (1-5, 11-12)
 Mountain Chickadee (12)
 Juniper Titmouse (7)
 Pygmy Nuthatch (10)
 American Dipper (5)
 Black-tailed Gnatcatcher (2)
 Veery (5, 9-10)
 Wood Thrush (3-5, 9-11)
 Varied Thrush (1-3, 12)
 Crissal Thrasher (1, 7, 12)
 Bohemian Waxwing (1-4, 10-12)
 Phainopepla (4, 6-10)
Olive Warbler (4)
 Blue-winged Warbler (4-6, 8)
 Golden-winged Warbler (4-5, 9, 11)
 Virginia's Warbler (4-5, 8-10)
 Tropical Parula (5)
 Magnolia Warbler (4-5, 9-10)
 Cape May Warbler (3)
 Hermit Warbler (5)
 Yellow-throated Warbler (4-5, 9-10)
 Grace's Warbler (5)

Prairie Warbler (4-5, 8-9)
 Bay-breasted Warbler (5, 9-10)
 Blackpoll Warbler (3-7, 9-10)
 Cerulean Warbler (5, 8-9)
 Swainson's Warbler (4-5, 9)
 Kentucky Warbler (4-5, 9-11)
Connecticut Warbler (5, 9-10)
 Canada Warbler (8-10)
 Painted Redstart (4-5)
 Scarlet Tanager (4-9)
 Hepatic Tanager (4-5)
 Black-chinned Sparrow (2, 5-7, 10-12)
 Baird's Sparrow (3-5, 8-12)
 Henslow's Sparrow (4)
 Golden-crowned Sparrow (1-5, 10-12)
 Smith's Longspur (1-4, 11-12)
 Varied Bunting (4)
 Bobolink (3-5, 8-9)
 Hooded Oriole (5-10)
 Baltimore Oriole (1-2, 4-5, 8-9, 12)
 Scott's Oriole (6, 8-10)
 Cassin's Finch (1-4, 11-12)
 Pine Grosbeak (5-6)
 White-winged Crossbill (1-3, 12)