

es
Whitmouse, Dan Tharp
Cardinal (female), Dan Tharp
Eastern Screech Owl, Carol Stalder
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Dan Tharp



National Wildflower Research Center is a
not-for-profit research and education organization
dedicated to the preservation and reestablishment of
wildflowers, grasses, trees, vines and shrubs.

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BIRDS



AT THE
NATIONAL WILDFLOWER
RESEARCH CENTER

BIRDS

Some of the most noticeable visitors to the Wildflower Center are the many birds that use the Center's gardens and grounds as a rest stop during their migrations or as a place to live year 'round and raise a family. Two major migratory flyways pass over Texas, funnelling many species through the Austin area.

Birds in an area depend on native plants for their survival and *vice versa*. Native plants are a bird's primary source for food, cover, and nesting material. In fact, many bird species have body parts specifically adapted to the plants of their region (such as the bills of hummingbirds or the feet of woodpeckers). The loss of a native plant can easily

contribute to the loss of a bird species. Native plants rely on birds primarily for seed dispersal and pollination. Besides being carried in a bird's digestive tract after feeding, seeds are carried in feathers and even on mud clinging to webbed feet. Depending on the bird species, seeds may be carried around the block or around the world. In addition, birds aid in seed germination by breaking open hard seed coats with their bills or through digestive action after eating.

Pollination also is aided by birds, who, like bees, may visit many flowers in quick succession – just watch a hummingbird at work in the Theme Gardens or the gardens behind the

Visitors Gallery. Not all birds nest in trees, and it is not uncommon to flush Bobwhite on the Nature Trail early on a summer evening. To protect nesting habitats in trees and on the ground, tread lightly and remain on established paths. Also, if you want to get closer to a particular individual, a good pair of binoculars is the most environmentally friendly method. Happy birding!

This checklist will help you record the various bird species you might see during your visit to the Wildflower Center. Space has been provided for you to add any unusual or uncommon species that may have been left off.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
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Abbreviations
 Permanent Resident
 Winter Resident
 Summer Resident
 Migrant
 Visitor [not nesting in Wildflower Center area]
 Passing overhead; not alighting

AVIARIDAE
 American White Pelican Mo
 CUCULITIDAE
 Blue-crowned Teal WRo
 ALCEDINIDAE
 Blue Heron PRv
 Egret SRv
 Heron SR
 ALCEDINIDAE
 White-fronted Mo
 Goose Mo
 ALCEDINIDAE
 M
 ALCEDINIDAE
 Crane Mo
 ALCEDINIDAE
 Red Sandpiper Mo
 ALCEDINIDAE
 Gull Mo
 ALCEDINIDAE
 Vulture PRv
 Vulture PRv

ACCIPITRIDAE
 Mississippi Kite M
 Northern Harrier WRM
 Sharp-shinned Hawk WRM
 Cooper's Hawk WRM
 Red-shouldered Hawk PRv
 Swainson's Hawk M
 Red-tailed Hawk PR

FALCONIDAE
 American Kestrel WRM

PHASIANIDAE
 Wild Turkey PR
 Northern Bobwhite PR

COLUMBIDAE
 Rock Dove PR
 White-winged Dove PRv
 Mourning Dove PR
 Inca Dove PR

CUCULIDAE
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo SR
 Greater Roadrunner PR

STRIGIDAE
 Eastern Screech-Owl PR
 Great Horned Owl PR

CAPRIMULGIDAE
 Common Nighthawk SRM
 Chuck-will's-widow SR

APODIDAE
 Chimney Swift SRM

For their size, hummingbirds drink an enormous amount of nectar each day to get enough sugary fuel -- roughly the same as a human drinking nearly 20 gallons of sugar water a day!

TROCHILIDAE
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird SR
 Black-chinned Hummingbird SR

ALCEDINIDAE
 Belted Kingfisher PR

PICIDAE
 Golden-fronted Woodpecker PR
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker WRM
 Ladder-backed Woodpecker PR
 Northern Flicker WR

TYRANNIDAE
 Eastern Wood-Pewee M
 Least Flycatcher M
 Other *Empidonax* species M
 Eastern Phoebe PR
 Ash-throated Flycatcher MSR
 Great Crested Flycatcher SRM
 Western Kingbird SR
 Eastern Kingbird M
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher SR

HIRUNDINIDAE
 Purple Martin SR
 N. Rough-winged Swallow M
 Cliff Swallow SRM
 Barn Swallow SRM

CORVIDAE
 Blue Jay PR
 Scrub Jay PR
 American Crow PR

PARIDAE
 Carolina Chickadee PR
 Tufted (Black-crested) Titmouse PR

CERTHIIDAE
 Brown Creeper WR

SITTIDAE
 Red-breasted Nuthatch WR

TROGLODYTIDAE
 Carolina Wren PR
 Bewick's Wren PR
 House Wren WRM

MUSCICAPIDAE
 Golden-crowned Kinglet WR
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet WRM
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher SRM
 Eastern Bluebird PR
 Gray-cheeked Thrush M
 Swainson's Thrush M
 Hermit Thrush WRM
 American Robin WR

LANIIDAE
 Loggerhead Shrike PR

MIMIDAE
 Northern Mockingbird PR

Beaks catch fish, probe through mud, and act like forceps, hammers, pickaxes, straws, vacuum cleaners, spring-loaded traps, and nut crackers. If you want to know about a bird, look at the beak!

MOTACILLIDAE
 American Pipit WR

BOMBYCILLIDAE
 Cedar Waxwing WR

STURNIDAE
 European Starling PR

VIREONIDAE
 White-eyed Vireo SRM
 Solitary Vireo WRM
 Red-eyed Vireo SRM

EMBERIZIDAE

Tennessee Warbler M
 Orange-crowned Warbler WRM
 Nashville Warbler M
 Yellow Warbler M
 Yellow-rumped Warbler WRM
 Black-throated Green Warbler M
 Black-and-white Warbler M
 American Redstart M
 Mourning Warbler M
 Common Yellowthroat M
 Wilson's Warbler M
 Yellow-breasted Chat SRM
 Summer Tanager SR
 Northern Cardinal PR
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak M
 Blue Grosbeak SRM
 Indigo Bunting M
 Pinned Bunting SR
 Dickcissel SRM
 Rufous-sided (Spotted) Towhee WR
 Rufous-crowned Sparrow PR
 Chipping Sparrow WRM
 Clay-colored Sparrow M
 Field Sparrow PR
 Vesper Sparrow WR
 Lark Sparrow SRM
 Savannah Sparrow WR
 Grasshopper Sparrow SRM
 Fox Sparrow WR
 Song Sparrow WR
 Lincoln's Sparrow WR
 Swamp Sparrow WR

White-throated Sparrow WR
 White-crowned Sparrow WR
 Harris' Sparrow WR
 Dark-eyed Junco WR
 Red-winged Blackbird PR
 Eastern Meadowlark PR
 Western Meadowlark WR
 Brewer's Blackbird WR
 Great-tailed Grackle PR
 Common Grackle PR
 Bronzed Cowbird SRv
 Brown-headed Cowbird PR
 Orchard Oriole SRM
 Baltimore Oriole M

PASSERIDAE
 House Sparrow PR

FRINGILLIDAE
 Purple Finch WR
 House Finch PR
 Pine Siskin WR
 Lesser Goldfinch WR
 American Goldfinch WR

NOTES

The species listed are known to occur at the Wildflower Center either as resident or migrant, although some may be absent certain years.

Many passing waterfowl, waders, shorebirds, gulls, terns, and other water birds will never alight near the Center for lack of suitable habitat.

A number of resident landbirds (permanent, summer, or winter) found regularly in the Austin region are omitted from this list due to lack of preferred habitat at the Wildflower Center. Some species which are seasonal residents in the Austin area are listed as migrants only for the same reason. Other species are not listed simply because they are so scarce they are unlikely to be seen.

OTHER SIGHTINGS

