

Grulla National Wildlife Refuge
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Texas State Relay Service
1 800/735-2989

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<http://southwest.fws.gov>

For information on the
National Wildlife Refuge System
1 800/344-WILD

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CELEBRATING A
CENTURY
of CONSERVATION

Burrowing Owl,
Photograph by Dave Krueper

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Grulla

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

Birds



Introduction

The Grulla National Wildlife Refuge is centrally located in eastern New Mexico adjacent the Texas State line near the small town of Arch in Roosevelt County, approximately 25 miles southeast of Portales on State Highway 88. The refuge was established in 1969 as a wintering area for lesser sandhill cranes and other migratory birds. Grulla (pronounced Gru-ya) is the Spanish word for crane. The refuge consists of 3,236 acres, two-thirds of which comprise the saline lake bed called Salt Lake. The remainder of the refuge is composed of mostly native grama and buffalo grasses.

Wildlife use on the refuge varies depending upon the availability of water in Salt Lake which often remains dry or nearly dry for several years in a row. During wet years, Salt Lake provides resting areas for a variety of migratory birds including thousands of lesser sandhill cranes which nightly roost on the lake bed during October through mid-March.

Although wildlife inventory records for Grulla refuge are incomplete, this preliminary list comprises species either identified on the refuge or nearby. Visitors are encouraged to notify the Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge office of any unlisted species observations. The refuge is located approximately 28 miles southeast of the Grulla National Wildlife Refuge and the phone number is 806/946-3341.

The entrance road at the northeast part of the refuge provides the only vehicle access and ends at a visitor parking area. Beyond the parking area is a short foot trail which provides a hill top view of Salt Lake. The entire refuge is open to the public for foot traffic for wildlife viewing.

Birding

“Birding” is the sport of watching, listening and marveling at the colors, shapes, sounds, and antics of birds. People of all ages are discovering that a little time and patience will be well rewarded by the ability to identify many species of birds. You may even learn to recognize some of the needs and traits we share with our feathered neighbors. A note of caution — birding is habit-forming! Should you become hooked on this delightful pastime there is no known cure!

How to use your checklist

The bird list in this leaflet is the first attempt to compile the recorded observations of the refuge staff and knowledgeable observers in this area. This list of 87 species follows the order in the 7th edition (1998) A.O.U. checklist and the 42nd Supplement to the AOU Checklist (July 2000). So grab your book, binoculars and a pencil, and as you spot birds during your tour of the refuge, check them off on this list. Your bird sightings and numbers information will help us enhance our list, please let us know all sightings at Refuge Headquarters (address and phone on back). We’ll appreciate your help in updating our records.

Symbols used in this list are defined as follows:

Occurrence

- 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*.

Abundance

- A Abundant
A 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.
- Hypothetical
Birds observed by a single party, but are not confirmed by a specimen, photograph, or observation by a second independent party.



Sandhill Crane
Photograph by A. Morris

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Grebes				
__Eared Grebe	U	R	U	R
Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns				
__Great Blue Heron	U	U	U	U
__Snowy Egret	R	R	O	R
__Cattle Egret			X	
New World Vultures				
__Turkey Vulture	R	U	O	
Ducks, Geese, and Swans				
__Snow Goose	R		R	O
__Canada Goose	O		O	O
__Gadwall	U	R	U	U
__American Wigeon	C	R	U	U
__Mallard	C	O	C	C
__Cinnamon Teal	R		R	
__Northern Shoveler	U	R	U	U
__Northern Pintail	C	R	C	C
__Green-winged Teal	C	R	C	C
__Redhead	R		R	
__Ring-necked Duck	R		R	
__Ruddy Duck	R		R	
Hawks, Kites, and Eagles				
__Mississippi Kite			X	
__Bald Eagle	R		R	R
__Northern Harrier*	U	O	U	C
__Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	U
__Cooper's Hawk	U		U	R
__Swainson's Hawk*	C	C	C	
__Red-tailed Hawk	C	U	C	C
__Ferruginous Hawk*	C	U	C	C
__Rough-legged Hawk	U		U	U
__Golden Eagle	U		C	C
Falcons				
__American Kestrel	C	O	C	C
__Merlin	R		R	R
__Prairie Falcon	O	R	O	R
Pheasants, Grouse, and Turkeys				
__Ring-necked Pheasant*	U	U	U	U
__Lesser Prairie-Chicken	R	R	R	R
New World Quail				
__Scaled Quail*	O	O	O	O
__Northern Bobwhite*	C	C	C	C
Rails, Gallinules, and Coots				
__American Coot*	O		O	O
Cranes				
__Sandhill Crane	C		C	C
Plovers				
__Black-bellied Plover			R	
__Snowy Plover*	U	U	O	
__Killdeer*	C	C	C	U

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Stilts and Avocets				
__Black-necked Stilt	O	O	O	
__American Avocet	C	C	C	
Sandpipers and Phalaropes				
__Greater Yellowlegs	U	C	C	R
__Lesser Yellowlegs	U	C	C	R
__Willet	R		R	
__Spotted Sandpiper	U		U	
__Long-billed Curlew	U	U	U	
__Semipalmated Sandpiper	O	O	O	
__Western Sandpiper	U	U	U	
__Least Sandpiper	U	U	U	
__Baird's Sandpiper	U	U	U	
__Pectoral Sandpiper			R	
__Long-billed Dowitcher	U	U	U	
__Wilson's Phalarope	U	R	U	
Gulls and Terns				
__Ring-billed Gull	O		O	O
__Black Tern	O	O	O	
Pigeons and Doves				
__Mourning Dove*	C	C	C	C
Cuckoos, Roadrunners, and Anis				
__Greater Roadrunner*	O	O	O	O
Typical Owls				
__Great Horned Owl	O	O	O	O
__Burrowing Owl	U	U	U	R
__Short-eared Owl	R		R	R
Goatsuckers				
__Common Nighthawk	C	C	U	
Tyrant Flycatchers				
__Western Kingbird*	C	C	U	
__Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	U	U	U	
Shrikes				
__Loggerhead Shrike*	C	C	C	C
Crows and Jays				
__American Crow	R		R	R
__Chihuahuan Raven	R	O	R	R
Larks				
__Horned Lark*	C	C	C	C
Swallows				
__Cliff Swallow	U	O	U	
__Barn Swallow	O	O	O	
Thrushes				
__Mountain Bluebird	R		R	
Pipits				
__American Pipit	O		O	R
Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings				
__Blue Grosbeak	U	C	U	

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Sparrows and Longspurs				
___ Brewer's Sparrow	O			
___ Lark Sparrow*	C	C	C	O
___ Lark Bunting*	C	C	C	U
___ Savannah Sparrow	C		C	O
___ Grasshopper Sparrow	O	O	X	
___ Baird's Sparrow			R	
___ White-crowned Sparrow	C		C	C
___ Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C
___ McCown's Longspur			U	
___ Chestnut-collared Longspur			U	
Blackbirds				
___ Western Meadowlark*	C	C	C	C
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird	U	U	U	
___ Brewer's Blackbird	U		U	U
Finches				
___ Pine Siskin	O		O	R
Old World Sparrows				
___ House Sparrow	C	C	C	C

FIELD NOTES

Date _____ Time _____

Observers _____

Weather _____

Remarks _____

