



Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge
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Texas State Relay Service
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<http://southwest.fws.gov>

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

Revised July 2002



CELEBRATING A
CENTURY
of CONSERVATION



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Muleshoe

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

Birds





Birding at Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge

Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge is located in Bailey County in the Southern High Plains of Texas. The refuge is an important wintering area for ducks, Canada geese and sandhill cranes. During wet years, the refuge's playa lakes have hosted thousands of waterfowl and sandhill cranes. The cranes usually begin arriving in late September and remain on the refuge until the end of March, creating some of the largest concentrations of lesser sandhill cranes in the United States.

How to use your checklist

“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!

This list contains 320 species which have been observed on the refuge since its establishment in 1935. Species are listed in accordance with 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. If you should find an unlisted, or “rare” species, please let us know at Refuge Headquarters. We will 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

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.



Cassin's Sparrow.
Photograph by David Krueper





Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Loons				
__ Common Loon			X	
Grebes				
__ Pied-billed Grebe*	U	U	U	U
__ Horned Grebe	R		R	R
__ Eared Grebe	U	R	U	R
__ Western Grebe			X	
Pelicans				
__ American White Pelican	R		R	
Cormorants				
__ Double-crested Cormorant	R		R	
Hérons, Bitterns, and Egrets				
__ American Bittern	X		X	
__ Least Bittern	hypothetical			
__ Great Blue Heron	U	U	U	U
__ Great Egret		X	X	
__ Snowy Egret	R	R	R	
__ Little Blue Heron	X		X	
__ Tricolored Heron	hypothetical			
__ Cattle Egret			X	
__ Green Heron	X	X	X	
__ Black-crowned Night-Heron*	O	O	O	
__ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron		X	X	
Ibises				
__ White-faced Ibis	O		O	
American Vultures				
__ Black Vulture	hypothetical			
__ Turkey Vulture	U	U	O	
Swans, Geese, and Ducks				
__ Greater White-fronted Goose	R		R	R
__ Snow Goose	O		O	O
__ Ross's Goose			X	X
__ Canada Goose	R		U	U
__ Brant	hypothetical			
__ Tundra Swan			R	R
__ Wood Duck			R	R
__ Gadwall	U	R	U	U
__ Eurasian Wigeon	hypothetical			
__ American Wigeon	C	R	C	C
__ American Black Duck	hypothetical			
__ Mallard*	C	O	C	C
__ Blue-winged Teal*	U	R	U	
__ Cinnamon Teal	R		R	
__ Northern Shoveler*	U	R	U	U
__ Northern Pintail	C	R	C	C
__ Green-winged Teal	C	R	C	C
__ Canvasback	U	R	U	R
__ Redhead	U	R	U	R
__ Ring-necked Duck	O	R	O	R
__ Greater Scaup				X





Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Swans, Geese, and Ducks, Continued				
___ Lesser Scaup	U	R	U	R
___ Surf Scoter				X
___ White-winged Scoter				X
___ Black Scoter		hypothetical		
___ Long-tailed Duck	X		X	X
___ Bufflehead	U		U	R
___ Common Goldeneye			X	X
___ Hooded Merganser			X	X
___ Common Merganser			X	X
___ Red-breasted Merganser			X	X
___ Ruddy Duck*	U	R	U	R
Kites, Eagles, and Hawks				
___ Osprey	X		X	
___ Mississippi Kite			X	
___ Bald Eagle	R		R	R
___ Northern Harrier*	C	O	C	C
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	O
___ Cooper's Hawk	U		U	R
___ Northern Goshawk			X	
___ Harris' Hawk		hypothetical		
___ Broad-winged Hawk		hypothetical		
___ Swainson's Hawk*	C	C	C	
___ Red-tailed Hawk	C	O	C	C
___ Ferruginous Hawk*	C		C	C
___ Rough-legged Hawk	U		U	U
___ Golden Eagle	U		U	U
Falcons				
___ American Kestrel*	C	O	C	C
___ Merlin	R		R	R
___ Peregrine Falcon	R	R	R	
___ Prairie Falcon	O	R	O	R
Pheasants, Grouse, Turkeys, and Quail				
___ Ring-necked Pheasant*	U	U	U	U
___ Lesser Prairie-Chicken	O	R	R	R
New World Quail				
___ Scaled Quail*	U	U	U	U
___ Northern Bobwhite*	C	C	C	C
Rails, Gallinules, and Coots				
___ Yellow Rail			X	
___ Black Rail			X	
___ Virginia Rail		hypothetical		
___ Sora	X		X	
___ American Coot*	O	O	O	O
Cranes				
___ Sandhill Crane	C		C	C
___ Whooping Crane		hypothetical		



**Common Name****Sp S F W****Plovers**

___ Black-bellied Plover	R		R	
___ Snowy Plover*	U	U	O	
___ Semipalmated Plover	R		R	
___ Killdeer*	C	C	C	O
___ Mountain Plover	X		X	

Stilts and Avocets

___ Black-necked Stilt*	O	O	O	
___ American Avocet*	C	C	U	

Sandpipers and Phalaropes

___ Greater Yellowlegs	U	U	U	
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	U	U	U	
___ Solitary Sandpiper	R		R	
___ Willet	R		R	
___ Spotted Sandpiper	U		U	
___ Upland Sandpiper	R	O	R	
___ Whimbrel		hypothetical		
___ Long-billed Curlew	O	R	R	
___ Marbled Godwit	X		X	
___ Ruddy Turnstone	X		X	
___ Sanderling	X		X	
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	U	U	U	
___ Western Sandpiper	U	U	U	
___ Least Sandpiper	U	U	U	
___ White-rumped Sandpiper	X	X		
___ Baird's Sandpiper	U	U	U	
___ Pectoral Sandpiper			R	
___ Dunlin	X		X	
___ Curlew Sandpiper		hypothetical		
___ Stilt Sandpiper	O	O	O	
___ Long-billed Dowitcher	U	U	U	
___ Common Snipe	R		R	
___ Wilson's Phalarope	U	R	U	
___ Red-necked Phalarope	X		X	
___ Red Phalarope			X	

Gulls and Terns

___ Franklin's Gull	O		O	
___ Bonaparte's Gull	X		X	
___ Ring-billed Gull	O	O		O
___ Herring Gull	R		R	R
___ Glaucous Gull		hypothetical		
___ Common Tern	R		R	
___ Forster's Tern	O		O	
___ Least Tern	X	X	X	
___ Black Tern	O	O	O	

Pigeons and Doves

___ Band-tailed Pigeon		hypothetical		
___ Eurasian Collared Dove	X			
___ White-winged Dove	X	X	X	
___ Mourning Dove*	C	C	C	C
___ Inca Dove		hypothetical		

**Common Name****Sp S F W****Cuckoos and Roadrunners**

__ Black-billed Cuckoo	hypothetical			
__ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	R	R	R	
__ Greater Roadrunner*	U	O	U	U

Barn Owls

__ Barn Owl*	R	R	R	R
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Typical Owls

__ Great Horned Owl*	U	U	U	U
__ Burrowing Owl*	U	U	U	R
__ Long-eared Owl	R			
__ Short-eared Owl	R		R	R

Goatsuckers

__ Lesser Nighthawk	X			
__ Common Nighthawk*	C	C	U	
__ Common Poorwill	hypothetical			

Swifts

__ Chimney Swift	hypothetical			
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Hummingbirds

__ Black-chinned Hummingbird	R	R	R	
__ Calliope Hummingbird	hypothetical			

Kingfishers

__ Belted Kingfisher	R	R	R	
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Woodpeckers

__ Lewis' Woodpecker	X			
__ Red-headed Woodpecker	R	R	R	
__ Golden-fronted Woodpecker	X		X	X
__ Red-bellied Woodpecker	R		R	R
__ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	R		R	R
__ Red-naped Sapsucker			X	
__ Ladder-backed Woodpecker*	C	C	C	C
__ Downy Woodpecker			X	X
__ Hairy Woodpecker	X		X	X
__ Northern Flicker	C	C	C	C

Tyrant Flycatchers

__ Olive-sided Flycatcher	U	R	U	
__ Western Wood-Pewee	U	R	U	
__ Eastern Wood-Pewee		X		
__ <i>Empidonax</i> spp.	U		U	
__ Willow Flycatcher		R		
__ Least Flycatcher			R	
__ Hammond's Flycatcher	hypothetical			
__ Gray Flycatcher			R	
__ Black Phoebe	hypothetical			
__ Eastern Phoebe	R	R	R	
__ Say's Phoebe*	U	O	U	
__ Vermilion Flycatcher	X		X	
__ Ash-throated Flycatcher*	O	O		
__ Great Crested Flycatcher	X		X	
__ Great Kiskadee	hypothetical			
__ Cassin's Kingbird	X		X	



Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Tyrant Flycatchers, continued				
___ Western Kingbird*	C	C	U	
___ Eastern Kingbird		X	X	
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*	U	U	U	
Shrikes				
___ Loggerhead Shrike*	C	C	C	C
___ Northern Shrike				X
Vireos				
___ Bell's Vireo	X		X	
___ Plumbeous Vireo	O		O	X
___ Blue-headed Vireo			R	
___ Warbling Vireo	X		X	
___ Red-eyed Vireo	X	X	X	
Crows and Jays				
___ Blue Jay	X		X	
___ Western Scrub-Jay	X		X	X
___ American Crow	R		R	R
___ Chihuahuan Raven*	R	O	R	R
___ Common Raven	X		X	
Larks				
___ Horned Lark*	C	C	C	C
Swallows				
___ Purple Martin	hypothetical			
___ Tree Swallow	O		O	
___ Violet-green Swallow	X	X		
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	O	O	O	
___ Bank Swallow	R		R	
___ Cliff Swallow	U	O	U	
___ Barn Swallow*	U	U	U	
Chickadees and Titmice				
___ Mountain Chickadee				X
___ Tufted (Black-crested) Titmouse	X		X	
Verdin				
___ Verdin	X			
Bushtits				
___ Bushtit			X	X
Nuthatches				
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch			X	
___ White-breasted Nuthatch			X	
Creepers				
___ Brown Creeper			X	X
Wrens				
___ Cactus Wren*	R	R	R	R
___ Rock Wren*	U	U	U	R
___ Carolina Wren	X			
___ Bewick's Wren*	U	R	U	U
___ House Wren	O		O	
___ Marsh Wren	U		U	U



Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Kinglets				
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	X		X	
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U		U	R
Gnatcatchers				
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	R		R	
Thrushes				
___ Eastern Bluebird*	R	R	R	R
___ Western Bluebird	X		X	X
___ Mountain Bluebird	R		R	R
___ Townsend's Solitaire	R		R	
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush			hypothetical	
___ Swainson's Thrush	X		X	
___ Hermit Thrush	O		O	
___ Wood Thrush			hypothetical	
___ American Robin	U		U	R
Mockingbirds and Thrashers				
___ Gray Catbird	X		X	
___ Northern Mockingbird*	C	C	C	U
___ Sage Thrasher	R		R	R
___ Brown Thrasher*	R	R	R	R
___ Curve-billed Thrasher*	U	U	U	U
___ Crissal Thrasher		X		X
Starlings				
___ European Starling	R	R	R	R
Pipits				
___ American Pipit	O		O	R
___ Sprague's Pipit	X		R	X
Waxwings				
___ Bohemian Waxwing			hypothetical	
___ Cedar Waxwing	U		R	R
Silky-Flycatchers				
___ Phainopepla		X	X	
Wood-Warblers				
___ Tennessee Warbler			X	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	O		U	R
___ Nashville Warbler	R		R	
___ Virginia's Warbler	X		X	
___ Northern Parula			X	
___ Yellow Warbler	C	X	C	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler			hypothetical	
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler			X	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	U		C	R
___ Black-throated Gray Warbler	X		X	
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	X		X	
___ Townsend's Warbler	X		R	
___ Hermit Warbler	X			
___ Blackburnian Warbler	X		X	
___ Grace's Warbler			hypothetical	
___ Prairie Warbler	X			
___ Blackpoll Warbler	X	X		

**Common Name****Sp S F W****Wood-Warblers**

___ Black-and-white Warbler	R		R	
___ American Redstart	R	X	R	
___ Worm-eating Warbler			X	
___ Northern Waterthrush	X		X	
___ Kentucky Warbler			hypothetical	
___ Mourning Warbler	X			
___ MacGillivray's Warbler	O		R	
___ Common Yellowthroat	R		R	
___ Hooded Warbler	X			
___ Wilson's Warbler	C		C	
___ Yellow-breasted Chat		X	X	

Tanagers

___ Summer Tanager	X	X		
___ Western Tanager	R		R	

Sparrows and Longspurs

___ Green-tailed Towhee	O		O	X
___ Spotted Towhee	O		O	O
___ Eastern Towhee			hypothetical	
___ Canyon Towhee*	U	U	U	U
___ Cassin's Sparrow*	C	C	U	
___ Rufous-crowned Sparrow*	O	O	O	R
___ American Tree Sparrow				R
___ Chipping Sparrow	C		C	X
___ Clay-colored Sparrow	C		C	
___ Brewer's Sparrow	R		R	X
___ Field Sparrow	X			R
___ Black-chinned Sparrow			hypothetical	
___ Vesper Sparrow	C		C	U
___ Lark Sparrow*	C	C	C	
___ Black-throated Sparrow	X	X	X	X
___ Sage Sparrow	X		X	X
___ Lark Bunting*	C	C	C	U
___ Savannah Sparrow	C		C	O
___ Grasshopper Sparrow	O	O	X	
___ Baird's Sparrow	X		X	X
___ Le Conte's Sparrow			X	X
___ Fox Sparrow	X		R	R
___ Song Sparrow	C		C	C
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	R		R	R
___ Swamp Sparrow			R	R
___ White-throated Sparrow	X		X	R
___ Harris' Sparrow			X	R
___ White-crowned Sparrow	C		C	C
___ Golden-crowned Sparrow	X			X
___ Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C
___ McCown's Longspur	U		U	U
___ Lapland Longspur	X		X	X
___ Smith's Longspur				X
___ Chestnut-collared Longspur	U		U	U

**Common Name****Sp S F W****Cardinals and Grosbeaks**

__ Northern Cardinal	R		R	R
__ Pyrrhuloxia	R		R	R
__ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	X		X	
__ Black-headed Grosbeak	R		R	
__ Blue Grosbeak*	U	C	U	
__ Lazuli Bunting	X			
__ Indigo Bunting	X		X	
__ Painted Bunting		hypothetical		
__ Dickcissel		X	X	

Blackbirds

__ Red-winged Blackbird*	C	C	C	U
__ Eastern Meadowlark*	U	U	U	U
__ Western Meadowlark*	C	C	C	C
__ Yellow-headed Blackbird	U		U	R
__ Rusty Blackbird			X	X
__ Brewer's Blackbird	U		U	U
__ Common Grackle	R			
__ Brown-headed Cowbird*	O	O	O	O
__ Orchard Oriole*	U	O		
__ Hooded Oriole		hypothetical		
__ Baltimore Oriole	X		X	
__ Bullock's Oriole*	C	C	C	
__ Scott's Oriole		hypothetical		

Finches

__ Purple Finch		hypothetical		
__ House Finch	U	O	U	O
__ Pine Siskin	O		O	R
__ Lesser Goldfinch	X			
__ American Goldfinch	O		O	R
__ Evening Grosbeak			X	X

Old World Sparrows

__ House Sparrow	C	C	C	C
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FIELD NOTES

Date _____ Time _____

Observers _____

Weather _____

Remarks _____