



Birds of *Trinity River* National Wildlife Refuge

Established in 1994, the 25,000-acre Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge is a remnant of what was once a much larger, frequently flooded, bottomland hardwood forest. You are still able to view vast expanses of ridge and swale floodplain features, numerous bayous, oxbow lakes, and cypress/tupelo swamps along the Trinity River. It is one of only 14 priority-one bottomland sites identified for protection in the Texas Bottomland Protection Plan. This type of habitat is used during migration or nesting by nearly 50 percent of the migratory bird species listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Over 275 species of birds occur in the hardwood forest and associated wetlands in eastern Texas; while over 100 bird species are known to breed there. These forests also support a wide diversity of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish including the federally listed alligator.

For more information, please visit our website: www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/texas/trinityriver

This 214 species list is in accordance with the 7th edition (1998) A.O.U. checklist through the July 2011 Supplement. The refuge a varied habitat and warm climate for excellent birding year round. Birding on the refuge is most interesting during the winter months. Fourteen 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 25 warbler species during the spring and fall migration. During a “fallout” which typically occurs after a rainy cold front, lucky birders may view dozens of species of neotropical migrants.

Contact the Refuge staff if you should find an unlisted or rare species during your visit and provide a description.

Federally Endangered or Threatened Species are listed in *italics*.

- Common Name**
- Ducks, Geese, and Swans**
- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
- Greater White-fronted Goose
- Snow Goose
- Ross’s Goose
- Canada Goose
- Wood Duck
- Gadwall
- American Wigeon
- Mallard
- Mottled Duck
- Blue-winged Teal
- Northern Shoveler
- Northern Pintail
- Green-winged Teal
- Redhead
- Ring-necked Duck
- Lesser Scaup
- Hooded Merganser
- Ruddy Duck
- Turkeys**
- Wild Turkey
- Grebes**
- Pied-billed Grebe
- Storks**
- Wood Stork
- Cormorants**
- Neotropic Cormorant
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Darters**
- Anhinga

- Common Name**
- Pelicans**
- American White Pelican
- Brown Pelican
- Herons, Bitterns, and Allies**
- American Bittern
- Least Bittern
- Great Blue Heron
- Great Egret
- Snowy Egret
- Little Blue Heron
- Tricolored Heron
- Reddish Egret
- Cattle Egret
- Green Heron
- Black-crowned Night-Heron
- Yellow-crowned Night Heron
- Ibises and Spoonbills**
- White Ibis
- White-faced Ibis
- Roseate Spoonbill
- New World Vultures**
- Black Vulture
- Turkey Vulture
- Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies**
- Osprey
- Swallow-tailed Kite
- Mississippi Kite
- Bald Eagle
- Northern Harrier
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Cooper’s Hawk
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Broad-winged Hawk
- Swainson’s Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Caracaras and Falcons**
- Crested Caracara
- American Kestrel
- Merlin
- Peregrine Falcon
- Rails and Coots**
- Sora
- Purple Gallinule
- Common Gallinule
- American Coot
- Cranes**
- Sandhill Crane
- Plovers**
- Piping Plover
- Killdeer
- Stilts and Avocets**
- Black-necked Stilt
- Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies**
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- Upland Sandpiper
- Western Sandpiper
- Least Sandpiper
- Baird’s Sandpiper
- Long-billed Dowitcher
- Wilson’s Snipe
- American Woodcock

Swallow-tailed kite
© Shannon Tomkins/Houston Chronicle





Northern parula

© Paul Gregg

Common Name

Gulls and Terns

- Bonaparte's Gull
- Laughing Gull
- Ring-billed Gull
- Least Tern
- Caspian Tern
- Foster's Tern
- Royal Tern

Pigeons and Doves

- Rock Pigeon
- Eurasian Collared-Dove
- White-winged Dove
- Mourning Dove
- Inca Dove

Cuckoos

- Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Typical Owls

- Eastern Screech-Owl
- Great Horned Owl
- Barred Owl

Goatsuckers

- Common Nighthawk
- Chuck-will's Widow

Swifts

- Chimney Swift

Hummingbirds

- Buff-bellied Hummingbird
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Kingfishers

- Belted Kingfisher
- Green Kingfisher**

Woodpeckers and Allies

- Red-headed Woodpecker
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Downy Woodpecker
- Hairy Woodpecker
- Northern Flicker
- Pileated Woodpecker

Tyrant Flycatchers

- Olive-sided Flycatcher
- Eastern Wood-Pewee
- Acadian Flycatcher
- Least Flycatcher
- Eastern Phoebe
- Vermilion Flycatcher
- Ash-throated Flycatcher
- Great Crested Flycatcher
- Eastern Kingbird
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

Shrikes

- Loggerhead Shrike

Vireos

- White-eyed Vireo
- Yellow-throated Vireo
- Blue-headed Vireo
- Warbling Vireo
- Red-eyed Vireo

Common Name

Crows and Jays

- Blue Jay
- American Crow

Swallows

- Purple Martin
- Tree Swallow
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow
- Bank Swallow
- Cliff Swallow
- Barn Swallow

Chickadees and Titmice

- Carolina Chickadee
- Tufted Titmouse

Nuthatches

- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- Brown-headed Nuthatch

Creepers

- Brown Creeper

Wrens

- Carolina Wren
- Bewick's Wren
- House Wren
- Winter Wren
- Sedge Wren
- Marsh Wren

Gnatcatchers

- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Kinglets

- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Thrushes

- Eastern Bluebird
- Hermit Thrush
- Wood Thrush
- American Robin

Mockingbirds and Thrashers

- Gray Catbird
- Northern Mockingbird
- Brown Thrasher

Starlings

- European Starling

Pipits

- American Pipit

Waxwings

- Cedar Waxwing

Warblers

- Louisiana Waterthrush
- Northern Waterthrush
- Blue-winged Warbler
- Black-and-white Warbler
- Prothonotary Warbler
- Swainson's Warbler
- Tennessee Warbler
- Orange-crowned Warbler
- Mourning Warbler
- Kentucky Warbler
- Common Yellowthroat
- Hooded Warbler
- American Redstart
- Cerulean Warbler

Common Name

- Northern Parula
- Blackburnian Warbler
- Yellow Warbler
- Chestnut-sided Warbler
- Pine Warbler
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Yellow-throated Warbler
- Canada Warbler
- Wilson's Warbler
- Yellow-breasted Chat

Towhees, Sparrows, and Allies

- Eastern Towhee
- Chipping Sparrow
- Field Sparrow
- Vesper Sparrow
- Savannah Sparrow
- Henslow's Sparrow
- Le Conte's Sparrow
- Fox Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- Lincoln's Sparrow
- Swamp Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco

Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings

- Summer Tanager
- Scarlet Tanager
- Northern Cardinal
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- Blue Grosbeak
- Indigo Bunting
- Painted Bunting

Blackbirds

- Red-winged Blackbird
- Eastern Meadowlark
- Rusty Blackbird
- Brewer's Blackbird
- Common Grackle
- Great-tailed Grackle
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Orchard Oriole
- Baltimore Oriole

Finches and Allies

- Purple Finch
- Pine Siskin
- American Goldfinch

Old World Sparrow

- House Sparrow

**** Accidental**

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Prothonotary Warbler use nest cavities in bottom-land hardwood trees to rear young.
Garry Tucker/USFWS