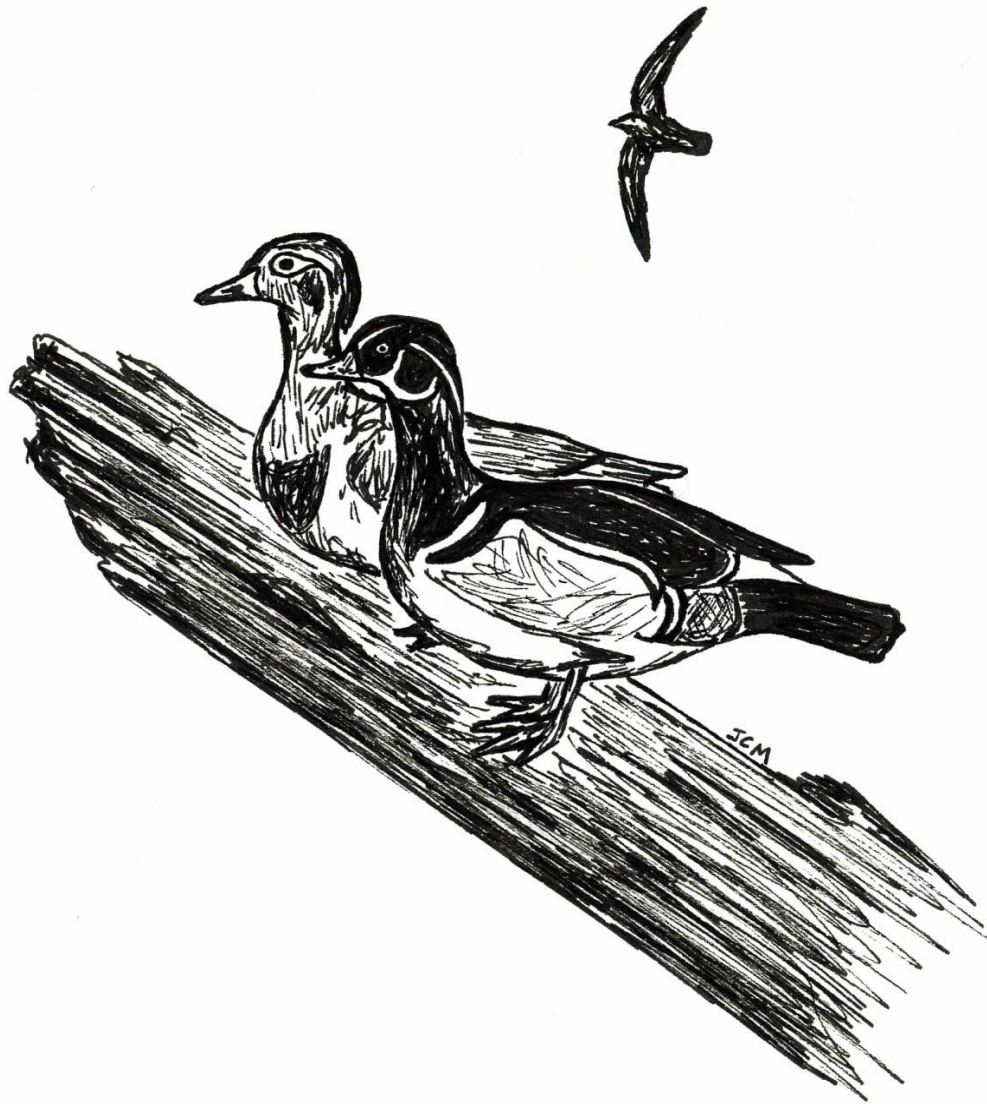


# Seasonal Distribution of Birds at Camp Mabry

Version 3 - September 25, 2012

**Austin, Texas**



by Jake McCumber, Wildlife Biologist  
Texas Adjutant General's Department

Camp Mabry is 368 acres situated on an ecological transition zone. Historically this area was the interface between the wooded hills and canyons of the Edward's Plateau and the expansive grasslands of the Blackland Prairies. It is now typical of an urban-wildland interface where woodlands merge into an urban landscape. The historic and current transitions greatly influence the natural diversity of Camp Mabry (and Austin in general). For example, we get to enjoy a mix of both western and eastern species. It also means we have a mix of wildland and urban species – bringing generalists, opportunists, and invasives in with more native components. Camp Mabry's birdlife is also strongly influenced by its position somewhat centrally in the Central Flyway migratory corridor – a significant pathway for seasonal mass movements of birds and other wildlife (e.g. Monarch butterflies) heading north or south between wintering and breeding areas. A lesser, but definitely apparent, influence on Mabry's birdlife is the proximity to the Colorado River just under half a mile from the western corners.

Thus far 205 bird species have been recorded within (or flying over) Camp Mabry's boundaries. Of that total 52 species are known or reasonably suspected to breed here while 38 species have been documented on only a single occasion. Many of the single-record species are rare, outside their normal range, or passing migrants; requiring some amount of luck and skill to detect and identify. There are 11 species that have an average monthly detection frequency greater than 50%, representing the species that are readily detectable year-round residents; 9 species have been recorded in all 48 quarter-month periods.

This checklist was developed using documented records of birds. The records have been gathered by employees and contracted surveyors through a mix of formal survey methods, casual to intensive birding walks, and general/incidental sightings. Since the following tables represent observation data (rather than expected occurrence) there are a number of factors that influence the data including variable observer effort within a period or area and variable detectability of a species within a season or habitat. The tables below show frequency (proportion of events with detection) of species summarized into month periods, somewhat simplifying actual trends in phenology. The data represent 401 sampling events, averaging just over 8 events per quarter-month period and over 33 events per month. Influences of effort do show in the details (e.g., higher during migration and low in mid-summer), but a conscious effort has been made to sample consistently throughout the year.

It is worth noting that three of the species included here have a state or federal status. The Peregrine Falcon (state listed threatened) has been encountered solely as a flyover migrant and is only really expected as such. The Golden-cheeked Warbler (state and federally listed endangered) has been observed as a singing and foraging migrant while passing through on the way to nearby breeding habitat in the Edward's Plateau. Suitable breeding habitat does not exist on Camp Mabry at this time, though long-term restoration efforts could see movement in that direction. A new species to this version, Sprague's Pipit, is a federal candidate species and winters in this area, but is only expected as a very rare migrant at Camp Mabry.

--- LEGEND ---

Breeding Status (B)	
X	Confirmed or highly suspected
/	Reasonably suspected breeder

Additional symbols	
(+)	New species in version 3 (added since Sep. 14, 2011)
*	All titmice treated as Black-crested

Seasonal (monthly) Status					
Single Record	Occasional	Regular	Fairly Common	Common	Abundant
Δ	- - -	- - - -	- - - - -	- - - - - -	- - - - - - -
<b>Abundant:</b> Recorded on >80% of events					
<b>Common:</b> Recorded on 60-80% of events					
<b>Fairly Common:</b> Recorded on 40-60% of events					
<b>Regular:</b> Recorded on 20-40% of events					
<b>Occasional:</b> Recorded on 1-20% of events					
<b>Single Record:</b> Recorded on only a single occasion					

Seasonal Distribution of birds at Camp Mabry (v. 3)

SPECIES	B	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck					Δ								
Wood Duck	X	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
Gadwall		- - -	- - -	- - -							- - -	- - -	- - -
American Wigeon			Δ										
Mallard		- - -					- - -						
Blue-winged Teal				- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -			- - -	- - -		
Northern Shoveler		- - -	- - -	- - -							- - -		
Northern Pintail (+)		Δ											
Green-winged Teal										- - -	- - -		
Red-crested Pochard			- - -	- - -									
Redhead (+)		- - -	- - -	- - -									
Ring-necked Duck		- - -	- - -	- - -							- - -	- - -	- - -
Lesser Scaup		- - -	- - -	- - -									- - -
Bufflehead		- - -	- - -										
Hooded Merganser (+)		Δ											
Wild Turkey				- - -	- - -	- - -							
Pied-billed Grebe		- - -	- - -	- - -			- - -			- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
Neotropic Cormorant (+)		Δ											
Double-crested Cormorant		- - -	- - -	- - -			- - -				- - -	- - -	- - -
American White Pelican (+)		- - -	- - -	- - -									
Great Blue Heron	/	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
Great Egret		- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -		- - -	- - -	- - -			
Snowy Egret		- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -			- - -	- - -	- - -		- - -
Little Blue Heron (+)					Δ								
Cattle Egret					Δ								
Green Heron	X			- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
Black-crowned Night-Heron					- - -	- - -		- - -	- - -				
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron					- - -	- - -							
White-faced Ibis										- - -			
Black Vulture	/	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
Turkey Vulture	/	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
Osprey			- - -	- - -							- - -		
White-tailed Kite					Δ								
Mississippi Kite					Δ								
Northern Harrier											Δ		
Sharp-shinned Hawk		- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -					- - -	- - -	- - -
Cooper's Hawk	X	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -				- - -	- - -	- - -
Northern Goshawk			Δ										
Red-shouldered Hawk	X	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
Broad-winged Hawk	/	- - -			- - -	- - -				- - -	- - -		
Swainson's Hawk					- - -	- - -					- - -		
Zone-tailed Hawk (+)													Δ
Red-tailed Hawk	X	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
American Coot (+)		- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -						- - -		
Sandhill Crane		- - -	- - -	- - -							- - -		
Killdeer	X	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -

Seasonal Distribution of Birds at Camp Mabry (v. 3)

SPECIES	B	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Spotted Sandpiper						- - - -			- - - -				
Solitary Sandpiper						- - - -							
Lesser Yellowlegs						- - - -			- - - -				
Upland Sandpiper					- - - -				- - - -				
Long-billed Curlew									Δ				
Wilson's Snipe (+)											- - - -		
Franklin's Gull				- - - -									
Ring-billed Gull		- - - -				- - - -							
Herring Gull													Δ
Rock Pigeon	X	- - - -		- - - -									
White-winged Dove	X	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
Mourning Dove	X	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
Common Ground-Dove (+)											Δ		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	X				- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -				
Greater Roadrunner (+)								Δ					
Eastern Screech-Owl	X	- - - -						- - - -				- - - -	- - - -
Great Horned Owl	X	- - - -											- - - -
Barred Owl	/	- - - -											- - - -
Common Nighthawk													- - - -
Common Poorwill (+)													Δ
Chuck-will's-widow	/						- - - -			- - - -			
Eastern Whip-poor-will											Δ		
Chimney Swift	/				- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
Ruby-throated Hummingbird									- - - -				
Black-chinned Hummingbird	X			- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -				
Belted Kingfisher		- - - -	- - - -									- - - -	- - - -
Red-bellied Woodpecker	X	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		- - - -		- - - -							- - - -		- - - -
Ladder-backed Woodpecker													
Downy Woodpecker	X	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
Northern Flicker		- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
Pileated Woodpecker				- - - -								- - - -	
American Kestrel		- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
Merlin			- - - -										- - - -
Peregrine Falcon			- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
Monk Parakeet		- - - -											- - - -
Olive-sided Flycatcher						- - - -							
Eastern Wood-Pewee						- - - -							
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher						- - - -							
Acadian Flycatcher						- - - -		- - - -					
Alder Flycatcher						- - - -							
Willow Flycatcher (+)						Δ							
Least Flycatcher					- - - -	- - - -		- - - -	- - - -	- - - -			
Eastern Phoebe	X	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
Great Crested Flycatcher	X				- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -			
Couch's Kingbird					Δ								



Seasonal Distribution of birds at Camp Mabry (v. 3)

SPECIES	B	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Prothonotary Warbler						- - - - -							
Swainson's Warbler (+)						Δ							
Tennessee Warbler						Δ							
Orange-crowned Warbler		- - - - -									- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Nashville Warbler				- - - - -	- - - - -					- - - - -			
Mourning Warbler									- - - - -				
Common Yellowthroat						- - - - -				- - - - -			
Hooded Warbler (+)						Δ							
American Redstart						- - - - -				- - - - -			
Cerulean Warbler						Δ							
Northern Parula				- - - - -	- - - - -								
Magnolia Warbler											- - - - -		
Bay-breasted Warbler						Δ							
Blackburnian Warbler						- - - - -							
Yellow Warbler					- - - - -	- - - - -			- - - - -	- - - - -			- - - - -
Chestnut-sided Warbler (+)						- - - - -							
Pine Warbler				Δ									
Yellow-rumped Warbler		██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	- - - - -			- - - - -	- - - - -	██████████	██████████
Golden-cheeked Warbler				- - - - -									
Black-throated Green Warbler			- - - - -		- - - - -					- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Canada Warbler						- - - - -				- - - - -			
Wilson's Warbler						- - - - -			- - - - -	██████████			
Yellow-breasted Chat					- - - - -								
Spotted Towhee		- - - - -								- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Eastern Towhee		Δ											
Canyon Towhee												Δ	
Cassin's Sparrow										- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Chipping Sparrow		- - - - -			- - - - -					- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Clay-colored Sparrow					- - - - -					- - - - -			
Brewer's Sparrow												Δ	
Field Sparrow		- - - - -									- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Vesper Sparrow		- - - - -								- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Lark Sparrow										- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Savannah Sparrow		- - - - -								- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Grasshopper Sparrow		- - - - -								- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Le Conte's Sparrow		- - - - -											- - - - -
Fox Sparrow		- - - - -										- - - - -	- - - - -
Song Sparrow		- - - - -									- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Lincoln's Sparrow		- - - - -		- - - - -						- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Swamp Sparrow				- - - - -							- - - - -		
White-throated Sparrow		- - - - -										- - - - -	- - - - -
Harris's Sparrow		- - - - -		- - - - -								- - - - -	- - - - -
White-crowned Sparrow		- - - - -		- - - - -								- - - - -	- - - - -
Dark-eyed Junco		- - - - -		- - - - -								- - - - -	- - - - -
Summer Tanager	/				- - - - -	- - - - -							
Northern Cardinal	X	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████

Seasonal Distribution of birds at Camp Mabry (v. 3)

SPECIES	B	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Pyrrhuloxia (+)											- - - -		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak					- - - -	- - - -							
Blue Grosbeak	/				- - - -	- - - -	- - - -		- - - -	- - - -			
Indigo Bunting					- - - -	- - - -				- - - -	- - - -		
Painted Bunting	/				- - - -	- - - -	- - - -						
Dickcissel					- - - -	- - - -			- - - -	- - - -			
Red-winged Blackbird		- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -				- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
Eastern Meadowlark				- - - -	- - - -						- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
Western Meadowlark											- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
Common Grackle				- - - -	- - - -		- - - -			- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
Great-tailed Grackle	X	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Brown-headed Cowbird	/			- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -			- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
Bronzed Cowbird								Δ					
Orchard Oriole						- - - -		- - - -	- - - -				
Baltimore Oriole						- - - -				- - - -			
Purple Finch (+)													Δ
House Finch	X	- - - -	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Pine Siskin											- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
Lesser Goldfinch	X	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
American Goldfinch		- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -						- - - -	- - - -
House Sparrow	X	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████

References

The majority of observations were recorded by the author over five years of working at Camp Mabry. Additional observations were recorded as provided below. All data is stored at [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) and in the vertebrate observation database managed by the Texas Military Forces Natural Resources Program.

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Texas Adjutant General's Department / Texas Military Forces: Natural Resources Program. Unpublished field data. Many thanks to Janet Bauchman, Charles Britt, Tina Colvin, Kate Crosthwaite, Ginny Eaton, and Dawn Johnson. You are all great biologists to work with and helped make exploring Camp Mabry more fun.

Front cover illustration by Jake McCumber



**Primary Birding areas of Camp Mabry**

A. Upper Pond: Primary parking area; small pond, picnic area and historic bridge. This is the best starting point and the immediate surroundings offer fruitful birding with a mix of open water, hillside and riparian woodlands, and a maintained open field.

B. Lower Pond: Substantial pond surrounded by riparian woodland. This is the best all-around birding location at Camp Mabry with a nice mix of wide open water, limited wetland fringe, riparian woodland, open fields and densely wooded hillside. The NE, SE, and SW corners are particular productive for migrant songbirds and the whole area (particularly combined with A) are generally productive for sparrows, raptors, flycatchers, water birds, etc. The peninsula on the eastern shore provides good birding opportunities.

C. "Back 40": Public access at Camp Mabry is primarily limited to areas east of Maintenance Drive (entrance road). Employees and others with permission can find good birding opportunities in a less used portion of Mabry. The Back 40 provides relatively large, varied woodlands and walkable roads.

Please stay on the walkable roads and trails and obey all signage. Outdoor recreation at Camp Mabry is a privilege to be enjoyed and maintained through cooperation. Please remember that Camp Mabry is an active military headquarters. Use respect and good judgment when on-site. While Camp Mabry is generally open for public access this accessibility (in general or to specific locations) is subject to change based military mission, agency operations, security concerns, and other reasons. We appreciate your interest in Camp Mabry and hope you enjoy you time here.

**Texas Adjutant General's Department and Texas Military Forces  
Natural Resources Conservation Program**

Reports of rare or interesting bird observations (particular species, nesting observations, etc.) are requested and appreciated. Please contact the author at [jacob.mccumber@us.army.mil](mailto:jacob.mccumber@us.army.mil) or 512-782-5315.

Observers are encouraged to record and submit their bird observations to eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)) using the Camp Mabry hotspot (Austin- Camp Mabry--ponds and woods) and sharing to the user name "TXMFsitedata".