

BIRDS OF FORT HOOD, TEXAS: CHECKLIST AND MONTHLY ABUNDANCES

Compiled by Rich Kostecke, David Cimprich, and Mike Stake

Fort Hood Military Reservation (219,000 acres) is located within Bell and Coryell counties along the border of the Edwards Plateau and Crosstimbers and Southern Tallgrass Prairie ecoregions in central Texas. To date, 290 species (not including hypotheticals) have been documented on Fort Hood. Monthly abundances are based on the number of individuals of a species that are likely to be seen during a typical birding visit to Fort Hood. For some species, we lack information on when exactly they were seen on Fort Hood. Monthly abundance codes are not provided for these species. This checklist only represents our current knowledge of the Fort Hood avifauna. Much remains to be learned about Fort Hood's birds. Several expected species have not yet been documented on the Reservation or during expected months. Additionally, birding efforts have been biased towards shrublands and mature Ashe juniper-oak woodlands where research on the endangered Black-capped Vireo and Golden-cheeked Warbler is conducted during March through July. Other habitats (e.g., grasslands, riparian woodlands, and wetlands) and times of year (e.g., fall and winter) have received less attention.

This checklist is a work in progress. We would appreciate receiving any information on the occurrence and abundance of birds on Fort Hood. In particular, data on arrival and departure dates of migrant species; species which are currently designated as rare, very rare, casual, accidental, or hypothetical; evidence of breeding activity (particularly for species which have not previously been documented as breeding on the Reservation; new records for a given month; new species for the checklist; unusual (low or high) numbers; etc. would be greatly appreciated. Please forward such information to:

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ABUNDANCE CODES

- A Abundant: >100/day **usually seen daily** in appropriate habitat
 - C Common: 25–100/day **usually seen daily** in appropriate habitat
 - FC Fairly Common: 10–25/day **usually seen daily** in appropriate habitat
 - U Uncommon: 1–10/day; **usually seen daily** in appropriate habitat
 - R Rare: typically 1–5/day and 1–10/month; **usually not seen daily**
 - VR Very Rare: 10–40 records for the month
 - Ca Casual: 4–10 records for the month
 - X Accidental: 1–3 records for the month
 - H Hypothetical: Sighting is unsubstantiated.
 - * Has bred on base at least once or is suspected to breed on base
 - ** Regular breeder
- R (A) Certain species may only be seen a few times during a month, but may occur in high abundance at those times. In those instances, two codes are provided. The first code indicates the probability of observing a flock of the species, whereas the code in parentheses indicates the potential number of individuals in that flock

SPECIES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Waterfowl												
Greater White-frntd Goose		X								X		
Snow Goose	X								X			
"Canada" Goose				X							X	
Wood Duck**	R	FC	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Gadwall	U	U	U	R					R	FC	U	U
American Wigeon	U	R							R	U	FC	U
Mallard	R	FC	R	R					R	R	U	R
Blue-winged Teal			FC	C	U			FC	C			
Cinnamon Teal				X								
Northern Shoveler			R	R								
Northern Pintail		FC							R	FC	FC	
Green-winged Teal		C							R	U		
Canvasback		R									FC	
Redhead		A	A	R						FC	C	
Ring-necked Duck	U	U	U	R							C	U
Greater Scaup	X											
Lesser Scaup	C	C	C	C						FC	A	C
Bufflehead												
Hooded Merganser											X	
Common Merganser												
Red-breasted Merganser												
Ruddy Duck	U	U	U	FC						R	U	FC
Turkey & Quail												
Wild Turkey**	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Northern Bobwhite**	R	R	R	U	U	U	U	U	R	R	R	R
Loons & Grebes												
Common Loon											X	
Pied-billed Grebe	U	U	U	R	X	X	X	X	U	U	U	U
Horned Grebe			X								X	
Eared Grebe											X	
Red-necked Grebe				X								
Pelicans & Cormorants												
American White Pelican			R (FC)	R (A)	R (C)	X				X	X	
Brown Pelican							X					
Neotropic Cormorant			X	X	CA	X						
Double-crested Cormorant	FC	FC	C	C	U				R	C	FC	FC
Hérons												
Great Blue Heron**	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Great Egret				FC	R	R	U	U	FC	R	X	
Snowy Egret				U			R	FC	U	R		
Little Blue Heron				U	R	R				X		

SPECIES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tricolored Heron							X	Ca				
Cattle Egret			FC	C	FC	X			FC	U		
Green Heron**				R	U	U	U	U	U			
Yellow-crwnd Night-heron					R	R	R					
Ibises & Spoonbills												
Roseate Spoonbill								X				
Vultures												
Black Vulture**	U	U	U	FC	U	U	U	FC	U	U	U	U
Turkey Vulture**	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Kites, Hawks & Eagles												
Osprey*	R	R	R	U	R	R	R	R	R	U	U	R
Swallow-tailed Kite					X							
Mississippi Kite				U	U		X	R (C)				
Northern Harrier	U	U	U	R	R					R	U	U
Bald Eagle	R			X								R
Sharp-shinned Hawk	R	R	R	R	VR	Ca	Ca	Ca		R	U	R
Cooper's Hawk*	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	Ca	X	R	U	R
Red-shouldered Hawk**	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Broad-winged Hawk				R	R	X	X				X	
Swainson's Hawk*			Ca	R	R	R	R	R	R	FC		
Zone-tailed Hawk					X							
Red-tailed Hawk**	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Ferruginous Hawk				X								
Golden Eagle								X				
Falcons												
Crested Caracara*	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
American Kestrel	U	U	U	U	Ca		X	X	U	FC	U	U
Merlin			Ca	Ca								
Peregrine Falcon				R	X					X		
Prairie Falcon			X	X								
Rails & Cranes												
King Rail					H							
American Coot	C	C	C	A	R	Ca	Ca		FC	C	C	C
Sandhill Crane	X	Ca	A								R	Ca
Whooping Crane											X	
Shorebirds												
American Golden-plover				X								
Snowy Plover									X			
Semipalmated Plover									X			
Killdeer**	U	U	FC	FC	U	U	U	FC	FC	U	U	U
Black-necked Stilt								Ca				
American Avocet								Ca				

SPECIES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Greater Yellowlegs			R	R	X		R	R	R	R	R	
Lesser Yellowlegs				R	X			X	R	R		
Solitary Sandpiper				R				U	U			
Willet							X	X	X			
Spotted Sandpiper				U	U		R	U	U	U	R	
Upland Sandpiper			R	U	U	R						
Long-billed Curlew			X			X	X		X			
Hudsonian Godwit												
Marbled Godwit									X			
Red Knot					X							
Western Sandpiper									X			
Semipalmated Sandpiper									X			
Least Sandpiper			R	R	R				FC			
White-rumped Sandpiper					X	X						
Baird's Sandpiper				R					U			
Pectoral Sandpiper					R			FC	R			
Stilt Sandpiper									X			
Short-billed Dowitcher												
Long-billed Dowitcher									R			
Wilson's Snipe			R	U	R				R	R	U	
American Woodcock	X	X			X							X
Wilson's Phalarope				X	X				X			
Gulls & Terns												
Franklin's Gull				FC	U					X		
Laughing Gull				X								
Bonaparte's Gull	U	U	U	R								U
Ring-billed Gull	FC	FC	FC	U						U	U	U
Herring Gull	R										R	R
Caspian Tern												
Forster's Tern	C	C	C	C	FC					R	FC	C
Least Tern												
Black Tern					X							
Pigeons & Doves												
Rock Pigeon**	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Eurasian Collared-dove**	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
White-winged Dove**	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Mourning Dove**	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	A	C
Inca Dove**	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Common Ground-dove**				VR	R	R	R					
Parrots												
Monk Parakeet						X						

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Cuckoos												
Black-billed Cuckoo					Ca							
Yellow-billed Cuckoo**				R	FC	U	U	U	U			
Greater Roadrunner**	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Groove-billed Ani				X	X							
Owls												
Barn Owl												
Eastern Screech-owl**	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Great Horned Owl**	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Burrowing Owl	R	R	R									
Barred Owl*				X	Ca	X						
Long-eared Owl					X							
Short-eared Owl											X	
Nightjars & Swifts												
Common Nighthawk**				R	FC	FC	FC	FC	R			
Common Poorwill*			X	X	Ca						X	
Chucks-will's-widow**				U	U	U	U					
Chimney Swift**			Ca	R	U	U	U	U	U	R		
Hummingbirds												
Ruby-thrt'd Hummingbird*			X	VR	VR		X	X	R			
Blck-chinned Hummingbird**			R	U	U	U	U	X				
Broad-tailed Hummingbird				X								
Rufous Hummingbird												
Kingfishers												
Belted Kingfisher**	U	U	U	U	R	R	R	R	U	U	U	U
Woodpeckers												
Red-headed Woodpecker												
Golden-fronted Woodpecker					Ca	X	X					
Red-bellied Woodpecker**	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			R							R		
Ladder-bckd Woodpecker**	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Downy Woodpecker**	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Hairy Woodpecker					X	X						
Northern Flicker	R	R	R	Ca	X	X	X			U	R	R
Flycatchers												
Olive-sided Flycatcher					U	X						
Eastern Wood-pewee*				R	U	R	R	R				
<i>Empidonax</i> species				R	U	X	R	U				
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher					R	X	X	R				
Acadian Flycatcher*				X	VR	Ca	X	X				
Trail's Flycatcher					R	Ca	Ca	Ca				
Alder Flycatcher					R							

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Bushtit, Nuthatches & Creepers												
Bushtit					X	X		X				
Red-breasted Nuthatch			X	VR	Ca							
Brown Creeper				Ca	Ca							
Wrens												
Rock Wren						X						
Canyon Wren**	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Carolina Wren**	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC
Bewick's Wren**	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC
House Wren			R	U	R				R	U	U	
Winter Wren												
Marsh Wren					X						X	
Kinglets & Gnatcatchers												
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	FC	FC	FC	U	R				U	U	FC	FC
Golden-crowned Kinglet	R	R	R	Ca							R	R
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**			C	C	C	C	FC	U	U	R		
Bluebirds												
Eastern Bluebird**	FC	FC	FC	U	U	U	FC	U	U	FC	FC	FC
Mountain Bluebird	X											X
Mimic Thrushes												
Gray Catbird*		X	X	R	U	X	X					
Northern Mockingbird**	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC
Brown Thrasher*			U	U	R					U	R	
Curve-billed Thrasher				X	X							
Thrushes												
Swainson's Thrush			X	R	R							
Gray-cheeked Thrush					X							
Hermit Thrush			R	R	X						R	
Wood Thrush				X	X							
American Robin*	C	C	C	R	Ca	Ca	Ca			R	A	C
Townsend's Solitaire			X									
Starlings												
European Starling**	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Pipits												
American Pipit	C	C	C	U	X					U	C	C
Sprague's Pipit			X						X			
Waxwings												
Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	C	C	X					C	C
Warblers												
Blue-winged Warbler								X				
Tennessee Warbler				R	R	X						
Orange-crowned Warbler	U	U	U	FC	R					U	U	U

SPECIES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nashville Warbler			R	U	U	X	X		U	U		
Northern Parula				R	R		X	X				
Yellow Warbler				R	U			U	U			
Chestnut-sided Warbler				R	R							
Magnolia Warbler				R	R	X						
Yellow-rumped Warbler	U	U	FC	C	R					U	U	U
Golden-cheeked Warbler**			FC	FC	FC	U	R	X				
Blck-thrtd Green Warbler			R	R	VR			X		R		
Yellow-throated Warbler								X				
Blackburnian Warbler					R							
Palm Warbler				X								
Pine Warbler												X
Bay-breasted Warbler				X								
Prairie Warbler			X									
Blackpoll Warbler					X							
Cerulean Warbler				X								
Black-and-white Warbler**			U	U	U	R	R	U				
American Redstart					R							
Prothonotary Warbler*				R	R	R	R					
Ovenbird					R							
Louisiana Waterthrush*				R	R		R	R	R			
Mourning Warbler					R				X			
MacGillivray's Warbler					X							
Common Yellowthroat				R	R	R			U	U	R	
Hooded Warbler			X	X	X							
Wilson's Warbler					R				R			
Canada Warbler				R	R							
Yellow-breasted Chat**				U	U	U	U					
Tanagers												
Summer Tanager**				U	U	U	U	U	U			
Scarlet Tanager			X	X		X						
Sparrows												
Spotted Towhee	U	U	FC	FC	R	Ca	X			U	U	U
Eastern Towhee			R	R	Ca	X						
Canyon Towhee				X	Ca	X						
Cassin's Sparrow*				Ca	VR	VR	X					
Rufous-crowned Sparrow**	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Chipping Sparrow	U	U	FC	U	U		X			C	U	U
Clay-colored Sparrow				R	R							
Field Sparrow**	FC	FC	FC	FC	U	U	U	U	U	U	FC	FC
Vesper Sparrow	FC	FC	U	R	Ca					R	FC	FC
Lark Sparrow**			U	FC	FC	FC	C	FC	U	U	U	

