

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Southern Plains Inventory & Monitoring Network
Natural Resource Stewardship and Science



Chickasaw National Recreation Area Bird Checklist



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Birding Where East Meets West

Chickasaw National Recreation Area sits in an ecotone, or transition area, where the eastern hardwood forests meet the western plains. As a result, this area hosts a great diversity of plants and animals, but human impacts have also influenced where various species can be found.

Habitats in the park are intertwined with its history. Early settlement in the town of Sulphur Springs, Indian Territory, cleared and developed the land in the northeast section of the modern recreation area. Concern over water quality impacts to the springs from animal and human waste led to the establishment of the Sulphur Springs Reservation in 1902, and the town was relocated away from the springs. Continued contamination led to another expansion in 1906. The area was renamed Platt National Park in honor of the recently deceased Senator Orville Platt, who had helped establish the original reserve.

When Platt National Park was established, the landscape was very open, partially due to natural causes, and partially due to settlement. In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corp built many of the trails, buildings, roads, pavilions, dams, and campgrounds still in the Platt

The Lincoln
Bridge in the
Platt Historic
District
(NPS PHOTO)





*Bring your binoculars, ears,
camera, and curiosity to
discover the many birds and
explore their varied habitats at
Chickasaw National
Recreation Area.*

Red-bellied Woodpecker (NPS PHOTO)

Historic District. They also altered the habitat by planting over half a million trees and shrubs. This increased the amount of wooded cover and decreased the amount of prairie in the original park lands, encouraging the return of forest-dwelling birds such as the Northern Cardinal, Barred Owl, and the Red-bellied and Pileated Woodpeckers.

Currently some areas of the park are maintained as a historic landscape, highly groomed and mowed. Flower Park and the Bromide area are good examples of this. Other areas are left to natural regrowth in a mostly wild state. Trails and picnic areas in the Platt Historic District are near creeks, and are good places to look for wetland and riparian species such as Painted Buntings, Belted Kingfishers, and Wood Ducks.



Belted Kingfisher

In 1964, a second park, Arbuckle Recreation Area, was established along the future shoreline of Lake of the Arbuckles. Arbuckle Dam was completed in 1966. Three feeder creeks were flooded, and the area gained lake habitat at the expense of the riparian areas. Staff from nearby Platt National Park managed the new recreation area, and



Lake of the
Arbuckles (NPS PHOTO)

in 1976 the two parks were combined into Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Some lands were added to help connect the two areas, which was completed with the 1983 transfer of Veterans Lake

from the City of Sulphur. The Multi-Use Trail System crosses this area, and is the best place to view prairie species such as Northern Bobwhite, Eastern Meadowlark, Indigo Bunting, and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.



Indigo Bunting
(NPS PHOTO)

Waterfowl and shorebirds are easy to view from picnic areas and boat launch areas near Lake of the Arbuckles. Great Blue Herons, Canada Geese,

Blue-winged Teal, Common Loons, and many other species can be found here in various seasons. Raptors such as Bald Eagles and Osprey can be observed fishing in the lake in the winter months.



Great Blue Heron
(NPS PHOTO)

Adjacent page: Barred Owl
(NPS PHOTO)

Birding Ethics

Be mindful by following ethical birding guidelines that protect birds and enhance everyone's birding experience:

- » Keep your distance and avoid disturbing bird nesting sites; move away from alarmed pairs.
- » Report bird observations to park rangers at the Travertine Nature Center. This helps other birders and supports research.
- » Do not use broadcasting calls to attract birds; calls interfere with nesting activity and may frustrate other birders.
- » Report rare species nesting sites to appropriate park officials only. Use caution when posting bird sightings over social media.
- » Do not set up bird feeding stations or feed birds in the national recreation area.



Checklist Key

Habitat

- **R – Riparian:** Habitats containing a complex mix of oaks and other deciduous trees found along the banks of creeks
- **G – Grassland:** Habitats dominated by grass species such as little bluestem and sideoats grama
- **W – Woodlands:** Habitats dominated by mixed deciduous hardwoods and eastern red cedar
- **M – Wetlands:** Marshy edges in the recreation area where vegetation is adapted to or tolerant of regularly-saturated soils

Season

- **Resident** – Found year-round
- **Summer** – Found predominantly in the summer months (June–August)
- **Winter** – Found predominantly in the winter months (November–February)
- **Migrant** – Found predominantly during spring and/or fall migratory periods (March–May, September–October)

The information in this list is based on NPSpecies, Natural Resource Condition Assessments, and Southern Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network Landbird Monitoring surveys at Chickasaw NRA, and may not be a comprehensive list of all bird species in the recreation area. The list is arranged by family and uses common names following the American Ornithological Society's Checklist of North American Birds 7th edition and its supplements through 2019.

Acknowledgments

All bird identification photos, unless otherwise noted, were generously provided courtesy of [Robert Shantz \(rshantz.com\)](http://rshantz.com).

The [Southern Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network](#) is one of 32 National Park Service inventory and monitoring networks that assess the condition of park ecosystems and develop a stronger scientific basis for stewardship of natural resources.

Checklist

Waterfowl (Anatidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Canada Goose	M	Resident
Wood Duck	R, M	Resident
Blue-winged Teal	M	Winter
Northern Shoveler	M	Winter
Gadwall	M	Winter
American Wigeon	M	Winter
Mallard	R, M	Resident
Northern Pintail	M	Winter
Canvasback	M	Winter
Redhead	M	Winter
Lesser Scaup	M	Winter
Bufflehead	M	Winter
Ruddy Duck	M	Winter



Canada Goose



Blue-winged Teal



Mallard

New World Quail (Odontophoridae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Northern Bobwhite	R, G, W	Resident



Wild Turkey

Partridges, Grouse, and Turkeys (Phasianidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Wild Turkey	R, G, W	Resident

Grebes (Podicipedidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Pied-billed Grebe	M	Resident



White-winged Dove

Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Rock Pigeon	G	Resident
Eurasian Collared-Dove	G	Resident
White-winged Dove	R, G, W	Resident
Mourning Dove	R, G, W, M	Resident



Mourning Dove



Rufous Hummingbird



American Coot



American Avocet



Killdeer



Stilt Sandpiper



Sanderling

Cuckoos and Roadrunners (Cuculidae)

✓ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Greater Roadrunner	G	Resident
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	R, W, M	Summer

Nighthawks (Caprimulgidae)

✓ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Common Nighthawk	R, G, W, M	Summer
Chuck-Will's-Widow	R, W	Summer

Swifts (Apodidae)

✓ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Chimney Swift	R, G, W, M	Summer

Hummingbirds (Trochilidae)

✓ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	G, W	Migrant
Rufous Hummingbird	G, W	Migrant

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots (Rallidae)

✓ Common Name	Habitat	Season
American Coot	M	Resident

Avocets and Stilts (Recurvirostridae)

✓ Common Name	Habitat	Season
American Avocet	M	Migrant

Plovers (Charadriidae)

✓ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Killdeer	R, G, M	Resident
Semipalmated Plover	M	Migrant
Snowy Plover	M	Migrant

Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies (Scolopacidae)

✓ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Whimbrel	M	Migrant
Stilt Sandpiper	M	Migrant
Sanderling	M	Migrant

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Baird's Sandpiper	M	Migrant
Least Sandpiper	M	Migrant
White-rumped Sandpiper	M	Migrant
Pectoral Sandpiper	M	Migrant
Semipalmated Sandpiper	M	Migrant
Western Sandpiper	M	Migrant
Spotted Sandpiper	M	Summer
Solitary Sandpiper	M	Migrant
Lesser Yellowlegs	M	Migrant
Willet	M	Migrant
Greater Yellowlegs	M	Migrant
Wilson's Phalarope	M	Migrant



Solitary Sandpiper



Lesser Yellowlegs



Ring-billed Gull

Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers (Laridae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Franklin's Gull	M	Migrant
Ring-billed Gull	R, M	Winter
Black Tern	M	Migrant
Forster's Tern	M	Migrant



Black Tern

Loons (Gaviidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Common Loon	M	Winter

Cormorants (Phalacrocoracidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Neotropic Cormorant	M	Resident
Double-crested Cormorant	M	Resident



Double-crested
Cormorant

Pelicans (Pelecanidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
American White Pelican	M	Migrant



American White Pelican



Great Blue Heron



Turkey Vulture



Osprey



Red-tailed Hawk



Great Horned Owl

Bitterns, Herons, and Allies (Ardeidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
American Bittern	M	Migrant
Great Blue Heron	R, M	Resident
Great Egret	R, M	Summer
Snowy Egret	M	Migrant
Little Blue Heron	M	Summer
Cattle Egret	R, G, M	Migrant
Green Heron	R, M	Summer
Black-crowned Night-Heron	R, M	Summer
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	M	Migrant

New World Vultures (Cathartidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Black Vulture	R, G, W, M	Resident
Turkey Vulture	R, G, W, M	Resident

Ospreys (Pandionidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Osprey	M	Migrant

Hawks, Kites, Eagles and Allies (Accipitridae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Sharp-shinned Hawk	R, G, W	Migrant
Cooper's Hawk	R, G, W	Resident
Bald Eagle	M	Resident
Mississippi Kite	R, G, W, M	Summer
Red-shouldered Hawk	R, W	Summer
Broad-winged Hawk	R, W	Summer
Swainson's Hawk	G	Summer
Red-tailed Hawk	R, G, W, M	Resident

Typical Owls (Strigidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Eastern Screech-Owl	R, G, W	Resident
Great Horned Owl	R, G, W	Resident
Barred Owl	R, W	Resident

Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)

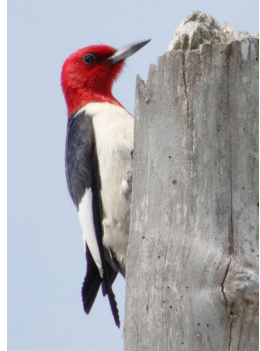
√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Belted Kingfisher	M	Resident



Belted Kingfisher

Woodpeckers and Allies (Picidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Red-headed Woodpecker	R, W	Resident
Red-bellied Woodpecker	R, W, M	Resident
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	R, W	Winter
Downy Woodpecker	R, W	Resident
Hairy Woodpecker	R, W	Resident
Northern Flicker	R, W	Resident
Pileated Woodpecker	R, W	Resident



Red-headed Woodpecker

Falcons (Falconidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
American Kestrel	G	Migrant



Northern Flicker

Tyrant Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Great Crested Flycatcher	R, W	Summer
Western Kingbird	R, G, W, M	Summer
Eastern Kingbird	R, G, W, M	Summer
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	R, G, W, M	Summer
Olive-sided Flycatcher	R, W, M	Migrant
Eastern Wood-Pewee	R, W	Summer
Acadian Flycatcher	R, W	Summer
Willow Flycatcher	R, W, M	Migrant
Least Flycatcher	R, W	Migrant
Eastern Phoebe	R, M	Resident



American Kestrel

Shrikes (Laniidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Loggerhead Shrike	G	Resident



Western Kingbird



Blue Jay



American Crow



Tree Swallow



Barn Swallow



Tufted Titmouse



White-breasted Nuthatch

Vireos (Vireonidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
White-eyed Vireo	R, W	Summer
Bell's Vireo	R, W	Summer
Yellow-throated Vireo	R, W	Summer
Blue-headed Vireo	R, W	Migrant
Warbling Vireo	R, W	Summer
Red-eyed Vireo	R, W	Summer

Crows, Jays and Ravens (Corvidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Blue Jay	R, W	Resident
American Crow	R, G, W, M	Resident
Fish Crow	R, G, W, M	Resident

Swallows (Hirundinidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Bank Swallow	G, M	Migrant
Tree Swallow	R, G, W, M	Migrant
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	R, G, W, M	Summer
Purple Martin	R, G, W, M	Summer
Barn Swallow	R, G, W, M	Summer
Cliff Swallow	R, G, M	Summer
Cave Swallow	G, M	Summer

Chickadees and Titmice (Paridae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Carolina Chickadee	R, W	Resident
Tufted Titmouse	R, W	Resident

Nuthatches (Sittidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
White-breasted Nuthatch	W	Migrant

Treecreepers (Certhiidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Brown Creeper	R, W	Winter

Wrens (Troglodytidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
House Wren	R, W	Resident
Sedge Wren	M	Migrant
Carolina Wren	R, W	Resident
Bewick's Wren	R, W	Resident



Bewick's Wren

Gnatcatchers (Poliptilidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	R, W	Summer



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Kinglets (Regulidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Golden-crowned Kinglet	R, W	Winter
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	R, W	Winter



Eastern Bluebird

Thrushes (Turdidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Eastern Bluebird	R, G, W	Resident
Gray-cheeked Thrush	R, W	Migrant
Swainson's Thrush	R, W	Migrant
American Robin	R, G, W	Resident



Gray Catbird

Mockingbirds and Thrashers (Mimidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Gray Catbird	R, W	Summer
Brown Thrasher	R, W	Resident
Northern Mockingbird	R, G, W, M	Resident



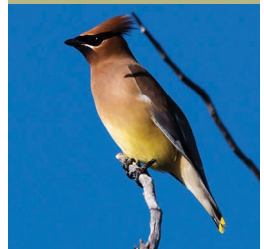
Northern Mockingbird

Starlings (Sturnidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
European Starling	R, G	Resident

Waxwings (Bombycillidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Cedar Waxwing	R, W	Winter



Cedar Waxwing



House Finch



Pine Siskin



Lark Sparrow



Spotted Towhee



Baltimore Oriole



Red-winged Blackbird

SdN

Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
House Sparrow	G	Resident

Finches (Fringillidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
House Finch	R, G, W, M	Resident
Pine Siskin	R, G, W	Winter
American Goldfinch	R, G, W, M	Resident

New World Sparrows and Towhees (Passerellidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Grasshopper Sparrow	G	Summer
Lark Sparrow	R, G, W, M	Resident
Chipping Sparrow	R, G, W, M	Migrant
Clay-colored Sparrow	G, W	Migrant
Field Sparrow	G	Resident
Dark-eyed Junco	R, W	Winter
White-crowned Sparrow	R, G, W, M	Winter
Harris's Sparrow	G	Winter
Vesper Sparrow	G, M	Winter
Song Sparrow	R, M	Migrant
Lincoln's Sparrow	R, G, W, M	Migrant
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	G	Resident
Spotted Towhee	W	Winter

Yellow-Breasted Chat (Icteriidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Yellow-breasted Chat	R, W, M	Summer

Blackbirds, Orioles, and Allies (Icteridae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Eastern Meadowlark	G	Resident
Orchard Oriole	R, W, M	Summer
Baltimore Oriole	R, W	Summer
Red-winged Blackbird	R, G, W, M	Resident

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Brown-headed Cowbird	R, G, W, M	Resident
Brewer's Blackbird	R, G, W, M	Winter
Common Grackle	R, G, W, M	Resident
Great-tailed Grackle	R, G, W, M	Resident



Orange-crowned Warbler

New World Warblers (Parulidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Orange-crowned Warbler	W	Migrant
Virginia's Warbler	G, W	Summer
MacGillivray's Warbler	G, W	Migrant
Yellow-rumped Warbler	G, W	Migrant
Black-throated Gray Warbler	W	Migrant
Wilson's Warbler	W	Migrant
Red-faced Warbler	W	Migrant



Yellow-rumped Warbler



Summer Tanager

Piranga Tanagers, Cardinals and Allies (Cardinalidae)

√ Common Name	Habitat	Season
Summer Tanager	R, W, M	Summer
Northern Cardinal	R, G, W, M	Resident
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	R, G, W	Migrant
Blue Grosbeak	R, G, W, M	Summer
Lazuli Bunting	R, G, W	Migrant
Indigo Bunting	R, G, W, M	Summer
Painted Bunting	R, G, W, M	Summer
Dickcissel	R, G, W	Summer



Northern Cardinal



Blue Grosbeak



Dickcissel

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