

# Other



## Greater Roadrunner

These giant ground cuckoos stay mostly silent as they hunt for large insects, mice, toads and their favorite prey- snakes and lizards. They've even been observed killing venomous snakes! While these birds mostly stick to the ground they're not actually flightless. Common in the park, most often seen in winter when nder-growth dies back.

## Sandhill Crane

The most abundant species of crane in the world. Flocks are easy to spot in the fall as they migrate south to the Texas Gulf Coast. Often you hear the flock calling before you can see them. Listen for their musical, rattling calls and look up to find a flock soaring overhead. While Sandhill Cranes are a common species in Texas, the Mississippi Sandhill Crane is endangered.



## Black Vulture

Smaller and more social than the Turkey Vulture, these vultures are most often seen flying to their roost in large numbers. Black Vultures are nearly all black except for white patches on their wing-tips. They are becoming more common in Texas as their range expands North from Mexico.

## White-winged Dove

These desert doves are becoming more common in Central Texas as their range expands North. Note the prominent white on the wing, and listen for their rolling call that sounds scratchier than a mourning dove's. Doves are closely related to pigeons, are typically stout-bodied, round headed, and common across the world.



# Flyover Sightings



## Red-Shouldered Hawk

Loves forests and wooded creeks and uses its short wings for maneuverability while hunting. Easily identified by its barred feathers and red-colored "shoulders." Often heard more than seen, listen for this hawk's distinctive "kee-ah kee-ah kee-ah" call. Be careful identifying hawks only from calls. Blue Jays and other birds often mimic the sound of hawks and can confuse even experienced birders.

## Red-tailed Hawk

America's most familiar hawk, the Red-Tailed Hawk loves open country but can be found almost anywhere. This hawk is dark brown on top, white below and has a red tail, but some color morphs can be darker or lighter. In movies, the "eagle scream" most people assume is the call of the Bald Eagle is actually the call of the Red-Tailed Hawk



## Bald Eagle

This raptor is the National Bird of the United States of America. Bald Eagles are becoming more common after nearly disappearing in the 1950s. You can recognize this bird by its distinctive black-and-white coloring and its massive wingspan. Bald Eagles get more common in Texas in winter as northern birds migrate South, but some live here year-round.

## Crested Caracara

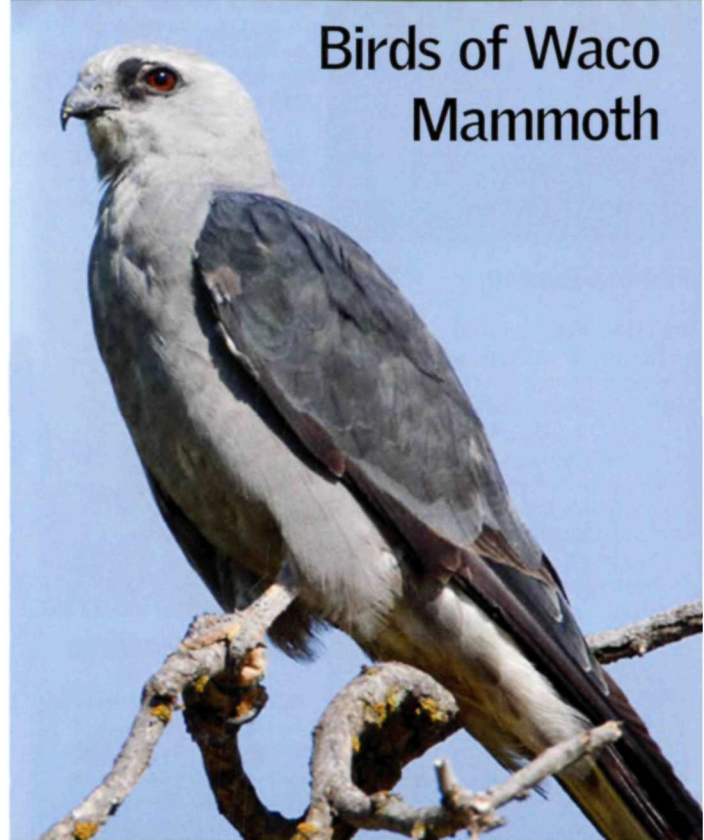
This unusual bird soars like a hawk, walks like a turkey, eats carrion like a vulture, but it's actually a giant falcon. Recognized in flight by its white tail with black tips, white wingtips, white head, bright orange beak, and black crest. The Caracara is becoming more common in Texas as it's range extends North, but this unique falcon is threatened in Florida as its habitat is lost to development and climate change.



# Waco Mammoth National Monument



# Birds of Waco Mammoth



This brochure features common or iconic birds found in the park, so take a nature walk, but remember to

### Leave No Trace:

- Stay on the trails to avoid trampling habitats.
- Don't share your snacks; nature provides plenty of birdfood.
- Take only photos; leave only footprints.
- Respect other birders and share what you find.



# Song Birds

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## Eastern Phoebe

Phoebes are part of a large group called "Tyrant Flycatchers" which has more than 400 species in the Americas. Eastern Phoebes are the only species regularly present at Waco Mammoth, but other common

Texas are the Great Crested, Scissor-Tailed and Least Flycatchers, the Kingbirds, and the Wood-Peewees.



## Northern Cardinal

Often called "redbirds" for their vibrant color, these mid-size songbirds are easy to spot. Females are slightly duller, with olive green or rusty bodies and red on the crests and wings. Abundant across the park, look for males singing in the tops of trees staking out their territory. Cardinals are one of the few birds that sing all year.



## Carolina Wren

Carolina Wrens are the second-largest wrens living in North America. They're easy to identify by their rusty red/brown backs, orange bellies, and white "eyebrow" stripes. A common phrase in their complex song sounds like "tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea-kettle."

## Painted Bunting

The most colorful bird in the United States, Painted Buntings brighten up Central Texas every summer before migrating to Mexico for the winter. Males are bold and eye-catching while females are a drab yellow and more secretive. These beautiful birds are in decline because of capture for the illegal pet trade, feather hunters and habitat destruction.



## Carolina Chickadee

These little, round headed birds are a common sight around the park. Carolina Chickadees tend to travel in small noisy flocks that often attract other, less common birds so keep an eye out near the edges of the group for shyer species taking advantage of the protection the flock provides. Chickadees also call out when they find a good source of food.



## Bewick's Wren

Bewick's Wren is smaller and greyer than the related Carolina Wrens. Here in Texas and the Western U.S. Bewick's Wrens are still common, but their numbers in the East have plummeted in the last few decades. This may be due to an increase in the number of House Wrens



## Blue-headed Vireo

This vireo is a winter resident and migrant in Texas. The Blue-Headed Vireos at Waco Mammoth likely come to the park from the Appalachians, but some of them might be stopping through on their journey from Canada to destinations as far South as Nicaragua! These shy birds eat mostly insects, but some populations eat fruit during the winter.



## Tufted Titmouse

These little, active, grey, songbirds are sure to stand out. The Titmice in Central Texas will commonly form hybrids between Tufted and Black-Crested Titmice. Hybrids are identified by their brown foreheads and grey crests. Other birds often flock with titmice and use them as a lookouts for predators so keep an eye out for rarer birds around flocks of titmice.



## Red-bellied Woodpecker

One of Central Texas' larger woodpeckers, the Red-Bellied Woodpecker is somewhat confusingly named. The males have a red hood while females and juveniles are more plain. Watch for their bounding flight and bold colors, and peckers communicate by "drumming" or banging their heads on anything that makes a loud sound.

## White-eyed Vireo

A summer visitor and regular breeder at Waco Mammoth, the White-Eyed Vireo is one of our most common seasonal breeders. While it's named for the white ring around its eye, this bird's most prominent facial feature is its yellow mask. Often heard more than seen, some hot days the White-Eyed Vireo is one of the only birds still frequently calling.



## Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Kinglets are one of the smallest birds in the United States. Only hummingbirds are regularly smaller. The bright red crown of this bird is only present in males and is often hidden against its head. These birds move nearly constantly as they search for insects in trees. The related Golden-Crowned Kinglet has a striped head and more visible "crown."



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