

BIRDS OF BEXAR COUNTY TEXAS FIELD CHECKLIST

San Antonio Audubon Society (SAAS)

Introduction: Bexar County covers an area of 1246 square miles in south central Texas with habitats varying from the Hill Country, to Post Oak Savannah, to Blackland Prairie, to South Texas brush Country, and includes the Medina and San Antonio River Valleys. This checklist was prepared by the checklist committee of the SAAS with input from other members.

Purpose: This Field Checklist is designed to update the SAAS Seasonal Checklist of 2004. It follows the American Ornithological Union (AOU) checklist as of July, 2011, in sequence and nomenclature. Latin names are not included as the English names used are the Standard English names as used by the AOU and TOS.

Basic Format: The basic format includes four season designations for each species included in the TOS checklist that has occurred in our county. The probability status of each species is not definitive and varies year to year.

Legend: The probability of being encountered (as distinct from “abundance”) in a full day’s effort in the appropriate habitat and in the proper season-of-occurrence is indicated as such:

C= common: to be expected on an outing

F= fairly common: should be seen from 1/3 to 2/3 of outings

U= uncommon: expected to be seen on less than 1/3 of outings

R= rare: rarely seen.

V= very rare: is so unexpected it needs convincing documentation.

Reporting Unusual Birds: Species in the “R” category should be reported to the SAAS telephone hotline at (210) 308-6788 or online at the SAAS Website (www.saaudubon.org). Indicate when and where the bird was seen, and any details that would help others to find it. Please mention any field marks and /or behaviors used to make the identification. Members of SATXbirds listserve should also submit their reports to the list at satxbirds@egroups.com. Any “V” species should be reported as above and also to the SAAS Bird Records Committee: www.saaudubon.org/birdreportform.html

Documentation: We do not encourage the taking of specimens, but should the bird be discovered already dead, collect it and call the SAAS # (above) and report a salvaged bird for pickup. Otherwise a photograph of sufficient quality, a sound recording, and/or a description (in that order) written or dictated at time of observation is encouraged.

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Seasons:

Sp = spring -- generally March, April, and May but also used for transit migrants on northward passage.

Su = summer -- generally June, July, and August but also used for breeding species that may arrive earlier or depart later.

Fa = fall -- generally September, October, and November but also used for transit migrants on southward passage.

Wi = winter -- generally December, January, and February but also used for species that over-winter which may arrive earlier or depart later.

Species Status (these appear to the left side of the species' name):

n = species that are known to nest and breed in the county.

o = bred historically in old records.

l = species that are very local in their occurrence in the county.

i = irruptive or invasion species that in some years may be much more common than expected and in other years may be absent.

h = hypothetical in that although it was well observed and described and accepted by the Bird Records Committee, it was seen by only one observer (or two or more observers in the same family) and is without confirming evidence such as specimen, photos, or tape recordings.

p = acceptance pending review by TBRC.

s = status uncertain in that species was seen by two or more observers but confirming evidence is lacking.

Reporting forms: Rare bird report forms are available through the SAAS website and Monthly Report Forms for bird sightings are available at the monthly SAAS meetings and on request through the SAAS Telephone message/Rare Bird Alert: (210) 308-6788. Bird reports should be submitted to the chairman of the SAAS BRC by the 5th of the month following the sightings so they can be reviewed for inclusion in the Bird Notes Column of the SAAS Newsletter. All sightings will then become part of the permanent Bird Records of the SAAS.

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