

BIRDS IN ELLIS COUNTY, TEXAS

This is not an official checklist as many of the birds listed have not yet been noted for Ellis County. The "extra" birds are marked with a *, have been seen in at least two adjacent counties and more than likely can be seen here also. Adjacent counties are abbreviated as follows: D:Dallas; J:Johnson, H: Hill; N:Navarro; K: Kaufman; all: all surrounding counties.

*Birds marked with a † are irregular, rare or visitor. All birds marked with a * or † should be documented.*

Dates listed in this checklist are approximate and may be used as a general guide to times the birds may be found in the area.

r: rare uc: uncommon c: common a: abundant m: migrant
vi: visitor i: irregular R: resident PR: permanent resident
S: summer W: winter Sp: spring F: fall

†*Common Loon r-ucm rWR late Oct thru mid Apr (DHJK)
Pied-billed Grebe c every month
 *Horned Grebe r-ucm late Oct – early Apr (DHJK)
 †Eared Grebe uc-r mid Sept – mid May
 †*Western Grebe ivi (DKN)
American White Pelican cm late Mar-May; mid Sept-late Nov
Double-crested Cormorant cm every month
 †Olivaceous Cormorant rvi
 †Anhinga uc-rvi spring, fall
 *American Bittern c-ucm Apr-mid May; late Aug-mid Nov (DHKN)
 †Least Bittern uc-rSR mid Apr-mid September
Great Blue Heron cPR
Great Egret cSR mid May-early Nov
Snowy Egret cSR Apr-early Oct
Little Blue Heron cSR mid Mar-early Nov
 †Tricolored Heron rS late July-late Oct
Cattle Egret cSR late Mar-early Nov
Green-backed Heron cSR early Apr-Sept
Black-crowned Night-Heron ucSR Mar-Oct
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron cSR early Apr-Sept
 †White Ibis iSvi June-Sept
White-faced Ibis ucSP, cSvi late Mar-early Nov
 †*Roseate Spoonbill rSvi (DHJK)
 †Wood Stork rSvi late May-Sept
 †*Black-bellied Whistling Duck rvi (DJ)
 †Tundra Swan rWvi Dec-Feb
 *Greater White-fronted Goose ucm mid Oct-mid Nov; Jan-mid Mar (DHJK)
Snow Goose ucm mid Oct-mid Nov; mid Mar- mid May
Canada Goose cm early Oct-Nov; Jan-mid Mar
 *Wood Duck c-uc PR (all)
Green-winged Teal cm cWR Sept-mid May
Mallard cWR early Sept-Apr
Northern Pintail cWR mid Aug-late May
Blue-winged Teal cm ucW late Aug-Sept; late Apr-May
Cinnamon Teal ucSP late Jan-Apr
 *Northern Shoveler cWR early Sept-late May (all)
Gadwall cm cWR mid Oct-Apr
American Wigeon cW early Sept-late May
Canvasback cm uc-rW late Oct-mid Apr
Redhead cm-ucW mid Oct-May
Ring-necked Duck cm WR early Oct-May

Lesser Scaup cm cWR late Oct –early Apr
 †*Surf Scoter rFvi late Oct-Nov (DJ)
 †White-winged Scoter rWvi late Oct-Apr
 †*Common Goldeneye uc-rWvi late Nov-early Mar (DJN)
 *Bufflehead uc-cWR early Nov-early Apr (all)
 †Hooded Merganser uc-rWvi mid Nov-early Mar
 †Common Merganser rWvi mid Nov-early Mar
 †Red-breasted Merganser rWvi mid Nov-early May
 *Ruddy Duck cm WR early Oct-late May (all)
Virginia Rail ucm late Mar-Apr, mid Sept-Oct
 *Sora uc-cm late Aug-early May (DJKN)
 †Purple Gallinule i-rSR spring; summer
 †*Common Moorhen i-rSR early Apr-mid Sept (DJKN)
American Coot cm cW mid Sept-mid Oct; early Mar-late Apr
Sandhill Crane cm mid Oct-mid Nov; early Mar-early Apr
 †Whooping Crane i-r m spring, fall
 *Black-bellied Plover ucm mid Mar-late May; late Jul-mid Nov (DHJK)
 †*Lesser Golden Plover uc-r m mid Mar-mid May; mid Aug-early Nov (DHJK)
 *Semipalmated Plover cm mid Apr-mid May; mid Aug-mid Sept (DHK)
 †*Piping Plover rm spring; fall (DK)
Killdeer cPR
American Avocet uc-cm mid Apr-mid May; late Jul-early Nov
Greater Yellowlegs cm late Feb-late May; mid Jul-late Nov
Lesser Yellowlegs cm mid Mar-mid May; mid Jul-Oct
Solitary Sandpiper cm mid Mar-late May; late Jun-late Oct
 *Willet c-ucFm ucSpm mid Apr-late May; mid Jul-mid Sept (DHKN)
Spotted Sandpiper cm late Mar-late May; mid Jul-early Oct
Upland Sandpiper cm late Mar-early Jun; early Jul-early Oct
 †*Whimbrel im May; Aug (DHK)
Long-billed Curlew uc-cm Apr-May; Jul-Sept
 †*Hudsonian Godwit rSpm late Mar-early Jun (DJK)
 †*Marbled Godwit r-ucm mid Apr-May; late Jul-Aug (DK)
 †*Ruddy Turnstone cFm; ucSpm mid Apr-late May; mid Aug-mid Sept (DJ)
 †*Sanderling uc-rm early Mar-mid May; early Aug-late Nov (DHK)
 *Semipalmated Sandpiper cm early Mar-late May; mid Jul-late Oct (all)
 *Western Sandpiper cm mid Mar-late May; mid Jul-mid Nov (DHJK)
Least Sandpiper cm, cW
 *White-rumped Sandpiper c-ucSpm late Apr-mid Jun (DHJK)
 *Baird's Sandpiper cm Mar-May; early Jul-early Nov (DHK)
 *Pectoral Sandpiper cm Mar-early Jun; Jul-Nov (all)
 †*Dunlin uc-r m May; mid Oct-early Nov (DJKN)
 *Stilt Sandpiper cm mid Apr-early Jun; mid Jul-mid Oct (all)
 *Buff-breasted Sandpiper uc-cm mid Apr-mid May; Aug-early Sept (all)
Long-billed Dowitcher cm mid Mar-mid May; mid Jul-mid Nov
Common Snipe cWR early Sept – early May
 †*American Woodcock rWvi (DJK)
 *Wilson's Phalarope cSpm mid Apr-mid May; mid Jul-early Oct (DHJK)
Franklin's Gull cm mid Apr-mid May; early Oct-early Nov
 *Bonaparte's Gull c-ucWvi Nov-mid Mar (DHK)
 *Ring-billed Gull cm, cWvi mid Sept-early May (DHJK)
 †*Herring Gull r-ucWvi Nov-Mar (DHJ)
 *Forster's Tern cm Apr-mid May; early Aug-early Oct (DHJK)
 *Least Tern r-cm late Apr-mid Jun; late Aug-mid Sept (DH)
Black Tern cm early May-mid Jun; early Aug-mid Sept
Black Vulture PR
Turkey Vulture PR
Osprey uc-cm mid Apr-early May; mid Sept-late Oct
 †*American Swallowtailed Kite i-r m (DHKN)

†Black-shouldered Kite rvi
Mississippi Kite uc-cm late Apr-early May; late Aug-early Sept
 †Bald Eagle rW rSR
Northern Harrier cWR Sept-Apr
Sharp-shinned Hawk uc-cWR Sept-early May
 †Cooper's Hawk r m WR Sept-Mar
Red-shouldered Hawk r-cPR
 †Broad-winged Hawk r-ucm late Mar-Oct
Swainson's Hawk uc-cm SR late Mar-early Nov
Red-tailed Hawk cPR
 †Rough-legged Hawk r-ucWvi late Oct-Mar
 †Crested Caracara r-uc R
American Kestrel cm WR rSR mid Sept-mid Apr
 †Merlin r m Wvi Sept-mid Apr
 †Peregrine Falcon r m, iWvi
 †*Prairie Falcon i-rvi (DKN)
Wild Turkey cPR
Northern Bobwhite c-aPR
Rock Dove aPR
Mourning Dove aPR
Inca Dove PR
White-winged Dove c-aPR
 †Common Ground Dove ivi
Yellow-billed Cuckoo cSR late Apr-mid Oct
Greater Roadrunner PR
Common Barn Owl PR
Eastern Screech Owl cPR
Great Horned Owl cPR
 †*Burrowing Owl uc-r m Oct; Mar (all)
Barred Owl uc-cPR
 †*Long-eared Owl very r WR (DK)
 †Short-eared Owl r-ucWR Dec-early Mar
Common Nighthawk cSR early Apr-early Oct
 *Common Poorwill uc-cSR Mar-Sept (DHJN)
Chuck-Will's-Widow cSR mid Apr-late Sept
 †Whip-poor-will r-ucm Apr; Sept
Chimney Swift c-aSR early Apr-early Oct
Ruby-throated Hummingbird SR late Mar-Oct
Black-chinned Hummingbird SR late Mar-Sept
 †Rufous Hummingbird uc-rFm Aug-Sept
Belted Kingfisher cPR
 †Red-headed Woodpecker uc-r m SR
 †*Golden-fronted Woodpecker ivi (DJ)
Red-bellied Woodpecker cPR
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker cWR mid Oct-early Apr
Ladder-backed Woodpecker uc-c PR
Downy Woodpecker cPR
Hairy Woodpecker ucm WR
Northern Flicker cWR early Sept-early May
 †Pileated Woodpecker extremely r R
Olive-sided Flycatcher uc-cm late Apr-early May; late Aug-mid Oct
Eastern Wood Pewee cm SR locally late Apr-late Oct
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher uc-cm late Apr-mid May; late Aug-late Sept
 †*Acadian Flycatcher i-r m (DH)
 †*Alder Flycatcher r-ucm late Apr-mid May; Sept (DH)
Least Flycatcher cm late Apr-early Jun; Aug-early Oct
Eastern Phoebe cm, c-uc SR early Mar-early May; mid Sept-early Oct
 †*Say's Phoebe rF, Wvi (DHJ)

†***Vermillion Flycatcher** uc-rvi (DJK)
Great-crested Flycatcher cSR mid Apr-late Sept
Western Kingbird cSR mid Apr-mid Sept
Eastern Kingbird uc-cSR mid Apr-Sept
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher c-aSR mid Mar-late Oct
Horned Lark cm, WR mid Nov-mid Mar
Purple Martin cSR Feb-mid Sept
 ***Tree Swallow** cm Mar-early May; mid Aug-early OCT (DHJN)
Northern Rough-winged Swallow cSR mid Mar-mid Oct
 ***Bank Swallow** uc-cm Apr; aug-Sept (DKN)
Cliff Swallow cm mid Mar-May; late Aug-early Oct
Barn Swallow cSR early Mar-early Nov
Blue Jay aPR
American Crow cPR
Carolina Chickadee cPR
Tufted Titmouse cPR
Red-breasted Nuthatch r-cm, Wvi late Sept-Apr
 †***White-breasted Nuthatch** rWvi (DHKN)
Brown Creeper cWvi late Oct-early Apr
 †***Rock Wren** rWvi (DHJ)
 †***Canyon Wren** uc local R west; rFvi east (DHJ)
Carolina Wren cPR
Bewick's Wren cPR
House Wren cm, r-cWR Sept-mid May
 †**Winter Wren** r-ucWR early Oct-early May
 †**Sedge Wren** r-ucm Sept-Apr
 †***Marsh Wren** r-ucm late Sept-early May (DN)
Golden-crowned Kinglet uc-cWR late Oct-early Apr
Ruby-crowned Kinglet cWR mid Sept-late May
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher cm mid Mar-early Oct
Eastern Bluebird cPR
 †***Mountain Bluebird** rWvi Nov-Feb (DJN)
 †***Gray-cheeked Thrush** i-rSm May (DJK)
 †***Veery** i-rSpm late Apr-mid May (DN)
Swainson's Thrush cm mid Apr-late May; mid Sept-late Oct
Hermit Thrush uc-cm WR mid Oct-mid Apr
American Robin c year 'round
Gray Catbird uc-cm late Apr-May; Sept-early Oct
Northern Mockingbird cPR
 †***Sage Thrasher** rWvi Nov-Mar (DHJ)
Brown Thrasher cm SR all months
Water Pipit cWR late Sept-early May
 †**Sprague's Pipit** r-ucWR late Nov-Mar
Cedar Waxwing c-am, WR early Oct-late May
Loggerhead Shrike cWR, locally uc-cSR all months
European Starling cPR
White-eyed Vireo c-ucm rSR late Mar-Oct
 †**Bell's Vireo** rSR early Apr-Sept
 †**Black-capped Vireo** i-rSR
Solitary Vireo uc-cm rWR mid Apr-mid May; mid Aug-early Nov
 †**Yellow-throated Vireo** uc-cm mid Apr-mid May; mid Aug-early Oct
Warbling Vireo uc-cm mid Apr-mid May; early Sept-early Oct
 †**Philadelphia Vireo** uc-rSpm early-mid May; mid Sept-early Oct
Red-eyed Vireo cm rSR mid Apr-mid Oct
 †***Blue-winged Warbler** rm late Mar-mid May; mid Aug-mid Oct (DH)
 †**Tennessee Warbler** uc-rm Apr-mid May; mid Sept-Oct
Orange-crowned Warbler cm ucWR Sept-mid May
Nashville Warbler cm late Mar-early May; Sept-mid Nov

†**Northern Parula** uc-rm late May-early Oct
Yellow Warbler cm late Mar-May; late Jul-early Oct
 †**Chestnut-sided Warbler** uc-rSpm late Apr-mid May; Sept
Magnolia Warbler c-ucSpm, rFm mid Apr-early Jun; late Aug-mid Oct
Yellow-rumped Warbler cm WR mid Oct-late Apr
Black-throated Green Warbler cm late Mar-May; mid Aug-Oct
 †**Blackburnian Warbler** uc-rm mid Apr-May; mid Aug-mid Oct
 †**Yellow-throated Warbler** uc-rSR late Mar-Aug
 †**Bay-breasted Warbler** uc-rm late Apr-mid May
Black and White Warbler cm mid Mar-mid Oct
 ***Prothonotary Warbler** c-uc SR locally, uc-rm elsewhere Apr-Sept (DN)
American Redstart cm late Apr-mid May; Sept
 †***Swainson's Warbler** im Apr (DHN)
Ovenbird c-ucm late Apr-mid May; early Sept-mid Oct
 †***Northern Waterthrush** uc-rm mid Apr-mid May; mid Aug-early Sept (DN)
 †**Louisiana Waterthrush** uc-rm late Mar-mid May; late Jul-mid Sept
Kentucky Warbler cm late Apr-mid May; Sept
Mourning Warbler cm late Apr-May; late Aug-early Oct
Common Yellow-throat cm Apr-mid May; Sept-mid Oct
 †***Hooded Warbler** rSpm mid Apr-mid May; Sept (DJN)
Wilson's Warbler cm late Apr-mid May; Sept-mid Oct
Canada Warbler c-ucSpm late Apr-May; Sept-mid Oct
Yellow-breasted Chat cm mid Apr-mid May; Sept
Summer Tanager cSR early Apr-Sept
 †**Scarlet Tanager** i-rSpm May
Northern Cardinal cPR
Rose-breasted Grosbeak uc-cm late Apr-mid May; late Sept-early Nov
 †**Black-headed Grosbeak** ivi
Blue Grosbeak cSR late Apr-early Oct
 †**Lazuli Bunting** rSpm May
Indigo Bunting cm, cSR locally early Apr-early Oct
Painted Bunting cSR late Apr-early Sept
Dickcissel cSR mid Apr-early Oct
 †***Green-tailed Towhee** rm Wvi early Oct-late May (DN)
Rufous-sided Towhee cWR mid Sept-mid May
 †**Cassin's Sparrow** m SR (?) mid Apr-mid Aug
 †***Rufous-crowned Sparrow** r-ucPR locally (HJ)
 †***American Tree Sparrow** i-rW late Nov-Mar (DKN)
Chipping Sparrow cm Oct-Nov; late Mar-mid May
Clay-colored Sparrow uc-cm mid Apr-mid May; late Sept-Oct
Field Sparrow cm WR mid Oct-early Apr
Vesper Sparrow cWR early Oct-early May
Lark Sparrow cSR mid Mar-late Oct
 †***Lark Bunting** sporadic c-rm iWvi late Sept-mid May (DJN)
Savannah Sparrow cm WR mid Sept-early May
Grasshopper Sparrow cSR mid Apr-mid Oct
LeConte's Sparrow c-rWR locally Nov-Feb
Fox Sparrow c-ucWR late Nov-early Mar
Song Sparrow cWR early Oct-early May
Lincoln's Sparrow cm, r-cWR late Sept-early May
 †**Swamp Sparrow** r-ucm W mid Oct-early Apr
White-throated Sparrow cWR mid Oct-early May
White-crowned Sparrow cm, cWR mid Oct-early May
Harris' Sparrow cWR late Nov-early May
Dark-eyed Junco cm WR mid Oct-Apr
McCown's Longspur r-cWR Nov-late Mar
Lapland Longspur cWR Nov-late Mar
 †**Smith's Longspur** i-rWR late Nov-Feb

Chestnut-collared Longspur c-rWR late Oct-mid Apr
 †**Bobolink** i-rm May
Red-winged Blackbird cSR aWR
Eastern Meadowlark aPR
Western Meadowlark cWR Oct-late Apr
Yellow-headed Blackbird cm mid Apr-mid May; mid Jul-early Oct
 †**Rusty Blackbird** r-ucWvi Nov-Mar
Brewer's Blackbird c-ucWvi mid Nov-Dec; Mar
Great-tailed Grackle cPR
Common Grackle uc-cSR cm WR
Brown-headed Cowbird cR
Orchard Oriole cSR mid Apr-early Sept
Baltimore Oriole cm uc-cSR late Apr-late May; mid Aug-early Oct
Purple Finch uc-cWR mid Nov-Apr
House Finch uc-cR locally most common Nov-Mar
 †**Red Crossbill** iWvi Nov
Pine Siskin uc-cWR late Oct-early May
American Goldfinch cWvi Nov-May
House Sparrow aR

Most of the information in this list comes from **THE BIRDS OF NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS** by Warren M. Pulich (Texas A&M University Press, 1988). For detailed information concerning the birds found on this list, consult this excellent book.

Birds in Ellis County Texas checklist typed by Carolyn Gritzmaker, PO Box 260, Maypearl TX 76064-0260 November 1995. Updated September 2010.

To document and report the sighting of one of the † or * birds on this list, or otherwise comment you may email me at c.gritzmaker@gmail.com for Forms and information.