

LAGUNA ATASCOSA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

website: flanwr.org/txlacbc/ email for images/rare bird forms: txlacbc@flanwr.org

CBC BIRD INFO

Mark Conway
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CBC ADMIN

Cathy Harrington
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REFUGE

Georgie Garcia
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Area teams must be pre-defined. Walkins the day of will not be possible.

(Refuge) You need to contact Georgie to do any Refuge scouting in advance.

(Refuge) FOR SCOUTING & CBC DAY: You must check-in (txt) with Georgie when you get into the field.

all packets MUST be turned in the day of the count.

COME FOR THE COUNTDOWN at Cactus Creek Ranch 5:00pm. 36763 General Brant Rd, Rio Hondo, TX 78583.

Cactus Creek Ranch is located 5.3 miles west of the intersection of Buena Vista Road & General Brant Road (Highway 106) It has 2 entrances, the one to the house will be open until dark. See the flyer on the website for all the details.

If you are unable to attend, there will be a drop box at the Refuge Visitor Center. Envelopes will be provided to stuff your packet into. Please label the outside of the envelope.

COUNT CHECKLIST

The tally sheet has been re-designed. It is intended to help find species by family. Please provide us any feedback!

RARE BIRD reports are required for those marked " * " and for those not present on the checklist

Rare bird reports need to be filled out **ON BOTH PAGE SIDES** at the time of sighting with detailed location, time & species. CBCs are encouraged to submit digital photos for documentation of unusual and rare birds. It really makes it easier to judge the validity of the observation. Please see rare bird form instructions on providing them to us.

ALL HUMMINGBIRDS NEED A RARE BIRD REPORT

MERLIN BIRD ID APP

This app has become popular with many birders possessing one. National Audubon has not posted guidelines, yet. We are not going to approve an unusual bird report if identification was based solely on the identification made by Merlin.

EFFORT DATA

The effort data is moved to a separate sheet. PLEASE review the guidelines, on the website, to accurately detail the information. This is the one area where data is inconsistently captured every year.

COVID CONSIDERATION:

BIRDER SPACING WILL BE GREATER THAN NORMAL FOR SAFETY. AUDUBON DOES NOT WANT YOU TO CONSIDER THE SPREADING OUT OF BIRDERS DUE TO COVID-19 AS ADDITIONAL PARTIES. EXAMPLE – 4 PEOPLE USED TO BIRD A PROPERTY AS ONE PARTY AND STAYED WITHIN VOCAL CONTACT. DUE TO COVID THEY SPLIT INTO 2 GROUPS OF 2. THIS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ONE PARTY AND THE MILEAGE AND TIME REPORTED SHOULD BE THE MAXIMUM FROM EITHER GROUP.

EBIRD LISTING SHARE your ebird lists with TXLA CBC

Laguna Atascosa Christmas Bird Count

Tips & Reminders

Be sure to fill out total miles & hours on your tally sheet. REVIEW GUIDELINES

Please get contact information for all of your team. Use the participant sheet in your packet.

Check your count! Have two people total birds

Please return all the count lists and effort sheets

ABOUT BIRDS

The Mangrove Yellow Warbler is no longer a Rare Bird!

All hummingbirds, except Buff-bellied must have a rare bird report.

Report "Rufous-type" Hummingbirds as Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sp.*) unless you definitely know which it is and prepare a rare bird form (and photos if possible). Identification can only be made in the hand in the case of non-adult males.

Report Ruby-throated and Black-chinned Hummingbirds as Ruby-throated/Black-chinned (*Archilochus sp.*) unless you are very confident in your ability to identify and prepare a rare bird form (and photos if possible).

Be sure to have good reason to designate a **Meadowlark** as either eastern or western (*call preferred*). If not, then use meadowlark sp.

The designation **Couch's/Tropical Kingbird** should be used unless you can identify by vocalization.

Check all blackbird flocks for **Yellow-headed or Brewer's Blackbird**. These will require a rare bird form.

Check all vulture groups for **Zone-tailed Hawks**. This will require a rare bird form

Don't be afraid to use **sparrow sp.** If you cannot identify a sparrow.

Use **dowitcher sp.** Unless you have a reason to id it as long-billed or short-billed.

Use **Accipiter sp.** Unless field marks are obvious on Cooper's or Sharp-shinned Hawks.

Wild **mallards** are very rare for deep South Texas. Almost 100% seen here are domestic.

Area # _____

Area/Group Leader _____

OFFICIAL LAGUNA ATASCOSA CBC TALLY SHEET Dec 26, 2023

ANY species NOT LISTED or * Require Rare Bird Documentation Form

SPECIES	TALLY	TOT	SPECIES	TALLY	TOT
GEESE, AND DUCKS			GREBES		
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck			Least Grebe		
Fulvous Whistling-Duck			Pied-billed Grebe		
Greater White-fronted Goose			Eared Grebe		
Snow Goose			<i>Grebe sp.</i>		
Snow Goose (blue form)			CORMORANTS		
Ross's Goose			Neotropic Cormorant		
Gadwall			Double-crested Cormorant		
American Wigeon			<i>Cormorant sp.</i>		
*Mallard			DARTERS		
Mottled Duck			Anhinga		
Blue-winged Teal			PELICANS		
Cinnamon Teal			American White Pelican		
Northern Shoveler			Brown Pelican		
Northern Pintail			BITTERNS AND HERONS		
Green-winged Teal			Great Blue Heron (Blue form)		
Canvasback			Great Blue Heron (White form)		
Redhead			Great Egret		
Ring-necked Duck			Snowy Egret		
*Greater Scaup			Little Blue Heron		
Lesser Scaup			Tricolored Heron		
*Surf Scoter			Reddish Egret		
Bufflehead			Cattle Egret		
Hooded Merganser			Green Heron		
Red-breasted Merganser			Black-crowned Night Heron		
Ruddy Duck			Yellow-crowned Night Heron		
<i>duck sp.</i>			<i>Night Heron sp.</i>		
GUANS			IBISES AND SPOONBILLS		
Plain Chachalaca			White Ibis		
QUAIL			White-faced Ibis		
Northern Bobwhite			Roseate Spoonbill		
GROUSE, AND TURKEYS			Page 1		
Wild Turkey					

Area # _____

Area/Group Leader _____

SPECIES	TALLY	TOT	SPECIES	TALLY	TOT
AMERICAN VULTURES			SANDPIPERS, PHALAROPES, AND ALLIES		
Black Vulture			Spotted Sandpiper		
Turkey Vulture			Solitary Sandpiper		
OSPREY			Greater Yellowlegs		
Osprey			Willet		
KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES, AND ALLIES			Lesser Yellowlegs		
White-tailed Kite			<i>Greater/Lesser Yellowlegs</i>		
Northern Harrier			Whimbrel		
Sharp-shinned Hawk			Long-billed Curlew		
Cooper's Hawk			Marbled Godwit		
<i>Accipiter sp.</i>			Ruddy Turnstone		
Harris's Hawk			Stilt Sandpiper		
Red-shouldered Hawk			Sanderling		
White-tailed Hawk			Dunlin		
Red-tailed Hawk			Least Sandpiper		
<i>Buteo sp.</i>			Western Sandpiper		
RAILS, GALLINULES, AND COOTS			<i>Sandpiper sp.</i>		
Clapper Rail			<i>peep sp.</i>		
*Virginia Rail			Short-billed Dowitcher		
Sora			Long-billed Dowitcher		
Common Gallinule			<i>Dowitcher sp.</i>		
American Coot			Wilson's Snipe		
CRANES			GULLS, TERNS AND SKIMMERS		
Sandhill Crane			Bonaparte's Gull		
STILTS AND AVOCETS			Laughing Gull		
Black-necked Stilt			Ring-billed Gull		
American Avocet			Herring Gull		
American Oystercatcher			<i>Gull sp.</i>		
PLOVERS			Gull-billed Tern		
Black-bellied Plover			Caspian Tern		
Snowy Plover			Forster's Tern		
*Wilson's Plover			Royal Tern		
Semipalmated Plover			Sandwich Tern		
*Piping Plover			<i>Tern sp.</i>		
Killdeer			Black Skimmer		

Area # _____			Area/Group Leader _____		
SPECIES	TALLY	TOT	SPECIES	TALLY	TOT
PIGEONS AND DOVES			CARACARAS AND FALCONS		
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)			Crested Caracara		
Eurasian Collared Dove			American Kestrel		
Inca Dove			Merlin		
Common Ground Dove			Aplomado Falcon		
White-tipped Dove			Peregrine Falcon		
White-winged Dove			TYRANT FLYCATCHERS		
Mourning Dove			*Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet		
CUCKOOS, ROADRUNNERS, AND ANIS			*Brown-crested Flycatcher		
Greater Roadrunner			*Black Phoebe		
Groove-billed Ani			Eastern Phoebe		
BARN OWLS			Vermilion Flycatcher		
Barn Owl			Great Kiskadee		
TYPICAL OWLS			Tropical Kingbird		
Eastern Screech-Owl			Couch's Kingbird		
Great Horned Owl			<i>Couch's/Tropical Kingbird</i>		
GOATSUCKERS			Scissor-tailed Flycatcher		
Common Pauraque			SHRIKES		
HUMMINGBIRDS			Loggerhead Shrike		
*Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird			VIREOS		
*Ruby-throated/Black-chinned			White-eyed Vireo		
Buff-bellied Hummingbird			Blue-headed Vireo		
Hummingbird sp.			JAYS, MAGPIES, AND CROWS		
KINGFISHERS			Green Jay		
Ringed Kingfisher			LARKS		
Belted Kingfisher			Horned Lark		
Green Kingfisher			SWALLOWS		
WOODPECKERS AND ALLIES			Tree Swallow		
Golden-fronted Woodpecker			Northern Rough-winged Swallow		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			Cave Swallow		
Ladder-backed Woodpecker			swallow sp.		

Area # _____			Area/Group Leader _____		
SPECIES	TALLY	TOT	SPECIES	TALLY	TOT
TITMICE AND CHICKADEES			WOOD-WARBLERS		
Black-crested Titmouse			Black-and-white Warbler		
VERDINS			Orange-crowned Warbler		
Verdin			Nashville Warbler		
WRENS			Common Yellowthroat		
House Wren			Yellow Warbler		
Sedge Wren			Yellow Warbler (Mangrove)		
Marsh Wren			Yellow-rumped Warbler		
Carolina Wren			Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)		
Bewick's Wren			*Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)		
Cactus Wren			Yellow-throated Warbler		
GNATCATCHERS			Wilson's Warbler		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			<i>warbler sp.</i>		
KINGLETS			NEW WORLD SPARROWS AND ALLIES		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			Cassin's Sparrow		
SOLITAIRES, THRUSHES, AND ALLIES			Grasshopper Sparrow		
Hermit Thrush			Seaside Sparrow		
American Robin			Olive Sparrow		
MOCKINGBIRDS, THRASHERS, AND ALLIES			Chipping Sparrow		
Gray Catbird			Field Sparrow		
Curve-billed Thrasher			Lark Sparrow		
Long-billed Thrasher			Vesper Sparrow		
Northern Mockingbird			Savannah Sparrow		
STARLINGS			Lincoln's Sparrow		
European Starling			Swamp Sparrow		
PIPITS			<i>sparrow sp.</i>		
American Pipit			CARDINALS, NEW WORLD GROSBEAKS AND BUNTINGS		
Sprague's Pipit			Northern Cardinal		
			Pyrrhuloxia		
			Indigo Bunting		
			<i>Passerina sp.</i>		

Area # _____

Area/Group Leader _____

OFFICIAL LAGUNA ATASCOSA CBC TALLY SHEET Dec 26, 2023

ANY species NOT LISTED or * Require Rare Bird Documentation Form

SPECIES	TALLY	TOT	SPECIES	TALLY	TOT
BLACKBIRDS, MEADOWLARKS, AND ORIOLES			RARE BIRD LIST		
Red-winged Blackbird					
Western Meadowlark					
Eastern Meadowlark					
<i>Western/Eastern Meadowlark</i>					
*Yellow-headed Blackbird					
Great-tailed Grackle					
Bronzed Cowbird					
Brown-headed Cowbird					
<i>blackbird sp.</i>					
Hooded Oriole					
Altamira Oriole					
FINCHES					
American Goldfinch					
<i>Finch sp.</i>					
OLD WORLD SPARROWS					
House Sparrow					

Please fillout a detailed rare bird Report as soon as identified & include pictures if possible. If documentation is not supplied it cannot be submitted.

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Area _____ Area Leader _____ Party Leader _____

Laguna Atascosa CBC Effort Report Dec 26, 2023

Owling Total # of Observers _____

Start Time	End Time	Total Time		Distance
____:____	____:____	_____ hrs	_____ mins	_____ miles

Feeder Watching Total # of Observers _____

Start Time	End Time	Total Time	
____:____	____:____	_____ hrs	_____ mins

Daytime Birding Total # of Observers _____

Minimum # of Parties During the Day _____ Maximum # of Parties During the Day _____
 (Complete the section below for each separate group/subgroup that was out in the field)

Party A - # of Observers _____

Start Time	End Time	Total Time		Total Distance
____:____	____:____	_____ hrs	_____ mins	_____ miles
		By Foot	_____ hrs	_____ mins
		By Vehicle	_____ hrs	_____ mins
		By Other (specify)	_____ hrs	_____ mins
		Breaks	_____ hrs	_____ mins

Party B - # of Observers _____

Start Time	End Time	Total Time		Total Distance
____:____	____:____	_____ hrs	_____ mins	_____ miles
		By Foot	_____ hrs	_____ mins
		By Vehicle	_____ hrs	_____ mins
		By Other (specify)	_____ hrs	_____ mins
		Breaks	_____ hrs	_____ mins

NOTES:

Please round all hours to the nearest quarter-hour, and all distances to the nearest quarter-mile.

Observers in the field during daylight are counted separately from nocturnal birders and those observing at feeders.

When reporting the minimum and maximum number of groups, include only parties in the field during daylight hours.

Minimum/Maximum Number of Groups: To determine the number of daylight parties, use the number of parties that you began the day with as your basic number. If groups further split up during the day, the maximum number in the field at any given time of the day should be reported, and the basic number becomes the minimum.

Example: Count Frozentoos, Alaska starts the day with 3 groups. Later, two of these split into two groups each. Record this as Minimum Number of Groups (daylight) = 3 and Maximum Number of Groups (daylight) = 5. Frozentoos, AK also had a group of counters out owling from 4:45 a.m. to 6 a.m., but this group is not included in the Minimum/Maximum Number of Groups.

Party hours and distance (By Foot, By Car, and By Other Transportation) are reported excluding feeder hours and nocturnal birding hours and distance.

Do not count miles backtracked. You can bird/count retraceable routes, but ONLY species/count not seen. Time is still ticking, but distance is NOT.

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PLEASE MAKE SURE EVERYONE ON YOUR TEAM RECORDS THEIR INFORMATION ON THIS FORM!!!

Volunteer Service Agreement—Natural & Cultural Resources

Volunteer Sign-up Form for Groups

All volunteers that participate with an organized group on an episodic volunteer project on a unit of a public lands agency must be signed up on this form. By signing this form you agree to the terms of the project as defined in the attached Volunteer Service Agreement and affirmed by the organization and federal agency represents. Volunteers under age 18 must complete a Volunteer Service Agreement—Natural & Cultural Resources and must be signed by the parent or guardian. Please indicate your willingness (yes) or unwillingness (no) for the Agency to use your photographic, video or audio images in performance of volunteer duties.

Burden Statement: According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0596-0080. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 1.9 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

Project Title: Laguna Atascosa Christmas Bird Count December 26, 2023						
Group Name:			Agency: Laguna Atascosa NWR			
Group Contact Name (First, Last): Cathy Harrington		Telephone: 512.410.1360	Agency Contact Name (First, Last): Georgie Garcia		Telephone: 956.244.2019	
		Email: MarkHConway@hotmail.com			Email: george_garcia@fws.gov	
#	Volunteer Name (First, Last)	Signature	Telephone Number	Email Address	Photo Release	
					Yes	No