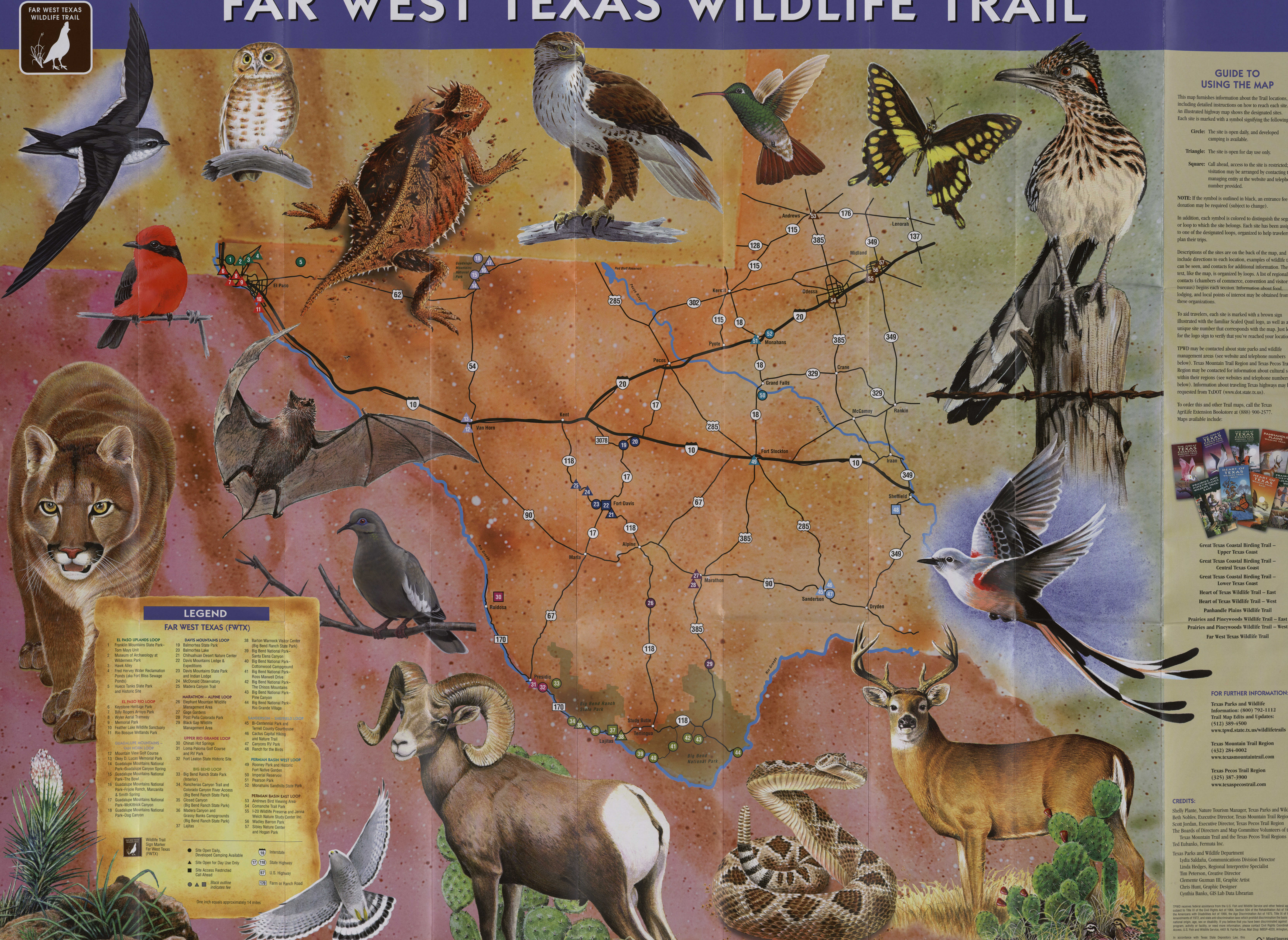


FAR WEST TEXAS WILDLIFE TRAIL

FAR WEST TEXAS WILDLIFE TRAIL



GUIDE TO USING THE MAP

This map furnishes information about the Trail locations, including detailed instructions on how to reach each site. An illustrated highway map shows the designated sites. Each site is marked with a symbol signifying the following:

Circle: The site is open daily, and developed camping is available.

Triangle: The site is open for day use only.

Square: Call ahead, access to the site is restricted; visitation may be arranged by contacting the managing entity at the website and telephone number provided.

NOTE: If the symbol is outlined in black, an entrance fee or donation may be required (subject to change).

In addition, each symbol is colored to distinguish the segment or loop to which the site belongs. Each site has been assigned to one of the designated loops, organized to help travelers plan their trips.

Descriptions of the sites are on the back of the map, and include directions to each location, examples of wildlife that can be seen, and contacts for additional information. The text, like the map, is organized by loops. A list of regional contacts (chambers of commerce, convention and visitors bureaus) begins each section. Information about food, lodging, and local points of interest may be obtained from these organizations.

To aid travelers, each site is marked with a brown sign illustrated with the familiar Scaled Quail logo, as well as a unique site number that corresponds with the map. Just look for the logo sign to verify that you've reached your location.

TPWD may be contacted about state parks and wildlife management areas (see website and telephone numbers below). Texas Mountain Trail Region and Texas Pecos Trail Region may be contacted for information about cultural sites within their regions (see websites and telephone numbers below). Information about traveling Texas highways may be requested from TxDOT (www.dot.state.tx.us).

To order this and other Trail maps, call the Texas Agrilife Extension Bookstore at (888) 900-2577. Maps available include:



- Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail – Upper Texas Coast
- Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail – Central Texas Coast
- Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail – Lower Texas Coast
- Heart of Texas Wildlife Trail – East
- Heart of Texas Wildlife Trail – West
- Panhandle Plains Wildlife Trail
- Prairies and Pinyons Wildlife Trail – East
- Prairies and Pinyons Wildlife Trail – West
- Far West Texas Wildlife Trail

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Information: (800) 792-1112
 Trail Map Edits and Updates: (512) 389-4500
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/wildlifetrails

Texas Mountain Trail Region (432) 284-0002
www.texasmountaintrail.com

Texas Pecos Trail Region (325) 387-3900
www.texaspecostrail.com

CREDITS:

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LEGEND

FAR WEST TEXAS (FWTX)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| EL PASO UPLANDS LOOP
1 Franklin Mountains State Park-Tom Mays Unit
2 Museum of Archaeology at Wilderness Park
3 Hawk Alley
4 Fred Hervey Water Reclamation Ponds (aka Fort Bliss Sewage Ponds)
5 Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site

EL PASO RIO LOOP
6 KeyStone Heritage Park
7 Billy Rogers Arroyo Park
8 Wylie Aerial Tramway
9 Memorial Park
10 Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary
11 Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS - VARE HORSE LOOP
12 Mountain View Golf Course
13 Okey D. Lucas Memorial Park
14 Guadalupe Mountains National Park-Guadalupe Canyon Spring
15 Guadalupe Mountains National Park-Friddle Ranch, Matzarita & Smith Spring
16 Guadalupe Mountains National Park-McKittrick Canyon
17 Guadalupe Mountains National Park-Dog Canyon
18 | DAVIS MOUNTAINS LOOP
19 Balmorhea State Park
20 Balmorhea Lake
21 Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center
22 Davis Mountains Lodge & Expeditions
23 Davis Mountains State Park and Indian Lodge
24 McDonald Observatory
25 Madera Canyon Trail
26 | MARATHON - ALPINE LOOP
27 Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area
28 Post Pera Colorado Park
29 Black Gap Wildlife Management Area
30 Chisnolt Hot Springs
31 Loma Paloma Golf Course and RV Park
32 Fort Leaton State Historic Site

UPPER RIO GRANDE LOOP
33 Chisnolt Hot Springs
34 Loma Paloma Golf Course and RV Park
35 Fort Leaton State Historic Site

BIG BEND LOOP
36 Big Bend Ranch State Park (Interior)
37 Rancharies Canyon Trail and Colorado Canyon River Access (Big Bend Ranch State Park)
38 Closed Canyon
39 Big Bend Ranch State Park
40 Madera Canyon and Grassy Banks Campgrounds (Big Bend Ranch State Park)
41 Lajitas
42 | PERMIAN BASIN WEST LOOP
43 Barton Warnock Visitor Center (Big Bend Ranch State Park)
44 Big Bend National Park-Santa Elena Canyon
45 Cottonwood Campground
46 Big Bend National Park-Ross Maxwell Drive
47 Big Bend National Park-The Chisos Mountains
48 Big Bend National Park-Pine Canyon
49 Big Bend National Park-Rio Grande Village

PERMIAN BASIN EAST LOOP
50 Andrews Bird Viewing Area
51 Comanche Trail Park
52 1-20 Wildlife Preserve and Welch Nature Study Center Inc.
53 Wadley Barron Park
54 Sibley Nature Center and Hogan Park
55 |
|---|--|--|--|

- Site Open Daily, Developed Camping Available
- ▲ Site Open for Day Use Only
- Site Access Restricted Call Ahead
- Black outline indicates fee
- 10 Interstate
- 17 118 State Highway
- 67 U.S. Highway
- 170 Farm or Ranch Road

One inch equals approximately 14 miles

EL PASO UPLANDS LOOP

● **FWTX 8 WYLER AERIAL TRAMWAY**
Take US 54 north from I-10 and exit Fred Wilson Blvd.; turn left on Fred Wilson Blvd., which turns into Alabama St., follow Alabama to McKinley Ave. and turn left. McKinley ends at the park.

Wyler Aerial Tramway is situated on the east slope of the Franklin Mountains. The surrounding vegetation is primarily desert scrub with a wide variety of cacti and abundant lechuguilla. The bird populations are dominated by desert species such as Pyrrhuloxia, Black-throated Sparrow, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, and Curve-billed Thrasher. The tram platform provides an excellent vantage point to observe raptors.

Entrance is located 3.5 miles east of I-10 (or 7.5 miles west of US 54) on Transmountain Rd.
● **FWTX 1 FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS STATE PARK—TOM MAYS UNIT**
Entrance is located 3.5 miles east of I-10 (or 7.5 miles west of US 54) on Transmountain Rd.

At the Tom Mays Unit of Franklin Mountains State Park, visitors watch Scalded Quail, Mourning Dove and White-winged Dove coming back and forth for water and food at the Wildlife Viewing Area. Great-throated Canyon Towhee, Black-throated Sparrow and Lesser Goldfinch frequent the area throughout the year. The canyons above are home to diverse spring and summer Black-chinned Hummingbirds that are arriving around the park, with Rufous, Broad-tailed and occasionally Calliope hummingbird in later summer. Golden Eagle (primarily in the winter), Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson's Hawk (summer), Northern Harrier (winter), American Kestrel, and other raptors can be observed soaring in the air or perched on top of sots and yucca stalks.

915-566-6411 www.texasstateparks.org
GPS: 31° 54' 28.43" N, 106° 31' 20.12" W

▲ **FWTX 2 MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AT WILDERNESS PARK**
From I-10 in El Paso, take exit 23 onto US 54. Follow US 54 north 8.3 miles to Loop 375/Transmountain Rd. Turn left (west) onto loop 375 and the museum will be immediately on the right (north).

Enter an interpretive nature trail leads visitors through native vegetation, augmented by the presence of water in the gardens. Look and listen for Cactus, Canyon and Bewick's Wren, Gambel's and Scalded Quail, and Black-throated Sparrow. Depending on the season, Verdin, migratory sparrows and Horned Lark may be present. Flowering vegetation attracts Black-chinned Hummingbird in summer, and additional hummingbird species fall from the sky. Great Thrasher, Red-tailed Hawk, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Pine Siskin, and American Goldfinch.

915-755-4332 www.ci-el-paso.tx.us/arch_museum
GPS: 31° 54' 18.61" N, 106° 27' 57.19" W

▲ **FWTX 3 HAWK AVIARY**
From I-10 in El Paso, take exit 28 onto US 54. Follow US 54 north—8.3 miles to Exit 4 on Loop 375/Transmountain Rd. Turn right and go east for 1.9 turn left (north) onto McCormick St./R 2539 and follow it 6 miles to Sam Roberts Sr. Park. This route constitutes "Hawk Alley."

Along this north-south route, watch the power lines for a diverse array of hawks and falcons. Specifically, Hawk Alley provides a great vantage point to observe nesting Chihuahuan Raven, Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk and Harris's Hawk; the nests are either exposed in the supports of transmission lines or on the nearby shrubby trees. The route is also a very good place to observe other raptors such as Golden Eagle (usually adults and birds-of-the-year), Burrowing Owl, American Kestrel, and Accipiter species.

915-531-5361 N, 106° 24' 30.52" W

● **FWTX 4 FRED HERVEY WATER RECLAMATION PONDS (AKA FORT BLISS WETLAND PONDS)**
Go north on US 54 to exit 9 at Loop 375 (Transmountain Rd). Turn right and go east for about 3 miles. Turn left onto Railroad Dr. and proceed for about 3.5 miles to the plant entrance. As the main road curves left towards a building complex, stay straight ahead on the dirt road toward a grove of trees and series of ponds. Only the southernmost pond is a wetland habitat. The other ponds have reverted back to a desert habitat.

Check out the cottonwoods and willows for migrants, particularly during spring and fall migration when flycatchers, vireos, warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks, buntings and orioles feed in the trees. Look for raptors wherever. Typically there are several species of swallows present, except during winter. Once you access the ponds, you will find open prairie, shoreline, mud flats, and marsh-type vegetation. Usually present are gray-crowned woodpecker, mallards, grebes, waterfowl, rails, ducks, at times, gulls and terns. The dry ponds are frequented by desert birds such as dove, quail, Greater Roadrunner, Burrowing Owls and raptors.

915-516-3653 N, 106° 20' 39.48" W

● **FWTX 5 HUECO TANKS STATE PARK AND HISTORIC SITE**
From US 62/180, turn north onto RR 2775 and travel for approximately 5.5 miles. Continue through the park gate to the headquarters building. The park is 32 miles northeast of El Paso.

Year-round residents include Gambel's and Scalded Quail, Say's Phoebe, four species of vireos, Curve-billed and Crissal Thrashers, Canyon Towhee, and White-throated Spout. The highest diversity occurs during migration, look for raptors, flycatchers, vireos, thrushes, warblers, tanagers, sparrows, grosbeaks, and orioles. Several rare birds have managed to find the park including Olive Warbler, Golden-crowned Sparrow, and Lawrence's Goldfinch. Normal winter populations can be enhanced by the appearance of northern bluebirds. Look for woodpeckers, thrushes (Western and Mountain Bluebirds, and Townsend's Solitaire), jays, chickadees and nuthatches during invasion years. Reservations are highly recommended for self-guided access and required for guided access.

915-857-1135 www.texasstateparks.org
GPS: 31° 55' 2.27" N, 106° 2' 37.98" W

EL PASO RIO LOOP

El Paso Convention and Visitors Bureau 800-351-6024
www.visitelpaso.com

▲ **FWTX 6 KEYSTONE HERITAGE PARK**
From I-10 in El Paso, take exit 13 to Sunland Park Dr. Turn left (west) on Sunland Park Dr. and go 5 miles. Turn right on Doniphan Dr. and proceed 8 miles to the Keystone Heritage Park on the right.

Over 200 avian species have been recorded at this archeological site and area. The extensive mud flats attract shorebirds that flock to the area in abundance each spring and fall. In the winter months, thousands of Red-winged Blackbirds and lesser numbers of Yellow-headed Blackbirds rook in the extensive reed beds. Watch for "Mexican" Mallard as well. Just across Doniphan Dr. the wooded neighborhood supports nesting Mississippi Kite. The predominantly xeric landscape supports desert Roadrunner and Gambel's Quail.

915-584-0563 www.keystoneheritagepark.org
GPS: 31° 49' 12.47" N, 106° 33' 47.20" W

EL PASO RIO LOOP

El Paso Convention and Visitors Bureau 800-351-6024
www.visitelpaso.com

▲ **FWTX 7 BILLY ROGERS ARROYO PARK**
From I-10 in El Paso, Exit 19A onto North Mesa St. Turn right and follow North Mesa St. 1 mile to E. Robinson St. Turn right and go 3 miles to the park on the right. The park can be accessed through the El Paso Tennis Club.

In El Paso, you will find this city park provides good birding opportunities. This site is typically best for birding during migration; however, some of the most exciting birding can occur during winter when; jays, woodpeckers, titmouse, chickadees, nuthatches, and finches provide irruptive excursions southward. Migrants expected at this site include flycatchers, vireos, warblers, tanagers and grosbeaks. Otherwise, typical winter birds include, but are not limited to, Red-tailed Hawk, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Pine Siskin, and American Goldfinch.

915-828-3251 www.nps.gov/gumo
GPS: 31° 53' 47.68" N, 104° 49' 39.62" W

▲ **FWTX 14 GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK—GUADALUPE CANYON SPRING**
The trailhead to Guadalupe Canyon Spring is located off US 62/180. The driving distance is 110 miles east of El Paso, or 56 miles southwest of Carlsbad, New Mexico. When arriving in Guadalupe Mountains National Park on US 62/180, turn towards the Headquarters Visitor Center and park at the Tejas Trail/Guadalupe Peak trailhead.

The trail climbs for 1 mile before intersecting the El Capitan trail. Continue east on the El Capitan Trail towards the visitor center for 3 miles. Then hike off trail down a dry arroyo to the spring. Wildlife and bird species near the spring include deer, javelina, Canyon Towhee, Cedar Waxwing, and Verdin. For more information on this site, visit the visitor center at Pine Spings.

915-828-3251 www.nps.gov/gumo
GPS: 31° 51' 15.09" N, 104° 50' 39.68" W

▲ **FWTX 15 GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK—THE BOWL**
The trailhead to The Bowl is located off of US 62/180. The driving distance is 110 miles east of El Paso, or 56 miles southwest of Carlsbad, New Mexico. When arriving in Guadalupe Mountains National Park on US 62/180, turn towards the Headquarters Visitor Center and park at the Tejas Trail/Guadalupe Peak trailhead.

The Bowl is approximately 5 miles from the Tejas trailhead. In order to hike to The Bowl, begin hiking up the Tejas Trail to Pine Top. From Pine top hike the Bowl Trail to reach an open area called The Bowl. The Bowl is a plateau surrounded by a coniferous forest of pine and Douglas fir trees. Those willing to make this strenuous hike will be rewarded by the opportunity to view montane species not usually found elsewhere in the area.

915-828-3251 www.nps.gov/gumo
GPS: 31° 53' 47.68" N, 104° 49' 39.62" W

FWTX 16 GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK—FRIOLE RANCH, MANZANITA & SMITH SPRING

This wildlife viewing areas are located off of US 62/180. The driving distance is 110 miles east of El Paso, or 56 miles southwest of Carlsbad, New Mexico. When arriving in Guadalupe Mountains National Park on US 62/180, turn on Frijole Ranch Rd. to Frijole Ranch. From Frijole Ranch visitors can walk 2 miles to Manzanita Spring and 9 miles to Smith Spring.

These areas are reliable places to see bird activity. Bird species that are frequently seen here include Western Scrub Jay, Western Bluebird (winter), Mountain Bluebird (winter), Townsend's Solitaire, Spotted Towhee, and Sage Thrasher. Frijole Ranch and Manzanita Spring are handicapped accessible and Smith Spring can be reached by hiking a short distance from Frijole Ranch.

915-828-3251 www.nps.gov/gumo
GPS: 31° 48' 34.23" N, 106° 28' 41.78" W

FWTX 9 MEMORIAL PARK

From I-10 in El Paso, take Copia north to Memorial Park.

In El Paso, you will find this city park provides good birding opportunities. This site is typically best for birding during migration; however, some of the most exciting birding can occur during winter when; jays, woodpeckers, titmouse, chickadees, nuthatches, and finches provide irruptive excursions southward. Migrants expected at this site include flycatchers, vireos, warblers, tanagers and grosbeaks. Otherwise, typical winter birds include, but are not limited to, Red-tailed Hawk, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Pine Siskin, and American Goldfinch.

915-566-6411 www.texasstateparks.org
GPS: 31° 47' 18.65" N, 106° 27' 23.12" W

▲ **FWTX 10 FEATHER LAKE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**
From I-10, take exit 34 (Americas Ave.) and go south on Americas Ave. 1.2 miles to North Loop Dr. Turn right onto North Loop Dr. and go 4 miles to the stoplight at Bordeaux St. The Feather Lake entrance is on your left. A 1-mile-long trail encircles the lake. Open weekends; can be closed when lake is dry. Check website for status.

Some 219 bird species have been observed at Feather Lake. Resident wildlife birds include Pied-billed Grebe, "Mexican" Mallard, Common Moorhen, and American Coot. However, it is most dynamic in migration and in winter. In migration, herons, egrets and thousands of White-faced Ibis find the location a great spot for roosting and feeding. Water levels vary, but in winter the site is typically good for a variety of waterfowl, especially large numbers of dabbling ducks.

915-566-6411 www.texasstateparks.org
GPS: 31° 41' 28.62" N, 106° 18' 17.97" W

▲ **FWTX 11 RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK**
From I-10, take exit 34 onto Loop 375 south. Go 2.2 miles to the Pan American Dr. exit. Turn left on Pan American and go 1.5 miles and cross the bridge that spans the Riverside Canal immediately before the water treatment plants. Immediately turn left onto the levee road.

Go 7 miles to the Tornillo Trailhead at the northeast corner of the park. There are two more parking areas farther down the canal (3 and 8 miles).

Some 229 bird species have been seen at Rio Bosque, a reliable place to find resident species such as the Gambel's Quail, Harris's Hawk, Burrowing Owl, Verdin, Kingfisher and Crissal Thrasher. Summer resident nesting species include Bell's Vireo, Yellow-throated Chat, Blue Grosbeak and Painted Bunting. In late fall and early winter, approximately 100 acres of the site are flooded, and up to 5,000 ducks can be present. Raptors are also abundant in winter.

915-566-6411 www.riobosque.org
GPS: 31° 38' 53.94" N, 106° 18' 40.39" W

GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS — VAN HORN LOOP

Van Horn Chamber of Commerce 432-283-2043
www.vanhornchamber.com

Van Horn Convention and Visitors Bureau 866-424-6939
www.vanhorn-texas.org

Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce (New Mexico) 575-887-6516
www.carlsbadchamber.com

▲ **FWTX 12 MOUNTAIN VIEW GOLF COURSE**
From I-10 take exit 158 to frontage road. At stop sign between Chevron station and McDonald's, turn right (south) and follow road to golf course. Check in at clubhouse.

Because of the presence of water and the proximity to open desert, the golf course is visited by many birds including raptors, quail, etc.

915-857-1135 www.texasstateparks.org
GPS: 31° 2' 16.65" N, 104° 51' 22.32" W

▲ **FWTX 13 OKEY D. LUCAS MEMORIAL PARK**
The Town of Van Horn is located at the crossroads of I-10, US 90, and US 54. Van Horn has one main street. The Okey D. Lucas Park is located near the west end at 1804 W. Broadway just across the street from City Hall and the Convention Center/Visitor's Bureau.

The Okey D. Lucas Park is a quiet, small, and open park with trees and shrubs, with a dramatic background of Turlebeak and Six Mile Mountains. The city has a drip water system that attracts the birds despite the dry area. There are picnic tables and restrooms available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. at the Visitor's Bureau.

915-857-1135 www.texasstateparks.org
GPS: 31° 55' 2.27" N, 106° 2' 37.98" W

FWTX 20 BALMORHEA LAKE

Balmorhea Lake is a 500-acre reservoir built in 1917 to capture water from San Solomon Springs (Balmorhea State Park). The lake attracts large numbers of waterfowl including Ross's Goose, American White Pelican, herons, and gulls. This is one of the few locations in the Trans-Pecos to observe shorebirds, although it takes some effort to carefully comb the shoreline.

915-857-1135 www.texasstateparks.org
GPS: 30° 58' 07.74" N, 103° 42' 46.45" W

▲ **FWTX 21 CHIHUAHUAN DESERT NATURE CENTER**
Located 4 miles south of Fort Davis on Hwy 118. The center is one mile from the highway.

The center sits on 507 acres in the foothills of the Davis Mountains. The botanical gardens, a protected canyon with perennial springs, grasslands with mixed desert scrub, and seasonal tanks provide several habitat zones for birds and bird watching. Hummingbird feeders are maintained around the center and primarily attract Black-chinned, but Rufous, Broad-tailed and maybe the occasional Calliope can be seen in the fall. The center offers many nature programs to the public and maintains hiking trails on the center's property.

915-828-3251 www.cdri.org
GPS: 30° 33' 24.09" N, 103° 51' 59.20" W

▲ **FWTX 22 DAVIS MOUNTAINS LAKE & EXPEDITIONS**
From intersection of Hwy 17 and Hwy 118, near the Jeff Davis County Courthouse, take Hwy 118 south for 8 miles to the entrance on the left.

Davis Mountains Lake & Expeditions organizes and leads outdoor education programs, including regional birding tours. The 10-acre education program, including regional birding tours. The 10-acre education program, including regional birding tours. The 10-acre education program, including regional birding tours.

915-828-3251 www.cdri.org
GPS: 30° 33' 24.09" N, 103° 51' 59.20" W

▲ **FWTX 23 DAVIS MOUNTAINS STATE PARK AND INDIAN LODGE**
From Fort Davis, proceed north on Hwy 118 for 4.1 miles and turn left onto Park Road 3.

A total of 365 bird species are known to occur within Jeff Davis County and Davis Mountains State Park provides a convenient location to see many of them, particularly during spring and fall migration periods. Commonly seen birds include Montezuma Quail, Acorn Woodpecker, Cactus Wren, Phainopepla, Pyrrhuloxia, Canyon Towhee, Black-crowned Titmouse and Curve-billed Thrasher. Davis Mountains State Park has been identified as being significant for world bird conservation and officially designated a globally important bird area by the American Bird Conservancy. The park offers 20 miles of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails and special interpretive programs. Nestled within park boundaries, rewarded by the opportunity to view montane species not usually found elsewhere in the area.

915-828-3251 www.nps.gov/gumo
GPS: 30° 35' 58.03" N, 103° 55' 45.14" W

FWTX 24 MCDONALD OBSERVATORY

Visitors traveling east on I-10 from El Paso may take Hwy 118 south at Kent for the 30-mile scenic drive to the observatory. Visitors traveling west on I-10 may take Hwy 17 south at Balmorhea to Fort Davis, then Hwy 118 north 16 miles to Mt. Locke.

Birding and wildlife viewing is limited to daylight hours and along public roads on observatory property. Species commonly seen at elevation in the Davis Mountains can be observed on the observatory grounds, including the Montezuma Quail. The Visitor's Center Café has furnished tables for easy viewing by visitors. Birding and wildlife viewing is free; fees charged for astronomy programs.

432-426-3263 <http://mcdonaldobservatory.org>
GPS: 30° 40' 17.36" N, 104° 1' 22.41" W

FWTX 25 MADERA CANYON TRAIL

Proceed northwest from Ft. Davis on Hwy 118 for approximately 24 miles to the Lawrence E. Wood picnic area adjacent to the highway on the left (about 10 miles past the McDonald Observatory). The 2.5-mile trail is a loop that begins and ends at the picnic area's east side and is marked by a sign and wooden split-rail fence.

Hikers will walk through stands of stately ponderosa pines, piñon-juniper woodlands and grassy meadows. Wildlife that may be present, particularly at dawn or dusk, includes gray fox, ringtail, Western Scrub Jay, Acorn Woodpecker, Montezuma Quail, Golden Eagle, Davis Mountains cottontail, javelina, white-tailed and mule deer, mountain short-horned lizard and, rarely, mountain lion. At dawn, visitors may listen for the lugzing of elk in the forest or the howls of coyotes any time of year. The Williamson's Sapsucker has been sighted along the trail in winter.

915-828-3251 www.nps.gov/gumo
GPS: 31° 58' 37.90" N, 104° 45' 7.26" W

▲ **FWTX 17 GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK—MCKITTRICK CANYON**
McKittrick Canyon is located of US 62/180. The driving distance is 110 miles east of El Paso, or 56 miles southwest of Carlsbad, New Mexico. When arriving in Guadalupe Mountains National Park on US 62/180, turn on McKittrick Canyon Rd. and continue for 4 miles to McKittrick Canyon Visitor Center and trailhead. McKittrick Canyon is a day-use area.

McKittrick Canyon trail follows a perennial stream in McKittrick Canyon for approximately 3.5 miles. Expect typical Chihuahuan Desert species along the beginning of the trail including year-round residents such as Canyon Wren, Bewick's Wren, Greater Roadrunner, Bushbird, and White-winged Dove. Further up canyon the trail enters riparian woodland with big-toothed maple, oak, Texas madrone, and ponderosa pine. In late spring expect to see Western and Hepatic Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Grace's Warblers, Plumbeous Vireos, and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds.

915-828-3251 www.nps.gov/gumo
GPS: 31° 58' 37.90" N, 104° 45' 7.26" W

▲ **FWTX 18 GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK—DOG CANYON**
Visitors traveling to Dog Canyon can access the area via New Mexico State Road 137. Visitors must turn southwest on New Mexico State Road 137 after driving approximately 11 miles north of Carlsbad, New Mexico on US 285.

Dog Canyon is at the north side of the park at an elevation of 6,300 feet. This is a rarely visited area in the Guadalupe Mountains that offers opportunities to see deer, javelina, Acorn Woodpeckers and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds. This area also provides access to the park's high country forests.

915-828-3251 www.nps.gov/gumo
GPS: 31° 58' 37.90" N, 104° 45' 7.26" W

▲ **FWTX 26 ELEANOR MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**
Travel 26 miles south of Alpine on Hwy 118. Turn left (east) at entrance and travel 25 miles to Registration Station. Headquarters is another 25 miles down the road.

An abundance of songbirds inhabit the five different habitat types on Eleanor Mountain. The site's bird checklist comprises over 170 species, including the elusive Montezuma Quail. The majority of these birds have been observed during spring, summer and fall. A variety of raptors, such as Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Harrier, Zone-tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle, Harris's Hawk, Prairie Falcon, and American Kestrel can also be observed. Special permit required (must be obtained in advance); waived for driving only tours.

915-981-2418 www.nps.gov/gumo
GPS: 31° 59' 40.19" N, 104° 50' 0.55" W

DAVIS MOUNTAINS LOOP

The Pecos Area Chamber of Commerce 432-445-2406
www.pecostx.com

Fort Davis Chamber of Commerce 800-524-3015
www.fortdavis.com

▲ **FWTX 27 GAGE GARDENS**
Turn south on Ave. D from Hwy 90. Turn east on First St. The Gage Gardens is 3 blocks down on the south side.

The Gage Gardens is a 26-acre park with plants and trees that capture the colors of the high country Chihuahuan Desert. It offers a quarter-mile walking path, lined with recycled crushed glass, a pond, and an organic garden that includes produce for the Gage Food's restaurant. The gardens have plants and trees native to the area that flourish year-round, including majestic great white yuccas, ocotillo, snail, piñons, desert willows and native grasses; and it is a welcoming habitat for migrating birds and butterflies.

915-403-3484 www.gagehotel.com
GPS: 30° 12' 16.95" N, 103° 14' 35.49" W

▲ **FWTX 28 POST PEÑA COLORADO PARK**
In Marathon, turn south from Hwy 90 onto Ave. D, which becomes Post Rd. on the outskirts of town. Continue south for about 5 miles to the county city park. Note: this small county park is surrounded by private land; trespassing on private land is not allowed.

Near the park entrance, stop along the road's edge to check for waterfowl, rails, plovers, Marsh Wren and Common Yellowthroat. In summer, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Red Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Cassin's Kingbird, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak and Lark Sparrow should be active. The rare Tropical Kingbird has nested at the site previously. In winter, the site is good for sapsuckers, Brown Creeper, Black-throated Sparrows, Scalded Quail, Roadrunner and Wild Turkey are found year-round. The large trees provide suitable stopover habitat for a diverse array of migrants.

915-375-2370 www.texasstateparks.org
GPS: 30° 56' 43.43" N, 103° 47' 12.13" W

● **FWTX 29 BLACK GAP WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**
From Marathon, take Hwy 385 south for 39 miles to FM 2627. Turn FM 2627 south for about 18 miles to the headquarters entrance. Follow entrance road for 9 miles to area registration building.

Black Gap features a variety of songbirds, quail and raptors. The main road to the river along Maravillas Canyon is great for general birding. Golden Eagles frequent the area during late winter through mid-summer. On occasion Peregrine Falcons can be seen along Maravillas and Horse Canyons and the cliffs overlooking the Rio Grande. Bristle-throated Loon (open September 1 - February 28) offers a diverse population of seasonal songbirds. Special permit required (must be obtained in advance).

432-837-3251 www.pwd.state.tx.us/wma
GPS: 29° 41' 30.39" N, 103° 9' 44.80" W

UPPER RIO GRANDE LOOP

Presidio Visitor Convention Bureau 432-299-5517
www.cityofpresidio.com

Marfa Chamber of Commerce 800-650-9696
www.marfac.com

▲ **FWTX 30 CHINATI HOT SPRINGS**
The dirt road to Chinati Hot Springs can be accessed from either FM 170 just north of Ruidosa or at the Pinto Canyon Road exit of Ruidosa. Follow the signs to the end of the road and the hot springs, but be careful during the rainy season as dry arroyos can flood in just a few minutes.

432-424-5000 www.lajitasgolfresort.com
GPS: 29° 15' 41.84" N, 103° 46' 33.18" W

▲ **FWTX 38 BARTON WARKNOX VISITOR CENTER (BIG BEND RANCH STATE PARK)**
The site is located 17 miles west of Study Butte/Terlingua along FM 170 or 1 mile east of the Lajitas Resort on FM 170.

The Desert Gardens exhibit at the center provides a collection of plants native to Big Bend. This microcosm of the desert environment acts as a natural attractor for a number of bird species. Additionally, the center's courtyard is the only area in Big Bend Ranch State Park that has approved bird feeders. The widest variety of species can be seen during the spring, although birding is available year-round. Resident species include House Finch, Pyrrhuloxia, Inca Dove, Curve-billed Thrasher, Cactus Wren, Scalded Quail, and Greater Roadrunner. A common summer denizen is the Ash-throated Flycatcher. RV camping is available with reservation.

432-424-5347 www.texasstateparks.org
GPS: 29° 16' 13.53" N, 103° 45' 27.31" W

● **FWTX 39 SANTA ELENA CANYON**
From the west park entrance travel 13 miles east and turn right onto the Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive to the end at Santa Elena Canyon.

This site offers scenic views of the Rio Grande through limestone bluffs. The canyon hike is spectacular and, when shaded, offers a respite from the desert. Birds include Rock Wren, Kingbird, Sp. Wren, Sp. Wren and Black Phoebe, and Cliff Swallow (in summer). Outside of the escarpment/river the water changes. During migration, search for flycatchers, vireos, warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks, buntings, and orioles. In winter, birds include sapsuckers, flycatcher (Dusky, Gray and Ash-throated),

FWTX 32 FORT LEATON STATE HISTORIC SITE

From Presidio, travel 4 miles southeast on FM 170 to the park entrance on the right.

Fort Leaton State Historic Site is situated on a floodplain terrace overlooking the Rio Grande. Common birds of the Chihuahuan Desert can easily be seen on the premises, such as Roadrunner, White-winged Dove and Black-throated Sparrow. The site includes a nature trail that traverses both Chihuahuan Desert scrub and riparian habitats. Two species particularly sought after by birders in the Big Bend can be observed at Fort Leaton: Gambel's Quail and Crissal Thrasher. Golden-fronted Woodpecker, confined only to a few specialized habitats in the region, can be found in the tall cottonwoods lining the riverbank.