



Barton Warnock Visitor Center

# ROADRUNNER

*Geococcyx californianus*



TEXAS  
PARKS &  
WILDLIFE

The roadrunner is a common bird found at the Barton Warnock Visitor Center and throughout the Big Bend region.



## ROADRUNNER

*Geococcyx californianus*

Driving the roads of Big Bend you may see a bird running along or across the road and disappearing into the desert. Seemingly as well-adapted on the ground as in the air, it earns its title name. In Mexico the roadrunner is known as a "paisano," or country gentleman.

The roadrunner is a very interesting and curious bird. It sometimes follows hikers as they walk down a trail. Thought to bring a person good luck, it is desirable to have a roadrunner living near your house or following you.

Roadrunners are expert rattlesnake hunters but also eat lizards and insects. They also feed on rodents, small birds and occasionally seeds and fruit.

These birds tend to build nests in small, thorny trees or desert shrubs laying three to six eggs.

The feet of these birds are different than most. They have two toes in the front and two in the back, also known as zygodactyl feet!