

Texas Bird BINGO

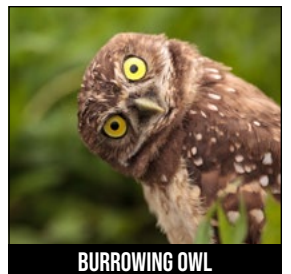
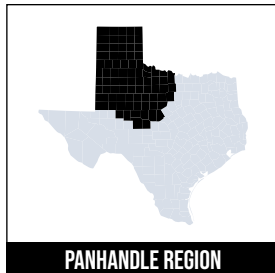
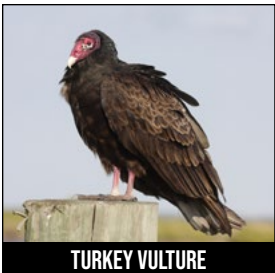
PANHANDLE REGION



HOW TO PLAY: As you see the bird(s) identified on the card, tag them with an "X" or some other mark. Cover a row of birds in any of three directions (horizontally, vertically or diagonally) and you've got a Bird Bingo! Email your completed Bird Bingo card to panhandle@texasbirdbingo.com for a chance to win a birding excursion with a Texas Audubon master birder. For complete rules and information, visit texasbirdbingo.com

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BIRD BINGO IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Courtesy of Audubon Texas

AMERICAN AVOCET

18" (46 cm). Slender and graceful with long, blue-gray legs, upcurved bill (more strongly curved in female). Bold black-and-white pattern on back and wings. Head and neck pale cinnamon in summer, gray in winter.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD

6-8" (15-20 cm). Male glossy black, with contrasting brown head. Female confusing, plain dusty brown with dark, sparrowlike bill. Juvenile streaked at first.

BURROWING OWL

9" (23 cm). Recognized by its long legs, barred underparts, terrestrial habits. Juveniles plainer below.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK

22 1/2 - 25" (57-64 cm). W. 4' 8" (1.4 m). Variable. Typical adult is pale, with rufous shoulders and thigh feathers; whitish tail washed with rufous toward tip. Juvenile usually lacks rufous on thighs. Some pale Red-tailed Hawks have very similar markings, but note different structure: Ferruginous has wide head, long wings broad at base but tapering toward tips, wings held up in shallow V while soaring. Dark morph can suggest dark Rough-legged Hawk, but lacks dark tail-bands.

GOLDEN-FRONTED WOODPECKER

9 1/2" (24 cm). Black and white bars on back. Chest and head buffy brown, with orange-yellow nape, yellow over bill; male has red cap. (Red-bellied Woodpecker sometimes has orange replacing red on head.) In flight, white patches flash in wings and on rump.

GREAT HORNED OWL

25" (64 cm). W. 4' 7" (1.4 m). Large size, conspicuous "ear" tufts, white throat, horizontal bars on belly. Downy young (like those of other owls) are whitish at first.

GREEN HERON

16-22" (41-56 cm). A small, dark heron, with orange-yellow legs. Chestnut neck, black crown feathers often raised in a bushy crest, dark back glossed with green or blue. Young bird duller and browner, with striped neck.

LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER

7" (18 cm). Similar to Nuttall's but with more white on face, wider white bars on back (especially noticeable on upper back). Drier habitat and different range are best clues. The two species sometimes interbreed where their ranges meet.

LARK SPARROW

5 1/2 - 6 1/2" (14-17 cm). Strong face pattern of chestnut and white, dark spot on chest. White edges and corners on long tail. Young bird duller, has recognizable face and tail patterns.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW

23" (58 cm). A very large sandpiper with a remarkably long curved bill (length varies; some are not so extreme). Warmer brown than Whimbrel, and lacks strong head stripes. In flight, shows bright cinnamon in wings.

MOURNING DOVE

12" (30 cm). Long, pointed tail shows white spots along edge in flight. Mostly plain, with black spots on wings. Adult male is tinged pinkish on chest, blue-gray on crown; female is duller plain brown. Scaly-looking young bird sometimes mistaken for Inca Dove or Common Ground Dove.

NORTHERN CARDINAL

8-9" (20-23 cm). Male is unmistakable, our only red bird with a crest. (Compare to tanagers.) Female is duller, but shares crest, massive pink bill, rather long tail. In southwest, compare to Pyrrhuloxia. Juvenile has black bill at first.

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD

9-11" (23-28 cm). Slim and long-tailed. Pale gray with white wing patches (mainly visible in flight), white outer tail feathers. Juvenile has dark streaks on chest, darker eyes than adult.

PAINTED BUNTING

5 1/2" (14 cm). Adult male unmistakable with blue head, red throat and chest, bright green back. Female plain green, with no markings. Other small greenish birds have thinner bills, or show marks such as wing-bars. Juveniles are much grayer than adult females at first.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

10" (25 cm). Adults unmistakable, patterned in solid black, white, and red, with big white wing patches. In west, see Red-breasted Sapsucker. Young bird has brown head, dark bars across white wing patch; brown is replaced by red gradually during first winter.

RED-TAILED HAWK

18-25" (46-64 cm). W. 4' (1.2 m). On most adults, tail reddish above, whitish below (color shows through in flight overhead). Juvenile's tail brown above, with dark bars. Western Red-tails are variable, from pale to rust-brown to blackish. (Some, known as "Harlan's Hawks," are usually dark-bodied and have tail whitish with dark marbling.) On all but the darkest birds, note whitish patches on back. In flight overhead, leading edge of inner wing looks contrastingly dark.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

7-9 1/2" (18-24 cm). Male's shoulder patches can be obvious (especially in song display) or mostly hidden by body feathers. Patches usually bordered yellow, but in central California ("Bicolored Red-wing"), these can be all red. Females and young very different, streaky brown with buff eyebrow. Resemble sparrows but have different behavior, spikier bill, darker lower belly.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK

19-24" (48-61 cm). W. 4' 4" (1.3 m). In flight, tail shows white at base, dark banding at tip; blackish patch at wrist of wing contrasts with paler flight feathers. Body plumage quite variable; typical juvenile shows black belly contrasting with streaked buffy chest. Dark-morph birds are hard to identify when perched, but show distinct pattern on wings and tail in flight.

SANDHILL CRANE

34-48" (86-122 cm). W. 6' 8" (2 m). Adult all gray with red patch on head, sometimes brown staining on body feathers; juvenile has brownish head. Different shape from Great Blue Heron, with shorter bill, bushy tuft of feathers over rump.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER

14" (36 cm). Pale overall with dusky wings, streaming black-and-white tail (slightly shorter on female), orange-pink on sides and under wings. Young bird has shorter tail; resembles Western Kingbird but paler.

SWAINSON'S HAWK

18-22" (46-56 cm). W. 4' 1" (1.2 m). Slim, with small head and bill, long wings and tail. When soaring, wings are held above horizontal, and wingtips look rather pointed. Typical adult has bright white wing-linings contrasting with dark flight feathers; narrow brown chest-band between white throat and white belly. Also many variations: can be barred or rusty below, or mostly dark brown. Juveniles usually have heavy streaks at sides of chest, strong face pattern.

TURKEY VULTURE

25-32" (64-81 cm). W. 6' (1.8 m). Very large with long wings, long tail, small head. Soars with wings held in shallow V; when flapping on takeoff, wingbeats are deep, ponderous. Two-toned look to underwing, black wing-linings against gray flight feathers. Juvenile has gray head, not red; compare to Black Vulture..

WESTERN MEADOWLARK

8 1/2 - 11" (22-28 cm). Black V on yellow breast (partly veiled in fall). White outer tail feathers, most obvious on takeoff and landing.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE

12" (30 cm). Bulkier than Mourning Dove, with shorter tail. Big white wing patches and white tips on outer tail feathers, most obvious in flight.



Big Spring sits in a rocky gorge between two high foothills of the Caprock escarpment in West Texas with exceptional birding opportunities. The northern limit of the Edwards Plateau and the southernmost hills of the Caprock converge in Big Spring. It derives its name from the nearby "big spring" in Sulpher Draw, which was a watering place for herds of buffalo and other wildlife.

Scan the QR code to download our Big Spring State Park Checklist. While you're here, be sure to check out one of our newest birding destinations, the Scenic Podium in Big Spring State Park. It was created by Rae Ripple, a Texan and world-renowned metal artist. Come and experience birding and the magic of Sunset Big Spring. For more information, go to www.visitbigspring.com



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