



HOUSTON  
ARBORETUM & NATURE CENTER  
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## BIRD LIST

The Houston Arboretum & Nature Center provides a unique setting for observing birds in an urban environment. The site encompasses a diverse array of habitats including a mixed pine/hardwood forest, ponds, Buffalo Bayou and other drainages, a small prairie, and other open areas.

This checklist is the result of actual observations since 1979 and includes 167 species in 40 families. The bird names, family units, and phylogenetic sequence follow the American Ornithologists Union "Checklist of North American Birds, 6th edition" (1983).

The habitat codes used in the legend are not absolute. They are meant only as a general guide. Many of the birds may actually be observed more commonly where two or more habitats overlap.

We are constantly updating our checklist and need your help with sightings and documentation of new species. Please help us to increase our knowledge of the area by emailing [arbor@houstonarboretum.org](mailto:arbor@houstonarboretum.org).

## LEGEND

CODE	HABITAT	CODE	ABUNDANCE
B	Bird feeders	C	Commonly observed - should be heard on any day in proper season and habitat.
F	Flying overhead (not using the area)	U	Unusual - to be suspected but not always present in proper season and habitat.
O	Open areas	R	Rare - not to be expected more than a few times per season or year.
P	Ponds/Streams		
T	Thickets		
W	Woodland areas		

## SEASONS

SP	Spring
SUM	Summer
F	Fall
W	Winter

\* Birds known to nest at the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center  
Compiled by Doug Williams  
Revised October 2002  
[www.HoustonNatureCenter.org](http://www.HoustonNatureCenter.org)

BIRD NAME	HABITAT	SP	SUM	F	W
BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER	W	R		R	
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	W	U		U	C
BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER	W	U		U	
BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER	W	U		R	
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER	W	U			
PINE WARBLER	W	U	U	U	U
PRAIRIE WARBLER	W	R			R
PALM WARBLER	W	R			
CERULEAN WARBLER	W	R			
BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER	W	U	R	U	
AMERICAN REDSTART	W	U		R	
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER	PW	U	R		
WORM-EATING WARBLER	W	U		R	
SWAINSON'S WARBLER	W	U	R		
OVENBIRD	W	U		R	
KENTUCKY WARBLER	W	U		U	
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT	PT	U		U	C
HOODED WARBLER	W	C	C	U	
WILSON'S WARBLER	TW	U		U	R
CANADA WARBLER	W		R	R	
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT	TW	U		U	
SUMMER Tanager *	W	C	U	U	R
SCARLET Tanager	W	R			
NORTHERN CARDINAL *	BOTW	C	C	C	C
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK	W	U			
BLUE GROSBEAK	TW	U		R	
INDIGO BUNTING	OW	U	R	U	
PAINTED BUNTING	T	U		R	
DICKCISSEL	O			R	
RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE	TW				U
CHIPPING SPARROW	O	R		U	C
FIELD SPARROW	O	R		R	C
SAVANNAH SPARROW	O	R		R	U
SONG SPARROW	OT	R		R	U
LINCOLN'S SPARROW	T	R		R	U
SWAMP SPARROW	OT	U		U	U
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	BW	U		U	C
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	O	R		R	U
DARK-EYED JUNCO	BO	R		R	R
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	FO	U	U	U	C
EASTERN MEADOWLARK	O	R	R	R	R
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD	O	R		R	U
GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE	FO	U	U	U	C
COMMON GRACKLE	FOW	U	U	U	C
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	FOW	C	U	C	C
ORCHARD ORIOLE	O	U	R	U	
NORTHERN ORIOLE	OW	U		U	
HOUSE FINCH	F	U	U	U	U
PURPLE FINCH	BW				U
PINE SISKIN	BW				R
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	BFO	U			C
HOUSE SPARROW	FO	C	C	C	C

	BIRD NAME	HABITAT	SP	SUM	F	W
	PIE-BILLED GREBE	P	U		R	R
	DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT	F	R		R	R
	GREAT BLUE HERON	FP	R	R	R	R
	GREAT EGRET	FP	R	R	R	R
	SNOWY EGRET	FP	R	R	R	R
	LITTLE BLUE HERON	FP	R	R	R	R
	CATTLE EGRET	FP	R	R	R	R
	GREEN-BACKED HERON	FP	R	U	R	R
	BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON	FP		R		
	YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON	FP	U	U	R	R
	WHITE IBIS	P	R			
	WHITE-FACED IBIS	F			R	
	GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE	F	R		R	U
	SNOW GOOSE	F	R		R	U
	CANADA GOOSE	F	R		R	U
	FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK	P		R		
	WOOD DUCK	FPW	R	R	R	R
	GREEN-WINGED TEAL	FP				R
	MOTTLED DUCK	FP	R	R	R	R
	MALLARD	FP				R
	NORTHERN PINTAIL	FP			R	R
	BLUE-WINGED TEAL	FP	R		R	R
	NORTHERN SHOVELER	FP	R			R
	GADWALL	F				R
	AMERICAN WIGEON	F				R
	RING-NECKED DUCK	P				R
	LESSER SCAUP	P		R		
	TURKEY VULTURE	F	R	R	R	R
	OSPREY	F			R	
	MISSISSIPPI KITE	FW		U	U	R
	NORTHERN HARRIER	F	R		R	R
	SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	OW	R		U	U
	COOPER'S HAWK	W			R	R
	RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	OW	U	U	U	U
	BROAD-WINGED HAWK	F	R		R	
	SWAINSON'S HAWK	FOW	R		R	
	RED-TAILED HAWK	FO	U		U	U
	AMERICAN KESTREL	OW	R		U	U
	MERLIN	F	R			
	NORTHERN BOBWHITE	OT	R	R	R	R
	AMERICAN COOT	P	R		R	R
	SANDHILL CRANE	F				R
	KILLDEER	O	R	R	R	R
	SPOTTED SANDPIPER	P		R	R	
	AMERICAN WOODCOCK	OTW	R		R	U
	LAUGHING GULL	F	R	R	R	R
	RING-BILLED GULL	F	R	R	R	R
	ROCK DOVE	F	U	U	U	U
	RINGED TURTLE-DOVE	O			R	
	MOURNING DOVE *	BO	C	C	C	C
	INCA DOVE	BO	U	U	U	U
	EURASIAN COLORED DOVE	O		R		
	YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	W	C	U		
	COMMON BARN OWL	OW	U		U	U
	EASTERN SCREECH OWL *	W	C	U	C	C
	GREAT HORNED OWL	OW	R	R	R	U
	BARRED OWL	W	R	R	R	U

	BIRD NAME	HABITAT	SP	SUM	F	W
	COMMON NIGHTHAWK	F	C	C		
	CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW	W	R		R	
	WHIP-POOR-WILL	W	R		R	
	CHIMNEY SWIFT	F	U	C	U	
	RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD	BFW	U	C	U	
	BELTED KINGFISHER	P	U		U	U
	RED-HEADED WOODPECKER	W	R	R	R	
	RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER *	BW	C	C	C	C
	YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER	W	C		R	C
	DOWNY WOODPECKER *	BW	C	C	C	C
	NORTHERN FLICKER	OW	U		U	C
	PILEATED WOODPECKER *	W	U	U	U	U
	EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE	W	U	R	R	
	ACADIAN FLYCATCHER	W	R		R	
	LEAST FLYCATCHER	W	R		R	
	EASTERN PHOEBE	PW	R		R	C
	GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER	OW	U	R	U	
	EASTERN KINGBIRD	O	U		R	
	SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER	O		R	R	
	PURPLE MARTIN	FO	C	C		
	TREE SWALLOW	FO	U		U	
	NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW	FO	U		U	
	BARN SWALLOW	FO	U	R	U	
	BLUE JAY	BOW	C	C	C	C
	AMERICAN CROW	BOFW	C	C	C	C
	CAROLINA CHICKADEE	BW	C	C	C	C
	TUFTED TITMOUSE	BW	C	C	C	C
	RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	W				R
	BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH	W				R
	BROWN CREEPER	W	U		U	U
	CAROLINA WREN *	TW	C	C	C	C
	HOUSE WREN	TW	R		R	U
	WINTER WREN	TW				R
	SEDGE WREN	P			R	
	MARSH WREN	P			R	
	GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	W			U	U
	RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	TW	U		U	C
	BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER	W	C	U	C	C
	HERMIT THRUSH	W				C
	WOOD THRUSH *	W	C	U		
	AMERICAN ROBIN	FOW	U	R	U	U
	GRAY CATBIRD	TW	U		U	R
	NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD *	O	C	C	C	C
	BROWN THRASHER	BTW	U		U	C
	CEDAR WAXWING	W	U			U
	LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE	O	R	R	R	R
	EUROPEAN STARLING	O	U	U	U	U
	WHITE-EYED VIREO *	TW	C	C	C	
	SOLITARY VIREO	W	U		U	U
	YELLOW-THROATED VIREO	W	U	U		
	RED-EYED VIREO	W	C	U	U	
	TENNESSEE WARBLER	W	U		U	
	ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER	W	U		U	C
	NASHVILLE WARBLER	T	R		U	
	NORTHERN PARULA	W	C	U	R	
	YELLOW WARBLER	W	U	R	U	
	CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER	W	U		U	
	MAGNOLIA WARBLER	W	U		U	
	CAPE MAY WARBLER	W	R			