

The Department of Defense (DoD) is the steward of approximately 25 million acres of public lands, and the Air Force is responsible for managing approximately 9 million of these acres. The air, land, and water resources on these properties directly support DoD's military training and readiness capabilities. They also harbor pristine wildlife habitat and ecosystems that support a wide variety of unique species and a wealth of opportunities for recreational and other renewable uses.

Dyess Air Force Base



Checklist of Birds

Dyess AFB occupies 6,342 contiguous acres and is located in the north central portion of Taylor County Texas and forms part of the western boundary of the city of Abilene. Abilene is approximately 150 miles west of the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area. The northwest and eastern perimeters of the base are primarily bordered by residential development with the remainder adjacent to agricultural land.

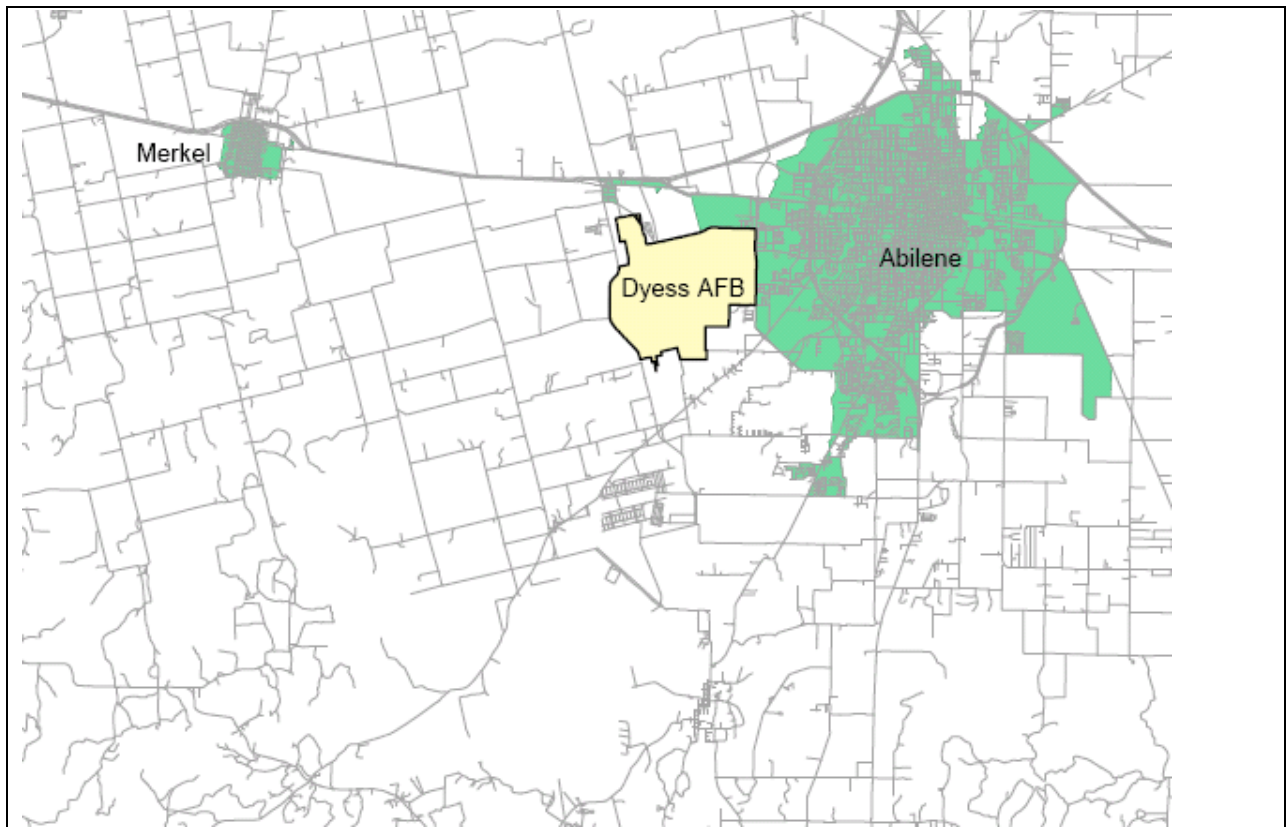
Dyess AFB implements Air Force (AF) principles for ecosystem management by setting goals for attaining a desired land condition that: maintain or restore native ecosystem types across their natural range where practical and consistent with the military mission; maintain or restore ecological processes such

as fire and other disturbance regimes where practical and consistent with the military mission; maintain or restore the hydrological processes in streams, floodplains, and wetlands when feasible; use regional approaches to implement ecosystem management by collaboration with other DoD components as well as other federal, state and local agencies, and adjoining property owners; and provide for outdoor recreation and other practical utilization of the land and its resources, provided that such use does not inflict long-term ecosystem damage or negatively impact the AF mission.

The base is located in the Rolling Plains ecoregion at the southeastern end of Bird Conservation Region 19. Elevation on the base ranges from 1,730 to 1,818 feet above mean sea level (amsl). The base is bisected by Little Elm Creek, a tributary of the Clear Fork of the Brazos River.

The topography and vegetation of the Rolling Plains are significantly diverse. Terrain and plant communities vary from the relatively flat midgrass areas of sideoats grama to the rough broken slopes supporting a juniper-midgrass or Mohr shin oak. Gently rolling hills support a little bluestem-sideoats grama series while the major drainage and floodplains of the Red, Brazos, and Colorado rivers may support a mixture of tall and midgrasses within a deciduous hardwood corridor. On many sites the presence of sideoats grama and/or little bluestem best characterize the mixed prairie on the Rolling Plains. Other plants which are widespread throughout the region include: mesquite, lotebush, juniper, prickly pear, Texas grama, Texas wintergrass, silver bluestem, vine-mesquite, and Arizona cottontop. A large and diverse component of forbs and legumes as well as other grasses and woody plants are often found in association with the dominant grasses.

Location Map



FIELD CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF DYESS AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS, 2008

Legend:

Abundance in proper habitat at proper time of the year:

- | | | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|--|
| | Common | -Should be seen most days. |
| | Uncommon | -Usually present but hard to find. |
| | Rare | -Very hard to find; not present every year. |
| X.....X | Single sightings between dates. | -Bird suspected of lingering between dates. |
| X | Single sightings | -Single sightings; more data needed to determine abundance. |
| N | Confirmed nesting record | -by photo, or by observation of bird on nest or parents feeding young. |
| ? | Nesting suspected, but not confirmed. | |
| D | Documented by photo or specimen. | |

H: Habitat code **A**-all habitats **B**-brush **F**-fresh water, shoreline, marsh **G**-grasslands **O**-overhead **R**-riparian **U**-urban/commercial **W**-woods

BBL Four-letter Bird Banding Laboratory Code, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

Species	D	N	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	H	BBL	Other
DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS																	
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	D	N					—	—			X				F	BBWD	
Greater White-fronted Goose	D	N	X												O	GWFG	
Wood Duck	D											X		X	F	WODU	
American Wigeon	D		—	—	—	—								—	F	AMWI	
Gadwall	D		—	—	—	—	—					—	—	—	F	GADW	fem
Green-winged Teal	D		—	—	—	—								—	F	GWTE	
Mallard	D		—	—	—	—	—					—	—	—	F	MALL	
Northern Pintail	D													X	F	NOPI	
Blue-winged Teal	D				—	—	—	—				—			F	BWTE	fem
Cinnamon Teal	D					X									F	CITE	
Northern Shoveler	D		—	—	—	—	—					—	—	—	F	NSHO	
Canvasback	D			X											F	CANV	
Ring-necked Duck	D		—	—	—	—								—	F	RNDU	
Lesser Scaup	D		—	—	—	—								—	F	LESC	
Bufflehead	D												—	F	BUFF	
Common Goldeneye	D		X.....X												F	COGO	
Hooded Merganser	D		X												F	HOME	
Ruddy Duck	D					—									F	RUDU	
TURKEYS																	
Wild Turkey	D	N	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	RUW	WITU	
NEW WORLD QUAIL																	
Northern Bobwhite	D	N				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	BGRW	NOBO	fem

Species	D	N	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	H	BBL	Other
GREBES																	
Pied-billed Grebe	D														F	PBGR	
Eared Grebe	D				x										F	EAGR	
CORMORANTS																	
Double-crested Cormorant	D					x						x		x	F	DCCO	
HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNS																	
Great Blue Heron	D														F	GBHE	
Great Egret	D														F	GREG	
Snowy Egret	D					x				x	x				F	SNEG	
Little Blue Heron	D										x				F	LBHE	
Cattle Egret	D						x						x		F	CAEG	
Green Heron	D	?													FR	GRHE	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	D						x			xx					FR	BCNH	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	D														FR	YCNH	juv
IBIS AND SPOONBILLS																	
White-faced Ibis							x								F	WFIB	
NEW WORLD VULTURES																	
Black Vulture											x				O	BLVU	
Turkey Vulture	D														A	TUVU	
HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES																	
Mississippi Kite	D	N													RUW	MIKI	juv
Northern Harrier	D														BGR	NOHA	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	D														RW	SSHA	
Cooper's Hawk	D														RW	COHA	
Red-shouldered Hawk	D														RW	RSHA	
Swainson's Hawk	D	N													RW	SWHA	
Red-tailed Hawk	D	N													A	RTHA	
OSPREY																	
Osprey	D					x									F	OSPR	
FALCONS AND CARACARAS																	
American Kestrel	D	?													U	AMKE	fem
Merlin	D														G	MERL	
RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS																	
American Coot	D														F	AMCO	

Species	D	N	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	H	BBL	Other
CRANES																	
Sandhill Crane	D														O	SACR	
PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS																	
Killdeer	D	N													FGU	KILL	
Mountain Plover	D										X				G	MOPL	
AVOCETS AND STILTS																	
Black-necked Stilt								X							F	BNST	
SANDPIPERS																	
Wilson's Snipe	D														F	WISN	
Long-billed Dowitcher						X									F	LBDO	
Long-billed Curlew	D				X						-				F	LBCU	
Upland Sandpiper	D														G	UPSA	
Greater Yellowlegs	D														F	GRYE	
Lesser Yellowlegs					X		X								F	LEYE	
Solitary Sandpiper	D														F	SOSA	
Spotted Sandpiper	D														F	SPSA	other
Least Sandpiper	D														F	LESA	
Pectoral Sandpiper	D						X								F	PESA	
Wilson's Phalarope	D							X							F	WIPH	
GULLS																	
Ring-billed Gull															FU	RBGU	
TERNs																	
Black Tern											X				F	BLTE	
PIGEONS AND DOVES																	
Rock Pigeon	D	N													FU	ROPI	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	D	?													UW	ECDO	
Mourning Dove	D	N													A	MODO	
White-winged Dove	D	N													UW	WWDO	
CUCKOOS																	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	D	N													W	YBCU	juv
Greater Roadrunner	D	N													BRW	GRRO	
BARN-OWLS																	
Barn Owl	D	N													BGRW	BNOW	

Species	D	N	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	H	BBL	Other			
OWLS																				
Short-eared Owl												x			G	SEOW				
Great Horned Owl	D	?	—————															A	GHOW	
Burrowing Owl	D				x											BUOW				
NIGHTJARS																				
Common Nighthawk	D	N				—————									A	CONI				
Common Poorwill	D				x										U	COPW				
SWIFTS																				
Chimney Swift	D	?				—————									F	CHSW				
HUMMINGBIRDS																				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	D											—			GRW	RTHU	juv			
Black-chinned Hummingbird	D	?				—————									GRW	BCHU				
KINGFISHERS																				
Belted Kingfisher	D		—————												F	BEKI				
WOODPECKERS																				
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	D	N	—————															RUW	GFWO	fem
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	D	N	—————															RUW	LBWO	fem
Downy Woodpecker	D				x		x				x	x			W	DOWO	fem			
Northern Flicker	D		—————											—	W	NOFL	fem			
TYRANT FLYCATCHERS																				
Olive-sided Flycatcher	D						x								RW	OSFL				
Eastern Wood-Pewee	D						x								W	EAWP				
Least Flycatcher	D						—					—			W	LEFL				
Eastern Phoebe	D	N	—————															R	EAPH	
Say's Phoebe	D														G	SAPH				
Vermilion Flycatcher	D				x										G	VEFL				
Ash-throated Flycatcher	D	N			—————										W	ATFL				
Great Crested Flycatcher	D											—			W	GCFL				
Western Kingbird	D	N			—————										UW	WEKI				
Eastern Kingbird	D					—					x				G	EAKI				
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	D	N			—————								—		GRUW	STFL				
SHRIKES																				
Loggerhead Shrike	D	?	—			—————						—————			G	LOSH				
VIREOS AND ALLIES																				
White-eyed Vireo							x								R	WEVI				

Species	D	N	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	H	BBL	Other
Bell's Vireo	D	?				_____									BRW	BEVI	
Yellow-throated Vireo												x			R	YTVI	
Blue-headed Vireo							x								R	BHVI	
Red-eyed Vireo							x								R	REVI	
CROWS AND JAYS																	
Blue Jay	D	N	_____												A	BLJA	
American Crow	D	N	_____												A	AMCR	
Chihuahuan Raven	D	N			_____										W	CHRA	
LARKS																	
Horned Lark	D	?			_____										G	HOLA	
SWALLOWS																	
Purple Martin	D					_____									F	PUMA	
Tree Swallow												x			O	TRES	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow						x									O	NORW	
Bank Swallow	D						—								O	BANS	
Cliff Swallow	D	N			_____										U	CLSW	
Cave Swallow	D	N			_____									x	U	CASW	juv
Barn Swallow	D	N			_____										U	BARS	
CHICKADEES AND TITS																	
Carolina Chickadee	D						x								W	CACH	
Black-crested Titmouse	D	N	_____												W	BCTI	
PENDULINE TITS																	
Verdin	D			_____								_____			BW	VERD	
LONG-TAILED TITS																	
Bushtits								x							R	BUSH	
NUTHATCHES																	
Red-breasted Nuthatch												x			W	RBNU	
CREEPERS																	
Brown Creeper	D		_____												W	BRCR	
WRENS																	
Cactus Wren	D	N	_____												BW	CACW	
Rock Wren	D														U	ROWR	
Carolina Wren	D														RW	CARW	
Bewick's Wren	D	N	_____												BRW	BEWR	

Species	D	N	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	H	BBL	Other	
House Wren	D						—					—			RW	HOWR		
Marsh Wren	D				—								—		R	MAWR		
KINGLETS																		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	D												x		W	GCKI		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	D					—									W	RCKI		
GNATCATCHERS																		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	D				—										BRW	BGGN		
THRUSHES																		
Eastern Bluebird	D	N	—————												UW	EABL	fem	juv
Western Bluebird													x		O	WEBL		
Mountain Bluebird	D		x												BG	MOBL		
American Robin	D	N	—————												W	AMRO	other	juv
MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS																		
Gray Catbird	D						x				x				RW	GRCA		
Northern Mockingbird	D	N	—————												BGRUW	NOMO		
Sage Thrasher	D			—									x		B	SATH		
Brown Thrasher	D										x				RW	BRTH		
Curve-billed Thrasher	D	N	—————												BW	CBTH		
STARLINGS																		
European Starling	D	N	—————												A	EUST		
WAGTAILS AND PIPITS																		
American Pipit							—					—			G	AMPI		
Sprague's Pipit	D													—	G	SPPI		
WAXWINGS																		
Cedar Waxwing	D				—	—	—							—	RUW	CEDW		
WOOD WARBLERS																		
Orange-crowned Warbler	D						—								BRW	OCWA		
Nashville Warbler	D						—	—							R	NAWA		
Yellow Warbler	D						—	—							BRW	YWAR		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	D						—	—							BRUW	YRWA	other	
Pine Warbler	D						—	—					x		W	PIWA		
Black-and-white Warbler	D						x								R	BAWW		
Northern Waterthrush	D					—					x				R	NOWA		
MacGillivray's Warbler							—								B	MGWA		
Common Yellowthroat	D						—	—							R	COYE		

Species	D	N	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	H	BBL	Other
Wilson's Warbler	D						—				—				RW	WIWA	
Yellow-breasted Chat							—				—				B	YBCH	
TANAGERS																	
Western Tanager												x			U	WETA	
SPARROWS, TOWHEES, JUNCOS																	
Eastern Towhee	D		x												W	EATO	
Spotted Towhee	D		—	—	—	—	—					—	—	—	W	SPTO	
Canyon Towhee	D	N	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	BW	CANT	
Cassin's Sparrow	D	N			—	—	—	—	—		—				G	CASP	
Chipping Sparrow	D		—	—	—	—	—					—	—	—	W	CHSP	
Clay-colored Sparrow	D				—	—	—					—	—	—	BW	CCSP	
Field Sparrow	D		—	—	—	—	—					—	—	—	BGW	FISP	
Vesper Sparrow	D		—	—	—	—	—					—	—	—	BG	VESP	
Lark Sparrow	D	N				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	G	LASP	
Black-throated Sparrow						x									B	BTSP	
Lark Bunting	D		—	—	—	—	—					—	—	—	G	LARB	
Savannah Sparrow	D		—	—	—	—	—					—	—	—	G	SAVS	
Le Conte's Sparrow	D		—	—	—	—	—					—	—	x	G	LCSP	
Grasshopper Sparrow	D	N	x			—	—	—	—	—	—		x		G	GRSP	
Fox Sparrow	D		x	x											RW	FOSP	
Song Sparrow	D		—	—	—	—	—					—	—	—	GRW	SOSP	
Lincoln's Sparrow	D		—	—	—	—	—					—	—	—	GRW	LISP	
Swamp Sparrow	D		x									x			R	SWSP	
White-crowned Sparrow	D		—	—	—	—	—					—	—	—	BRW	WCSP	other
White-throated Sparrow													x		R	WTSP	
Harris's Sparrow	D		—	—	—	—	—							—	W	HASP	
Dark-eyed Junco	D		—	—	—	—	—					—	—	—	W	DEJU	other
SALTATORS, CARDINALS AND ALLIES																	
Northern Cardinal	D	N	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	RUW	NOCA	fem
Pyrrhuloxia	D	N	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	BW	PYRR	fem
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	D						x								U	RBGR	
Blue Grosbeak	D	N					—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	R	BLGR	fem
Indigo Bunting							x					x			R	INBU	juv
Painted Bunting	D	N				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	BRW	PABU	fem
Dickcissel	D	N				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	G	DICK	fem
BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, GRACKLES, ETC.																	
Red-winged Blackbird	D	N	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	FR	RWBL	fem
Eastern Meadowlark	D	N	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	G	EAME	
Western Meadowlark	D	N	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	G	WEME	

Species	D	N	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	H	BBL	Other	
Yellow-headed Blackbird	D					—				—					G	YHBL		
Common Grackle	D	N				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	A	COGR		
Great-tailed Grackle	D	N				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	A	GTGR	fem	
Bronzed Cowbird	D							x							G	BROC		
Brown-headed Cowbird	D	N				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	A	BHCO	fem	
Baltimore Oriole	D										—	—			R	BAOR	fem	
Bullock's Oriole	D	N				—	—	—	—	—	—				W	BUOR	fem	other
Orchard Oriole	D	?						—	—	—	—				W	OROR	fem	other
FINCHES, SISKINS, CROSSBILLS																		
House Finch	D	N				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	RU	HOFI	fem	
Pine Siskin	D											—	—		G	PISI		
Lesser Goldfinch											x				W	LEGO		
American Goldfinch	D		—	—	—	—	—				—	—			RUW	AMGO		
OLD WORLD SPARROWS																		
House Sparrow	D	N				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	U	HOSP	fem	

This checklist was compiled by Laura G. Packer, 701 Green Valley Drive, Abilene, TX 79601, e-mail: lgpacker@suddenlink.net, phone: 325-673-7744, who takes complete responsibility for its accuracy. Phylogenetic Order and English names follow that of the [American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds](#), 7th edition, 1998, and as supplemented through 2006. The data for this checklist was collected from Biological Survey of Dyess AFB, Texas Natural Heritage Program, (TPWD 1994), Bird Survey and General Habitat Characterization, Ecology and Environmental (July 1996), Turner Biological Consultants, Neo-tropical Breeding Bird Survey (2004), 2005 Army Engineers Survey (Fischer et. al. 2003), 2005 Survey: Modified Point Count of Neo-tropical Migratory Birds, BCAS/Dyess AFB (2005-2008), Riparian Restoration Project Avian Survey, USACE (2005), BCAS Christmas Bird Counts (2005-2007), and documented observations. This checklist is a first beginnings and it is hoped that future sightings and surveys in the coming years will be collected to produce a thorough checklist. Special thanks to Kim Walton, Natural Resources Manager, Danny Walters, Mesquite Grove Golf Course Supervisor, and Dyess Air Force Base for allowing me to bird the base. John English also deserves special recognition for documenting numerous species on base.