

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.

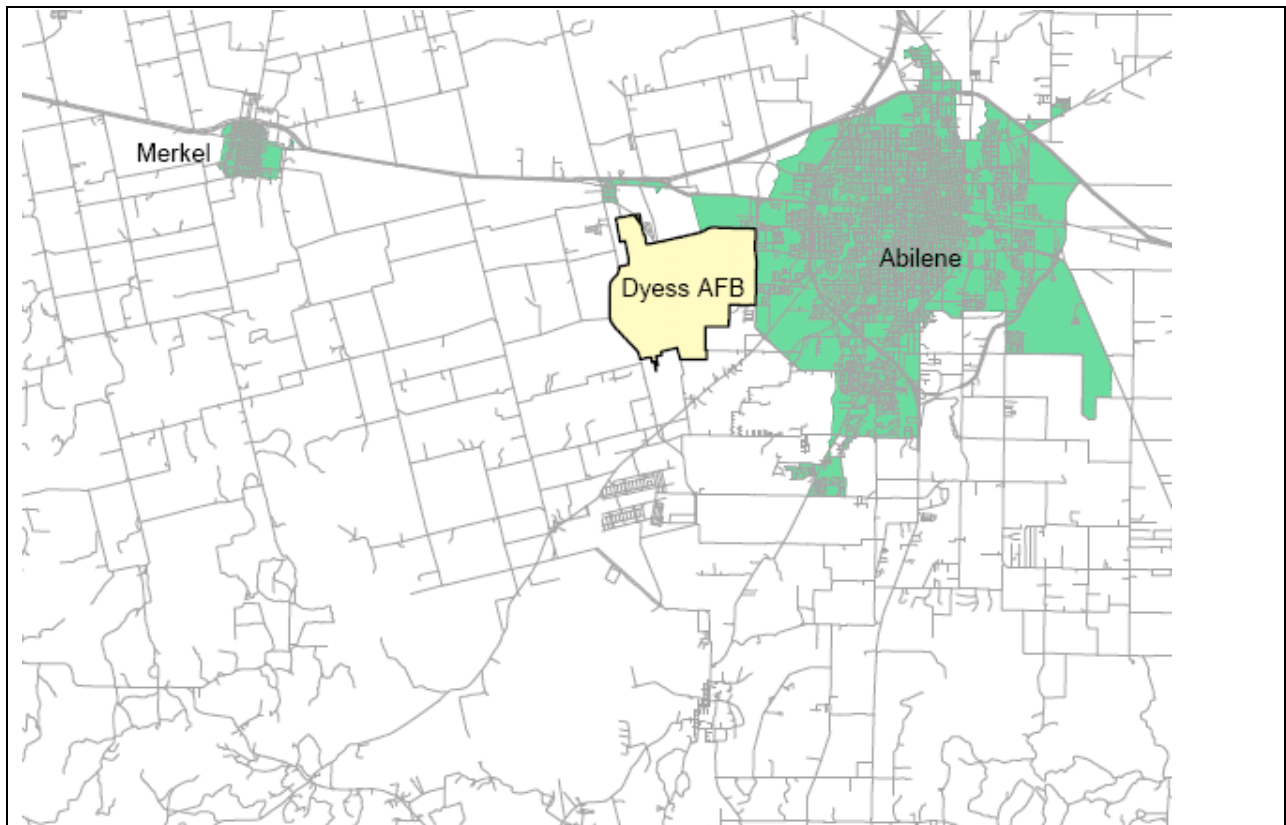
Dyess AFB implements Air Force (AF) principles for ecosystem management by setting goals for attaining a desired land condition that: maintain or restore native ecosystem types across their natural range where practical and consistent with the military mission; maintain or restore ecological processes 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
<b>DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS</b>																	
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	D	N									X				F	<a href="#">BBWD</a>	
Greater White-fronted Goose	D		X												O	<a href="#">GWFG</a>	
Wood Duck	D											X		X	F	<a href="#">WODU</a>	
American Wigeon	D														F	<a href="#">AMWI</a>	
Gadwall	D														F	<a href="#">GADW</a>	fem
Green-winged Teal	D														F	<a href="#">GWTE</a>	
Mallard	D														F	<a href="#">MALL</a>	
Northern Pintail														X	F	NOPI	
Blue-winged Teal	D														F	<a href="#">BWTE</a>	fem
Cinnamon Teal						X									F	CITE	
Northern Shoveler	D														F	<a href="#">NSHO</a>	
Canvasback	D			X											F	<a href="#">CANV</a>	
Ring-necked Duck	D														F	<a href="#">RNDU</a>	
Lesser Scaup	D														F	<a href="#">LESC</a>	
Bufflehead	D														F	<a href="#">BUFF</a>	
Common Goldeneye	D			X.....X											F	<a href="#">COGO</a>	
Hooded Merganser			X												F	HOME	
Ruddy Duck	D														F	<a href="#">RUDU</a>	
<b>TURKEYS</b>																	
Wild Turkey	D	N													RUW	<a href="#">WITU</a>	
<b>NEW WORLD QUAIL</b>																	
Northern Bobwhite	D	N													BGRW	<a href="#">NOBO</a>	fem



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

Species	D	N	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	H	BBL	Other			
<b>OWLS</b>																				
Short-eared Owl												x			G	SEOW				
Great Horned Owl	D	?	—————															A	<a href="#">GHOW</a>	
Burrowing Owl	D				x											<a href="#">BUOW</a>				
<b>NIGHTJARS</b>																				
Common Nighthawk	D	N				—————									A	<a href="#">CONI</a>				
Common Poorwill	D				x										U	COPW				
<b>SWIFTS</b>																				
Chimney Swift	D	?				—————									F	<a href="#">CHSW</a>				
<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>																				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	D											—			GRW	<a href="#">RTHU</a>	juv			
Black-chinned Hummingbird	D	?				—————									GRW	<a href="#">BCHU</a>				
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>																				
Belted Kingfisher	D		—————												F	<a href="#">BEKI</a>				
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>																				
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	D	N	—————															RUW	<a href="#">GFWO</a>	fem
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	D	N	—————															RUW	<a href="#">LBWO</a>	fem
Downy Woodpecker	D				x		x				x	x			W	<a href="#">DOWO</a>	fem			
Northern Flicker	D		—————											—	W	<a href="#">NOFL</a>	fem			
<b>TYRANT FLYCATCHERS</b>																				
Olive-sided Flycatcher	D						x					x			RW	<a href="#">OSFL</a>				
Eastern Wood-Pewee	D						x					x			W	<a href="#">EAWP</a>				
Least Flycatcher	D						—				—				W	<a href="#">LEFL</a>				
Eastern Phoebe	D	N	—————															R	<a href="#">EAPH</a>	
Say's Phoebe	D														G	<a href="#">SAPH</a>				
Vermilion Flycatcher	D				x										G	<a href="#">VEFL</a>				
Ash-throated Flycatcher	D	N			—————										W	<a href="#">ATFL</a>				
Great Crested Flycatcher	D											—			W	GCFL				
Western Kingbird	D	N			—————										UW	<a href="#">WEKI</a>				
Eastern Kingbird	D					—					x				G	<a href="#">EAKI</a>				
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	D	N			—————								—		GRUW	<a href="#">STFL</a>				
<b>SHRIKES</b>																				
Loggerhead Shrike	D	?	—			—————						—————			G	<a href="#">LOSH</a>				
<b>VIREOS AND ALLIES</b>																				
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	<a href="#">BEVI</a>	
Yellow-throated Vireo												x			R	YTVI	
Blue-headed Vireo							x								R	BHVI	
Red-eyed Vireo							x								R	REVI	
<b>CROWS AND JAYS</b>																	
Blue Jay	D	N	—————												A	<a href="#">BLJA</a>	
American Crow	D	N	—————												A	<a href="#">AMCR</a>	
Chihuahuan Raven	D	N			—————										W	<a href="#">CHRA</a>	
<b>LARKS</b>																	
Horned Lark	D	?			—————										G	<a href="#">HOLA</a>	
<b>SWALLOWS</b>																	
Purple Martin	D					—————									F	<a href="#">PUMA</a>	
Tree Swallow												x			O	TRES	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow						x									O	NORW	
Bank Swallow	D						—								O	<a href="#">BANS</a>	
Cliff Swallow	D	N			—————										U	<a href="#">CLSW</a>	
Cave Swallow	D	N			—————									x	U	<a href="#">CASW</a>	juv
Barn Swallow	D	N			—————										U	<a href="#">BARS</a>	
<b>CHICKADEES AND TITS</b>																	
Carolina Chickadee	D						x								W	<a href="#">CACH</a>	
Black-crested Titmouse	D	N	—————												W	<a href="#">BCTI</a>	
<b>PENDULINE TITS</b>																	
Verdin	D			—————								—————			BW	<a href="#">VERD</a>	
<b>LONG-TAILED TITS</b>																	
Bushtits								x							R	BUSH	
<b>NUTHATCHES</b>																	
Red-breasted Nuthatch												x			W	RBNU	
<b>CREEPERS</b>																	
Brown Creeper	D		—————												W	<a href="#">BRCR</a>	
<b>WRENS</b>																	
Cactus Wren	D	N	—————												BW	<a href="#">CACW</a>	
Rock Wren	D														U	<a href="#">ROWR</a>	
Carolina Wren	D														RW	<a href="#">CARW</a>	
Bewick's Wren	D	N	—————												BRW	<a href="#">BEWR</a>	





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

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

This checklist was compiled by Laura G. Packer, 701 Green Valley Drive, Abilene, TX 79601, e-mail: [lgpacker@suddenlink.net](mailto: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.