

FEEDING / NESTING HABITS OF SOUTH TEXAS BIRDS

<b>Bird</b>	<b>Food</b>	<b>Nesting Material</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Barn Owl	Mice	None	Accepts birdboxes
Barn Swallow	Insects	Mud, Straw	Nests in buildings; bridges, culverts; formerly on cliffs; in caves
Belted Kingfisher	Fish, Crayfish, Insects	None	Excavates burrows in bank, near water
Bewick's Wren	Insects	Bark, Assorted Rubbish	Crevice nester; accepts birdboxes
Black-chinned Hummingbird	Nectar, small insects	Bud scales, leaves, plant down, spiderwebs	Nest looks like a little yellow sponge
Blue Grosbeak	Insects, grains	Grass, rootlets, snakeskin	Nests in shrubs or on low branches
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Insects	Plant down, spiderwebs, lichens	Nests in tall tree in open woods, gardens
Brown-Headed Cowbird	Insects, seeds, berries, grains	None	Parasite
Carolina Wren	Insects	Twigs, grass, leaves	Accepts birdboxes, 10 feet or less from the ground
Cattle Egret	Insects, reptiles, amphibians, crustaceans	Sticks	Nests in bushes or trees, not necessarily near water; singly or in small colonies
Chimney Swift	Flying insects	Twigs	Will repair and use old nests
Cliff Swallow	Flying insects	Mud	On outside of buildings; on cliffs, bridges
Common Grackle	Insects, fruits, grains	Twigs, coarse grass or seaweed, mud, soft grass	Somewhat colonial; sometimes uses osprey nest
Common Gallinule	vegetation, seeds, snails, insects (sedge, grass, pondweed, duckweed)	Grasses, sedges	Nests on top of plants at water's edge, sometimes in trees or shrubs
Common Ground Dove	Seeds, grains, berries (like sunflower & native grass seed)	Twigs, pine needles, rootlets, grass	Nests on ground or in tree
Common Nighthawk	Flying insects	None	Nests on bare ground, flat roofs
Curved bill Thrasher	Insects, seed, fruit, nuts (ground forager)	Twigs, grass, fresh plants, flowers	Nests in shrubs
Dickcissel	Seeds, grains, insects	Weeds, grass	Builds large, bulky nests
Eastern Bluebird	Insects, fruits	Fine grass	Accepts birdboxes

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Eastern Kingbird	Flying insects, wild fruits	Weeds, moss, bark, feathers, cloth, string	Nest is poorly constructed, easily destroyed
Eastern Meadowlark	Insects, seeds, grains	Grass, weeds	Ground nester in pastures, fields, marshes
Eastern Screech- Owl	Insects, rodents, small animals	No nesting material	Cavity nester
European Starling	Insects, seeds, fruits, grains	Mostly Grass	Will commander birdboxes intended for other species
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	Insects, fruit, seeds, occasional bird egg & lizard	No nesting material	Cavity nester
Golden- Crowned Kinglet	Insects	Moss, Lichens	Nest is suspended from twig of conifer
Great Blue Heron	Insects, fish, amphibians	Sticks	Colonial; nests in swamp trees
Great Horned Owl	Small mammals, birds, reptiles	None	Often uses deserted hawk or crow's nest, or lays eggs on ground amidst old bones, skulls, fur, etc.; deep woods
Green Jay	Insects, seed, fruit (ebony , prickly ash, and palm seeds)	sticks, roots, moss, grasses, vines, leaves	Tree nester
Horned Lark	Insects, seeds	Grass	Ground nester
House Finch	Seeds, Fruits, Insects	Twigs, grass, debris	Will nest anywhere
House Sparrow	Insects, seeds, garbage	Grass, straw, weeds, assorted junk	Will commander birdboxes intended for other species
Killdeer	Insects	None	Nests in open, on ground or on rocks, on pebbles, wood chips, grass
Loggerhead Shrike	Insects, small animals and birds	Twigs, grass	Nests in dense brush
Mourning Dove	Seeds, grains	Twigs	Nests on ground or in tree
Northern Bobwhite	Vegetation, seeds, insects (likes clover & 4'oclock seed)	Weeds, grass	Nests in hollow in grass
Northern Cardinal	Seeds, fruits, grains, insects (likes 4'oclock seed)	Twigs, leaves, weeds, grass, hair, rootlets	Usually nests within 8 feet of ground

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Northern Mockingbird	Insects, fruits, berries, seeds	Twigs, leaves, moss, hair, rootlets	Nests in shrubs or trees
Orchard Oriole	Insects, fruits	Weeds, fibers, dry grass	Like a hardwood tree; tendency to colonial nesting
Painted Bunting	Seeds, Insects	Twigs, leaves, rootlets, bark, weeds, grass, caterpillar silk, horsehair	Likes to nest in thick foliage near ground
Plain Chachalaca	Fruit, plant matter, insects	Twigs, leaves, vines, Spanish moss	Very messy nest which begins with abandoned nest from another bird
Purple Gallinule	Insects, plants, seeds, eggs, nestlings	Rushes, sedges, grasses	Nests on floating plant or in reeds. Some have partial roof.
Purple Martin	Flying Insects	Grass, twigs, bark, paper, leaves, string	Nests in dense colonies; accepts martin houses
Red- Winged Blackbird	Insects, seeds, grains	Rushes, grass, moss, milkweed fiber	Social nester, in marshy areas; will strike at intruders
Roadrunner	Reptiles, rodents, insects	Twigs	Nests in cactus, mesquite
Ruby- throated Hummingbird	Nectar, small insects, sap	Lichens, bud scales, plant down, spider silk	Nest the size of eyecup
White- eyed Vireo	Insects, wild fruits	Leaves, moss, wasp paper, sticks, soft woody fibers	Nests in shrub, often near water
Wood Duck	Acorns, insects	Wood chips, down	Cavity nesters; accepts birdboxes
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Insects, wild fruits	Twigs	Nests 4- 10 ft from ground; likes thickets
Yellow- breasted Chat	Insects, berries	Grass, leaves	Nests near ground, in thicket

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