U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Laguna Atascosa

National Wildlife Refuge

Birds

Welcome to Birding at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge

Uniquely situated where the Gulf of Mexico, subtropical Mexico and the desert southwest meet, south Texas is home to many birds found nowhere else in the United States. South Texas is famous for its birds, and with 413 species of birds recorded, Laguna Atascosa is no exception.

Over 88,808 acres of barrier island, salt and freshwater marshes, coastal prairie, savannah and thorn brush attract a larger variety of bird species to Laguna Atascosa than to any other national wildlife refuge in the country.

Where to Look:

Bayside Drive is good for wading birds and shorebirds all year long. The Visitor Center area, Kiskadee Trail, and Paisano Trail are places to look for brushland birds anytime. Drive to Osprey Overlook in winter to see an amazing variety of ducks. In spring, neotropical migrants can be found in the trees along Lakeside Drive, Lakeside Trail and around the Visitor Center. During wet periods, Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Groove-billed Anis, and Least Grebes may be seen along the resacas and small ponds in summer. Aplomado Falcons are seen throughout the year. Check at the Visitor Center for current best locations.

Did You Find a Rare Bird?

The Visitor Center has a sightings book for you to record your finds and to check out what others have been seeing. So Good Birding! And be sure to let us know if you find an accidental, hypothetical or unlisted bird. If it's really rare, remember a picture is worth a thousand words.

This list is in accordance with the seventh addition of the *American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds*, (1998) and its supplements through July 2008.

How to use your checklist

Seasons

Sp - Spring - period of spring migration (depending on species) from mid-February to early June
S - Summer - June to August
F - Fall - period of fall migration (depending on species) from mid-July to November
W - Winter - December to February

Abundance

A - Abundant: a common and numerous species
C - Common: certain to be seen in suitable habitat
U - Uncommon: present, but not certain to be seen
O - Occasional: seen only a few times during a season
R - Rare: seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years
X - Accidental: has been seen only once or twice
* Has nested on the refuge
^ Exotic or introduced species
+ Species of uncertain origin or escaped captivity

Underlined bird names indicate South Texas specialties.

Italicized bird names indicate threatened or endangered species.

Painted Bunting
Photograph by Steve Bentsen

	Sp	S	F	W
Ducks, Geese, and Swans				
___Black-bellied Whistling-Duck*	C	C	U	U
___Fulvous Whistling-Duck*	U	R	U	R
___Greater White-fronted Goose	U		C	C
___Snow Goose	U		C	C
___Ross's Goose			R	R
___Brant				X
___+Barnacle Goose				X
___Canada Goose	U		U	U
___Tundra Swan				X
___Wood Duck			R	R
___Gadwall	U	R	C	C
___Eurasian Wigeon			X	X
___American Wigeon	U	R	C	C
___Mallard	R		R	R
___Mottled Duck*	C	C	C	U
___Blue-winged Teal*	U	R	C	C
___Cinnamon Teal	U		R	U
___Northern Shoveler	C	R	C	C
___+White-cheeked Pintail	X		X	X
___Northern Pintail	U	R	C	A
___Green-winged Teal	U	R	C	C
___Canvasback	U		U	C
___Redhead	U	R	C	A
___Ring-necked Duck	U		U	U
___Greater Scaup			R	R
___Lesser Scaup	U		U	U
___Surf Scoter				X
___Long-tailed Duck				X
___Bufflehead	U		R	U
___Common Goldeneye			R	R
___Hooded Merganser			U	U
___Common Merganser				R
___Red-breasted Merganser	R	R	R	U
___Masked Duck	R	R	R	R
___Ruddy Duck	C	R	C	C
Chachalacas				
___Plain Chachalaca*	C	C	C	C
Partridges, Pheasants, and Turkeys				
___^Chukar	X	X	X	X
___^Ring-necked Pheasant	X	X	X	X
___Wild Turkey*	R	R	R	R
New World Quail				
___Scaled Quail			X	X
___Northern Bobwhite*	A	A	A	A
Loons				
___Red-throated Loon			X	X
___Common Loon	X	X	R	R

	Sp	S	F	W
Grebes				
___Least Grebe*	U	U	U	U
___Pied-billed Grebe*	C	U	A	A
___Horned Grebe			R	R
___Red-necked Grebe				X
___Eared Grebe	U	R	U	U
___Western Grebe	R		R	R
Flamingos				
___+American Flamingo	R	R	R	R
Boobies and Gannets				
___Northern Gannet				X
Pelicans				
___American White Pelican	U	U	C	C
___*Brown Pelican*	U	U	U	U
Cormorants				
___Neotropic Cormorant	U	U	U	U
___Double-crested Cormorant	C	U	C	A
Darters				
___Anhinga	U	U	U	U
Frigatebirds				
___Magnificent Frigatebird	R	R	U	
Herons, Bitterns, and Allies				
___American Bittern	U	R	U	U
___Least Bittern*	U	U	U	U
___Great Blue Heron*	A	A	A	A
___Great Egret*	C	C	C	C
___Snowy Egret*	C	C	C	C
___Little Blue Heron*	U	U	U	U
___Tricolored Heron*	C	C	C	C
___Reddish Egret*	C	C	C	C
___Cattle Egret*	U	U	U	U
___Green Heron*	U	U	U	U
___Black-crowned Night-Heron*	U	U	U	U
___Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*	U	U	U	U
Ibises and Spoonbills				
___White Ibis*	C	C	C	C
___Glossy Ibis	X			
___White-faced Ibis	C	U	C	C
___Roseate Spoonbill	U	U	U	U
Storks				
___Jabiru			X	
___Wood Stork	U	U	U	
Vultures				
___Black Vulture*	C	C	C	C
___Turkey Vulture*	A	A	A	A
Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies				
___Osprey	A	U	A	A
___Swallow-tailed Kite	R		R	
___White-tailed Kite*	C	C	C	C
___Snail Kite				X

Harris Hawk
Photograph by
Steve Bentsen

	Sp	S	F	W
Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies, Continued				
___Mississippi Kite	R	X		
___Bald Eagle				X
___Northern Harrier	C	X	C	A
___Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	U
___Cooper's Hawk	U		U	U
___Northern Goshawk		X		
___Common Black-Hawk		X	X	X
___Harris's Hawk*	C	C	C	C
___Red-shouldered Hawk	R		R	R
___Broad-winged Hawk	U		U	
___Gray Hawk			X	
___Swainson's Hawk	U		U	R
___White-tailed Hawk*	U	U	U	U
___Zone-tailed Hawk	X	X	X	
___Red-tailed Hawk	U		U	C
___Ferruginous Hawk	R		R	R
___Rough-legged Hawk				X
___Golden Eagle			X	X
Caracaras and Falcons				
___Crested Caracara*	U	U	U	U
___American Kestrel	C		C	A
___Merlin	U		U	U
___*Aplomado Falcon**	U	U	U	U
___Peregrine Falcon	U	R	U	U
___Prairie Falcon			R	R

	Sp	S	F	W
Rails, Gallinules, and Coots				
___Black Rail	X			
___Clapper Rail	U	U	U	U
___King Rail*	U	U	U	U
___Virginia Rail	U		U	U
___Sora*	U	R	U	U
___Purple Gallinule*	R	R	R	
___Common Moorhen*	C	C	U	U
___American Coot*	A	U	A	A
___Carribean Coot+	X			
Cranes				
___Sandhill Crane	U		U	C
___*Whooping Crane*			X	
Plovers				
___Black-bellied Plover	C	U	C	C
___American Golden-Plover	U		R	R
___Snowy Plover*	U	U	U	U
___Wilson's Plover*	C	C	C	U
___Semipalmated Plover	C	U	U	U
___*Piping Plover*	U	R	U	U
___Killdeer*	C	C	C	C
___Mountain Plover	R		R	R
Oystercatchers				
___American Oystercatcher	R	R	R	R
Stilts and Avocets				
___Black-necked Stilt*	C	C	C	U
___American Avocet*	C	C	C	U
Jacanas				
___Northern Jacana	X	X		X

Crested Caracara
Photograph by Steve Bentsen

	Sp	S	F	W
Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies				
___Spotted Sandpiper	U	R	U	U
___Solitary Sandpiper	U		U	U
___Greater Yellowlegs	C	U	C	C
___Willet*	A	A	A	A
___Lesser Yellowlegs	C	U	C	C
___Upland Sandpiper	U		U	
___Whimbrel	U	R	U	U
___Long-billed Curlew	C	U	A	C
___Hudsonian Godwit	U			
___Marbled Godwit	U	R	U	U
___Ruddy Turnstone	U	R	U	U
___Red Knot	U	R	U	
___Sanderling	U	R	U	U
___Semipalmated Sandpiper	A	U	A	
___Western Sandpiper	A	U	A	A
___Least Sandpiper	C	U	C	C
___White-rumped Sandpiper	U	R	X	
___Baird's Sandpiper	U		U	
___Pectoral Sandpiper	U	R	U	X
___Dunlin	C	U	C	C
___Curlew Sandpiper	X			X
___Stilt Sandpiper	U	U	U	U
___Buff-breasted Sandpiper	U		U	
___Short-billed Dowitcher	U	U		
___Long-billed Dowitcher	A	U	A	C
___Wilson's Snipe	U		U	U
___American Woodcock	X			
___Wilson's Phalarope	U	R	U	X
___Red-necked Phalarope	R		R	
___Red Phalarope	X		X	
Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers				
___Bonaparte's Gull	U		U	R
___Laughing Gull*	A	A	A	C
___Franklin's Gull	U		U	
___Ring-billed Gull	C	R	C	A
___Herring Gull	U	R	U	U
___Lesser Black-backed Gull				X
___Great Black-backed Gull	X			X
___Brown Noddy		X		
___Sooty Tern		R		
___Least Tern*	C	C	C	R
___Gull-billed Tern*	C	C	C	U
___Caspian Tern*	C	C	C	U
___Black Tern	U	U	U	X
___Common Tern	U		U	R
___Forster's Tern*	C	C	C	C
___Royal Tern*	U	U	U	U
___Sandwich Tern*	U	U	U	U
___Black Skimmer*	C	C	U	U

	Sp	S	F	W
Jaegers				
___Parasitic Jaeger	X			
Pigeons and Doves				
___^ Rock Pigeon	U	U	U	U
___Red-billed Pigeon	X	X	X	X
___Band-tailed Pigeon				X
___^ Eurasian Collared-Dove		X		
___White-winged Dove*	U	U	U	R
___Mourning Dove*	A	A	A	A
___Inca Dove*	R	R	R	R
___Common Ground-Dove*	C	C	C	C
___Ruddy Ground-Dove	X			X
___White-tipped Dove*	C	C	C	C
Parakeets, and Parrots				
___Green Parakeet	R	R	R	R
___Red-crowned Parrot	R	R		R
___+Yellow-headed Parrot		X		
___+Budgerigar		X		
Cuckoos, Roadrunners, and Allies				
___Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	C	C	U	X
___Mangrove Cuckoo	X	X		X
___Black-billed Cuckoo	R		X	
___Greater Roadrunner*	C	C	C	U
___Groove-billed Ani*	U	C	C	U
Barn Owls				
___Barn Owl*	U	U	U	U
Typical Owls				
___Eastern Screech-Owl*	U	U	U	U
___Great Horned Owl*	U	U	U	U
___Elf Owl		X		
___Burrowing Owl			R	R
___Short-eared Owl	U		U	U
Goatsuckers				
___Lesser Nighthawk*	U	U	U	R
___Common Nighthawk*	C	A	A	
___Common Pauraque*	C	C	C	U
___Chuck-will's-widow	U		U	
___Whip-poor-will	R			
Swifts				
___Chimney Swift	U		U	U
Hummingbirds				
___Buff-bellied Hummingbird*	C	U	U	
___Blue-throated Hummingbird	X			
___Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C		U	X
___Black-chinned Hummingbird	U		U	
___Rufous Hummingbird	R		R	R
Kingfishers				
___Ringed Kingfisher	U	U	U	U
___Belted Kingfisher*	C	U	C	C
___Green Kingfisher	U	U	U	U

	Sp	S	F	W
Woodpeckers				
___Red-headed Woodpecker	X			
___Golden-fronted Woodpecker*	A	A	A	A
___Red-bellied Woodpecker				X
___Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U		U	U
___Ladder-backed Woodpecker*	C	C	C	C
___Northern Flicker			U	U
Tyrant Flycatchers				
___Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet	R	R	R	R
___Olive-sided Flycatcher	R		R	
___Western Wood-Pewee	R		R	
___Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	X	C	
___Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	U		U	
___Acadian Flycatcher	U		U	
___Alder Flycatcher	U		U	
___Willow Flycatcher	U		U	
___Least Flycatcher	U		U	
___Black Phoebe			X	
___Eastern Phoebe	C		C	C
___Say's Phoebe	R		R	R
___Vermilion Flycatcher*	U	R	U	U
___Ash-throated Flycatcher	X			R
___Great Crested Flycatcher	U		U	X
___Brown-crested Flycatcher*	C	C		R
___Great Kiskadee*	C	C	C	U
___Tropical Kingbird				X
___Couch's Kingbird*	C	U	C	U
___Cassin's Kingbird				X
___Western Kingbird	U		U	
___Eastern Kingbird	C	R	C	
___Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*	A	U	C	U
___Rose-throated Becard	X		X	X
Shrikes				
___Loggerhead Shrike	U		U	C
Vireos				
___White-eyed Vireo*	C	C	C	C
___Bell's Vireo	R			
___Yellow-throated Vireo	U		U	
___Blue-headed Vireo	U		U	
___Warbling Vireo	U		U	
___Philadelphia Vireo	U		U	
___Red-eyed Vireo	U		U	
___Yellow-green Vireo*	R	R	R	R
Crows and Jays				
___Blue Jay			R	R
___Green Jay*	C	C	C	C
___Tamaulipas Crow *(former range)*	R		R	R
___Chihuahuan Raven*	U	U	U	U
Larks				
___Horned Lark*	C	C	C	C

Great Kiskadee
Photograph by
Larry Ditto

	Sp	S	F	W
Swallows				
___Purple Martin	U	R	U	X
___Tree Swallow	A		U	R
___Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U	R	C	
___Bank Swallow	U	R	U	
___Cliff Swallow*	U	U	U	X
___Cave Swallow*	U	U	U	
___Barn Swallow*	C	U	C	
Titmice				
___Black-crested Titmouse*	C	C	C	C
Verdins				
___Verdin*	U	U	U	U
Nuthatches				
___Red-breasted Nuthatch			X	

Green Jay
Photograph by Larry Ditto

	Sp	S	F	W
Wrens				
___Cactus Wren*	U	U	U	U
___Rock Wren				R
___Canyon Wren			X	
___Carolina Wren*	U	U	U	U
___Bewick's Wren*	C	C	C	U
___House Wren	R		U	U
___Winter Wren	X		X	X
___Sedge Wren	U		U	U
___Marsh Wren	U		U	U
Kinglets				
___Golden-crowned Kinglet				U
___Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U		U	U
Gnatcatchers				
___Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U	U	U	U
Thrushes				
___Northern Wheatear			X	
___Eastern Bluebird	R		R	R
___Mountain Bluebird	R			R
___Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush	X			
___Veery	U		U	
___Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		U	
___Swainson's Thrush	U		U	
___Hermit Thrush	U		U	U
___Wood Thrush	U		U	
___Clay-colored Thrush				R
___American Robin	U		U	U
Mockingbirds and Thrashers				
___Gray Catbird	C		U	R
___Northern Mockingbird*	A	A	A	A
___Sage Thrasher	R		R	R
___Brown Thrasher				R
___Long-billed Thrasher*	C	C	C	C
___Curve-billed Thrasher*	U	U	U	U
Starlings				
___^ European Starling*	U	U	U	U
Pipits				
___American Pipit	U		U	U
___Sprague's Pipit	X		U	U
Waxwings				
___Cedar Waxwing	U		U	U
Silky-flycatchers				
___Gray Silky-flycatcher			X	
Wood-Warblers				
___Blue-winged Warbler	U			
___Golden-winged Warbler	U			
___Tennessee Warbler	C		U	
___Orange-crowned Warbler	C		C	U
___Nashville Warbler	U		U	U
___Virginia's Warbler				X

	Sp	S	F	W
Wood-Warblers, Continued				
___Northern Parula	U		U	
___Tropical Parula		X		X
___Yellow Warbler	C		U	
___Chestnut-sided Warbler	U		U	
___Magnolia Warbler	U		U	
___Cape May Warbler	X			
___Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		U	U
___Black-throated Gray Warbler	X		X	
___*Golden-cheeked Warbler*	X	X	X	
___Black-throated Green Warbler	U		U	U
___Townsend's Warbler			X	X
___Hermit Warbler		X		
___Blackburnian Warbler	U		U	
___Yellow-throated Warbler	U		U	U
___Pine Warbler				X
___Prairie Warbler			X	
___Palm Warbler	R		R	
___Bay-breasted Warbler	U		U	
___Blackpoll Warbler	R			
___Cerulean Warbler	U		R	
___Black-and-white Warbler	C	R	C	U
___American Redstart	U		U	
___Prothonotary Warbler	U		R	
___Worm-eating Warbler	U		U	
___Swainson's Warbler	R		R	
___Ovenbird	U		U	U
___Northern Waterthrush	U		U	
___Louisiana Waterthrush	U		U	
___Kentucky Warbler	U		U	
___Mourning Warbler	U		U	
___MacGillivray's Warbler	X			
___Common Yellowthroat*	C	U	C	C
___Hooded Warbler	U		U	
___Wilson's Warbler	U		U	U
___Canada Warbler	U		U	
___Red-faced Warbler			X	
___Painted Redstart	X			
___Golden-crowned Warbler		X		
___Yellow-breasted Chat*	U	X	U	X
Tanagers				
___Summer Tanager*	U	R	U	
___Scarlet Tanager	U		U	
___Western Tanager	R			R
Sparrows				
___White-collared Seedeater	X	X	X	X
___Olive Sparrow*	A	A	A	A
___Green-tailed Towhee	U		U	U
___Spotted Towhee				X
___Eastern Towhee				R

	Sp	S	F	W
Sparrows, Continued				
___Cassin's Sparrow*	C	C	C	U
___Botteri's Sparrow*	C	C	U	
___Rufous-crowned Sparrow				X
___Chipping Sparrow	U		U	
___Clay-colored Sparrow	U		U	U
___Brewer's Sparrow	X			
___Field Sparrow	U		U	U
___Vesper Sparrow	U		U	U
___Lark Sparrow*	U	U	U	U
___Black-throated Sparrow	X			
___Lark Bunting	R		R	R
___Savannah Sparrow	C		C	C
___Grasshopper Sparrow	U		U	U
___Baird's Sparrow				X
___Le Conte's Sparrow	X			U
___Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow				R
___Seaside Sparrow*	U	U	U	U
___Fox Sparrow				X
___Song Sparrow	R		R	R
___Lincoln's Sparrow	C		C	C
___Swamp Sparrow	U		U	U
___White-throated Sparrow	R		R	R
___Harris's Sparrow	X		X	X
___White-crowned Sparrow	U		U	U
___Golden-crowned Sparrow				X
___Dark-eyed Junco			R	
Cardinals and Grosbeaks				
___Northern Cardinal*	A	A	A	A
___Pyrrhuloxia*	U	U	U	U
___Rose-breasted Grosbeak	U		U	
___Black-headed Grosbeak	R			R
___Blue Grosbeak*	U	U	U	
___Lazuli Bunting	R			
___Indigo Bunting	C		U	U

Pyrrhuloxia
Photograph by
Steve Bentsen

	Sp	S	F	W
Cardinals and Grosbeaks, Continued				
___Varied Bunting*	U	R		
___Painted Bunting*	U	U	U	
___Dickcissel*	C	C	C	
Blackbirds				
___Bobolink	X			
___Red-winged Blackbird*	A	C	C	A
___Eastern Meadowlark*	A	A	A	A
___Western Meadowlark	U			U
___Yellow-headed Blackbird	U		U	R
___Brewer's Blackbird	U		U	U
___Common Grackle				X
___Great-tailed Grackle*	A	A	A	A
___Bronzed Cowbird*	C	A	U	U
___Brown-headed Cowbird*	C	C	C	U
___Orchard Oriole	C	R	U	
___Hooded Oriole	R	R	R	R
___Bullock's Oriole	R			
___Altamira Oriole	R		R	R
___Audubon's Oriole*	X	X		
___Baltimore Oriole	C		U	
Finches				
___House Finch			X	
___Pine Siskin				U
___Lesser Goldfinch	R			R
___American Goldfinch	U		U	U
Old World Sparrows				
___^ House Sparrow*	C	C	C	C

Hypothetical Birds These birds have been recorded in Cameron County but not on the refuge.

Harlequin Duck
Black Scoter
Yellow-billed Loon
Brown Booby
Scarlet Ibis
Hook-billed Kite
Roadside Hawk
Limpkin
Double-striped Thick-knee
Eskimo Curlew
Ruff
California Gull
Glaucous Gull
Roseate Tern
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl
Barred Owl
Long-eared Owl
Elegant Trogon
Brown Creeper
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher
Western Bluebird
White-throated Thrush
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Connecticut Warbler
Hepatic Tanager
McCown's Longspur
Chestnut-collared Longspur
Crimson-collard Grosbeak
Boat-tailed Grackle

Northern Aplomado Falcon and the Peregrine Fund

Once common from southern Texas to eastern Arizona, the Aplomado Falcon declined dramatically with the settlement of the West. The bird was placed on the U.S. Endangered Species List in 1986.

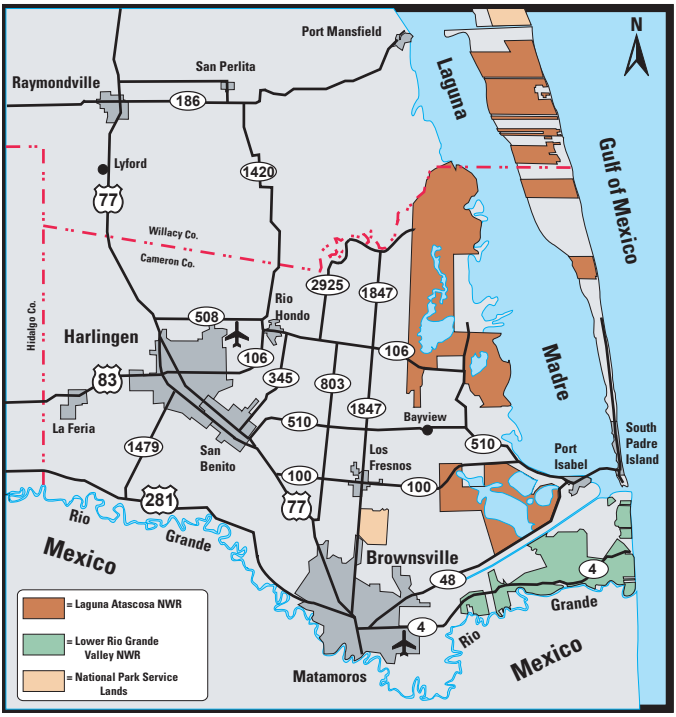
The Peregrine Fund has a captive breeding program at its World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, Idaho. Since 1993, nearly 1,400 Aplomado Falcons have been released in Texas and New Mexico. With at least 50 breeding pairs now in South Texas, recovery is focused on establishing self-sustaining populations.

Innovative Safe Harbor Agreements with Texas ranchers have made available more than 2 million acres of critical habitat for the recovery of Aplomado Falcons.

Founded in 1970, The Peregrine Fund is best known for restoring the Peregrine Falcon, which was removed from the Endangered Species List in 1999. That success allowed the organization to expand to raptor conservation efforts on behalf of 87 species in 61 countries worldwide.

For Further Information

The Peregrine Fund www.peregrinefund.org
208/362-3716



Field Notes

Date _____ Time _____

Observers _____

Weather _____

Species _____

Comments _____

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge
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Texas Relay Service
1 800/735-2989/T
1 800/735-2988/V

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
http://www.fws.gov

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southwest Region
http://southwest.fws.gov

For information on the
National Wildlife Refuge System
1 800/344-WILD

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Aplomado falcon
Photograph by Sandfort