

El Paso Birds

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Introduction

El Paso is located in the Chihuahuan Desert. It is an area that does not come to the general public's mind as a mecca for birds. Yet the facts speak otherwise. Of the more than 800 species of birds recorded in North America, over 380 have been seen at one time or another in the greater El Paso area. To the casual observer, our desert environment may appear insufficient to attract and support such a wide array of species. The key to El Paso's diversity of birds is the diversity of habitats that are present. El Paso's landscape is not endless miles of desert scrub land. It includes river, lake, mountain, and even urban habitats. Within each of these habitat types, various niches are present which provide resources to sustain diverse bird populations, whether they are permanent residents or seasonal visitors.

Some birds, such as ducks and gulls, tend to have fairly strict habitat requirements, such as being in or near water. Others may be tied to a particular habitat type for one aspect of their life history, such as during nesting, but can forage widely and thus be seen far away from their nesting habitat. An example of this would be white-throated swifts requiring cliffs for nesting but flying out over rivers, lakes, cities, and scrub land in search of flying insects. Other species may be true generalists and can be found in a number of different habitat types. Mockingbirds fit this model, being found breeding and feeding in urban, desert scrub, or riparian habitats.

Approximately 94 bird species are known to nest in the greater El Paso area. The other nearly 290 species occur here as winter visitors, migrants, or as accidental visitors. Geographic cues such as the north/south trending mountains and the Rio Grande funnel many bird species through this area. Some, like white-crowned sparrows, stay to enjoy the mild climate. Others, such as most of the warblers, may stop briefly to refuel and rest before

continuing their journey to Mexico and Central America in winter or back to their more northern breeding grounds in spring. Additionally, the fact that El Paso occurs in about the middle of the continent and on the border with Mexico enhances the likelihood that species most often restricted to the eastern or far-western United States, or Mexico, may show up accidentally in El Paso. Some examples of these include purple martins (generally common in the eastern U.S.), brown pelicans (associated with the Pacific Ocean), and the gray silky flycatcher (a Mexican species).

The birds featured here are grouped by habitats. However, as was mentioned above, they can be found in other habitats as well. That being said, the habitat associations given here should provide a good idea of the common birds one is likely to see in any given area.

Seasonal occurrence in the El Paso area is derived from the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society's checklist of birds from El Paso County, parts of Hudspeth Co., Texas, and southern Doña Ana Co., New Mexico, as well as my personal observations. See the reference list for the sources of information about food habits and bird names.

In order to study birds closely and learn to identify them, only a few things are needed. These include binoculars, a field guide, field notes, and time. Binoculars need not be expensive but they should have coated optics and adequate magnification and light-gathering qualities. Read the label with the binoculars to see if they are coated. Generally, a red, yellow, or bluish sheen to the lens indicates they are coated. Binoculars come with a rating, such as 7 X 35 or 10 X 50, etc. The first number refers to the magnification. The second number refers to the width of the large objective lenses and will affect how much light the binoculars allow in. The larger this number, the brighter the image will appear. This is especially helpful on overcast days. Also try to get a pair of binoculars that are not too heavy for you.

There are many fine field guides to choose from. These include guides to Texas birds, Western birds, and North American birds. Any of these will be adequate for use in El Paso, although the guides to North American species will be more comprehensive and useful elsewhere in North America.

Field notes can be a useful record of your observations. They can range from simple lists of what was seen on any given day or trip to detailed descriptions about identification, behavior, thoughts, and trip notes. No matter which format you choose, the notes should at the minimum include the date and place of the observations, observers name, and numbered pages. Records can be kept in a bound ledger or in a spiral or a small three-ring notebook (about 5" X 8").

Habitats

River and Lakes

PLACES TO GO: Feather Lake; Fred Hervey Water Treatment Plant; along canals in the Upper Valley; Fort Hancock and Tornillo Ponds; water-holding areas at Doniphan and Mesa, wetland area at Doniphan and Frontera Roads.

Pied-billed Grebe: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* small fish, crustaceans, molluscs, and aquatic insects. *Name:* "pied-billed" refers to stripe on bill; "grebe" possibly derived from French *griabe* for "sea mew"; Spanish = *zambullidor pico pinto*.

Double-crested Cormorant: In El Paso: year round, no breeding records. *Food:* mainly fish, a few amphibians and aquatic invertebrates. *Name:* double-crested refers to the white, crest-like breeding plumage on side of head; cormorant from French *cormoran* meaning "sea crow"; Spanish = *cuervo marino*.

Wilson's Phalarope: In El Paso: mainly spring and fall migrant, no breeding records. *Food:* mainly aquatic insects, lesser amounts of other invertebrates. *Name:* Wilson's honors late 18th century ornithologist Alexander Wilson; phalarope derived from Greek *phalaris* meaning "coot" and *podus* for "foot" in reference to shape of its foot; Spanish = *chichiquilote nadador*.

Green-winged Teal: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* mainly pondweed, bulrush and wild millet; some invertebrates. *Name:* green-winged refers to the color of the wing patch (speculum); teal with obscure origin, possibly from Dutch *teling* for "teal"; Spanish = *cerceta común, cerceta aliverde*.

Blue-winged Teal: In El Paso: mainly spring and fall, breeds here. *Food:* seeds of bulrush, pondweed, widgeon grass; some invertebrates. *Name:* blue-winged refers to color of wing patch (speculum); teal--see green-winged above; Spanish = *cerceta de alas azules*.

Cinnamon Teal: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* mainly seeds of bulrush, pondweed, with some aquatic insects. *Name:* cinnamon

refers to the base color of the male; teal--see green-winged above; Spanish = *cerceta cafe*.

Pintail: **In El Paso:** year round, breeds here. *Food:* about 87% seeds of aquatic plants (pondweeds, sedges, grasses, smartweeds), about 13% aquatic invertebrates. *Name:* pintail refers to the pointed tail of male; Spanish = *pato golondrino*.

Mallard: **In El Paso:** year round, breeds here. *Food:* about 90% aquatic plant seeds and vegetal parts (pondweeds, smartweeds, aquatic grasses), about 10% invertebrate (mainly aquatic insects, some crustaceans). *Name:* mallard is from Old French *maslard* for "wild drake"; Spanish = *pato de collar*.

Gadwall: **In El Paso:** year round, no record of breeding. *Food:* about 98% plant (mainly vegetal parts of aquatic plants), about 2% animal (mainly mollusks, some insects, record of a few small fish). *Name:* obscure origin, but "gadwall" in use since at least 1676; Spanish = *pato pinto*.

American Widgeon: **In El Paso:** nearly year round, no record of breeding. *Food:* about 93% aquatic plants (pondweeds, grasses, algae), about 7% animal (mainly snails, a few insects). *Name:* ultimately from Latin *vipionem* ("small crane"), leading to Italian forms including *vingeon* which may have led to widgeon; Spanish = *pato chalcuan*.

Northern Shoveler: **In El Paso:** year round, breeds. *Food:* about 66% aquatic plants (sedges, bulrushes, rushes, pondweeds, etc.), about 34% animal (mostly mollusks, some insects). *Name:* "northern" to differentiate it from other shoveler species occurring in the southern hemisphere; shoveler refers to the shovel-shaped bill; Spanish = *pato cuaresmeño*.

Ruddy Duck: **In El Paso:** year round, breeds here. *Food:* about 72% aquatic plants (pondweeds, sedges), about 28% animal (mainly aquatic insects, some mollusks). *Name:* ruddy refers to the rusty ("ruddy") color of the male breeding plumage; Spanish = *pato tepalcate*.

Ring-billed Gull: **In El Paso:** nearly year round, no breeding. *Food:* mainly a scavenger, does eat fish, insects, amphibians. *Name:* gull probably derives from Cornish word *gullan* or *gwillan* meaning "wailer" in reference to its wailing-like call; ring-billed refers to the black bill stripe in adults. Spanish = *apipizca pinta*.

Forster's Tern: **In El Paso:** spring-fall visitor, no breeding. *Food:* mainly small fish, some aquatic invertebrates. *Name:* tern is from various languages meaning tern (Norwegian *terna*, Swedish *tarna*), "Forster's" in honor of

German naturalist Johann R. Forster (1729-1798). Spanish = *golondrina marina de Forster*.

Peregrine Falcon: In El Paso: casual visitor year round, no breeding. *Food:* mainly birds, from sparrow size to duck size, mostly taken in flight, some small mammals. *Name:* "falcon" from Latin *falc* meaning "sickle," perhaps referring to bill or claw shape; "peregrine" of Latin origin (*per* for "through" and *ager* for "land") referring to its wandering habit. Spanish = *halcón pollero, halcón pregrino*.

Red-winged Blackbird: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* mostly plant seeds or sprouts (weeds and crops), animal (beetles, grubs, caterpillars, grasshoppers, ants). *Name:* "blackbird" refers to the basic color of the males; red-winged refers to the red feather patch on each wing. Spanish = *tordo charretero*.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: In El Paso: year round, most common in fall, no breeding. *Food:* mostly plant seeds or sprouts (weeds and crops), animal matter (beetles, caterpillars, grasshoppers). *Name:* "blackbird" as above; "yellow-headed" refers to the yellow head. Spanish = *tordo cabeza amarilla*.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's): In El Paso: fall throughspring, no breeding. *Food:* mostly animal (ants, beetles, flies, spiders), some berries. *Name:* "warbler" refers to the warbling song of the species; "yellow-rumped" refers to the yellow rump patch found in this species. Spanish = *verdin aceitunero*.

American coot: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* mostly submerged vegetation, seeds (pondweed, muskgrass, alga), minimal animal food includes insects, some small mollusks. *Name:* "coot" from 14th Century English *coote* or *cote*; "American" to distinguish it from its similar but slightly larger European relative. Spanish = *gallareta*.

Great-blue Heron: In El Paso: year round, most common fall through spring, no breeding. *Food:* about 78% fish, 16% insects and crustaceans, 9% mice, amphibians and reptiles. *Name:* "heron" from Old French *hairon*; "great-blue" refers to the blue-gray cast of the plumage. Spanish = *garza morena*.

Green-backed Heron: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* about 45% fish, 44% crustaceans and insects, 1% other invertebrates. *Name:* "heron" see above; "green-backed" refers to the back color. Spanish = *martinete cangrejero*.

Great Egret: **In El Paso:** year round (uncommon), no breeding. *Food:* largely amphibians and fish, also other small vertebrates and invertebrates in smaller numbers. *Name:* from Old French *egrette* or *aigrette* meaning "fowl, like a heron"; "great" refers to its size which is larger than other egrets in our area. Spanish = *garzon blanco*.

Snowy Egret: **In El Paso:** year round, breeds here. *Food:* small fish, crustaceans favored, also small reptiles and mammals, insects. *Name:* "egret" (see above); "snowy" refers to the snow white color of the plumage. Spanish = *garcita blanca* or *garza nivea*.

Phainopepla: **In El Paso:** year round, breeds here. *Food:* mostly small fruit, including elderberry, grape, mistletoe (phainopepla= a major disperser of the parasitic plant); minimal animal food is mostly of ants, some other invertebrates. *Name:* means shining robe, derived from Greek *phaeinós* for "shining" and *peplos* for "robe". Spanish = *jilquero negro*, *capulinero negro*.

Vermillion Flycatcher: **In El Paso:** irregular, year round, no breeding. *Food:* insects, taken in air or from the ground. *Name:* "flycatcher" after its manner of hunting, "vermillion" describes the bright red color of the male. Spanish = *cardenalito*.

Black Phoebe: **In El Paso:** year round, mostly in fall through spring, breeds here. *Food:* about 99% insects, less than 1% plant matter. *Name:* "phoebe" probably alludes to sounds phoebes make; "black" describes the color of the bird (except for the white belly). Spanish = *papamoscas negro*.

White-faced Ibis: **In El Paso:** year round, mainly spring and fall, breeds here. *Food:* insects, crustaceans, amphibians, fish, earthworms. *Name:* "ibis" originally from Egyptian for a sacred bird; "white-faced" for the obscure white feathers around the base of the bill. Spanish = *atotola*, *acalote*.

Belted Kingfisher: **In El Paso:** year round, may breed here. *Food:* mainly fish, some crustaceans, frogs, lizards. *Name:* "kingfisher", refers to "king of the fishers", derived from Old English *fiscere* and *cyning*; "belted" refers to the rust-colored band across the breast of the female. Spanish = *martin pescador pardo*.

Great-horned Owl: **In El Paso:** year round, breeds here. *Food:* wide variety of animals, including rabbits, squirrels, skunks, porcupines, smaller mammals, some birds, an opportunistic feeder. *Name:* "owl" from Latin *ulula* to Old English *ule* meaning "owl" alluding to owl calls; "great-horned" refers

to the ear-like tufts of feathers on the head (which are not associated with hearing). Spanish = *tecolote cornudo*.

Cliff Swallow: In El Paso: common summer visitor, breeds here. *Food:* mainly insects taken on the wing, including beetles, wasps and bees, winged ants, one report of a swallow in Texas eating juniper berries. *Name:* "swallow" of obscure origin, may be from Germanic *swalwe*, Old English *swalwe*, or from Greek *saleuo* meaning "move to and fro" alluding to its flight pattern; "cliff" refers to the cliff-like areas where they nest. Spanish = *golondrina vencejo*.

Barn Swallow: In El Paso: common summer visitor, breeds here. *Food:* mainly insects taken on the wing, including flies, beetles, wasps and bees, some moths. *Name:* "swallow" (see above); "barn" refers to a favored farm-land nesting area. Spanish = *golondrina común*.

Painted Bunting: In El Paso: summer visitor, breeds here. *Food:* about 86% plant seeds (mainly bristlegloss), about 14% animal food in summer including grasshoppers, beetles, caterpillars. *Name:* "bunting" origin obscure but may be from German *bunt* meaning "speckled" in reference to the color of some European species; "painted" refers to the many bright colors of the male's plumage. Spanish = *sietecolores*.

Desert Scrub

PLACES TO GO: Franklin Mountains State Park (bajadas); desert area along McNutt Rd. and mesa west of McNutt Rd.

Black-throated Sparrow: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* mainly seeds in fall through early spring, herbaceous growth and insects late spring through summer. *Name:* "sparrow" may be from Indo-European root word *sper* meaning sparrow; "black-throated" refers to the black throat color. Spanish = *chiero barbanegra*.

Vesper Sparrow: In El Paso: fall through spring, no breeding. *Food:* mainly seeds in winter, about 44% in summer; insects about 55% in summer. *Name:* "sparrow" (see above); "vesper" refers to habit of singing at night (as if singing vespers). Spanish = *gorrion torito*.

Rufous-crowned Sparrow: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* mainly plant seeds, some insects in summer. *Name:* "sparrow" (see above); "rufous-crowned" describes the color of the bird's head. Spanish = *zacatonero corona rojiza*.

Chipping Sparrow: In El Paso: year round (most in fall throughspring), may breed here. *Food:* winter about 95% plant seeds, summer about 41% plant seed, 59% insects. *Name:* "sparrow" (see above); "chipping" refers to its call. Spanish = *chimbito común*.

Greater Roadrunner: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* essentially all animal, including large insects, spiders, lizards, snakes, mice, some birds, and eggs. *Name:* "roadrunner" alludes to where it is often seen running; "greater" to differentiate it from the smaller lesser roadrunner of Mexico. Spanish = *correcamino californiano*.

Pyrrhuloxia: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* about 75% plant seeds (bristlegrass, doveweed, panicgrasses), animal food (about 25%) consists of insects. *Name:* "pyrrhuloxia" from the Greek *pyrhinos* (red) and *loxos* (crooked) referring to the red patches and the heavy, curved bill. Spanish = *cardenal torito*.

Swainson's Hawk: In El Paso: spring throughfall, breeds here. *Food:* seasonal differences: breeding season, mainly mammals, some birds, and lizards; non-breeding season, large insects (grasshoppers in particular) form major food source. *Name:* "hawk" possibly from German *hab* meaning "to grab or seize" which led to the Middle English *hawk* and hence to "hawk"; "Swainson's" in honor of English naturalist William Swainson (1789 - 1855). Spanish = *aguililla de Swainson, gavián chapulinero*.

Red-tailed Hawk: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* about 80% mammals (ground squirrels, rabbits, mice), birds and snakes making up most of remainder. *Name:* "hawk" (see above); "red-tailed" describes the tail color in the adult. Spanish = *aguililla parda*.

Lesser Nighthawk: In El Paso: spring throughfall, breeds here. *Food:* insects caught while flying. *Name:* "nighthawk" describes its habit of feeding on insects at dusk; "lesser" refers to its being smaller than the common nighthawk. Spanish = *tapacamino halcón*.

Common Poorwill: In El Paso: spring throughfall, breeds here. *Food:* insects caught while flying. *Name:* "poorwill" is suggestive of its call; "common" because of its wide distribution. Spanish = *paxacua, pachacua común*.

House Finch: In El Paso: year round, breeds. *Food:* 95% - 100% seeds, many from weedy species; animal food when taken mainly aphids and caterpillars. *Name:* "finch" is from Old English *finc* for this kind of bird; "house" refers to its habit of nesting around homes. Spanish = *gorrión doméstico*.

Canyon Towhee: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* mainly seeds of grasses, thistle; intake of animal food (beetles, moths, caterpillars, ants, grasshoppers) increases in spring and summer). *Name:* "towhee" imitative of the call; "canyon" refers to where they are sometimes found. Spanish = *llama, vieja*.

Burrowing Owl: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* mainly insects (grasshoppers, beetles, caterpillars) and some small mammals (mice, rats, ground squirrels and young rabbits). *Name:* "owl" (see great horned owl); "burrowing" describes where its nest is found. Spanish = *lechuza ed hojo*.

Turkey Vulture: In El Paso: summer, breeds here. *Food:* mainly carrion, some insects; reports of some plant matter eaten when other food not available. *Name:* "vulture" is from the Latin *vello* meaning "to pluck or tear" descriptive of its feeding method; "turkey" because of the bare, turkey-like head. Spanish = *aura común, zopilote*

American Kestrel: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* mainly insects, small mammals (mice, voles, small ground squirrels, some bats) and small birds (robin to sparrow size), some reptiles and amphibians. *Name:* "kestrel" from Old French *resserelle* derived from Latin *crepicella* meaning to creak or crackle, therefore imitative of the bird's call; "American" to differentiate it from its Eurasian counterpart. Spanish = *cernícalo chitero, gavián chitero*.

Cactus Wren: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* predominately insect (beetles, caterpillars, grasshoppers, bugs); little plant food (prickly pear, elderberry). *Name:* "wren" from Old English *wraenna* for this group; "cactus" refers to one of its favored nesting sites. Spanish = *matraca grande*.

Crissal Thrasher: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* during breeding season, insects most common; other times, seeds and fruits predominate. *Name:* "thrasher" possibly a variant of thrush, "thrusher"; "crissal" alludes to the rusty colored crissum (under tail coverts) of this species. Spanish = *cuitlacoche crisal*.

Blue Grosbeak: In El Paso: summers, breeds here. *Food:* in spring and summer, insects (grasshoppers, ants, caterpillars) important about half of diet; seeds (mainly grasses) form bulk of diet rest of year. *Name:* "grosbeak" is from the French *grosbec* meaning "large billed"; "blue" describes the color of the male. Spanish = *azulejo maicero, picogordo azul*.

Mountains

PLACES TO GO: Franklin Mountains State Park (mountain areas); Hueco Tanks State Park

Rock Wren: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* insects and spiders, very limited plant food includes small fruits. *Name:* "wren" (see cactus wren above); "rock" describes a favored perch and habitat. Spanish = *saltapared comesebo*.

Canyon Wren: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* insects and spiders; very limited plant food includes small fruits. *Name:* "wren" see above; "canyon" describes its preferred habitat. Spanish = *saltapared barranquero*.

Golden Eagle: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* includes mainly mammals (ground squirrel to rabbit size), carrion (especially in winter), some birds (mainly grouse size). *Name:* "eagle" from Middle English *egle* and Old French *aigle* which derive from Latin *aquilla* meaning eagle; "golden" refers to the color on the head and neck of the adults. Spanish = *aguila real*.

Rufous-sided Towhee: In El Paso: mainly fall throughspring, no breeding. *Food:* mainly seeds and fruits; insects important during spring and summer. *Name:* "towhee" (see canyon towhee above); "rufous-sided" describes the color of the adult bird's sides. Spanish = *chouis*.

White-throated Swift: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* insects caught while flying (flies, beetles, wasps, ants). *Name:* "swift" describes the rapidity with which they fly; "white-throated" descriptive of the bird's plumage. Spanish = *vencejo surlano*.

Urban

PLACES TO GO: upper valley residential areas north and south of Country Club Rd.; city parks, including Memorial Park, Arroyo Park

House Sparrow: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* mainly cultivated seeds (oats, wheat, etc.) but commonly eats bread; little animal consumed (some beetles, caterpillars, ants, etc.). *Name:* "sparrow" (see black-throated above); "house" refers to its preference to be around homes and buildings. Spanish = *gorrión inglés*.

Starling: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* spring and summer, largely insects and other invertebrates (beetles, grasshoppers, centipedes). *Name:* "starling" comes from the Old English *staerlinc*. Spanish = *estornino*.

Great-tailed Grackle: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* in spring and summer, about two-thirds animal (grasshoppers, beetles, small frogs, mammals, eggs), the rest seeds; in fall and winter, the ratio flips with about two-thirds plant, one-third animal. *Name:* "grackle" possibly imitative of its call; "great-tailed" describes the large "Y" shaped tail of the male. Spanish = *zanate*.

Rock Dove (Pigeon): In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* all plant matter such as corn, sunflowers (bread, etc., in urban areas). *Name:* "dove" is from the Germanic *dubo* meaning "dark-colored bird"; "rock" describes a favored habitat; "pigeon" derived from Latin *pipire* "to peep or chirp" which evolved into the Old French *püon*, the precursor of the English "pigeon". Spanish = *pinchón de las rocas, paloma doméstica*.

White-winged Dove: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* almost exclusively seeds and other plant matter (cultivated grains, sunflowers, desert willow, acacia, grasses). *Name:* "dove" (see rock dove above); "white-winged" refers to the white patch on the wing. Spanish = *tórtola, paloma de alas blancas*.

Mourning Dove: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* mostly seed eaters (cultivated grains, sunflowers, grasses); animal matter is insignificant part of diet. *Name:* "dove" (see rock dove above); "mourning" descriptive of its call. Spanish = *hUILota común*.

Inca Dove: In El Paso: year round, breeds here. *Food:* almost exclusively on seeds of grasses and weedy type plants. *Name:* "dove" (see rock dove above); "inca" of unknown origin as the name. Spanish = *coquita comun, tortolita común*.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: In El Paso: some winters, no breeding. *Food:* pine seeds a favored plant food; invertebrates include beetles, spiders, caterpillars, ants. *Name:* "nuthatch" apparently a corruption of "nuthack" describing habit of hacking at seeds with bill; "red-breasted" describes the rusty color of the underparts. Spanish = *saltpalo candense*.

Northern Mockingbird: In El Paso: year round, breeds. *Food:* spring through summer largely insects (beetles, ants, wasps, grasshoppers), in fall and winter, fruits predominate. (*Name:* "mockingbird" describes birds ability to mimic or mock other birds' songs; "northern" to differentiate it from southern species. Spanish = *cenzontle norteño*.

American Robin: In El Paso: year round (most common fall through spring), breeds here. *Food:* spring and summer, invertebrates predominate (caterpillars, beetles, earthworms); during fall and winter, fruits occupy the bulk of their diet. *Name:* "robin" is thought to have resulted from a person's name having been given as a nickname for the bird; "American" to differentiate it from the European robin. Spanish = *primavera real*.

Black-chinned Hummingbird: In El Paso: mainly summers, breeds here. *Food:* nectar from flowers; insects (ants, aphids, small beetles, flies) gleaned from flowers also important year round food source. *Name:* "hummingbird" describes the humming noise its wings make while flying; "black-chinned" refers to the color of the chin and throat feathers (the gorget). Spanish = *terciopelo barbanegro, chupaflor barbinegro*.

Rufous Hummingbird: In El Paso: mainly fall, but at other times of year, no breeding. *Food:* (see black-chinned humming bird above). *Name:* "hummingbird" (see above); "rufous" describes the color of the male's body plumage. Spanish = *chupamirto dorada*

Western Kingbird: In El Paso: spring through early fall, breeds here. *Food:* flies, mosquitoes, small moths, flying ants). *Name:* "kingbird" alludes to its intense territoriality; "western" to differentiate it from its eastern counterpart. Spanish = *madrugador avispero*.

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