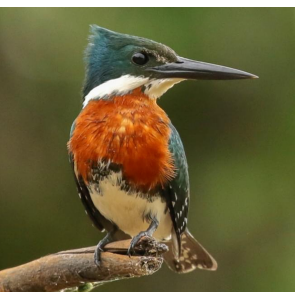




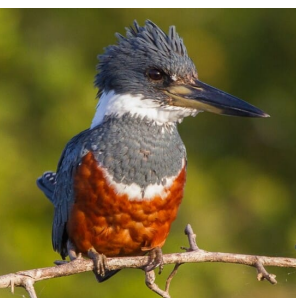
**Plain Chachalaca**  
*Oreortyx pictus*

**Found:** In the brush, open areas, at the feeders, or on fruiting trees.  
Almost always heard before it is seen, these lively chicken-like birds can be found in brushy woodland from the RGV to Central America. The Plain Chachalaca has an olive-brown body with a long tail and neck. Pairs of Plain Chachalacas give their loud calls in the early morning and early evening. You'll struggle to find a bird with more personality while you're enjoying our grounds.



**Green Kingfisher**  
*Chloroceryle americana*

**Found:** At Dragonfly Pond, Discover Pond, Canal Overlook & North Pond.  
With a range in the U.S. barely reaching Arizona and Texas, this kingfisher is one of our grounds' most coveted attractions. It's shaped like a sparrow with the bill of a heron. It can be difficult to spot due to its size and its tendency to perch low in dense vegetation near the water. In fact, it's the smallest of the Kingfishers you'll find on our grounds. To help spot it, keep an ear out for sharp ticking calls, like a typewriter.



**Ringed Kingfisher**  
*Megasceryle torquata*

**Found:** At North Pond, Canal Overlook, and South Pond.  
A South American bird, the Ringed Kingfisher's range just barely touches Southern Texas, making it one of the treasures of our grounds. The largest of the kingfishers on our grounds, they are blue-gray, with a white collar and rufous belly. They usually hunt from high perches to catch big fish. When going from perch to perch, it flies high, often giving a harsh 'tchack tchack' call.



**Belted Kingfisher**  
*Megasceryle alcyon*

**Found:** At North Pond, Canal Overlook, and South Pond.  
A North American Kingfisher, the Belted Kingfisher is the second-largest Kingfisher on our grounds, smaller than the Ringed Kingfisher but bigger than the Green Kingfisher. They are stocky, have a large head, and are known for their shaggy crest. The males and females are almost identical in appearance, save for the rusty band that can be found across the female's chest.



**Inca Dove**  
*Columbina inca*

**Found:** At feeders or open areas near buildings.  
A small tropical dove that lives in regions with dry to arid climates. It has a gray body covered in scalloped feathers. If you spot one or more while walking our grounds, keep an eye out for their lovely chestnut underwings that become visible when they are in flight. They can often be seen sunbathing at our fountain, on the fences, or on the ground.



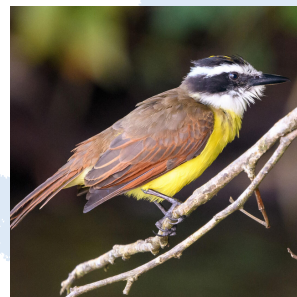
**Golden-fronted Woodpecker**  
*Melanerpes aurifrons*

**Found:** Tree tops at Dragonfly Pond, Canal Overlook & our Parking Lot.  
Ranging from Central America to Oklahoma, the Golden-fronted Woodpecker's barred black-and-white back is often seen climbing up branches looking for insects and fruit. They have a ruby nape, and the males have red crowns. Listen closely for their sharp calls or rapid drumming to try and spot one. If you see a Golden-fronted with purple on its face, it's likely from eating the fruit of the native prickly-pear cactus.



**Northern Cardinal**  
*Cardinalis cardinalis*

**Found:** In the brush, at feeders, or in fruiting trees.  
Wondering why the Northern Cardinal is found so deep in the South? The Northern in its name refers to the Hemisphere it resides in, as this stylish little songbird has a range spanning far across the U.S. The vibrant red color belongs to the males, while the gray with red accents belongs to the female. If you think you see a female with a yellow beak instead of a red one, you instead may have spotted a Pyrrhuloxia! (*peer-uh-LOX-ee-a*)



**Great Kiskadee**  
*Pitangus sulphuratus*

**Found:** On tree tops, at the edges of the ponds.  
With a range in the U.S. that just touches South Texas, the Great Kiskadee on our grounds is both a must-see and a can't miss. This flycatcher is loud in both attitude and color. The Great Kiskadee has a black bandit's mask, a yellow belly, and flashes of warm reddish-brown when they fly. They sit on tree tops and attract attention by loudly chirping their namesake "kis-ka-dee" calls.



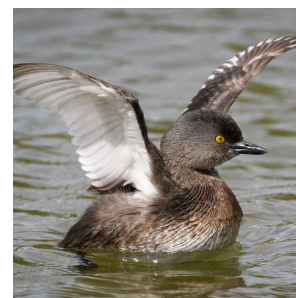
**Green Jay**  
*Cyanocorax yncas*

**Found:** In Brush, Fruiting Trees, and at the Feeders.  
This jay is bright green, yellow, and blue. With its range barely stretching to southern Texas, this Jay is a beautiful attraction for non-local birders. One of few North American birds to use tools, they travel in flocks looking for insects, small vertebrates, and fruit. Being excellent mimics, they can imitate calls of various hawks to frighten other birds from the food that they want.



**Buff-Bellied Hummingbird**  
*Amazilia yucatanensis*

**Found:** At Hummingbird feeders or nectar producing flowers.  
Visitors of our grounds will be delighted to see these lively Hummingbirds as year-long residents of the RGV, with a range barely crosses the U.S.-Mexico border. With a with red bill, orange tail, and buffy patch on its belly, these large hummingbirds love sipping nectar from flowers, and will even chase away other hummingbirds from their favorite feeders. During their chasing, they give a rapid series of low chirps.



**Least Grebe**  
*Tachybaptus dominicus*

**Found:** At North Pond and the Canal Overlook  
Don't call it a duck! The Least Grebe is different than other waterfowl, as it has lobbed toes, making it easier to swim in water than it is to walk on land. Found in southern Texas, this grebe is tiny, slightly metallic gray, has a tuft of white at the back, and has bright golden eyes. Scan the water's surface if you can't see it; it can hide underwater with only its bill showing above the surface, like a snorkel.



**Great-Tailed Grackle**  
*Quiscalus mexicanus*

**Found:** In open areas, near water, and on tree tops.  
Commonly mistaken as a Crow or a Raven, the Great-Tailed Grackle is actually a big, brash blackbird, often found strutting and hopping on suburban lawns, golf courses, fields, and marshes in Texas. The male shimmers in iridescent black and purple, and trails a tail that will make you look twice. The rich-brown females are about half the male's size.

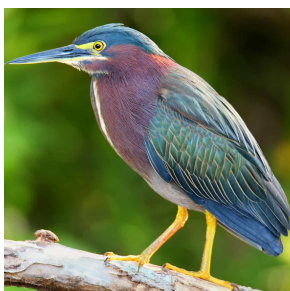


**Found: At North Pond, North Overlook, and the Canal Overlook.**  
A tall, stately white bird common in the south. This egret hunts by standing or walking in shallow water, waiting for fish to come near, then catching them with rapid thrusts of their bill. Though it looks like it's flies slowly, with just two wingbeats per second their cruising speed is around 25mph. This beautiful bird was once almost hunted to extinction for its extravagant feathers.



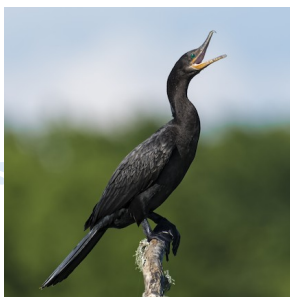
**Great Egret**  
*Ardea alba*

**Found: At North Pond, Canal Overlook and Dragonfly Pond**  
This stealthy, velvet-green and chestnut bird often hides within the leaves. It hunches over the water, waiting patiently to catch fish with a quick strike of their dagger-like bill. One of the few tool-using birds, they'll sometimes lure in fish using insects as bait, and fishing with small items such as twigs. Find them with their neck fully extended, or tucked into their body.



**Green Heron**  
*Butorides virescens*

**Found: At North Pond, South Pond and the Canal Overlook.**  
This nearly all-black waterbird with a snake neck can be found in sheltered waters of southern U.S., the Caribbean, and Latin America. It is smaller and longer-tailed than other cormorants, but looks very similar to the Double-crested Cormorant, and the two species often flock together. When you're walking our grounds and find yourself near the water, if you're hearing piglike grunts, it's likely the distinct guttural calls of the Neotropic Cormorant.



**Neotropic Cormorant**  
*Nannopterum brasilianum*

**Found: At North Pond, South Pond, and Canal Overlook**  
The largest of the North American Herons, the Great Blue Heron is seen at shorelines, rivers, estuaries, and canals across the U.S. The aptly named Great Blue Heron is gray-blue with long legs, an "S"-shaped neck, with a thick dagger-like bill, which they use to stab their prey. This heron weighs only 5 to 6 pounds, thanks in part to their hollow bones-a feature all birds share.



**Great Blue Heron**  
*Ardea herodias*

## SEE MORE BIRDS FOUND HERE!



## OR TRACK AND REPORT YOUR OWN FINDINGS!

OUR GROUNDS PROVIDE HABITAT FOR VARIOUS SPECIES OF BIRDS THAT CAN BE SEEN IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY. OF THE OVER 900 BIRD SPECIES THAT CAN BE SEEN IN THE U.S., A LITTLE OVER 525 SPECIES HAVE BEEN RECORDED IN THE RGV. OF THESE, AROUND 300 SPECIES HAVE BEEN RECORDED HERE SINCE WE OPENED IN 2003. THE BIRDS IN THIS BOOKLET HIGHLIGHT A FEW OF THE MANY BIRDS THAT CAN BE FOUND ALONG THE GARDENS AND PONDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



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