

South Texas *Signature Birds*



2014 Calendar



Crested Caracara

Part scavenger and part predator, the *Crested Caracara* is also known as the *Mexican Eagle*. This 20-25 inch vulture-like raptor has a wingspan of about four feet. Though it's considered threatened federally and in Florida, its Texas population is increasing and expanding.

January 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---------------|---------|-----------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | | 1 ● New Year's Day | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 ○ | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 MLK Day | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 ● | 31 | |

● indicates new moon, ○ indicates full moon (throughout calendar)



Long-billed Thrasher

Primarily inhabiting the river-bottom forests and brush lands of Eastern Mexico and deep South Texas, the *Long-billed Thrasher* has a darker, more sharply decurved bill than its close relative, the *Brown Thrasher*. Populations of this impressively streaked bird are in decline due to the destruction of its habitat throughout its limited range in North America.

February 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------|----------|-----------------------|----------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 Groundhog Day | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Valentine's Day | 15 |
| 16 | 17 President's Day | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | |

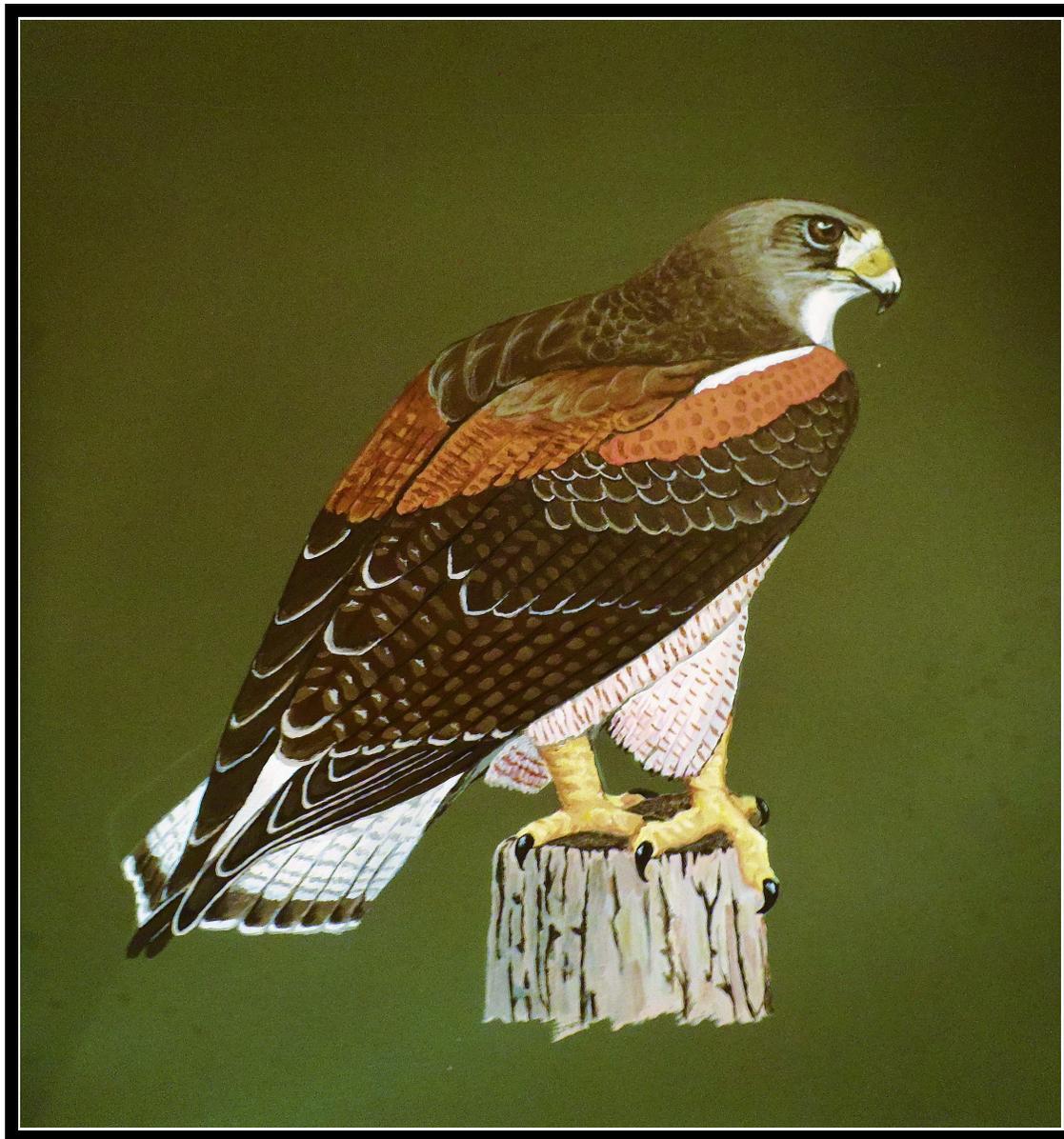


Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Somewhat reclusive, the *Yellow-billed Cuckoo* is more often heard than seen, especially in summer, when its monotonous, throaty song regularly echoes through the dense forests in which it resides. Known by some rural folks as the *Rain Crow*, this stealthy, neotropical migrant likes to sit motionless on an interior branch in a thicket, surveying its surroundings.

March 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|------------------------------|---------|-----------|------------------------------|--------|----------|
| | | | | | | 1 ● |
| 2 Texas Independence Day | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 Daylight Savings Time Begins | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 ○ | 17 Saint Patrick's Day | 18 | 19 | 20 First day of Spring | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 ● | 31 | | | | | |

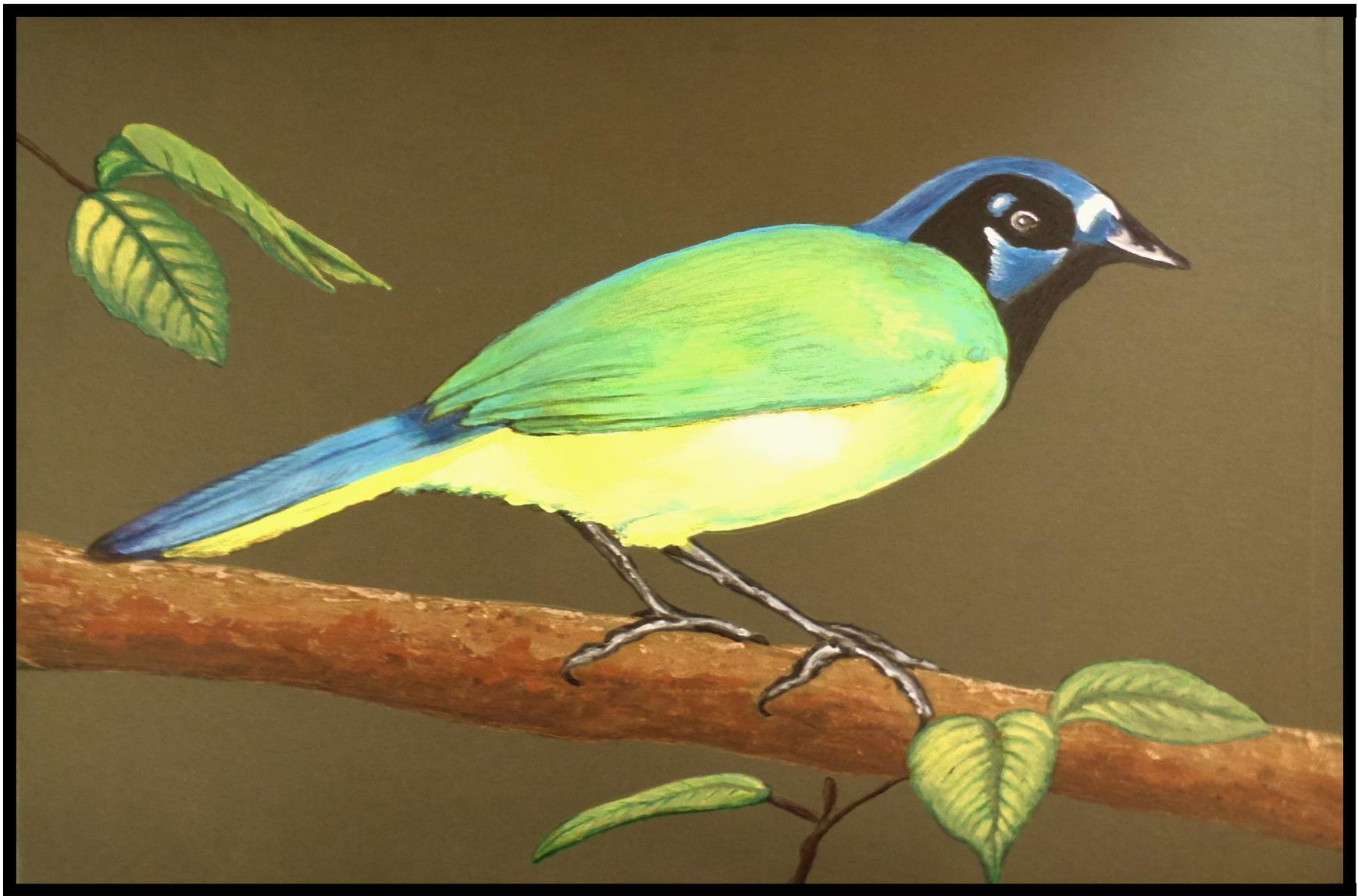


White-tailed Hawk

Uncommon to rare, the *White-tailed Hawk* has the longest legs of any North American buteo. This predatory raptor eats primarily rabbits, but also dines on other small rodents, reptiles, amphibians and occasionally small birds and large insects. On the endangered list in Texas, its population is thought to be in decline due to habitat loss and as a result of widespread use of pesticides.

April 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|-----------------|---------|-----------|----------|-------------|----------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 ○ | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| Easter | San Jacinto Day | | | | Good Friday | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 ● | 30 | | | |



Green Jay

Also known as the *Rio Grande Jay*, the gregarious, inquisitive *Green Jay* inhabits thickets and heavily wooded areas, primarily in the Rio Grande Valley, where its brightly colored plumage helps it blend in remarkably well with sun-dappled foliage. The blue-black mask and bright blue tail fringed with yellow outer feathers readily distinguish this species from other jays. The small population of these birds is vulnerable due to declining amounts of suitable habitat.

May 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 Cinco de Mayo | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Mother's Day | 12 | 13 | 14 ○ | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 Memorial Day | 27 | 28 ● | 29 | 30 | 31 |



Reddish Egret

This uncommon to rare coastal marsh dweller, nearly decimated by plume hunters in the late 1800s, exists in two color phases, white and dark (shown here). Easily identified by its unique gait when seen foraging in the shallows, the *Reddish Egret* hunts by dashing erratically in pursuit of its prey, changing directions frequently, its wings extended to provide balance during the forays. The distinctive predator also uses what's called a "canopy" strategy, where it stands still, spreading its wings to cast a shadow over the water, then snatching fish which swim into the shade. Approximately 2,000 pairs remain in North America today.

June 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 ○ | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Father's Day | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 First day of Summer |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 ● | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |



Great Kiskadee

The aggressive, stout, energetic *Great Kiskadee* gets its name from the sound of its unmistakable, resonant call.

The only flycatcher north of Mexico with a black and white striped head, this colorful predator regularly dives into the water to take small fish, tadpoles and amphibians.

It also snatches flying insects and occasionally preys on baby birds and mice.

Common in the tropics, these splendid birds show some decline in North America.

July 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------------------------|----------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Independence Day | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 ○ |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 ● |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |



Altimira Oriole

The largest North American oriole, the *Altimira Oriole* is fairly common in its home land of Mexico, but inhabits only a small range along the Rio Grande River in South Texas. Similar to the *Hooded Oriole*, it has a larger bill and a bright orange shoulder patch. This brightly-plumed bird builds the longest fibrous pendant nest of any bird north of Mexico. These slender nests can be seen dangling from upper and mid-level branches of trees and sometimes utility wires.

August 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|---------------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 ○ | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 ● | 26 | 27 LBJ Day | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |



White-winged Dove

Managed as a game species, the *White-winged Dove* can be distinguished from other doves by its namesake white wing patches. This gregarious bird often makes its home in the desert, and is known to travel in large flocks. This hearty, plump dove sometimes flies more than twenty miles to find water, which it takes from various natural sources, including cacti, as well as man-made sources. It's regularly drawn to bird baths and feeding stations.

September 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1 Labor Day | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 ○ | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 First Day of Autumn | 24 ● | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |



Ringed Kingfisher

The largest kingfisher in the Western Hemisphere, the *Ringed Kingfisher* rarely strays into the southernmost reaches of Texas, usually along the Rio Grande River. The noisy, stocky bird hunts most often from a high perch, from which it dives after spotting its prey, usually a fish, but sometimes frogs, other amphibians and reptiles. Its population appears to be increasing in the Lone Star State.

October 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------------------|---------|-----------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 ○ | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 Columbus Day | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 ● | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Halloween | |



Roadrunner

New Mexico's state bird, the *Roadrunner* generally prefers sprinting over flying. When chasing its prey, or running from a predator, it can achieve speeds up to 15 mph.

Mostly, this famous bird eats snakes, lizards, insects and small birds, but it will occasionally dine on fruits and seeds. In the past, this streaked sprinter was known by some as the *Ground Cuckoo* because it often dashed along ahead of wagons traveling through the great southwest.

November 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------------------|--------|---------------------|-----------|--------------------|--------|----------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 Daylight Savings Time Ends | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 o | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 Veteran's Day | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 ● |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Thanksgiving | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |



Red-tailed Hawk

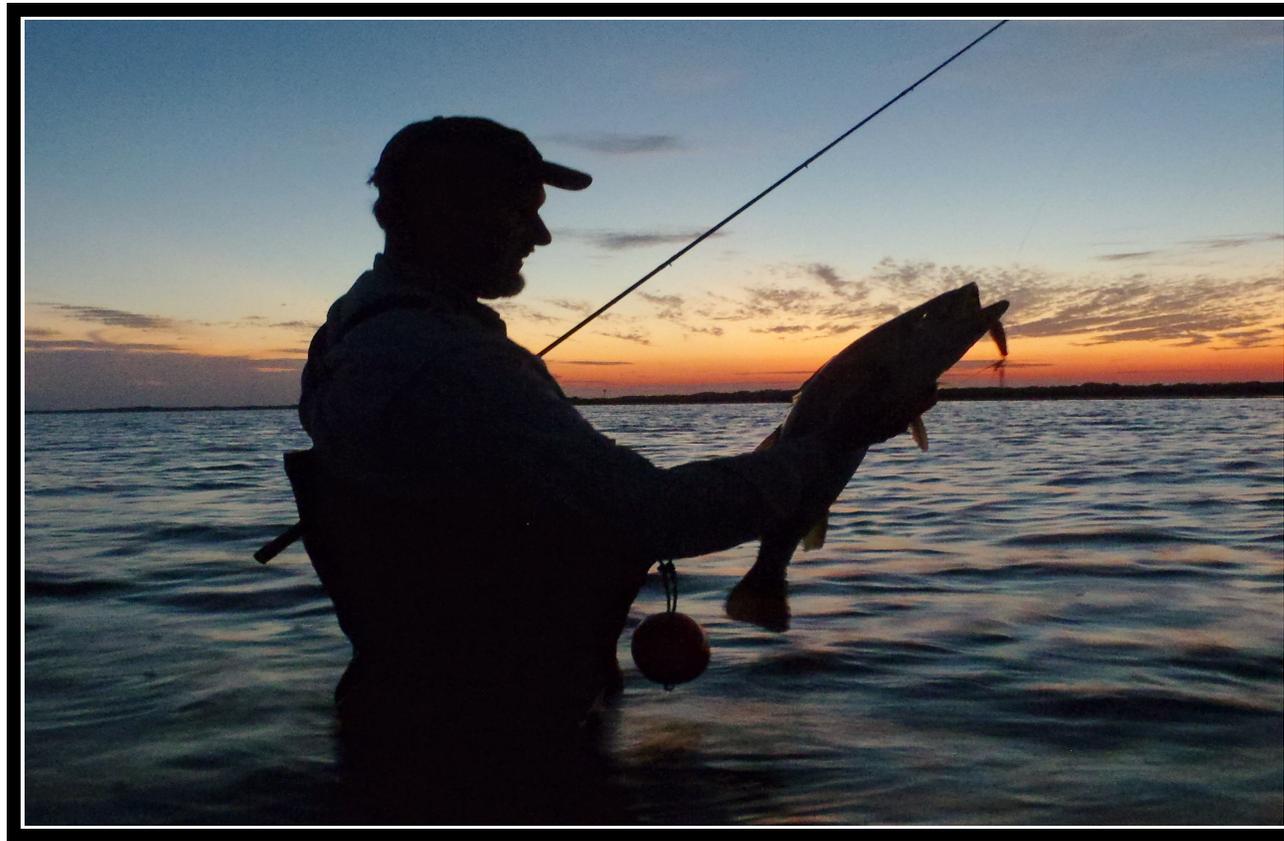
The most numerous and widespread buteo in North America, the *Red-tailed Hawk* has separate five races, all having highly variable coloration in their plumage. The most important thing common to all the sub-species is the rich cinnamon color of the predators' namesake tails.

Because they inhabit such a wide variety of habitats, they feed on many different kinds of prey, including mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and insects.

December 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|----------------------|-----------------|--------|----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 o |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 ● First Day of Winter | 22 | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve | 25 Christmas | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 New Year's Eve | | | |

South Texas *Signature Birds* Calendar 2014



Proud native Texan Captain Kevin Cochran created this calendar to document a dozen birds which symbolize the wild beauty of the southern parts of the Lone Star State. All birds are represented through jpeg images taken from original paintings Kevin produced, using acrylic paints and map pencils on art board. Reproductions of the paintings used in this document can be purchased at

CaptainKevBlogs.com.

Information about Captain Kev's **Trout Tracker Guide Service** can be found at

FishBaffinBay.com.