



Chihuahuan Desert Network Landbird Monitoring

Field Season Summary Report – Spring 2018

Park: Chamizal National Memorial

Start Date: 2/26/2018

End Date: 4/25/18

Field Crew: Lindsay Smythe, Missy Powell, Jonathin Horsely

Contacts

If you would like GPS data or have any questions about the information in this summary, or the monitoring program, please contact the field coordinator or CHDN program manager.

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Areas Surveyed

Chamizal National Memorial is a 55-acre park located in El Paso, TX. The Chihuahuan Desert Network crew conducted point counts at 9 point transects in the park (Figure 1). In order to be independent, points must be 250m apart which limited the number of points that could be surveyed in one visit to 3. The extreme southwest corner of the park was excluded because it lacks trees and vegetation.

Methods Overview

The crew conducted point counts according to the Landbird Monitoring Protocol and Standard Operating Procedures for the Chihuahuan Desert, Northern Great Plains, Sonoran Desert, and Southern Plains Network (Beaupré et al. 2013), with some modifications because of the small survey area. Transects were created by selecting points from a 75m grid to be at least 250 m apart and in suitable habitat for birds. The points were grouped into sets of 3 (3 points = 1 route) and one route per visit was surveyed. The crew made 4 survey visits for a total of 12 points surveyed over a period of 4 weeks. The landbird protocol was designed to produce density estimates of bird species, but given the small size of the park it is unlikely we will ever obtain adequate sample sizes to estimate density. In this report, we present only a species list. Bird species seen opportunistically (between points, before or after the start of the survey, or during other survey protocols) were also recorded and reported, but birds observed only as “flyovers” were not counted. Bird names follow the American Ornithological Society Checklist (Chesser et al. 2018).

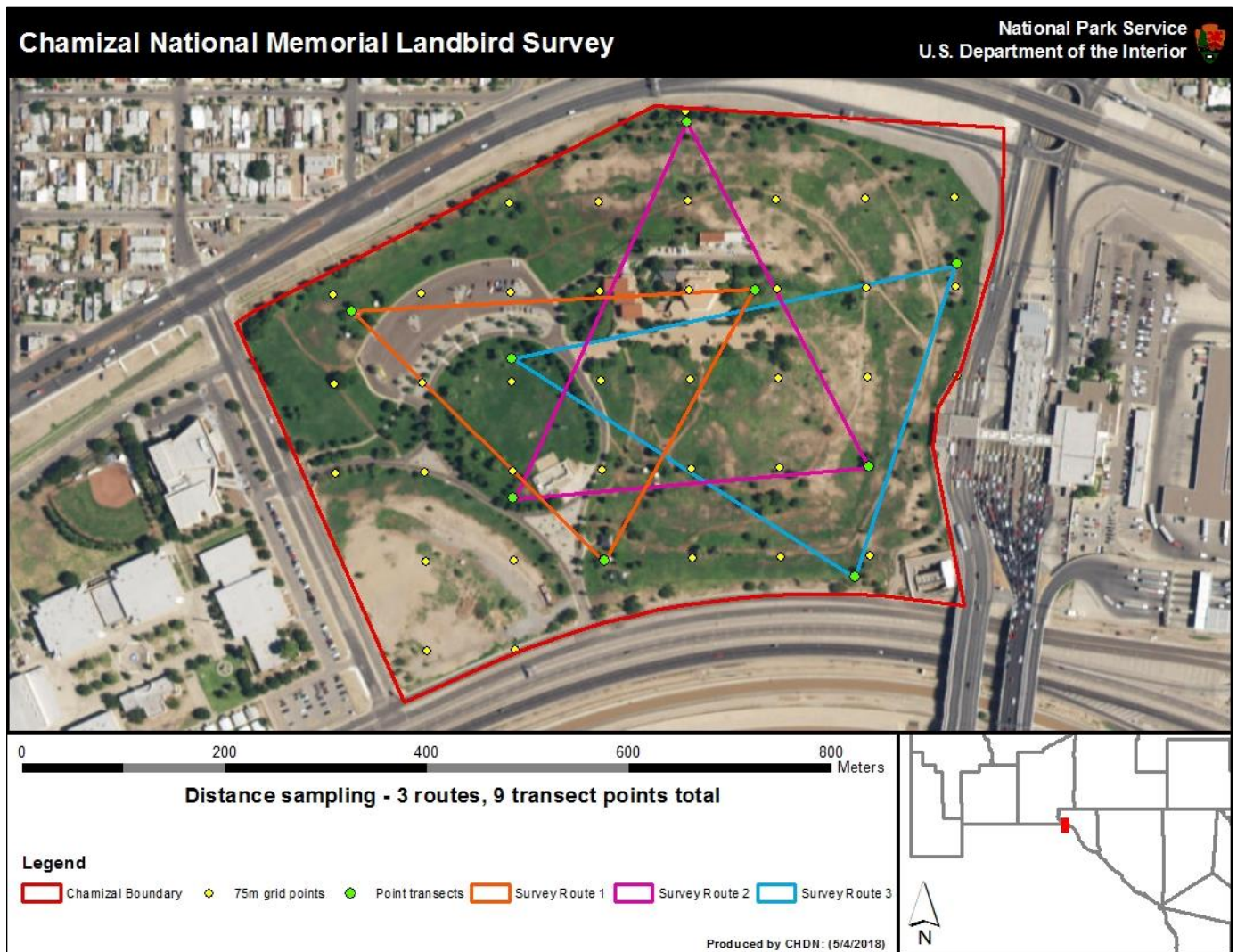


Figure 1. Bird survey point transects at Chamizal National Memorial, Spring 2018.

Results

The crew observed a total of 28 bird species and 3 unknowns in spring 2018 at all points in Chamizal National Memorial (Table 1). The species most frequently observed were American robin, European starling, Great-tailed grackle, Northern mockingbird, and White-winged dove.

Migrant species were frequently observed in the screwbean mesquite (*Prosopis pubescens*) trees by the restroom blocks; the fruiting wolfberry (*Lycium berlandieri*) bush and mulberry (*Morus alba*) trees also attracted migrants.

Table 1. Bird species and date observed at Chamizal National Memorial, Spring 2018.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date Observed				
		2/26/18- 3/2/18*	4/18/18	4/26/18	5/3/18	5/9/18
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	•			•	•
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	•	•	•	•	•
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>					•
Black-chinned Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>				•	•
Bluebird	<i>Sialia</i> sp.	•				
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>				•	
Bullock's Oriole	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>				•	
Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>		•			
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>				•	•
Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>					•
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	•	•	•	•	•
Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>				•	
Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	•	•	•	•	•
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>		•	•	•	•
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>					•
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	•		•	•	
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides scalaris</i>	•				
Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>			•		
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>		•	•	•	•
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	•				
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	•	•	•	•	•
Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	•	•	•	•	
Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>		•	•	•	•
Western Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>				•	
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>				•	
White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	•	•	•	•	•
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>				•	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>		•		•	
Unknown flycatcher		•				
Unknown hummingbird			•			
Unknown warbler						•

*bird observations during these dates were incidental observations recorded during vegetation surveys; they were not part of the point counts.

References

Beaupré, K., R. E. Bennetts, J. A. Blakesley, K Gallo, D. Hanni, A. Hubbard, R. Lock, B. F. Powell, H. Sosinski, P. Valentine-Darby, C. White and M. Wilson. 2013. Landbird monitoring protocol and standard operating procedures for the Chihuahuan Desert, Northern Great Plains, Sonoran Desert, and Southern Plains Networks: Version 1.00. Natural Resource Report NPS/SOPN/NRR—2013/729. National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Chesser, R. T., K. J. Burns, C. Cicero, J. L. Dunn, A. W. Kratter, I. J. Lovette, P. C. Rasmussen, J. V. Remsen, Jr., D. F. Stotz, B. M. Winger, and K. Winker. 2018. Check-list of North American Birds (online). American Ornithological Society. <http://checklist.aou.org/taxa>