= Golondrina point =

Golondrina points (formerly Plainview Golondrina) are lanceolate spear or dart projectile points , of medium size , dated to the transitional Paleo @-@ Indian Period , between 9000 ? 7000 BP . Golondrina points were attached on split @-@ stem hafts and may have served to bring down medium @-@ sized animals such as deer , as well as functioning as butchering knives . Distribution is widespread throughout most of Texas , and points have also been discovered in Arkansas and Mexico . The concentration of Golondrina specimens is highest across the South Texas Plains , where the point is the most prevalent of Paleo @-@ Indian types and defines a distinctive cultural pattern for the region . The Golondrina point is so named for its flared basal corners (" ears ") , which resemble a swallow 's (golondrina in Spanish) split tail . Classification of Golondrina can be difficult because of its similarity to other types , particularly the Plainview point , to which it was originally thought to be related .

= = Classification = =

Classification of the Golondrina point was made by Texas Historical Commission archeologist LeRoy Johnson Jr. in 1964 , after the discovery of a collection of unrecognized projectile points at the Devil 's Mouth site in the Amistad Reservoir , Texas . Initially believed to be related to the Plainview point classification , the new type was termed " Plainview Golondrina " by Johnson , who used a genus @-@ species approach for the naming . This classification method sought to describe the relationship between the two types , placing Plainview as the genus , and Golondrina as the species , to highlight key similarities and differences . But by 1977 , the genus @-@ species classification approach had been discarded , and the name Golondrina alone was being used to represent the Devil 's Mouth specimens . Subsequent research and technological analysis determined this type to be separate and distinct from the Plainsview point , and the name was shortened to simply " Golondrina " by Thomas C. Kelly in 1982 . The type takes its name from a pronounced flaring of the basal corners (stem) , which recall the split tail of a swallow (golondrina in Spanish) . The Golondrina is considered to be a Plano point .

= = Description = =

The Golondrina point is medium @-@ sized and lanceolate @-@ shaped with a lenticular cross @-@ section that exhibits convex sides . The type displays a distinctive auriculate (" eared ") stem with basal corners that flare outward . The blade edges are slightly serrated with a recurved outline ? wide at the bottom , then narrowing before becoming wide and then thin again at the distal end , a so @-@ called " fish shaped profile " . The flaking style is generally random , with no attention given to alignment of flake scars . However , collateral flaking ? where parallel flakes have been removed equally , resulting in a median ridge on the blade edges ? has also been observed in some specimens . The basal edge of the Golondrina presents concave with a deep basal notch that varies from a flattened , inverted , v @-@ shape to recurved . The Golondrina point can range in length from 32 ? 61 mm , with a width ranging from 23 ? 32 mm and a thickness from 6 ? 8 mm . The width of the base ranges from 22 ? 29 mm with a typical basal concavity of 4 mm or more . The Golondrina is unfluted , without a longitudinal channel flake .

The point has an expanding hafting area where the width , upward from the stem , increases in size . Analysis suggests that Golondrina points were attached on split @-@ stem hafts either with or without foreshafts . They may have served a dual function as projectile points as well as butchering knives . By nature of a split @-@ stem haft style , Golondrina points would not need to be deeply set , resulting in a largely exposed cutting edge . The hafting area , as well as the side and basal edges are usually ground dull .

Edwards chert , Alibates agate , and Tecovas jasper were the major materials utilized by Paleo @-@ Indians in the Southern Plains for the manufacture of flaked stone implements . Chert was the most important stone for tool making throughout pre @-@ historic central Texas and there were

many available sites where it was acquired and knapped .

= = Age and cultural affiliations = =

Most Golondrina points have been dated to the Transitional Paleo @-@ Indian Period , between 9000 ? 7000 BP , with excavation of stratified sites along with radiocarbon dating providing a definitive age . The first dating of Golondrina points was made after excavations of area C in the Devil 's Mouth site which revealed Paleo @-@ Indian projectile points that were radiocarbon assayed to 8700 BP . Later excavations in 1976 , at the nearby Baker Cave in Texas , revealed a large hearth in the Golondrina stratum containing a wide variety of small game and plant remains left by early hunter gathers . This archaeological assemblage was termed Golondrina Complex , and the materials were attributed to the post @-@ Pleistocene period . At the same site , Golondrina materials stratified near the base of a rock @-@ shelter deposit were radiocarbon dated at 9000 BP
Projectile points featuring more Archaic characteristics , including early barbed and early stemmed , share an overlapping chronology with Golondrina .

= = Distribution = =

Golondrina points are widespread across much of central , southern , and western Texas , with distribution extending northward along the Balcones Escarpment . They are particularly prevalent across the South Texas Plains , so much so as to be said to represent the first unique cultural pattern in the area . Most Golondrina specimens from the South Texas Plains are not excavated but rather found on the site 's surface . They often appear as part of mixed collections with artifacts of later periods . Several sites have also been found in Arkansas as well as in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands and the Mexican states of Tamaulipas and Nuevo León .

= = Comparison with other projectile points = =

The Golondrina can be difficult to type because of its similarity to other point classifications . In particular the distinction between Golondrina and Plainview is not yet completely resolved .

= = = Plainview = = =

Past hypotheses have suggested mistakenly that the Golondrina was a descendant or variant of the Plainview type . Although the two points exhibit similarities , particularly in terms of shape , they are now recognized as separate types . Identification is made from a lack of an auriculated , fishtail base on the Plainview and a deeper basal concavity on the Golondrina . Plainview points may have served to bring down large bison , while Golondrina points may have been used for killing smaller game such as deer , as well as doubling as a butchering knife . Compared to the split @-@ stem hafting style of the Golondrina point without a deep setting , the shape of the Plainview points would necessitate them being set relatively deeply into a socketed haft that once bound would leave less of the cutting edge exposed . Stratigraphic evidence from the St. Mary 's Hall site in southern , central Texas implies that Golondrina may have superseded Plainview on the southern Plains .

= = = Others = = =

The Simpson and Suwannee points , found in Florida and the Southeastern United States , are similar to the Golondrina in shape and age . The Dalton point , found in the central United States , shares a similar outline and basal corner auriculation with Golondrina , which may imply that they are part of a series . Identification is made by examination of the blade edges ? Golondrina exhibits much less serration . The Meserve type has also been known to cause confusion , as it is considered a resharpened variant of the Plainview and Golondrina types .