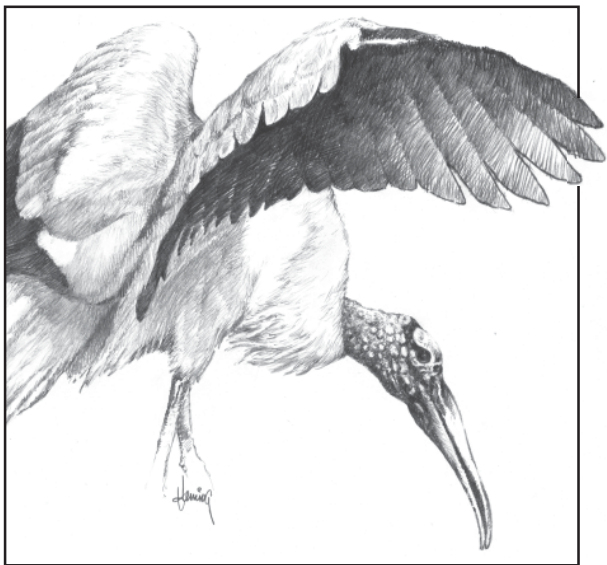


TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

BIRDS

OF

SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND STATE HISTORIC SITE



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2002

Cover: Illustration of Word Stork by Rob Fleming.

INTRODUCTION

San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site is located on the San Jacinto River about twenty miles east of downtown Houston in the heart of the bustling Houston Ship Channel area. Against a backdrop of skyscrapers and supertankers lies a haven for waterfowl, waders, shorebirds, gulls, and terns, as well as land birds typical of the region and habitat.

The extensive marsh system, interspersed with islands and surrounded by small woodlots and patches of brushland, supports a large and varied population of waders, of which 13 species are known to nest in the park. Among these are thriving colonies of Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night-herons, Little Blue and Tricolored Herons, Reddish Egret, and the stunning Roseate Spoonbill. Least Bittern and Clapper Rail stalk the marshy area near the causeway.

From late July through early September, the park hosts large flocks of migrating Wood Storks and provides the most reliable site on the Upper Texas Coast from which to view these impressive birds. Hooded Mergansers grace the causeway area from mid-November through February and are just one of 22 species of waterfowl found at the park in winter. During migration, all nine species of terns normally occurring on the Upper Texas Coast loaf on the park's sandbars and mudflats. Some are permanent residents.

Landbirds easily seen in season in open areas include Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Eastern Bluebird. In winter brushy areas and marsh edges hide Carolina, House, Sedge, and Marsh Wrens, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Thrush, and 13 species of sparrows, including Seaside and an occasional Harris's. During spring and fall, check the woods for migrating vireos and warblers.

In addition to the State Park areas, the checklist includes birds found at the Lynchburg Ferry landings, the Houston Ship Channel from the Lunchburg Ferry, and in the fields, marshes, mudflats, and canals along SR 134 and I-10 south to and including the State Park.

This checklist includes 196 species documented from the park and vicinity as outlined in the above paragraph, as well as another 10 species not yet recorded in the park, but to be expected. Of the species recorded, 48 are confirmed or probable breeders based upon criteria outlined by the Texas Breeding Birds Atlas Project.

This checklist was revised and updated in 2002 by P. D. Hulce of Houston, Texas. Data from 47 years of the Houston Christmas Bird count, as well as personal observations, were used in this revision. Nomenclature and organization for this checklist are based upon the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds* (7th Edition) as currently supplemented.

You may contribute to our knowledge of the park's birdlife by reporting sightings of unusual records and changes in status to the Natural Resources Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744. Bird Sighting Report Forms are available at the park office and may be left at the park office or mailed to Austin. Information on nesting status is particularly appreciated.

Please help protect the natural avian communities in our parks by refraining from using playback tapes of bird songs. Frequent use of these tapes disrupts normal avian activity patterns, disrupts essential territorial behavior and may lead to nest failure. Thank you for your cooperation.

LEGEND

- A - Abundant – Should see on 75% or more of trips in proper habitat and season
- C - Common – Should see on 50% or more of trips in proper habitat and season
- F - Fairly Common – Should see on 25% or more of trips in proper habitat and season
- U - Uncommon – Should see on about 10% of trips in proper habitat and season
- R - Rare – Not seen annually but expected to occur again
- X - Accidental – Only one or two records in past ten years
- I - Irregular – Absent some years, but may be numerous in others
- H - Hypothetical – Not yet recorded, but to be expected
- E - Extirpated – Formerly present, no recent records

*Species which breeds or probably breeds in park or vicinity.

Sp - Spring (March-May)

S - Summer (June-July)

F - Fall (August-November)

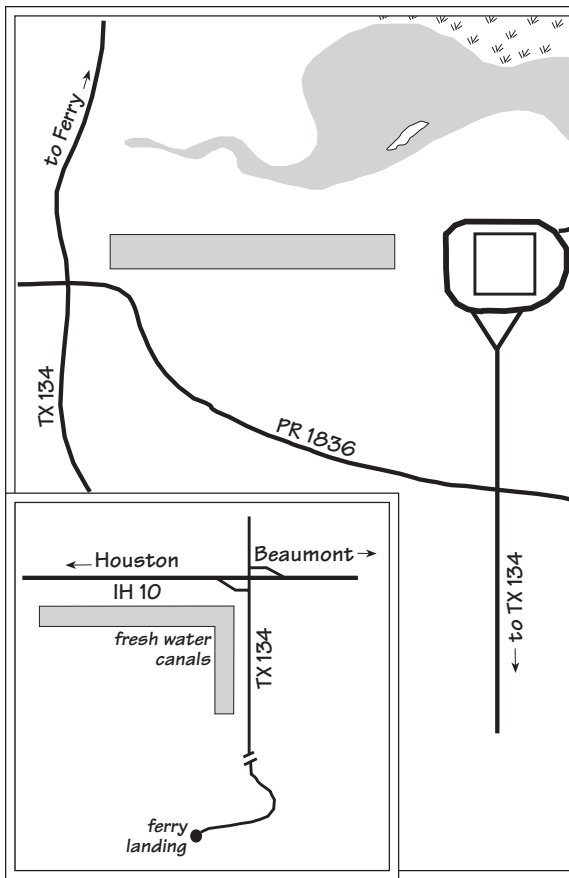
W - Winter (December-February)

CHECKLIST

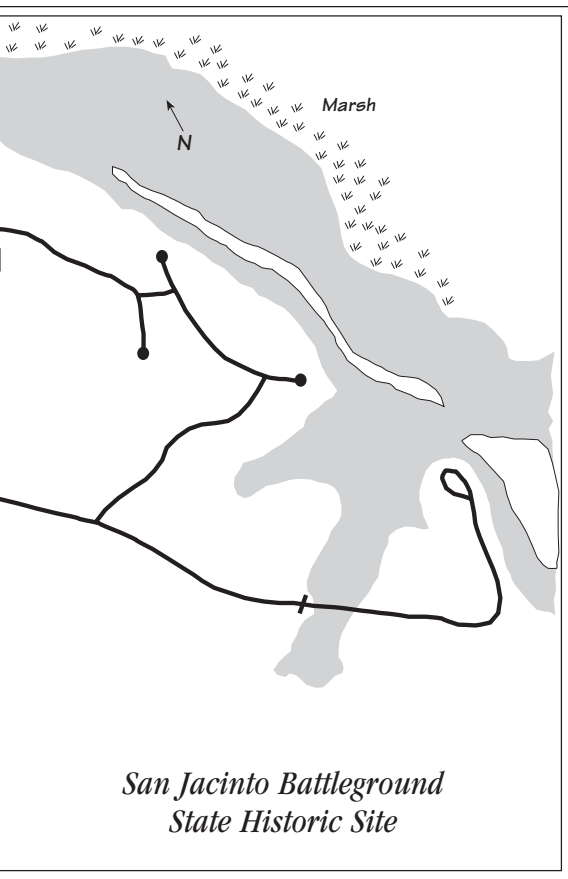
	Sp	S	F	W
_____ * Pied-billed Grebe	C	F	F	C
_____ Horned Grebe				H
_____ Eared Grebe	H			F
_____ American White Pelican	C	U	C	A
_____ Brown Pelican	C	C	C	C

	Sp	S	F	W
_____ Double-crested Cormorant	F	U	C	A
_____ * Neotropic Cormorant.....	A	A	C	F
_____ Anhinga	U	U	F	U
_____ American Bittern	H			H
_____ Least Bittern	R	R		
_____ * Great Blue Heron	A	A	A	A
_____ * Great Egret	A	A	A	A
_____ * Snowy Egret	A	A	A	A
_____ * Little Blue Heron	U	U	F	F
_____ * Tricolored Heron	A	A	A	A
_____ * Reddish Egret	F	F	F	F
_____ * Cattle Egret	C	C	U	U
_____ * Green Heron	U	U		
_____ * Black-crowned Night-Heron	C	C	C	C
_____ * Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	F	F	R	R
_____ * White Ibis	F	F	U	U
_____ Glossy Ibis	H		H	H
_____ * White-faced Ibis	F	F	U	U
_____ * Roseate Spoonbill	C	A	A	C
_____ Wood Stork			C	C
_____ Greater White-fronted Goose			U	U
_____ Snow Goose			F	F
_____ Ross's Goose			H	H
_____ Canada Goose			R	R
_____ Green-winged Teal	C		U	A
_____ * Mottled Duck	C	C	C	C
_____ Mallard	U			U
_____ Northern Pintail	F		F	F
_____ Blue-winged Teal	U		F	U
_____ Northern Shoveler	F		F	F
_____ Gadwall	C		U	C

	Sp	S	F	W
_____ American Wigeon	C		F	C
_____ Redhead	R			R
_____ Ring-necked Duck	U			U
_____ Greater Scaup				U
_____ Lesser Scaup	C			A
_____ Common Goldeneye	U		R	U
_____ Barrow's Goldeneye				X
_____ Bufflehead	U			U
_____ Hooded Merganser	U		U	C
_____ Red-breasted Merganser	U		R	U
_____ Ruddy Duck	U	U		U
_____ * Black Vulture	F	F	C	C
_____ * Turkey Vulture	A	A	A	A
_____ Osprey	C	R	F	C
_____ Swallow-tailed Kite	H	H		
_____ Mississippi Kite	U		F	
_____ Northern Harrier	U		U	F
_____ Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		F	F
_____ Cooper's Hawk	U		U	U
_____ Red-shouldered Hawk	F	F	F	F
_____ Broad-winged Hawk	U		U	
_____ Swainson's Hawk	R	R		
_____ Red-tailed Hawk	F		F	C
_____ American Kestrel	C		F	C
_____ Merlin			U	R
_____ Peregrine Falcon			U	F
_____ Northern Bobwhite	E	E	E	E
_____ * Clapper Rail	U	U	U	U
_____ Virginia Rail	H			H
_____ Sora	H		H	H
_____ Purple Gallinule	H	H		



There are several approaches to the park, but for maximum birding opportunities, you should take IH-10 and the Lynchburg Ferry (inset). Leave IH-10 at Exit 787 from either east or west, following the signs for TX 134, Lynchburg Ferry, and San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site. The ferry landing is 2.4 miles from IH-10.



	Sp	S	F	W
_____ Common Moorhen	H	H	H	H
_____ American Coot	C	U	U	C
_____ Sandhill Crane			R	
_____ Black-bellied Plover	C	F	C	C
_____ American Golden-Plover	U			
_____ Snowy Plover	U		R	R
_____ * Wilson's Plover	U	U		
_____ Semipalmated Plover	F		F	F
_____ * Killdeer	A	A	A	A
_____ * Black-necked Stilt	C	C	U	R
_____ American Avocet	F	R	U	C
_____ Greater Yellowlegs	C	U	F	C
_____ Lesser Yellowlegs	C	U	F	F
_____ Solitary Sandpiper	F		F	
_____ * Willet	A	A	A	A
_____ Spotted Sandpiper	F	U	R	F
_____ Long-billed Curlew	H		H	H
_____ Marbled Godwit	U		U	U
_____ Sanderling	A	U	C	A
_____ Semipalmated Sandpiper	C	F	U	
_____ Western Sandpiper	A	R	U	A
_____ Least Sandpiper	C		F	C
_____ White-rumped Sandpiper	R			
_____ Baird's Sandpiper	U		R	
_____ Pectoral Sandpiper	U		U	
_____ Dunlin	A	R	U	A
_____ Stilt Sandpiper	C		F	U
_____ Short-billed Dowitcher	F		F	U
_____ Long-billed Dowitcher	C		C	C
_____ Common Snipe	C		U	C
_____ Wilson's Phalarope	R			

	Sp	S	F	W
_____ Laughing Gull	A	A	A	A
_____ Franklin's Gull	R		R	
_____ Bonaparte's Gull	U			U
_____ Ring-billed Gull	A	U	C	A
_____ Herring Gull	F	U	U	F
_____ Gull-billed Tern	U	U	U	
_____ Caspian Tern	F	F	F	F
_____ Royal Tern	F	F	F	F
_____ Sandwich Tern	U	U	U	
_____ Common Tern	U		U	
_____ * Forster's Tern	A	C	C	A
_____ * Least Tern	C	C	F	
_____ Black Tern	U	F	F	
_____ Black Skimmer	F	F	F	F
_____ * Rock Dove	A	A	A	A
_____ * Mourning Dove	A	A	A	A
_____ * Inca Dove	U	U	U	U
_____ * Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	U		
_____ Eastern Screech-Owl	U	U	U	U
_____ Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U
_____ * Common Nighthawk	C	F	C	
_____ Chimney Swift	C	F	C	
_____ Ruby-throated Hummingbird	U		U	
_____ Belted Kingfisher	C		C	A
_____ Red-headed Woodpecker	R			
_____ * Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
_____ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C		U	C
_____ * Downy Woodpecker	F	F	F	F
_____ Northern Flicker	U		F	C
_____ <i>Empidonax</i> species	F		U	R
_____ Eastern Phoebe	C		F	C

	Sp	S	F	W
_____ Great Crested Flycatcher	U		U	
_____ * Western Kingbird	R	R		
_____ * Eastern Kingbird	F	F	U	
_____ * Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	F	F	U	
_____ * Loggerhead Shrike	F	F	C	C
_____ White-eyed Vireo	U	U	U	U
_____ Blue-headed Vireo	U		U	U
_____ Red-eyed Vireo	F	U	U	
_____ * Blue Jay	F	F	F	F
_____ * American Crow	F	F	F	F
_____ Purple Martin	C	C		
_____ Tree Swallow	C		C	R
_____ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C		C	
_____ Bank Swallow	C		C	
_____ Cliff Swallow	U		U	
_____ Barn Swallow	C	R	C	
_____ Carolina Chickadee	F	F	F	F
_____ Tufted Titmouse	U	U	U	U
_____ Brown Creeper				U
_____ * Carolina Wren	F	F	F	F
_____ House Wren	F		U	F
_____ Winter Wren				U
_____ Sedge Wren				F
_____ Marsh Wren	C	U	U	F
_____ Golden-crowned Kinglet				R
_____ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		F	C
_____ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C		C	C
_____ Eastern Bluebird	F		U	F
_____ Hermit Thrush	F			F
_____ American Robin	I			I
_____ Gray Catbird	F		C	U

	Sp	S	F	W
_____ * Northern Mockingbird	A	A	A	A
_____ Brown Thrasher	U		F	F
_____ * European Starling	C	C	C	C
_____ American Pipit	U			U
_____ Cedar Waxwing	I			I
_____ Blue-winged Warbler	F		F	
_____ Orange-crowned Warbler	F		U	C
_____ Magnolia Warbler	U		U	R
_____ Yellow-rumped Warbler	A		C	A
_____ Black-throated Green Warbler	C		C	
_____ Blackburnian Warbler	F		F	
_____ Pine Warbler				U
_____ Palm Warbler	H		H	R
_____ Black-and-white Warbler	F		F	U
_____ Kentucky Warbler	F		F	
_____ * Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	C
_____ Hooded Warbler	F		F	
_____ Wilson's Warbler	U		U	R
_____ Yellow-breasted Chat	U		U	X
_____ * Northern Cardinal	A	A	A	A
_____ Indigo Bunting	F		F	
_____ Painted Bunting	U	R	U	
_____ Chipping Sparrow	F		U	F
_____ Clay-colored Sparrow	H		H	H
_____ Field Sparrow	U		R	U
_____ Vesper Sparrow	U		R	U
_____ Savannah Sparrow	F		U	F
_____ Grasshopper Sparrow				U
_____ * Seaside Sparrow	F	F	F	F
_____ Fox Sparrow				R
_____ Song Sparrow	F			F

	Sp	S	F	W
_____ Lincoln's Sparrow	F		U	F
_____ Swamp Sparrow	C		U	C
_____ White-throated Sparrow	A			A
_____ White-crowned Sparrow	C			C
_____ Harris's Sparrow		R	R	
_____ Dark-eyed Junco	R			U
_____ * Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	C
_____ Eastern Meadowlark	C	F	C	C
_____ * Great-tailed Grackle	A	C	C	A
_____ Common Grackle	C	F	F	C
_____ * Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U	C
_____ Orchard Oriole	C	U	F	
_____ Northern Oriole	F		F	
_____ Pine Siskin	I			I
_____ American Goldfinch	F			F
_____ * House Sparrow	A	A	A	A

CITATION

Hulce, P. D., compiler. September 2002. Birds of San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site and Vicinity: a field checklist. Natural Resources Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas, 78744.

In 1983, the Texas Legislature created the Special Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund. This fund may be used for nongame wildlife and endangered species research and conservation, habitat acquisition and development and dissemination of information pertaining to nongame management. Money for this fund is obtained through private donations and sale of nongame wildlife art prints and stamps. This fund now gives Texans a unique opportunity to help support this state's valuable and sensitive nongame resources. Your individual contributions and purchases of nongame art prints and stamps will help determine the level of nongame conservation activities in Texas. For more information call toll-free (1-800-792-1112) or contact: **Nongame and Endangered Species Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.**



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