

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

BIRDS

OF

LAKE SOMERVILLE
STATE PARK



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2008

Cover: Illustration of Great Blue heron by Rob Fleming.

INTRODUCTION

Lake Somerville State Park and Trailway in Lee and Burleson counties contains 5,200 acres in three units along the western end of Lake Somerville. Birch Creek Unit is situated on the north side of the lake; Nails Creek Unit on the south side; and the Trailway Unit connects the units around the western end of the lake.

Lake Somerville is an impoundment of Yegua Creek, a major tributary of the Brazos River. The park is within the Post Oak Savannah Vegetation Region of east-central Texas. Numerous habitats occur within the park. Aquatic, wetland and/or floodplain habitats include (1) open water; (2) shallow marshy flats; (3) mud flats during low water periods; (4) saline grassy flats; (5) riparian woodlands along the creeks; and (6) an extensive, cleared pastureland on the floodplain. Upland habitats in the park include (1) oak-hickory woodlands; (2) little bluestem dominated grasslands; and (3) yaupon thickets.

Without doubt, water birds are a special attraction for this park. This reservoir receives heavy use by many species of ducks, herons and egrets, as well as grebes, wood storks and white pelicans. This area provides the best chance in the central Brazos River valley to observe wintering Bald Eagles and migrating Osprey. Both Double-crested and Olivaceous Cormorants are regular visitants to the lake.

This checklist includes species which have been observed either within or over the park or in waters adjacent to the park's shoreline. The other species included in this listing were observed in other parts of the lake or in areas near the park. These are listed as hypothetical and many will be documented from the park in the future.

You can contribute to our knowledge of the park's birdlife by sharing your observations (with details) of new and unusual sightings, nesting records, verification of hypothetical species, etc., with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, on Bird Sighting Report forms available at the park headquarters. Please return the completed forms to the Natural Resources Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or leave them at the park headquarters for forwarding. Checklist nomenclature and organization follow the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds* (7th edition) as currently supplemented. This checklist was compiled by Dr. Keith A. Arnold of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University.

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

LEGEND

Abundance

- c = common – more than 10 per day; to be expected in proper habitat.
- u = uncommon – 1 to 10 per day; usually present but may be overlooked.
- o = occasional – several per season; occasionally seen.
- r = rare – few records; not expected every season or year.
- i = irregular – may occur in numbers; some years totally absent.
- H = hypothetical – no verified sightings from within the park, but to be looked for in season indicated.

- * = breeding species – known to breed in park or breeding strongly suspected

Seasons

- Sp = Spring (March to May) – northward migration period
- S = Summer (June and July) – peak of breeding season
- F = Fall (August to November) – southward migration period
- W = Winter (December to February) – wintering season

CHECKLIST

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	H	r	r	i
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck			H	
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	u-c		u-c	i
___ Snow Goose	u-c		u-c	u-c
___ Ross's Goose	H		r	
___ Canada Goose.....	u		u	u-c
___ Wood Duck*	u	u-c	u-c	u-c
___ Gadwall.....	c		c	c
___ American Wigeon.....	c		u-c	c
___ American Black Duck.....				H
___ Mallard.....	c	u	c	c
___ Mottled Duck	o-u	u	u	H
___ Blue-winged Teal	c	i	c	o
___ Cinnamon Teal	r		H	r
___ Northern Shoveler	c	i	u-c	c
___ Northern Pintail	c		c	i
___ Green-winged Teal.....	c		c	c
___ Canvasback	c		c	c
___ Redhead.....	c		c	o
___ Ring-necked Duck	c		u-c	u-c
___ Greater Scaup.....	H		H	H
___ Lesser Scaup	c		u-c	u-c
___ Common Goldeneye.....	r		o	H
___ Bufflehead.....			u	u
___ Hooded Merganser	r		u	u
___ Red-breasted Merganser	H		H	H

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Ruddy Duck.....	u		u-c	u-c
___ Northern Bobwhite.....	u	u-c	u-c	u-c
___ Common Loon.....	H		H	r
___ Pied-billed Grebe	u		u-c	c
___ Horned Grebe.....	i			H
___ Eared Grebe.....	u		o	u
___ American White Pelican	c	i	c	c
___ Neotropic Cormorant.....	u	u	u	u
___ Double-crested Cormorant.....	c	c	c	c
___ Anhinga	o	o	o	
___ American Bittern.....	H		H	
___ Least Bittern	H		H	
___ Great Blue Heron.....	c	u	u-c	u-c
___ Great Egret.....	c	c	c	u-c
___ Little Blue Heron*.....	u	c	u-c	
___ Tricolored Heron	r	r	o	
___ Reddish Egret	i		H	
___ Cattle Egret	c	c	c	i
___ Green Heron.....	u	u	u-c	
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron	u-c	u-c	u-c	
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron.....	o	o	o	H
___ White Ibis.....			H	H
___ White-faced Ibis.....			H	r
___ Roseate Spoonbill.....	r	o-u	o-u	
___ Wood Stork.....		u-c	u-c	
___ Black Vulture.....	c	c	c	c
___ Turkey Vulture	c	c	c	c
___ Osprey.....	r	r	r	r

	Sp	S	F	W
___ White-tailed Kite	H	H	H	H
___ Mississippi Kite.....	u		u	
___ Bald Eagle*	r	r	r	r
___ Northern Harrier.....	u		u	u
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	u		u	u
___ Cooper's Hawk	u		u	u
___ Red-shouldered Hawk*	u	u	u	u
___ Broad-winged Hawk.....	c		u-c	
___ Swainson's Hawk	u-c		u-c	
___ Red-tailed Hawk*	u	u	u	c
___ Ferruginous Hawk	H		H	H
___ Rough-legged Hawk.....	H		H	H
___ Golden Eagle	H		r	r
___ Crested Caracara*	r	r	r	r
___ American Kestrel.....	u-c		c	c
___ Merlin.....	H		H	H
___ Peregrine Falcon	r		r	o
___ King Rail.....	H	H	H	
___ Virginia Rail	H		H	
___ Sora	u		u	u
___ Purple Gallinule	H	H	H	
___ Common Moorhen.....	r	r	r	
___ American Coot.....	c		c	c
___ Sandhill Crane.....	i		u-c	i
___ Black-bellied Plover.....	H		u	
___ American Golden-Plover.....			H	
___ Semipalmated Plover	r		r	
___ Killdeer	c	u-c	c	c

	Sp	S	F	W
___ American Avocet.....		o	u	
___ Greater Yellowlegs.....	c	o	u-c	u
___ Lesser Yellowlegs.....	u-c	o	u	i
___ Solitary Sandpiper.....	r	o	r	
___ Spotted Sandpiper.....	u	o	u	u
___ Upland Sandpiper.....	u		u-c	
___ Whimbrel.....	H		r	
___ Long-billed Curlew.....	H		H	
___ Hudsonian Godwit.....	r			
___ Marbled Godwit.....	H			
___ Ruddy Turnstone.....	H		H	
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper.....	u-c		o	
___ Western Sandpiper.....	u-c		u-c	
___ Least Sandpiper.....	c	c	c	u-c
___ White-rumped Sandpiper.....	c	r	u-c	
___ Baird's Sandpiper.....	u		u	
___ Pectoral Sandpiper.....	u		u	
___ Dunlin.....	H	r	H	
___ Stilt Sandpiper.....	o	o	o	
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper.....	r		o	
___ Long-billed Dowitcher.....	u		u	
___ Wilson's Snipe.....	u-c		u-c	u-c
___ American Woodcock.....	u		o	u
___ Wilson's Phalarope.....	o		H	
___ Laughing Gull.....			r	
___ Franklin's Gull.....	u-c	o	u-c	i
___ Bonaparte's Gull.....	o		u	u-c
___ Ring-billed Gull.....	u	o	u-c	u

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Herring Gull.....	u		H	i
___ Caspian Tern.....	o		H	r
___ Royal Tern.....	r			
___ Common Tern	u		u	H
___ Forster's Tern	c	u	u-c	c
___ Black Tern.....	u		u	
___ Black Skimmer		H		
___ Rock Pigeon.....	u	u	u	u
___ Mourning Dove*.....	c	c	c	c
___ Eurasian Collared-Dove*	c	c	c	c
___ Inca Dove	u-c	u-c	u-c	u-c
___ Common Ground-Dove.....		o	o	
___ Black-billed Cuckoo.....	H		H	
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	u	u	u	
___ Greater Roadrunner.....	u	u	u	u
___ Barn-Owl*.....	r	r	r	r
___ Eastern Screech-Owl*	u	u	u	u
___ Great Horned Owl*	u	u	u	u
___ Barred Owl*.....	u	u	u	u
___ Long-eared Owl.....				H
___ Short-eared Owl.....			H	H
___ Common Nighthawk	u	u	u	
___ Chuck-will's-widow	H	H	H	
___ Whip-poor-will.....	H	H	H	
___ Chimney Swift.....	c	u	u-c	
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird.....	r	u	u	
___ Belted Kingfisher*	u	u	u	o
___ Red-headed Woodpecker*	u	u	u	H

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....	u			u
___ Ladder-backed Woodpecker.....				H
___ Downy Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
___ Hairy Woodpecker.....	o	o	H	H
___ Northern Flicker.....	u		u	u
___ Pileated Woodpecker*	o	H	o	o
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher	H		H	
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee.....	H	H	H	
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher			r	
___ Acadian Flycatcher*	u	u	r	
___ "Traill's"/Alder Flycatcher			o	
___ Least Flycatcher.....			r	
___ Eastern Phoebe	u-c		u	u
___ Great Crested Flycatcher*	u-c	u	o	
___ Western Kingbird*	r	r	o	
___ Eastern Kingbird*	c	o	o	
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*	c	c	c	
___ Horned Lark.....				o
___ Purple Martin*	u-c	u-c	u-c	i
___ Tree Swallow	i		i	
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	u	o	u	
___ Bank Swallow.....	i		i	
___ Cliff Swallow*	c	c	c	
___ Barn Swallow*	c	c	c	
___ Blue Jay*	c	c	c	c
___ American Crow	c	c	c	c
___ Carolina Chickadee*	c	c	c	c

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Tufted Titmouse*	u	u	u	u
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch.....				i
___ White-breasted Nuthatch.....				H
___ Brown Creeper.....	o			u
___ Carolina Wren*	c	c	c	c
___ Bewick's Wren.....	u		u	u
___ House Wren.....	u		u	u
___ Winter Wren.....	r	r	r	
___ Sedge Wren.....	r		r	r
___ Marsh Wren	H		H	H
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	i			i
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	c		u-c	c
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	c	u-c	u-c	o
___ Eastern Bluebird*	u	o	o	c
___ Veery.....	H		H	
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush.....	H		H	
___ Swainson's Thrush.....	o		o	
___ Hermit Thrush.....	u		u	u
___ Wood Thrush.....	H	H	H	
___ American Robin*	c	u	u	c
___ Gray Catbird	o	H	H	
___ Northern Mockingbird*	c	c	c	c
___ Brown Thrasher.....	u	r	r	u
___ American Pipit.....	u		u-c	u-c
___ Sprague's Pipit.....	H		H	H
___ Cedar Waxwing.....	u-c			u-c
___ Loggerhead Shrike*	u	u	u	u-c
___ European Starling*	c	c	c	c

	Sp	S	F	W
___ White-eyed Vireo*	u	u	u	
___ Bell's Vireo.....	H		H	
___ Blue-headed Vireo	u		u	r
___ Yellow-throated Vireo*	r	r	r	
___ Warbling Vireo	H		H	
___ Philadelphia Vireo.....	H		H	
___ Red-eyed Vireo*	o	o	o	
___ Tennessee Warbler	u-c		u-c	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	u		o	u
___ Nashville Warbler	u		H	
___ Northern Parula*	u-c	u	u	
___ Yellow Warbler	u-c		u-c	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	u-c		u-c	
___ Magnolia Warbler	u-c		u-c	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		o-u	c
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	u-c		o	
___ Blackburnian Warbler.....	u		r	
___ Yellow-throated Warbler*	u	u	u	
___ Pine Warbler.....	u		u	u-c
___ Palm Warbler.....	o	o	o	
___ Bay-breasted Warbler.....	u		u	
___ Black-and-white Warbler	u	r	o	r
___ American Redstart	r		r	
___ Prothonotary Warbler*	u	o	o	
___ Swainson's Warbler*	u	u		o
___ Ovenbird	u-c		u-c	
___ Northern Waterthrush	r		r	
___ Louisiana Waterthrush.....	H	H	H	

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Kentucky Warbler	r	r	r	
___ Mourning Warbler	o		o	
___ Common Yellowthroat	u-c	r	u-c	
___ Hooded Warbler	r	H	r	
___ Wilson's Warbler.....	u		u	u
___ Canada Warbler	r		r	
___ Yellow-breasted Chat	r	r	r	
___ Summer Tanager*	u-c	u		
___ Scarlet Tanager	r			
___ Northern Cardinal*	c	c	c	c
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u-c		u-c	
___ Blue Grosbeak*	u	u	o	
___ Indigo Bunting	c		o	
___ Painted Bunting*	c	c	c	
___ Dickcissel*	u-c	u-c	u-c	
___ Eastern Towhee.....	u		u	o
___ Chipping Sparrow.....	u		u	u-c
___ Field Sparrow	u		u	u-c
___ Vesper Sparrow.....	u		u	u-c
___ Lark Sparrow*	u	u	o	
___ Savannah Sparrow	u-c		u-c	u-c
___ Grasshopper Sparrow*	u-c	u-c	u-c	o
___ Henslow's Sparrow.....	i			i
___ Le Conte's Sparrow	i		i	i
___ Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	r		H	
___ Fox Sparrow	u		r	u
___ Song Sparrow	u		u	u
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	u-c		u	u-c

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Swamp Sparrow	u-c		u	u-c
___ White-throated Sparrow	c		u-c	c
___ Harris's Sparrow	o	o	o	
___ White-crowned Sparrow	u		u	u
___ Dark-eyed Junco	u-c		u-c	u-c
___ Red-winged Blackbird*	c	c	u-c	u-c
___ Eastern Meadowlark*	c	c	c	c
___ Western Meadowlark	r		o	r
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird	i		i	
___ Rusty Blackbird				i
___ Brewer's Blackbird	i		H	i
___ Great-tailed Grackle*	u-c	u	u-c	u-c
___ Common Grackle*	c	u-c	u-c	c
___ Bronzed Cowbird	i		i	
___ Brown-headed Cowbird*	c	u	c	c
___ Orchard Oriole*	u	u	o	
___ Baltimore Oriole	u-c		o	
___ Purple Finch	i			i
___ Pine Siskin	i			i
___ American Goldfinch	c			u-c
___ House Sparrow*	c	c	c	c

CITATION

Arnold, Dr. Keith A. January 2008. Birds of Lake Somerville State Park and Trailway: A Field Checklist. Natural Resources Program. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin, Texas.

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 Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.**



Natural Resources Program
Texas Parks and Wildlife
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744