

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

# BIRDS

OF

## ENCHANTED ROCK STATE NATURAL AREA



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2008

*Cover: Illustration of Greater Roadrunner by Rob Fleming.*

# INTRODUCTION

**E**nchanted Rock State Natural Area, in Llano and Gillespie counties, is one of the gems of the Texas State Parks system. The park is located in the geological region known as the Llano Uplift or the Central Mineral Region of the Texas Hill Country. The area has vast exposures of ancient rock and is one of the most geologically interesting in Texas.

Biologically, the park is similar to the Edwards Plateau but there are also affinities with the northern plateau of Mexico and the Trans-Pecos region of Texas. The oak-hickory woodlands which develop on the soils derived from granite are distinctly allied with the Cross Timbers and woodlands of eastern Texas. Interestingly, many of the ferns found at Enchanted Rock are distributed across northern Mexico and Trans-Pecos Texas and are at their extreme eastern limit at Enchanted Rock. Conspicuous by their absence are Texas oaks and Ashe juniper which are otherwise common on nearby limestone soils.

In general, park habitats are varied and include oak-hickory woodlands and savannahs, seemingly bare rock surfaces colonized by lichens and mosses, vernal pools and meadows, and open mesquite-cedar elm woodlands. Along Sandy Creek, there is a gallery woodland of oak, elm, hickory and white buckeye.

Birdlife in the park is varied and interesting. Resident birds include Northern Cardinal, Eastern Bluebird, Carolina and Bewick's Wrens, Canyon Towhee, Golden-fronted and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Carolina Chickadee and Black-crested Titmouse.

In the spring and fall, several species of wood warblers rest and feed in the gallery woodlands around the day-use area. Rock Wrens can often be seen flitting about in the rocks near the trail to the summit of Enchanted Rock. On the lower slope of Enchanted Rock, Black-throated Sparrows may be seen. This grassy area is also good for wintering sparrows such as Harris's, Lincoln's, Vesper and White-crowned. Some resident sparrows which are easily observed are Rufous-crowned and Field.

In the summer, Bell's Vireos may be heard singing from the mesquite trees along the road to the camping area. In spring or fall, a hawk migration seen from the summit of Enchanted Rock is a thrilling experience. Also noteworthy are the flight patterns of vultures over Buzzard's Roost. Moss Pond is a good spot to see migrating and wintering ducks and possibly shorebirds, as well as the resident Belted Kingfishers.

This checklist is based on the work done by Kay and Ernest Mueller of Kerrville. This edition has been updated by Mark Lockwood of the Natural Resources Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The organization and nomenclature of the birds listed here follow the American Ornithologist's Union *Check-list of North American Birds*, 7th edition. Because we will be updating this checklist as additional observations are made, we solicit your help and ask that you report new or unusual sightings or observations. Reports may be sent to the Natural Resources Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744 or may be left at the park headquarters for forwarding.

---

*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

### Seasons

- Sp = spring (March - May)
- S = summer (June - August)
- F = fall (September - November)
- W = winter (December - February)

### Abundance

- A = abundant – should be seen on 75% or more of trips in proper habitat and season
- C = common – should be seen on 50% or more of trips in proper habitat and season
- U = uncommon – should be seen on 25% or more of trips in proper habitat and season
- O = occasional – should be seen on 10% or more 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 the past ten years
- I = irregular – absent some years, but may be numerous in others
- \* = breeding species – known to breed in park or breeding strongly suspected

# CHECKLIST

|                                       | Sp | S  | F | W |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|---|---|
| ___ Black-bellied Whistling-Duck..... | X  |    |   |   |
| ___ Gadwall.....                      | C  |    | C | C |
| ___ American Wigeon .....             | C  |    | C | C |
| ___ Mallard.....                      | U  |    | U | U |
| ___ Blue-winged Teal.....             | C  |    | C | C |
| ___ Northern Shoveler .....           | U  |    | U | U |
| ___ Northern Pintail .....            | U  |    | U | U |
| ___ Green-winged Teal.....            | C  |    | C | C |
| ___ Canvasback .....                  | O  |    | O | O |
| ___ Ring-necked Duck .....            | U  |    | U | U |
| ___ Lesser Scaup .....                | C  |    | C | C |
| ___ Wild Turkey .....                 | C  | C* | C | C |
| ___ Northern Bobwhite .....           | C  | C* | C | C |
| ___ Pied-billed Grebe .....           | C  | R  | C | C |
| ___ Anhinga.....                      |    |    | X |   |
| ___ Great Blue Heron.....             | C  | C  | C | C |
| ___ Green Heron.....                  | O  |    | O | O |
| ___ Black Vulture .....               | C  | C* | C | C |
| ___ Turkey Vulture .....              | A  | A* | A | A |
| ___ Mississippi Kite.....             | U  |    | U |   |
| ___ Northern Harrier .....            | U  |    | U | U |
| ___ Sharp-shinned Hawk.....           | U  | R  | U | U |
| ___ Cooper's Hawk .....               | U  | R  | U | U |
| ___ Red-shouldered Hawk .....         | U  | U  | U | U |
| ___ Broad-winged Hawk.....            | O  |    | O |   |
| ___ Swainson's Hawk.....              | U  |    | U |   |
| ___ Red-tailed Hawk.....              | C  | C  | C | C |
| ___ Rough-legged Hawk.....            |    |    |   | X |
| ___ American Kestrel .....            | C  |    | C | C |
| ___ American Coot .....               | U  |    | U | U |
| ___ Sandhill Crane.....               | U  |    | U |   |

|                                     | Sp | S  | F | W |
|-------------------------------------|----|----|---|---|
| ___ Killdeer .....                  | C  | C* | C | C |
| ___ Greater Yellowlegs.....         | R  |    | R |   |
| ___ Spotted Sandpiper .....         | C  |    | C | C |
| ___ Western Sandpiper .....         | O  |    | O |   |
| ___ Least Sandpiper.....            | U  |    | U |   |
| ___ Pectoral Sandpiper .....        | O  |    | O |   |
| ___ Long-billed Dowitcher.....      | O  |    | O |   |
| ___ Wilson's Snipe .....            | U  |    | U | U |
| ___ Rock Pigeon .....               | C  | C  | C | C |
| ___ Mourning Dove .....             | A  | A* | A | A |
| ___ Eurasian Collared-Dove .....    | R  | R  | R | R |
| ___ Inca Dove .....                 | U  | U* | U | U |
| ___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....       | C  | C* | U |   |
| ___ Greater Roadrunner .....        | U  | U* | U | U |
| ___ Eastern Screech-Owl.....        | U  | U* | U | U |
| ___ Great Horned Owl .....          | U  | U* | U | U |
| ___ Barred Owl .....                | U  | U* | U | U |
| ___ Short-eared Owl.....            | R  |    |   | R |
| ___ Common Nighthawk .....          | C  | C* | C |   |
| ___ Common Poorwill .....           | U  | U* | U | O |
| ___ Chuck-will's-widow .....        | U  | U* | U |   |
| ___ Chimney Swift.....              | U  | U* | U |   |
| ___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird.....  | O  |    | U |   |
| ___ Black-chinned Hummingbird.....  | A  | A* | A |   |
| ___ Rufous Hummingbird.....         | R  |    | O | R |
| ___ Belted Kingfisher .....         | C  | U  | C | C |
| ___ Red-headed Woodpecker .....     | R  | R  | R | R |
| ___ Golden-fronted Woodpecker ..... | A  | A* | A | A |
| ___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker .....  | U  |    | U | U |
| ___ Ladder-backed Woodpecker .....  | A  | A* | A | A |
| ___ Downy Woodpecker.....           | O  | O  | O | O |
| ___ Northern Flicker .....          | C  |    | C | C |
| ___ Olive-sided Flycatcher .....    | O  |    | O |   |

|   | Sp | S  | F | W |
|---|----|----|---|---|
| ___ Eastern Wood-Pewee .....            | U  | U* | U |   |
| ___ Acadian Flycatcher .....            | O  | O  |   |   |
| ___ Least Flycatcher .....              | O  |    | O |   |
| ___ Willow Flycatcher .....             | O  |    | O |   |
| ___ Eastern Phoebe .....                | C  | C* | C | C |
| ___ Vermilion Flycatcher .....          | U  | U* | U | O |
| ___ Ash-throated Flycatcher .....       | C  | C* | U |   |
| ___ Great Crested Flycatcher .....      | U  | U* | U |   |
| ___ Brown-crested Flycatcher .....      |    | X  |   |   |
| ___ Western Kingbird.....               | C  | U* | C |   |
| ___ Eastern Kingbird.....               | U  |    | U |   |
| ___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher .....     | A  | A* | A |   |
| ___ Loggerhead Shrike.....              | C  | R  | C | C |
| ___ White-eyed Vireo.....               | U  | U* | U |   |
| ___ Bell's Vireo.....                   | C  | C* | C |   |
| ___ Black-capped Vireo .....            | R  | R  |   |   |
| ___ Yellow-throated Vireo .....         | U  | U* | U |   |
| ___ Blue-headed Vireo .....             | O  |    | O |   |
| ___ Red-eyed Vireo .....                | U  | U* | U |   |
| ___ Blue Jay .....                      | O  |    | O | O |
| ___ Western Scrub-Jay.....              | C  | C* | C | C |
| ___ American Crow .....                 | R  |    | R | R |
| ___ Common Raven.....                   | C  | C  | C | C |
| ___ Horned Lark.....                    |    |    |   | R |
| ___ Purple Martin.....                  | C  | C  | U |   |
| ___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow ..... | C  | U  | U |   |
| ___ Cliff Swallow .....                 | A  | A* | A |   |
| ___ Barn Swallow .....                  | C  | C* | C |   |
| ___ Carolina Chickadee.....             | A  | A* | A | A |
| ___ Black-crested Titmouse .....        | A  | A* | A | A |
| ___ Verdin .....                        | U  | U* | U | U |
| ___ Bushtit .....                       | U  | U* | U | U |
| ___ Red-breasted Nuthatch.....          | I  |    | I | I |

|                                       | Sp | S  | F | W |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|---|---|
| ___ Brown Creeper .....               | U  |    | U | U |
| ___ Rock Wren.....                    | C  | C* | C | C |
| ___ Canyon Wren.....                  | U  | U* | U | U |
| ___ Carolina Wren.....                | C  | C* | C | C |
| ___ Bewick's Wren.....                | A  | A* | A | A |
| ___ House Wren .....                  | O  |    | O | R |
| ___ Golden-crowned Kinglet.....       | O  |    | O | O |
| ___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....         | C  |    | C | C |
| ___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.....        | C  | U* | C | O |
| ___ Eastern Bluebird .....            | C  | C* | C | C |
| ___ Western Bluebird .....            |    |    |   | X |
| ___ Swainson's Thrush .....           | O  |    |   |   |
| ___ Hermit Thrush.....                | C  |    | C | C |
| ___ American Robin .....              | I  | O  | I | I |
| ___ Northern Mockingbird.....         | A  | A* | A | A |
| ___ Sage Thrasher.....                | R  |    | R | R |
| ___ Brown Thrasher .....              | O  |    | O | U |
| ___ European Starling.....            | U  | U* | U | U |
| ___ American Pipit.....               | O  |    | O | O |
| ___ Cedar Waxwing.....                | I  |    | I | I |
| ___ Orange-crowned Warbler.....       | U  |    | U | U |
| ___ Nashville Warbler .....           | U  |    | U |   |
| ___ Northern Parula.....              | O  |    | O |   |
| ___ Yellow Warbler .....              | U  |    | U |   |
| ___ Magnolia Warbler .....            | O  |    | O |   |
| ___ Yellow-rumped Warbler.....        | C  |    | C | A |
| ___ Black-throated Green Warbler..... | O  |    | O |   |
| ___ Black-and-white Warbler .....     | U  | U  | O | O |
| ___ American Redstart.....            | O  |    | O |   |
| ___ Northern Waterthrush.....         | O  |    | O |   |
| ___ Louisiana Waterthrush .....       | O  | R  |   |   |
| ___ Mourning Warbler .....            | O  |    | O |   |
| ___ Common Yellowthroat.....          | U  |    | O |   |

|                                 | Sp | S  | F | W |
|---------------------------------|----|----|---|---|
| ___ Hooded Warbler.....         | X  |    |   |   |
| ___ Wilson's Warbler.....       | U  |    | U |   |
| ___ Yellow-breasted Chat.....   | U  | U* |   |   |
| ___ Summer Tanager.....         | C  | C* | C |   |
| ___ Green-tailed Towhee.....    |    |    |   | O |
| ___ Spotted Towhee.....         | C  |    | C | C |
| ___ Canyon Towhee.....          | C  | C* | C | C |
| ___ Rufous-crowned Sparrow..... | C  | C* | C | C |
| ___ Chipping Sparrow.....       | A  | U* | A | A |
| ___ Clay-colored Sparrow.....   | R  |    |   |   |
| ___ Field Sparrow.....          | C  | C* | C | C |
| ___ Vesper Sparrow.....         | C  |    | C | A |
| ___ Lark Sparrow.....           | A  | A* | A | U |
| ___ Black-throated Sparrow..... | U  | U* | U | U |
| ___ Savannah Sparrow.....       | U  |    | U | U |
| ___ Grasshopper Sparrow.....    | O  | O  | O | O |
| ___ Fox Sparrow.....            | U  |    | U | U |
| ___ Song Sparrow.....           | U  |    | U | U |
| ___ Lincoln's Sparrow.....      | C  |    | C | C |
| ___ Swamp Sparrow.....          |    |    |   | R |
| ___ White-throated Sparrow..... | U  |    | U | U |
| ___ Harris's Sparrow.....       | U  |    | U | U |
| ___ White-crowned Sparrow.....  | C  |    | C | C |
| ___ Dark-eyed Junco.....        | C  |    | C | C |
| ___ Northern Cardinal.....      | A  | A* | A | A |
| ___ Pyrrhuloxia.....            | U  | U* | U | U |
| ___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak..... | R  |    |   |   |
| ___ Blue Grosbeak.....          | U  | U* | U |   |
| ___ Indigo Bunting.....         | O  |    | O |   |
| ___ Painted Bunting.....        | C  | C* | C |   |
| ___ Dickcissel.....             | U  | U* | U |   |
| ___ Red-winged Blackbird.....   | U  | R  | U | U |
| ___ Eastern Meadowlark.....     | U  | O  | U | U |

|                                | <b>Sp</b> | <b>S</b> | <b>F</b> | <b>W</b> |
|--------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| ___ Western Meadowlark.....    | C         |          | C        | C        |
| ___ Brewer's Blackbird .....   | U         |          | U        | U        |
| ___ Brown-headed Cowbird ..... | U         | U*       | U        | O        |
| ___ Bronzed Cowbird.....       | X         |          |          |          |
| ___ Orchard Oriole .....       | C         | C*       | C        |          |
| ___ Bullock's Oriole.....      | O         |          | O        |          |
| ___ Purple Finch .....         | R         |          | R        | R        |
| ___ House Finch.....           | C         | C*       | C        | C        |
| ___ Pine Siskin .....          | I         |          | I        | I        |
| ___ Lesser Goldfinch .....     | C         | C*       | U        | U        |
| ___ American Goldfinch .....   | C         |          | C        | C        |
| ___ House Sparrow.....         | A         | A*       | A        | A        |

## CITATION

Mueller, Kay and Ernest. June 2008. Birds of Enchanted Rock State Natural Area: 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