

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

# BIRDS

OF

## COLORADO BEND STATE PARK



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2007

*Cover: Illustration of Bald Eagle by Rob Fleming.*

October 2007

# INTRODUCTION

Colorado Bend State Park lies on the Colorado River, at the junction of San Saba, Lampasas and Burnet counties. Here the river begins to slow and widen as it enters the upper end of Lake Buchanan. The park lies in a transitional area between two major vegetational areas: the Cross Timbers and Prairies to the northeast and the Edwards Plateau to the southwest. The separation between these two vegetational areas roughly corresponds to that of two physiographic regions of Texas, the Lampasas Cut Plains and the Central Mineral Region, respectively.

Birders who are ready for a lot of good hiking can find much to see in the park's 5,638 acres. The park provides nearly 12 miles of hiking trails, including some along the river and Spicewood Spring Canyon, as well as a network of trails in the uplands in the western part of the park. The trails provide access to a diversity of habitats, including juniper-oak upland woodlands, oak savannahs, creekside riparian habitat and the river, with its towering oaks, elms and pecans.

The present list includes 191 species. Common birds include the Red-tailed Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Belted Kingfisher, Golden-fronted Woodpecker and Eastern Phoebe. Canyon Wrens echo from the cliffs along the river, while Bewick's Wrens, Rufous-crowned Sparrows and Northern Mockingbirds sing from the cedar-clad hills above. Southwestern bird species found at Colorado Bend include Vermilion Flycatcher, Verdin, Bushtit, Cactus Wren and Canyon Towhee. There is always a chance of spotting something interesting along the river, like American White Pelicans during migration, or various shorebirds or waterfowl species.

A couple of Hill Country specialties found at Colorado Bend are the Black-capped Vireo and Golden-cheeked Warbler. The warbler is easy to observe here from late March through June along the river and in Spicewood Springs Canyon. The vireo is much more difficult to find and confined to areas that are currently closed to the public. Visitors looking for these two endangered species should be very careful to avoid

disturbing the birds while they are nesting in the park. Playing tapes to attract these birds is prohibited.

Because we will be updating this checklist as additional observations are made, we ask that you report details of new or unusual sightings. Bird sightings can be turned in to the office or mailed to the Natural Resource Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744. This list was compiled by Edward A. Kutac and he would like to thank the many people who have contributed sightings.

Nomenclature and organization of this list follow the *American Ornithologist's Union Check-list of North American Birds* (1998, 7th edition), as currently supplemented.

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

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## LEGEND

C – Common – easy to find

U – Uncommon – present, but in small numbers or not easy to find

R – Rare – not expected every year; usually only one record per season

X – Accidental – 1 to 4 records

? – Recorded but status uncertain

\* – Confirmed breeding in park

Spring – March, April, May

Summer – June July August

Fall – September, October, November

Winter – December, January, February

# CHECKLIST

	SPG	SUM	FAL	WIN
_____ Snow Goose.....			R	
_____ Wood Duck*.....	U	U	R	R
_____ Green-winged Teal .....	R			R
_____ Gadwall .....				X
_____ Mallard.....			R	
_____ Blue-winged Teal .....	R			
_____ Ring-necked Duck .....				R
_____ Wild Turkey* .....	U	U	U	U
_____ Northern Bobwhite*.....	C	C	U	U
_____ American White Pelican .....	R	R		
_____ Double-crested Cormorant.....	U		R	U
_____ Neotropic Cormorant.....	X			
_____ Great Blue Heron* .....	U	U	U	U
_____ Great Egret.....		R	R	
_____ Snowy Egret .....			X	
_____ Cattle Egret.....	R			
_____ Green Heron.....	U	U		
_____ Black Vulture* .....	C	C	C	C
_____ Turkey Vulture* .....	C	C	C	C
_____ Osprey .....	U		U	
_____ Mississippi Kite.....		X		
_____ Bald Eagle .....	R			U
_____ Northern Harrier .....	R		R	
_____ Sharp-shinned Hawk .....	R		U	R
_____ Cooper's Hawk* .....	U	R	U	
_____ Common Black-Hawk.....	X			
_____ Red-shouldered Hawk*.....	U	U	R	R
_____ Broad-winged Hawk.....		?		
_____ Swainson's Hawk.....	U		U	
_____ Zone-tailed Hawk.....	R	R	R	
_____ Red-tailed Hawk.....	U	U	U	U

	SPG	SUM	FAL	WIN
_____ American Kestrel .....	U		U	U
_____ American Coot .....	X			X
_____ Sandhill Crane .....	R		R	
_____ Whooping Crane.....	?			
_____ Killdeer .....	U	U	U	U
_____ Greater Yellowlegs .....	R			R
_____ Solitary Sandpiper.....	R			
_____ Spotted Sandpiper.....	U		U	R
_____ Wilson's Snipe.....	R		R	R
_____ Franklin's Gull.....	X			
_____ Ring-billed Gull .....	R		R	
_____ Mourning Dove* .....	C	C	C	C
_____ Inca Dove .....	R	R	U	R
_____ Black-billed Cuckoo.....	R			
_____ Yellow-billed Cuckoo .....	U	C	R	
_____ 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
_____ Common Nighthawk .....	R	U	R	
_____ Common Poorwill* .....	U	U	U	
_____ Chuck-will's-widow* .....	U	U		
_____ Chimney Swift.....	U	U	R	
_____ Black-chinned Hummingbird* .....	U	C	R	
_____ Ruby-throated Hummingbird .....	R		R	
_____ Belted Kingfisher* .....	U	U	U	U
_____ Green Kingfisher .....	R	X		
_____ Red-headed Woodpecker.....			R	
_____ Acorn Woodpecker.....	X			
_____ Golden-fronted Woodpecker* .....	C	C	C	C
_____ Red-bellied Woodpecker .....	R	R	R	R
_____ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....	R		U	U
_____ Ladder-backed Woodpecker* .....	C	C	C	C

	SPG	SUM	FAL	WIN
___ Downy Woodpecker* .....	U	U	U	U
___ Hairy Woodpecker.....	R			
___ Northern Flicker .....			U	U
___ Pileated Woodpecker.....	X	X		
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher.....	X			
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee .....	U	U	X	
___ Empidonax, sp. ....	U		U	
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher .....	X			
___ Acadian Flycatcher*.....	U	O	U	
___ Alder Flycatcher.....	X			
___ Willow Flycatcher .....	O		O	
___ Least Flycatcher .....	R		R	
___ Black Phoebe.....	R			
___ Eastern Phoebe* .....	C	C	C	C
___ Say's Phoebe.....	R			
___ Vermilion Flycatcher.....	U	U	X	
___ Ash-throated Flycatcher* .....	U	C		
___ Great Crested Flycatcher* .....	C	C	U	
___ Western Kingbird .....	U	R		
___ Eastern Kingbird.....	R			
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*.....	C	C	U	
___ Loggerhead Shrike .....	R		U	U
___ White-eyed Vireo* .....	C	C	U	
___ Bell's Vireo* .....	R	R		
___ Black-capped Vireo* .....	U	U		
___ Blue-headed Vireo .....	R		R	R
___ Yellow-throated Vireo* .....	U	U		
___ Warbling Vireo.....			R	
___ Red-eyed Vireo* .....	C	C		
___ Blue Jay .....	X		R	
___ Western Scrub-Jay* .....	U	U	C	U
___ American Crow .....	R		R	R
___ Common Raven* .....	U	U	U	U

	SPG	SUM	FAL	WIN
___ Purple Martin .....	R	R		
___ N. Rough-winged Swallow .....	R			
___ Cliff Swallow* .....	C	C		
___ Barn Swallow .....	R	U	U	
___ Carolina Chickadee* .....	C	C	C	C
___ Tufted Titmouse* .....	C	C	C	C
___ Verdin .....	R	U	R	R
___ Bushtit* .....	U	R	R	R
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	X			
___ Brown Creeper.....	R			U
___ Cactus Wren* .....	U	U	U	U
___ Rock Wren .....	X	R	R	
___ Canyon Wren* .....	C	U	U	U
___ Carolina Wren* .....	C	C	C	C
___ Bewick's Wren* .....	C	C	C	C
___ House Wren.....	R		R	
___ Winter Wren.....	X		R	R
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet.....			R	U
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	C		C	C
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher* .....	C	C	U	
___ Eastern Bluebird .....	U	R	U	U
___ Townsend's Solitaire .....	X			
___ Swainson's Thrush .....	R			
___ Hermit Thrush.....	U		R	U
___ American Robin .....	U		R	C
___ Gray Catbird.....			R	
___ Northern Mockingbird* .....	C	C	C	C
___ Curve-billed Thrasher .....			R	
___ European Starling.....	U			
___ American Pipit.....	X			
___ Cedar Waxwing.....	C			C
___ Tennessee Warbler.....	X			
___ Orange-crowned Warbler .....	U		U	U

	SPG	SUM	FAL	WIN
_____ Nashville Warbler .....	U		U	
_____ Northern Parula .....	R			
_____ Yellow Warbler .....	U		R	
_____ Magnolia Warbler .....	R			
_____ Yellow-rumped Warbler .....	C		U	C
_____ Black-throated Green Warbler .....	R			
_____ Golden-cheeked Warbler* .....	U	U		
_____ Blackburnian Warbler .....	R			
_____ Yellow-throated Warbler .....	R			
_____ Black-and-white Warbler .....	U	R		
_____ American Redstart .....	R			
_____ Prothonotary Warbler .....	R	R		
_____ Northern Waterthrush .....	R			
_____ Louisiana Waterthrush .....	R	R		
_____ Kentucky Warbler .....	X			
_____ Mourning Warbler .....	U		R	
_____ MacGillivray's Warbler .....	X			
_____ Common Yellowthroat .....	U		U	
_____ Wilson's Warbler .....	R		R	
_____ Summer Tanager* .....	C	C	R	
_____ Eastern Towhee .....	X			X
_____ Spotted Towhee .....	U		U	C
_____ Canyon Towhee* .....	U	U	U	U
_____ Cassin's Sparrow .....	R	R		
_____ Rufous-crowned Sparrow* .....	U	U	U	U
_____ Chipping Sparrow .....	U	R	U	U
_____ Clay-colored Sparrow .....	R			
_____ Field Sparrow* .....	U	U	U	C
_____ Vesper Sparrow .....	U			U
_____ Lark Sparrow* .....	C	C	C	R
_____ Black-throated Sparrow* .....	U	U	U	U
_____ Lark Bunting .....	R			
_____ Savannah Sparrow .....	U		U	R

	SPG	SUM	FAL	WIN
_____ Grasshopper Sparrow.....	R		R	
_____ Fox Sparrow .....				R
_____ Song Sparrow.....	U		R	R
_____ Lincoln's Sparrow.....	U		R	U
_____ Swamp Sparrow.....	X			
_____ White-throated Sparrow.....	U		R	U
_____ White-crowned Sparrow.....	C		R	C
_____ Harris's Sparrow .....	R			R
_____ Dark-eyed Junco.....	R			C
_____ Northern Cardinal* .....	C	C	C	C
_____ Pyrrhuloxia.....	R			R
_____ Rose-breasted Grosbeak.....	X			
_____ Blue Grosbeak* .....	U	U		
_____ Indigo Bunting* .....	U	U		
_____ Painted Bunting* .....	C	C		
_____ Dickcissel.....	R	R		
_____ Red-winged Blackbird.....	U	U		
_____ Eastern Meadowlark .....	R	U	U	R
_____ Western Meadowlark.....	X		U	U
_____ Great-tailed Grackle .....	R			
_____ Bronzed Cowbird .....	R			
_____ Brown-headed Cowbird .....	C	C	U	U
_____ Orchard Oriole* .....	U	U		
_____ Bullock's Oriole.....			X	
_____ House Finch.....	U	U	U	U
_____ Pine Siskin .....	R			R
_____ Lesser Goldfinch .....	R	R	R	R
_____ American Goldfinch .....	C			C
_____ House Sparrow.....	R	R	R	R

## CITATION

Kutac, Edward. A. September 2007. Birds of Colorado Bend State Park: a field checklist. Natural Resource Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

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