Cover: Illustration of Great Blue Heron by Rob Fleming.
INTRODUCTION

Martin Creek Lake State Park is located approximately 20 miles south of Longview and 3.5 miles west of Tatum in Rusk County. The park consists of 286 acres and is located on the 5,000-acre Martin Creek Lake. The lake was constructed to provide cooling water for a lignite-fired, electric power generation plant.

The park is dominated by pine-oak forest consisting of loblolly pine, post, blackjack and water oaks. Birds can be observed on the lake from the boat ramp and from various location on the two hiking trails. One of these trails leads to a small island near the boat ramp. The other trail is 1.5 miles long and begins at the Bee Tree camping area. This trail follows the lakeshore for a short distance before entering the pine-oak woodland.

Bald Eagles and Ospreys can sometimes be seen on this lake in fall, winter, and spring. There are eagle watching boat tours available every Saturday and Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. from November through January.

Mike Dillon of Marshall, Texas, compiled this checklist, from records collected by the North East Texas Field Ornithologists. This checklist is preliminary and will be periodically updated. Additional records are needed and contributions of sightings, even of the most common birds, can be very helpful. The organization and nomenclature of the birds listed here follow the American Ornithologist’s Union Check-list of North American Birds, 7th edition.

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 normal avian activity patterns, including essential territorial behavior, and may lead to nest failure. Thank you for your cooperation.
### Legend

- **c** – Common (Present, easy to find)
- **f** – Fairly common (Present, should see or hear)
- **u** – Uncommon (Present, harder to find)
- **r** – Rare (Present, hard to find, or may not occur every year)
- **x** – Accidental (Not usually present, lost, result of an event)

### Sp – Spring
March, April, May

### Su – Summer
June, July, August

### F – Fall
September, October, November

### W – Winter
December, January, February

### Checklist

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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.