

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

BIRDS

OF

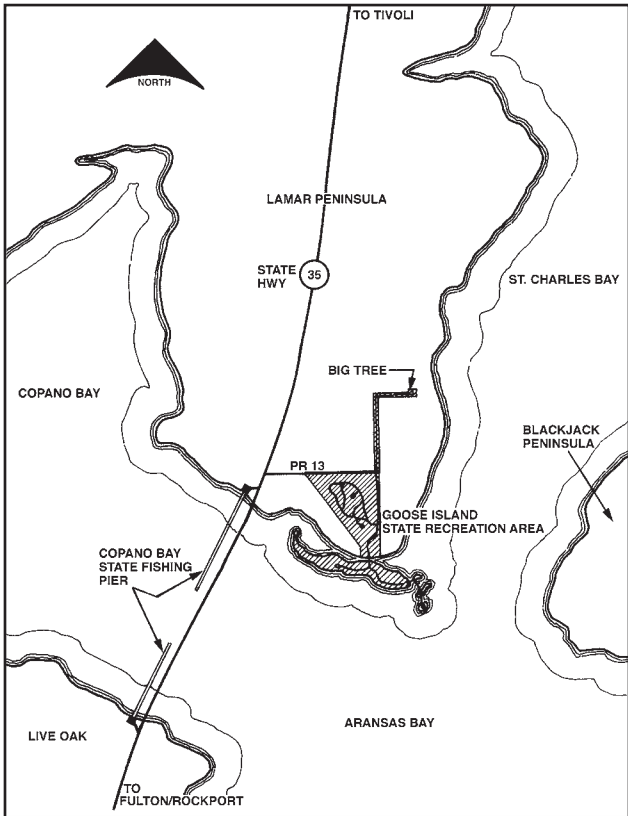
GOOSE ISLAND STATE PARK



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2016

CHECKLIST AREA MAP



INTRODUCTION

Goose Island State Park, Aransas County, is situated in the great Central Flyway at the southern tip of Lamar Peninsula. It is on the shores of Aransas and St. Charles Bays just west of the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge.

Park habitats include shallow waters of the open bays, shorelines and mudflats, marshes, meadows, live oak mottes and dense shrub thickets with yaupon, American beautyberry, agarito, redbay, grape, poison ivy, bumelia, prickly-ash, greenbriar and others. A paved park road traverses several of these habitats and leads to the Big Tree, The State Champion coastal live oak.

The habitat variety at Goose Island State Park makes it a good place to observe water birds, waterfowl, shorebirds and passerines both in migration and in residence.

During spring migration, the live oaks attract many passerines; warblers can be especially abundant. Hawks and falcons can be seen flying overhead. Bird observations may be particularly rewarding during the wet cold fronts of spring.

During migration periods and low tide conditions, marshes and shores are especially good for shorebird sightings. St. Charles Bay, the shallowest of the area bays, provides good feeding for shorebirds. The marshes are good for rails and gallinules. Swallows can be observed flying overhead.

The winter bird population is excellent and varied. Aransas Bay has goldeneyes, Lesser Scaup, various other ducks, Common Loons, Eared Grebes and Double-crested Cormorants. St. Charles Bay, being shallow, attracts the dabblers: gadwalls, pintails, teals, wigeons, shovelers, and redheads; American White Pelicans are found across the bay on sand spits near the Aransas Refuge. On occasions, a family of Whooping Cranes can be seen feeding. Snow and Canada geese feed and rest in the bays; Herring, Ring-billed, Bonaparte's and Laughing gulls are found in winter over the water, as are Forster's, Royal and Caspian terns.

Some of the breeding birds in the marshes and on the shores and islands are: Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bitterns, herons and egrets,

Roseate Spoonbills, Mottled Ducks, Black-belled Whistling-Ducks, Clapper Rails, Killdeer and Willets, Wilson's Plovers, Laughing Gulls and six species of terns, Seaside Sparrows and Red-winged Blackbirds.

Some of the birds that nest in the Oaks and open areas are: Inca Doves, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Purple Martins, Black-crested Titmouse, Carolina Wrens, White-eyed Vireos, Northern Cardinals, Painted Buntings, Lark Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks and Great-tailed Grackles.

Bird observation and study at Goose Island State Park is always good, but is especially rewarding during low tides or during migration.

This checklist includes only those species that have been observed in the park or passing overhead or from Lamar Peninsula and the immediate environs of Aransas, St. Charles and Copano Bays. Nomenclature and organization follow the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds*, 7th edition (1998) as supplemented. This list was compiled by members of the Audubon Outdoor Club of Corpus Christi, who made spring and winter counts of the area for several years, and includes many sightings turned in by park visitors. The Checklist Committee included Dennis Haessly; Ray Little; Hilde Kaigler; Jim and Sally Lockwood; and Cullen S. Reeves, Jr. A special note of appreciation is extended to Ruthie Melton for her contribution to the 1993 checklist from which the current edition is based.

Because we are interested in maintaining and revising this checklist, we solicit your help and ask that you share new and unusual sightings and/or comments on the status of the park's birdlife with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. You may leave your sightings at the park headquarters or mail them to the Natural Resources Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.

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.

LEGEND

Season/Abundance

- S = Summer – birds that come in summer and are presumed to breed – March through October.
- W = Winter – birds that come for the winter season – November through March. Some arriving as early as July and some leaving as late as June.
- R = Resident – the bird is found throughout the year.
- M = Migrant – a bird whose stay may be brief in spring and fall, while enroute between its summer and winter homes.
- c = common – should be seen in proper habitat during season noted.
- u = uncommon – may be seen in proper habitat during season noted.
- r = rare – unlikely to be seen even in proper habitat during season noted.
- ca = casual – a few records per decade.
- i = irregular – great variation in numbers for the same season from one year to the next.
- Acc = Accidental – not expected to recur.
- * = nesting/breeding documented.

CHECKLIST

SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS

_____	*Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Rc
_____	Fulvous Whistling-Duck	Su
_____	Greater White-fronted Goose	Wr
_____	Snow Goose	Wr
_____	Canada Goose	Wr
_____	Tundra Swan	Acc
_____	Wood Duck	Wi
_____	Gadwall	Wu
_____	American Wigeon	Wu
_____	Mallard	Wr
_____	*Mottled Duck	Rc
_____	Blue-winged Teal	Mc; Wc
_____	Cinnamon Teal	Wr
_____	Northern Shoveler	Wc

_____	Northern Pintail	Wc
_____	Green-winged Teal	Wu
_____	Canvasback	Wu
_____	Redhead.....	Wc
_____	Ring-necked Duck	Wu
_____	Greater Scaup	Wr
_____	Lesser Scaup	Wc
_____	White-winged Scoter	Wca
_____	Long-tailed Duck	ca
_____	Bufflehead	Wc
_____	Common Goldeneye	Wc
_____	Hooded Merganser	Wr
_____	Red-breasted Merganser	Wc
_____	Common Merganser	Acc
_____	Masked Duck	Acc
_____	Ruddy Duck	Wu

QUAILS

_____	*Northern Bobwhite	Rr
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TURKEYS

_____	Wild Turkey	Rr
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LOONS

_____	Red-throated Loon	Acc
_____	Common Loon	Wc

GREBES

_____	*Least Grebe	Rr
_____	*Pied-billed Grebe	Rc
_____	Horned Grebe	Wr
_____	Eared Grebe	Wi
_____	Western Grebe	Acc

FLAMINGOS

_____	American Flamingo	Acc
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STORKS

_____ Wood Stork M

FRIGATEBIRDS

_____ Magnificent Frigatebird Su; Wr

GANNETS AND BOOBIES

_____ Masked Booby Acc

CORMORANTS

_____ Neotropic Cormorant Rc

_____ Double-crested Cormorant Wc

ANHINGA

_____ Anhinga Wu

PELICANS

_____ American White Pelican Wc

_____ *Brown Pelican Rc

HERONS

_____ American Bittern Wu

_____ Least Bittern Su

_____ *Great Blue Heron Rc

_____ *Great Egret Rc

_____ *Snowy Egret Rc

_____ Little Blue Heron Rc

_____ *Tricolored Heron Rc

_____ *Reddish Egret Rc

_____ Cattle Egret Rc

_____ *Green Heron Sc; Wr

_____ *Black-crowned Night-Heron Rc

_____ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron Ru

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS

_____	White Ibis	Rc
_____	White-faced Ibis	Rc
_____	Roseate Spoonbill	Rc

AMERICAN VULTURES

_____	Black Vulture	Rc
_____	Turkey Vulture	Rc

KITES AND HAWKS

_____	Osprey	Wc
_____	Swallow-tailed Kite	Mr
_____	White-tailed Kite	Mr
_____	Mississippi Kite	Mu
_____	Northern Harrier	Wu
_____	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Wu
_____	Cooper's Hawk	Wr
_____	Harris's Hawk	Wr
_____	*Red-shouldered Hawk.....	Rc
_____	Broad-winged Hawk	Mc
_____	Swainson's Hawk	Mu
_____	*White-tailed Hawk.....	Rc
_____	Red-tailed Hawk	Wc
_____	Ferruginous Hawk	Wr

RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS

_____	Yellow Rail	Acc
_____	*Clapper Rail	Rc
_____	King Rail	Wr
_____	Virginia Rail	Wr
_____	Sora	Mc
_____	Purple Gallinule	Sr
_____	Common Gallinule	Rc
_____	American Coot	Wc

CRANES

_____	Sandhill Crane.....	Wc
_____	Whooping Crane	Wc

PLOVERS

_____	Black-bellied Plover	Wc
_____	American Golden-Plover	Mu
_____	Snowy Plover	Ru
_____	Wilson's Plover	Su
_____	Semipalmated Plover	Wu
_____	Piping Plover	Wu
_____	*Killdeer	Rc

OYSTERCATCHERS

_____	American Oystercatcher	Rc
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STILTS AND AVOCETS

_____	*Black-necked Stilt	Sc
_____	American Avocet	Wu

SHOREBIRDS

_____	Spotted Sandpiper	Wc
_____	Solitary Sandpiper	Mu; Wr
_____	Greater Yellowlegs	Wc
_____	*Willet.....	Rc
_____	Lesser Yellowlegs	Wc
_____	Upland Sandpiper	Mu
_____	Whimbrel	Mu
_____	Long-billed Curlew	Wc; Su
_____	Marbled Godwit	Wi
_____	Ruddy Turnstone	Wc
_____	Red Knot	Mr
_____	Sanderling	Wc
_____	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Mu
_____	Western Sandpiper	Wu

_____	Least Sandpiper.....	Wc
_____	White-rumped Sandpiper	Mr
_____	Baird's Sandpiper	Mr
_____	Pectoral Sandpiper	Mu
_____	Dunlin	Wc
_____	Stilt Sandpiper.....	Mu
_____	Short-billed Dowitcher	Wc
_____	Long-billed Dowitcher.....	Wc
_____	Wilson's Snipe	Wi
_____	American Woodcock	Wr
_____	Wilson's Phalarope	Mu

GULLS AND TERNS

_____	Bonaparte's Gull	Wu
_____	*Laughing Gull	Rc
_____	Franklin's Gull	Mc
_____	Ring-billed Gull	Wc
_____	Herring Gull	Wc
_____	*Least Tern	Sc
_____	*Gull-billed Tern	Sc; Wu
_____	*Caspian Tern	Rc
_____	Black Tern	Mc
_____	Common Tern	Mr
_____	*Forster's Tern	Rc
_____	*Royal Tern	Rc
_____	*Sandwich Tern	Sc
_____	*Black Skimmer.....	Rc

PIGEONS AND DOVES

_____	*Rock Pigeon.....	Rc
_____	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Rc
_____	*Inca Dove.....	Rc
_____	Common Ground-Dove	Rr
_____	White-winged Dove	Rc
_____	*Mourning Dove	Rc

CUCKOOS AND ANIS

_____	Black-billed Cuckoo	Mr
_____	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Su; Mu
_____	Greater Roadrunner	Ru
_____	Groove-billed Ani	r

OWLS

_____	Eastern Screech-Owl	Rr
_____	*Great Horned Owl	Rc
_____	Barred Owl	Acc
_____	Short-eared Owl	Wca

NIGHTJARS

_____	*Lesser Nighthawk	Rr
_____	*Common Nighthawk	Sc
_____	*Common Pauraque	Ru
_____	Chuck-will's-widow	Mu
_____	Eastern Whip-poor-will	Mu

SWIFTS

_____	Chimney Swift	Sc
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HUMMINGBIRDS

_____	*Buff-bellied Hummingbird	Rc
_____	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Mc; Sr
_____	Black-chinned Hummingbird	Wu; Mu
_____	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Acc
_____	Rufous Hummingbird	Mr
_____	Anna's Hummingbird	Acc

KINGFISHERS

_____	Belted Kingfisher	Wc
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WOODPECKERS

_____	Red-headed Woodpecker	Wr
_____	*Golden-fronted Woodpecker	Rr
_____	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Wu
_____	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	Ru
_____	Downy Woodpecker	Wca
_____	Northern Flicker	Wu

CARACARAS AND FALCONS

_____	Crested Caracara	Rc
_____	American Kestrel	Wc
_____	Merlin	Wr
_____	Peregrine Falcon	Mr

FLYCATCHERS

_____	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Mu
_____	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Mc
_____	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Mc
_____	Acadian Flycatcher	Mu
_____	Alder Flycatcher	Mr
_____	Willow Flycatcher	Mr
_____	Least Flycatcher	Mc
_____	Eastern Phoebe	Wc
_____	Vermilion Flycatcher	Wr
_____	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Mr
_____	Great Crested Flycatcher	Mc
_____	Brown-crested Flycatcher	Mu
_____	Great Kiskadee	Wca
_____	Couch's Kingbird	Wr
_____	Western Kingbird	Mu
_____	Eastern Kingbird	Mc
_____	*Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Sc

SHRIKES

_____ Loggerhead Shrike Wc

VIREOS

_____ *White-eyed Vireo Rc

_____ Bell's Vireo Mr

_____ Yellow-throated Vireo Mu

_____ Blue-headed Vireo Wu

_____ Warbling Vireo Mu

_____ Philadelphia Vireo Mu

_____ Red-eyed Vireo Mc

_____ Black-whiskered Vireo ca

JAYS AND CROWS

_____ Blue Jay Wi

_____ American Crow Acc

LARKS

_____ *Horned Lark Ru

SWALLOWS

_____ *Purple Martin Sc

_____ Tree Swallow Mc

_____ Northern Rough-winged Swallow Mc

_____ Bank Swallow Mc

_____ Cliff Swallow Sc

_____ *Cave Swallow Sc

_____ *Barn Swallow Mc; Su

CHICKADEES AND TITMICE

_____ Carolina Chickadee r

_____ *Black-crested Titmouse Rc

NUTHATCHES

_____ Red-breasted Nuthatch Acc

VERDIN

_____ VerdinAcc

WRENS

_____ House Wren Wc

_____ Winter Wren..... Wr

_____ Sedge Wren Wc

_____ Marsh Wren Wc

_____ *Carolina Wren Rc

_____ Bewick's Wren Ru

_____ Cactus Wrenca

KINGLETS

_____ Golden-crowned Kinglet Wi

_____ Ruby-crowned Kinglet Wc

GNATCATCHERS

_____ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Wc

THRUSHES

_____ Eastern BluebirdWr

_____ Veery Mu

_____ Gray-cheeked ThrushMr

_____ Swainson's Thrush Mc

_____ Hermit Thrush Wc

_____ Wood Thrush Mu

_____ American Robin Wc

_____ Clay-colored Thrushca

MIMIC THRUSHES

_____ Gray CatbirdMc; Wc

_____ Curve-billed Thrasher Rr

_____ Brown Thrasher Wc

_____ Long-billed Thrasher Rr

_____ *Northern Mockingbird Rc

STARLINGS

_____ *European Starling..... Rc

PIPITS

_____ American Pipit Wc

_____ Sprague's Pipit Wu

WAXWINGS

_____ Cedar Waxwing Wu

WOOD WARBLERS

_____ Ovenbird Mc

_____ Worm-eating Warbler Mu

_____ Northern Waterthrush Mc

_____ Louisiana Waterthrush Mr

_____ Blue-winged Warbler Mu

_____ Golden-winged Warbler Mu

_____ Black-and-White Warbler..... Mc; Wr

_____ Prothonotary Warbler Mu

_____ Swainson's Warbler..... Acc

_____ Tennessee Warbler Mc

_____ Orange-crowned Warbler Wc

_____ Nashville Warbler Mc

_____ MacGillivray's Warbler Acc

_____ Mourning Warbler Mr

_____ Kentucky Warbler Mu

_____ Common Yellowthroat Wc

_____ Hooded Warbler Mc

_____ American Redstart Mu

_____ Cape May Warbler Mr

_____ Cerulean Warbler Mu

_____ Northern Parula Mc

_____ Magnolia Warbler Mc

_____	Bay-breasted Warbler	Mu
_____	Blackburnian Warbler	Mc
_____	Yellow Warbler	Mc
_____	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Mu
_____	Blackpoll Warbler	Mr
_____	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Mr
_____	Palm Warbler	Wr
_____	Pine Warbler	Wu
_____	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Wc
_____	Yellow-throated Warbler	Mc
_____	Black-throated Gray Warbler	Acc
_____	Townsend's Warbler	Acc
_____	Hermit Warbler	Acc
_____	Black-throated Green Warbler	Mc
_____	Canada Warbler	Mc
_____	Wilson's Warbler	Mc
_____	Yellow-breasted Chat	Mc; Wu

SPARROWS

_____	Yellow-faced Grassquit	Acc
_____	Olive Sparrow	Wr
_____	Green-tailed Towhee	Wca
_____	Eastern Towhee	Wr
_____	Spotted Towhee	Wu
_____	Cassin's Sparrow	Acc
_____	Chipping Sparrow	Wc
_____	Clay-colored Sparrow	Wu
_____	Field Sparrow	Wc
_____	Vesper Sparrow.....	Wc
_____	*Lark Sparrow	Ru
_____	Savannah Sparrow	Wc
_____	Grasshopper Sparrow	Mc; Wr
_____	Le Conte's Sparrow	Wu
_____	Nelson's Sparrow	Wu
_____	*Seaside Sparrow	Rc

_____	Fox Sparrow	Wr
_____	Song Sparrow	Wr
_____	Lincoln's Sparrow	Wc
_____	Swamp Sparrow	Wc
_____	White-throated Sparrow	Wc
_____	Harris's Sparrow	Wr
_____	White-crowned Sparrow	Wu
_____	Dark-eyed Junco	Wca

GROSBEAKS

_____	Summer Tanager	Mc
_____	Scarlet Tanager	Mc
_____	Western Tanager	Mr
_____	*Northern Cardinal	Rc
_____	Pyrrhuloxia	Wu
_____	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Mc
_____	Black-headed Grosbeak	Acc
_____	Blue Grosbeak	Mu
_____	Lazuli Bunting	ca
_____	Indigo Bunting	Mc
_____	*Painted Bunting	Sc
_____	Dickcissel	Mu

ORIOLES AND BLACKBIRDS

_____	Bobolink	Mr
_____	*Red-winged Blackbird	Rc
_____	*Eastern Meadowlark.....	Rc
_____	Western Meadowlark	Wu
_____	Yellow-headed Blackbird	Wr
_____	Brewer's Blackbird	Wu
_____	Common Grackle	Wu
_____	Boat-tailed Grackle	Wu
_____	*Great-tailed Grackle	Rc
_____	*Bronzed Cowbird	Sc
_____	*Brown-headed Cowbird	Rc

_____	Orchard Oriole	Mc
_____	Hooded Oriole	Acc
_____	Baltimore Oriole	Mc

FINCHES

_____	Pine Siskin	Wu
_____	American Goldfinch	Wc
_____	Lesser Goldfinch	Wr

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

_____	*House Sparrow	Rc
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CITATION

Audubon Outdoor Club of Corpus Christi Checklist Committee: Dennis Haessly; Ray Little; Hilde Kaigler; Cullen S. Reeves, Jr. May 2015. Birds of Goose Island State Park: a field checklist. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Natural Resources Program, Austin, Texas.

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