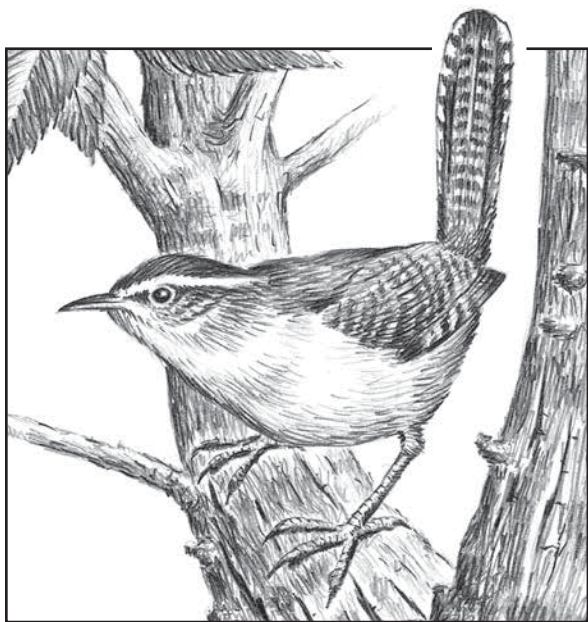


TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

BIRDS

OF

LAKE WHITNEY STATE PARK



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2016

INTRODUCTION

The 775-acre Lake Whitney State Park was acquired in 1954 by a Department of the Army lease and opened in May 1965. The park is along the east shore of Lake Whitney, west of Hillsboro in Hill County.

The park is located on Lake Whitney near ruins of Towash, an early Texas settlement inundated by Lake Whitney. Towash Village was named for the chief of the Hainai Indians, who moved into the area in 1835.

Lake Whitney State Park lies on the Washita Prairie, the eastern edge of the greater Grand Prairie that stretches from the Red River south to the Colorado River. The Washita Prairie landscape features gently rolling grasslands of little bluestem and Indiangrass. Isolated trees and oak mottes crown the hilltops. Brown, shallow soils cover a foundation of hard limestone rock, creating rugged white outcrops where the soil erodes away. Ribbons of woodlands follow the creeks and streams feeding the Brazos River. Along the nature trail you'll find netleaf hackberry, cedar elm, post oak, soapberry and plateau live oak. Listen for the sound of woodpeckers tapping into the hardwood in search of insects. Often used for grazing, the Washita Prairie provides a diverse habitat for wildlife. White-tailed deer browse the grasslands, taking cover from the heat in shady, wooded areas. Listen for the sounds of armadillos, the "little armored ones," scratching through the grasses along the nature trails.

The sparkling, clear waters of Lake Whitney create an oasis in the Texas Grand Prairie. Lake Whitney State Park offers visitors a chance to camp on the shores of a water wonderland noted for its world-class fishing. The park's oak woodlands and prairie grasslands provide outstanding wildlife viewing opportunities.

This checklist was compiled by Charles W. Easley of Cleburne. It includes species that have been reported within Hill County. This checklist is the result of 50 years record-keeping and study of migration in Hill County by Mr. Easley and others. The compiler would like to thank the following people who have furnished data and information for this checklist: Jimmy Aiken, David Arbour, Twyla Bothe, Frank Bumgarder, Greg Cook, Chris Easley, Chuck Easley, Kevin Easley, Velia Easley, Chuck Sexton, David Smith.

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

* – Confirmed nesting in area

A – Abundant: should be seen on 75% or more of trips in proper season and habitat.

C – Common: should be seen on 50% or more of trips in proper season and habitat.

F – Fairly Common: should be seen on 25% or more of trips in proper season and habitat.

U – Uncommon: should be seen on 10% or more of trips in proper season and habitat.

R – Rare: generally of annual occurrence, but not always present.

X – Accidental: only 1 or 2 records in the last 34 years.

I – Irregular: absent some years, present in others.

Sp – Spring March, April, May

Su – Summer June, July, August

F – Fall September, October, November

W – Winter December, January, February

CHECKLIST

	Sp	Su	F	W
___ Black-bellied Whistling-Duck		R	R	
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	I			I
___ Snow Goose	I		X	I
___ Ross's Goose			X	
___ Cackling Goose	R		R	U
___ Canada Goose	R		R	U
___ Wood Duck *	U	U	U	U
___ Gadwall	C		R	C
___ American Wigeon	C		U	C
___ Mallard	F		U	F
___ Cinnamon Teal	R			R
___ Northern Shoveler	C		U	C
___ Green-winged Teal	F		U	F
___ Canvasback	R		U	U
___ Redhead	U			C
___ Ring-necked Duck	U		R	C
___ Greater Scaup	R		I	R
___ Lesser Scaup	R		R	C
___ Bufflehead	U		U	F
___ Common Goldeneye	U		X	U
___ Hooded Merganser	U			U
___ Red-breasted Merganser	R			R
___ Ruddy Duck	C		F	C
___ Northern Bobwhite *	F	U	U	U
___ Wild Turkey*	C	C	C	C
___ Pacific Loon				X

	Sp	Su	F	W
___ Common Loon	U		U	C
___ Pied-billed Grebe.....	C	U	C	C
___ Horned Grebe.....	R		U	U
___ Eared Grebe	R		R	U
___ Western Grebe				X
___ Wood Stork		R	R	
___ Neotropic Cormorant.....	F	F	U	F
___ Double-crested Cormorant	C	U	U	U
___ American White Pelican	F		R	F
___ American Bittern	R			R
___ Least Bittern	R			R
___ Great Blue Heron *	C	C	C	C
___ Great Egret *	C	C	C	U
___ Snowy Egret *	F	F	C	U
___ Little Blue Heron *	F	F	C	R
___ Tricolored Heron.....			X	
___ Cattle Egret *	U	C	U	X
___ Green Heron *	C	U	R	
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron	U	U	R	
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *	U	U	U	
___ White Ibis			X	
___ White-faced Ibis.....		X	X	
___ Black Vulture *	U	U	U	X
___ Turkey Vulture *	C	C	C	F
___ Osprey.....	U		X	U
___ Mississippi Kite *		C	C	
___ Bald Eagle *	U	U	U	F

	Sp	Su	F	W
___ Northern Harrier	F			U
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	X	U	U
___ Cooper's Hawk *	U	R	U	U
___ Harris's Hawk	X		X	X
___ Red-shouldered Hawk *	F	U	U	U
___ Broad-winged Hawk	F		U	
___ Swainson's Hawk	F		U	
___ Red-tailed Hawk *	C	C	C	C
___ Ferruginous Hawk			X	X
___ Rough-legged Hawk			X	
___ Virginia Rail	X			
___ Sora	U		U	
___ American Coot	C		F	A
___ Sandhill Crane	U		U	
___ Whooping Crane	R		R	
___ Black-necked Stilt	R			
___ American Avocet	R			
___ Black-bellied Plover	U			
___ American Golden-Plover	U			
___ Snowy Plover	X			
___ Semipalmated Plover	F			
___ Piping Plover	X			
___ Killdeer *	A	A	A	A
___ Spotted Sandpiper	C		F	
___ Solitary Sandpiper	F			
___ Greater Yellowlegs	C		F	C
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	U		F	

	Sp	Su	F	W
___ Upland Sandpiper	C		U	
___ Long-billed Curlew	U		R	
___ Hudsonian Godwit	X			
___ Marbled Godwit	F			
___ Stilt Sandpiper	U		X	
___ Baird's Sandpiper	U			
___ Least Sandpiper	U		R	A
___ White-rumped Sandpiper.....	R	U		
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper	R			
___ Western Sandpiper	U		U	U
___ Wilson's Snipe	U			F
___ Wilson's Phalarope	U			
___ Bonaparte's Gull			X	F
___ Franklin's Gull	F			
___ Ring-billed Gull	X		X	C
___ Black Tern	U		X	
___ Forster's Tern	U			F
___ Caspian Tern.....			R	
___ Rock Pigeon *	A	A	A	A
___ Eurasian Collared-Dove *	F	F	F	F
___ White-winged Dove *	U	U	U	R
___ Mourning Dove *	C	C	C	C
___ Inca Dove *	F	F	F	U
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo *	U	U	R	
___ Greater Roadrunner *	C	C	C	C
___ Barn Owl *	U	U	U	U
___ Eastern Screech-Owl *	U	U	U	U

	Sp	Su	F	W
___ Great Horned Owl *	U	U	U	U
___ Barred Owl *	U	U	U	U
___ Common Nighthawk *	F	C	F	
___ Common Poorwill.....	R	R	R	X
___ Chuck-will's-widow *	F	F	R	
___ Eastern Whip-poor-will.....	X			
___ Chimney Swift *	U	U	F	
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird.....	U			
___ Black-chinned Hummingbird *.....	F	F	U	
___ Rufous Hummingbird			X	X
___ Belted Kingfisher *	C	C	C	A
___ Red-headed Woodpecker		X		
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker *	C	C	U	F
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....			U	F
___ Ladder-backed Woodpecker *	C	C	C	C
___ Downy Woodpecker *	U	U	C	C
___ Hairy Woodpecker				X
___ Northern Flicker	C		X	C
___ Crested Caracara *	U	U	U	U
___ American Kestrel	F		F	C
___ Merlin			X	R
___ Peregrine Falcon	U			
___ Prairie Falcon.....	X	X		X
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher.....	X		R	
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee	U	U		
___ Acadian Flycatcher.....	R			
___ Least Flycatcher			U	

	Sp	Su	F	W
___ Eastern Phoebe *	U	U	U	C
___ Say's Phoebe	X			X
___ Vermilion Flycatcher	R			R
___ Great Crested Flycatcher *	C	C		
___ Western Kingbird *	C	C	R	
___ Eastern Kingbird *	C	C	U	
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *	A	A	C	
___ Loggerhead Shrike *	C	C	U	U
___ White-eyed Vireo	A	F		
___ Bells Vireo	A	C		
___ Black-capped Vireo	X	X		
___ Yellow-throated Vireo	C	C		
___ Blue-headed Vireo	U		U	
___ Warbling Vireo *	F	U		
___ Philadelphia Vireo	X			
___ Red-eyed Vireo *	F	X		
___ Blue Jay *	C	C	C	C
___ American Crow *	C	C	C	A
___ Horned Lark	C			C
___ Purple Martin *	A	A	U	
___ Tree Swallow	F			
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	F	X		
___ Bank Swallow	R			
___ Cliff Swallow *	A	A	U	
___ Barn Swallow *	A	A	U	
___ Carolina Chickadee *	C	C	C	A
___ Black-crested Titmouse *	C	C	C	C

	Sp	Su	F	W
___ Tufted Titmouse	X			X
___ Rock Wren	X			X
___ Canyon Wren *	C	C	C	C
___ House Wren.....	U		X	U
___ Winter Wren	R		R	R
___ Sedge Wren	U			U
___ Marsh Wren.....	U			U
___ Carolina Wren *	F	U	U	U
___ Bewick's Wren *	C	C	C	C
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C		F	
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	I			I
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	X		X	C
___ Eastern Bluebird *	C	C	C	C
___ Mountain Bluebird	I			I
___ Hermit Thrush.....	F		R	U
___ American Robin.....	U			U
___ Brown Thrasher	R	U	U	R
___ Sage Thrasher.....	I			I
___ Northern Mockingbird *	A	A	A	A
___ European Starling *	U	U	U	U
___ Cedar Waxwing.....	I		I	I
___ Chestnut-collared Longspur	I			I
___ Black-and-white Warbler *	U	R	U	R
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	U		X	U
___ Common Yellowthroat	U	U		C
___ American Redstart	U			
___ Yellow Warbler	C			

	Sp	Su	F	W
___ Pine Warbler	I			I
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	C			C
___ Golden-cheeked Warbler	X	X		
___ Spotted Towhee				R
___ Eastern Towhee				U
___ Rufous-crowned Sparrow *	U	U	U	U
___ Canyon Towhee.....	X		X	
___ Cassin's Sparrow *	U		R	
___ Chipping Sparrow.....	C			C
___ Clay-colored Sparrow	C			
___ Field Sparrow	F			U
___ Vesper Sparrow	C			C
___ Lark Sparrow *	C	C	C	R
___ Lark Bunting.....	I			I
___ Savannah Sparrow	A			A
___ Grasshopper Sparrow *	F	F	U	U
___ Le Contes Sparrow.....	R			R
___ Fox Sparrow	U			U
___ Song Sparrow	U			U
___ Lincoln's Sparrow.....	U		U	X
___ Swamp Sparrow.....	U		C	C
___ White-throated Sparrow.....	C		F	C
___ Harris's Sparrow.....	U		F	A
___ White-crowned Sparrow	C		F	A
___ Dark-eyed Junco.....	C		F	C
___ Summer Tanager *	F	F		
___ Northern Cardinal *	A	C	C	A

	Sp	Su	F	W
___ Blue Grosbeak.....	F	U		
___ Indigo Bunting.....	F	U		
___ Painted Bunting *	A	A	U	
___ Dickcissel *	A	C	R	
___ Bobolink	X		X	
___ Red-winged Blackbird *	C	A	C	C
___ Eastern Meadowlark *	A	A	C	C
___ Western Meadowlark.....			X	U
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird.....	U			
___ Rusty Blackbird	I			I
___ Brewers Blackbird.....	F			F
___ Common Grackle.....	A	C		F
___ Great-tailed Grackle *	A	A	C	C
___ Brown-headed Cowbird *	C	C	C	C
___ Bronzed Cowbird.....			X	X
___ Orchard Oriole.....	F	F		
___ Bullock's Oriole *	F	F		
___ Baltimore Oriole.....	U			
___ House Finch *	C	C	C	F
___ Pine Siskin.....	I			I
___ Lesser Goldfinch.....	F		R	C
___ American Goldfinch.....	F		R	C
___ House Sparrow *	A	A	A	A
EXOTICS				
___ Egyptian Goose *	C	C	C	C

CITATION

Easley, Charles. December 2015. Birds of Lake Whitney State Park: a field checklist. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Natural Resources Program, Austin, Texas.

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Cover: Illustration of Bewick's Wren by Clemente Guzman III.

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