

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

# BIRDS

OF

M E R I D I A N  
S T A T E P A R K



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2006

*Cover: Illustration of Golden-cheeked Warbler by  
Clemente Guzman III.*

# INTRODUCTION

**M**eridian State Park, Bosque County, is located in the Lampasas Cut Plains natural region of Texas. The plants and animals of the park are similar to those found on the southeastern margin of the Edwards Plateau—the Balcones Escarpment region of the Hill Country. However, the flood-plain community above Lake Bosque on Bee Creek is distinctly like those of East Texas in composition.

With habitats ranging from lush riparian forests, through dry cedar and oak woodlands and thickets, to the margins and open waters of Lake Bosque, the 550-acre state park offers fine opportunities for observation and study of birdlife. Three hiking and nature study trails (see map), as well as parks roads, provide the park visitor easy access to good birding habitat.

The list of avian fauna for the park is highlighted by the rare Golden-cheeked Warbler. Although the area does not fall within the main portion of the warbler's range, the park does contain some prime stands of Ashe juniper-oak woodland habitat which fulfill the requisites of this warbler for nesting. To find this warbler, walk the Shinnery Ridge Trail in the northwest part of the park. Here in late March through June park visitors should be rewarded with excellent views and sounds of this Texas specialty.

The Shinnery Ridge Trail was formerly home to another of Texas' rare specialties, the Black-capped Vireo. Unlike the warbler, Black-capped Vireos thrive in transitional shrubby habitats. The vireos require semi-open areas with brushy areas where thick vegetation reaches the ground. At Meridian State Park that habitat was the shinnery oak that flourishes on the northern end of the trail. However, as the oaks continue to mature they become more tree-like and no longer provided the necessary habitat for the vireo.

In spring and summer the Black-chinned Hummingbird, Red-bellied and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Bewick's Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Painted Bunting and Rufous-crowned Sparrow often are found with little effort.

Depending on weather conditions during migration, visitors may see numerous ducks, occasional hawks, flycatchers, vireos, many species of warblers and some sparrows as they pass through the park. In winter one may find Pied-billed Grebe, Northern Flicker, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Spotted Towhee, Dark-eyed Junco, White-crowned Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow.

This checklist, compiled by Warren Pulich of the University of Dallas at Irving, includes only those species that have been observed either within the park boundaries or that have been observed overhead. Nomenclature and organization of this checklist follow the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds*, 7th edition as currently supplemented.

Because we are interested in maintaining and revising this checklist, we ask visitors to help by sharing new and unusual sightings and/or comments on the status of the park's birdlife. Bird Sighting Report Forms are available at the park headquarters, or notes may be submitted on the checklist itself or on notepaper. Please forward these comments to the Natural Resource Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or leave them at the park headquarters.

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*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.*

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## LEGEND

- R - Resident
  - W - Winter
  - V - Visitor
  - S - Summer
  - M - Migrant
  - P - Permanent
  - - Nests in park
  - \* - Probably nests in immediate area
- 
- 1 - Abundant
  - 2 - Very common
  - 3 - Common
  - 4 - Fairly common
  - 5 - Uncommon
  - 6 - Scarce
  - 7 - Rare
  - 8 - Irregular

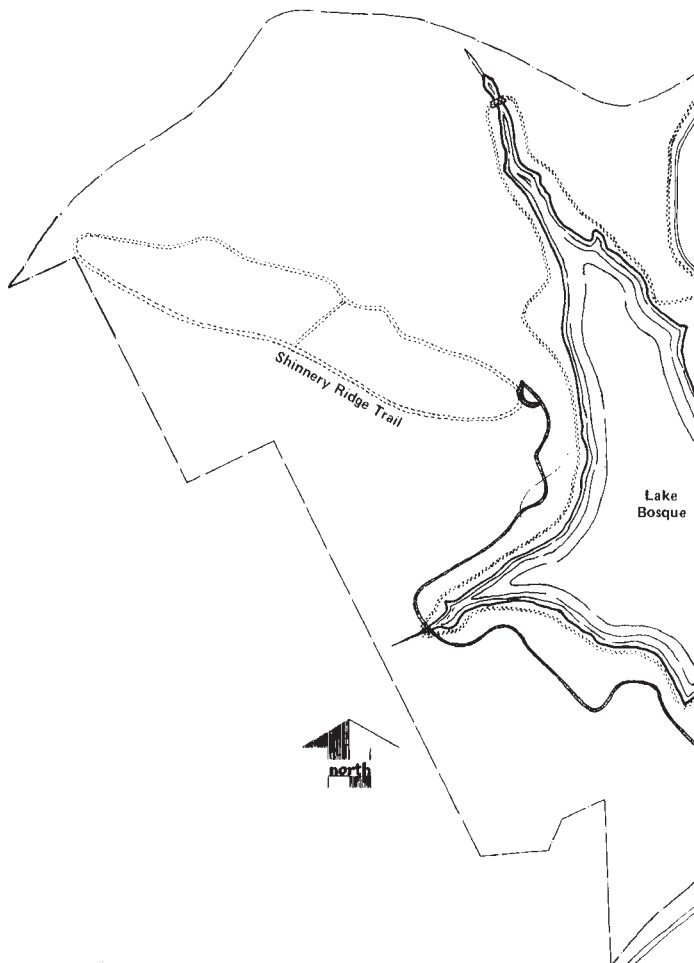
# CHECKLIST

___	Snow Goose .....	7M
___	Canada Goose .....	6M
___	• Wood Duck .....	7PR
___	Gadwall .....	4M, 6WR
___	American Wigeon .....	4M, 6WR
___	Mallard .....	5M, 6WR
___	Blue-winged Teal .....	3M, 8WR
___	Northern Shoveler .....	3M, 6WR
___	Northern Pintail .....	5M, 6WR
___	Green-winged Teal .....	3M, 7WR
___	Canvasback .....	6M
___	Redhead .....	6M
___	Ring-necked Duck .....	6M
___	Greater Scaup .....	8V
___	Lesser Scaup .....	4M, 6WR
___	Common Goldeneye .....	7V
___	Bufflehead .....	7V
___	Common Merganser .....	7V
___	Ruddy Duck .....	4M, 7WR
___	* Wild Turkey .....	6V
___	• Northern Bobwhite .....	3PR
___	Pied-billed Grebe .....	4M, 5WR
___	Horned Grebe .....	7V
___	Eared Grebe .....	6M
___	American White Pelican .....	6M
___	Double-crested Cormorant .....	5M
___	Anhinga .....	8V
___	American Bittern .....	7M
___	Least Bittern .....	7M
___	* Great Blue Heron .....	4PR
___	Snowy Egret .....	7M
___	Little Blue Heron .....	5M
___	Tricolored Heron .....	8V
___	Cattle Egret .....	8M

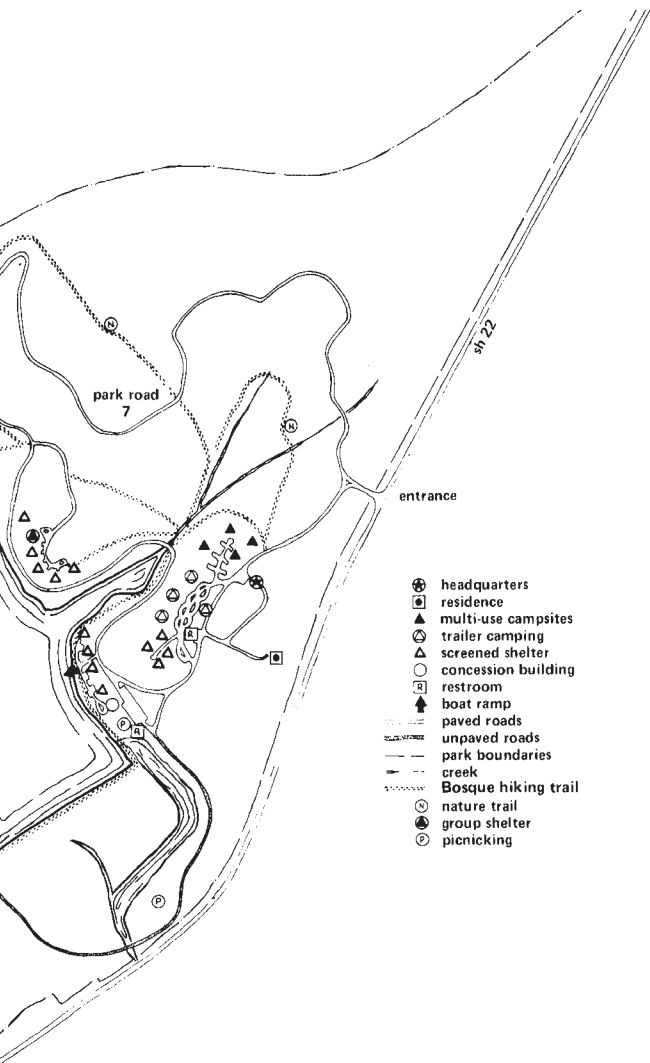
___	• Green Heron .....	5SR
___	Black-crowned Night-Heron .....	6M
___	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron .....	5M
___	White-faced Ibis .....	8V
___	• Black Vulture .....	3PR
___	• Turkey Vulture .....	2PR
___	Osprey .....	6M
___	Mississippi Kite .....	6M
___	Northern Harrier .....	5WR
___	Sharp-shinned Hawk .....	5WR
___	Cooper's Hawk .....	6WR
___	Broad-winged Hawk .....	5M
___	* Swainson's Hawk .....	4M, 7SR
___	* Red-tailed Hawk .....	7PR, 4WR
___	Rough-legged Hawk .....	8WR
___	Crested Caracara .....	8V
___	American Kestrel .....	5M, 4WR
___	Merlin .....	8V
___	Prairie Falcon .....	8V
___	Sora .....	7M
___	American Coot .....	3M, 4WR
___	Sandhill Crane .....	6M
___	• Killdeer .....	2M, 3WR
___	American Avocet .....	7V
___	Spotted Sandpiper .....	4M, 8WR
___	Solitary Sandpiper .....	6M
___	Greater Yellowlegs .....	6M
___	Willet .....	7M
___	Lesser Yellowlegs .....	4M
___	Upland Sandpiper .....	6M
___	Sanderling .....	8M
___	Semipalmated Sandpiper .....	6M
___	Least Sandpiper .....	3M
___	White-rumped Sandpiper .....	7M
___	Pectoral Sandpiper .....	5M
___	Long-billed Dowitcher .....	6M
___	Wilson's Snipe .....	5M

___	Franklin's Gull .....	4M
___	Ring-billed Gull .....	3M, 7WR
___	Black Tern .....	5M
___	Forster's Tern .....	5M
___	* Rock Pigeon .....	6R
___	• Mourning Dove .....	2PR
___	* Inca Dove .....	6PR
___	• Yellow-billed Cuckoo .....	4SR
___	• Greater Roadrunner .....	5PR
___	* Barn Owl .....	6PR
___	• Eastern Screech-Owl .....	4PR
___	* Great Horned Owl .....	6PR
___	Barred Owl .....	7V
___	• Common Nighthawk .....	5M, 4SR
___	* Common Poorwill .....	7SR
___	• Chuck-will's-widow .....	5SR
___	* Chimney Swift .....	5SR
___	* Ruby-throated Hummingbird .....	4M, 8SR
___	• Black-chinned Hummingbird .....	4M, 5SR
___	* Belted Kingfisher .....	5PR
___	Red-headed Woodpecker .....	8V
___	• Red-bellied Woodpecker .....	4PR
___	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker .....	4WR
___	• Ladder-backed Woodpecker .....	5PR
___	• Downy Woodpecker .....	5PR
___	Northern Flicker .....	3WR
___	Olive-sided Flycatcher .....	5M
___	Eastern Wood-Pewee .....	5M
___	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher .....	6M
___	Least Flycatcher .....	3M
___	"Traill's" Flycatcher .....	5M
___	Black Phoebe .....	8V
___	• Eastern Phoebe .....	5SR, 7WR
___	• Great Crested Flycatcher .....	4SR
___	• Western Kingbird .....	4M, 6SR
___	* Eastern Kingbird .....	4M, 7SR
___	• Scissor-tailed Flycatcher .....	3SR

# MERIDIAN STATE PARK







___	• Loggerhead Shrike .....	5PR
___	• White-eyed Vireo .....	5SR
___	* Bell's Vireo .....	7M
___	Black-capped Vireo .....	7SR
___	Yellow-throated Vireo .....	6M
___	Blue-headed Vireo .....	5M
___	Warbling Vireo .....	5M
___	Philadelphia Vireo .....	6M
___	* Red-eyed Vireo .....	6SR
___	• Blue Jay .....	4PR
___	* American Crow .....	4PR
___	Horned Lark .....	6V
___	* Purple Martin .....	3M, 6SR
___	Tree Swallow .....	5M
___	* Northern Rough-winged Swallow .....	4M, 5SR
___	Bank Swallow .....	5M
___	* Cliff Swallow .....	3M, 6SR
___	* Barn Swallow .....	3M, 6SR
___	• Carolina Chickadee .....	2PR
___	• Tufted Titmouse .....	2PR
___	Red-breasted Nuthatch .....	7V
___	White-breasted Nuthatch .....	7V
___	Brown Creeper .....	5WR
___	Rock Wren .....	8V
___	* Canyon Wren .....	7PR
___	• Carolina Wren .....	4PR
___	• Bewick's Wren .....	2PR
___	House Wren .....	4M
___	Golden-crowned Kinglet .....	5WR
___	Ruby-crowned Kinglet .....	3WR
___	• Blue-gray Gnatcatcher .....	4SR
___	• Eastern Bluebird .....	3PR
___	Townsend's Solitaire .....	7W
___	Veery .....	7M
___	Gray-cheeked Thrush .....	7M
___	Swainson's Warbler .....	4M
___	Hermit Thrush .....	4WR

___	American Robin .....	2M, 5WR
___	Gray Catbird .....	5M
___	• Northern Mockingbird .....	2PR
___	• Brown Thrasher .....	6PR
___	• European Starling .....	4PR
___	American Pipit .....	6WR
___	Cedar Waxwing .....	2WR
___	Phainopepla .....	8V
___	Tennessee Warbler .....	6M
___	Orange-crowned Warbler .....	3M, 5WR
___	Nashville Warbler .....	3M
___	Yellow Warbler .....	3M
___	Chestnut-sided Warbler .....	7M
___	Magnolia Warbler .....	6M
___	Yellow-rumped Warbler .....	2M, 4WR
___	Black-throated Green Warbler .....	5M
___	• Golden-cheeked Warbler .....	5SR
___	Blackburnian Warbler .....	6M
___	Bay-breasted Warbler .....	7M
___	Blackpoll Warbler .....	8M
___	• Black-and-white Warbler .....	5M, 6SR
___	American Redstart .....	4M
___	Ovenbird .....	6M
___	Northern Waterthrush .....	6M
___	Kentucky Warbler .....	7M
___	Mourning Warbler .....	5M
___	Common Yellowthroat .....	4M
___	Hooded Warbler .....	7M
___	Wilson's Warbler .....	3M
___	• Yellow-breasted Chat .....	4M, 7SR
___	• Summer Tanager .....	4SR
___	Scarlet Tanager .....	7M
___	Eastern Towhee .....	7WR
___	Spotted Towhee .....	4WR
___	• Rufous-crowned Sparrow .....	5PR
___	• Chipping Sparrow .....	3M, 4SR
___	Clay-colored Sparrow .....	5M

___	• Field Sparrow .....	2M, 5SR
___	Vesper Sparrow .....	4M, 6WR
___	• Lark Sparrow .....	4PR
___	Savannah Sparrow .....	3M, 6WR
___	Fox Sparrow .....	6WR
___	Song Sparrow .....	3M, 6WR
___	Lincoln's Sparrow .....	3M, 5WR
___	White-throated Sparrow .....	4WR
___	Harris's Sparrow .....	3WR
___	White-crowned Sparrow .....	2WR
___	Dark-eyed Junco .....	2WR
___	• Northern Cardinal .....	2PR
___	Rose-breasted Grosbeak .....	6M
___	* Blue Grosbeak .....	6M, 7SR
___	* Indigo Bunting .....	4M, 7SR
___	• Painted Bunting .....	2SR
___	* Dickcissel .....	4M, 7SR
___	• Red-winged Blackbird .....	3M, 2PR
___	• Eastern Meadowlark .....	3PR
___	Western Meadowlark .....	5WR
___	Brewer's Blackbird .....	8V
___	Common Grackle .....	5M
___	Great-tailed Grackle .....	6M
___	• Brown-headed Cowbird .....	3PR
___	Orchard Oriole .....	7SR
___	Bullock's Oriole .....	6M
___	Baltimore Oriole .....	5M
___	Purple Finch .....	6WR
___	House Finch .....	5WR
___	Pine Siskin .....	6WR
___	Lesser Goldfinch .....	6V
___	American Goldfinch .....	5WR, 5M
___	• House Sparrow .....	3PR

## CITATION

Pulich, Warren. November 2006. Birds of Meridian State Park: a field checklist. Natural Resource Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

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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.**

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# NOTES



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