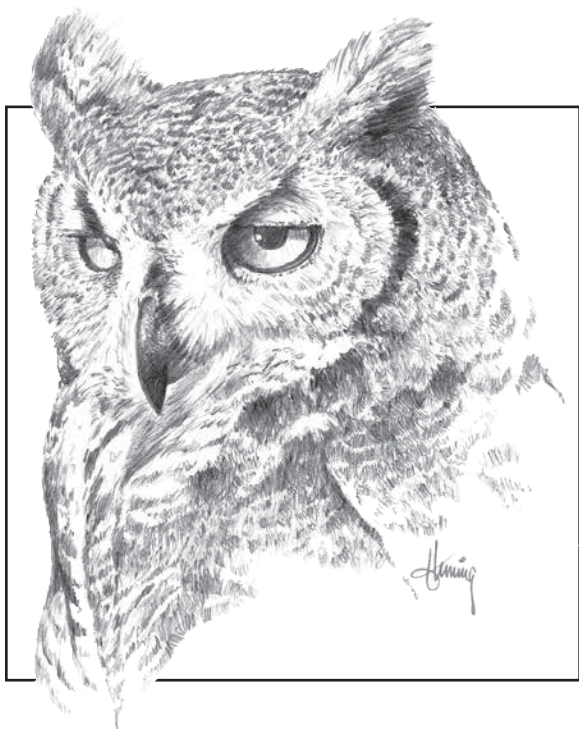


TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

# BIRDS

OF

# MOTHER NEFF STATE PARK



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2018

*Cover: Illustration of Great Horned Owl by Rob Fleming.*

# INTRODUCTION

**M**other Neff State Park is located on the banks of the Leon River in the east corner of Coryell County. This 400-acre park lies within the Grand Prairie sub-region of the Blackland Prairies.

Visitors to Mother Neff State Park will find three major habitats: river bottomlands, restored native prairies and limestone slopes. Pecan, eastern cottonwood, sycamore, red mulberry, elms, Ashe juniper (cedar) and a variety of oaks dominate more than half of the acreage. Juniper and oak covered limestone ravines provide habitat for the endangered golden-cheeked warbler. These habitat specialists only nest in the juniper-oak forests of Central Texas. Look and listen for males singing at the top of junipers from March until late-May.

Prairie restoration efforts continue to improve the quality of the park's grasslands. Spring and summer wildflowers attract native Texas pollinators such as the ruby-throated and black-chinned hummingbirds. The brightly colored painted bunting is often seen in the spring and summer months. Some birds make their home in the park year-round. Look for red-trailed hawks soaring overhead and great blue herons hunting in the pond and marshy bottomlands. The many habitats of Mother Neff State Park attract a diverse assortment of birds.

Roadways and trails provide easy access to most birding habitats in the park. Bird blinds located at the Prairie Pond and near the Rock Tower offer excellent viewing opportunities for visitors. Sit awhile to see what birds you can find!

TPWD staff of Moody, Texas, compiled this checklist from sightings made within the park. This checklist will be periodically updated. Additional records are needed and contributions of sightings can be very helpful. The organization and nomenclature of the birds listed here follow the American Ornithological Society *Check-list of North American Birds*, 7th edition as currently supplemented.

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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 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 (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)

- |             |                              |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| W – Winter  | December, January, February  |
| Sp – Spring | March, April, May            |
| S – Summer  | June, July, August           |
| F – Fall    | September, October, November |

# CHECKLIST

	W	Sp	S	F
<b>DUCKS &amp; GEESE</b>				
___ Black-bellied Whistling-Duck.....			R	R
___ Canada Goose.....		U		U
___ Snow Goose.....		U		U
___ Wood Duck.....	U	U	U	U
___ Gadwall.....	U	U		U
___ American Wigeon.....	U	U		U
___ Mallard.....	U	U	U	U
___ Blue-winged Teal.....		U		U
___ Northern Shoveler.....	U	U		U
___ Northern Pintail.....	U	U		U
___ Green-winged Teal.....	U	U		U
___ Canvasback.....	U	U		U
___ Redhead.....	U	U		U
___ Ring-necked Duck.....	U	U		U
___ Lesser Scaup.....	U	U		U
<b>NEW WORLD QUAIL</b>				
___ Northern Bobwhite.....	F	F	F	F
<b>PARTRIDGES &amp; TURKEYS</b>				
___ Wild Turkey.....	F	F	F	F
<b>GREBES</b>				
___ Pied-billed Grebe.....	U	U		U
<b>PIGEONS &amp; DOVES</b>				
___ Rock Pigeon.....	U	U	U	U
___ Eurasian Collared-Dove.....	F	F	F	F
___ Inca Dove.....	U	U	U	U
___ White-winged Dove.....	F	F	F	F
___ Mourning Dove.....	C	C	C	C
<b>CUCKOOS &amp; ANIS</b>				
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....		F		
___ Greater Roadrunner.....	F	F	F	F

	W	Sp	S	F
<b>NIGHTJARS</b>				
___ Common Nighthawk.....		C		
___ Chuck-will's-widow.....		C		
___ Whip-poorwill.....		U		
<b>SWIFTS</b>				
___ Chimney Swift.....	C	C	C	
<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>				
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird.....	C	C	C	
___ Black-chinned Hummingbird.....	C	C	C	
<b>RAILS</b>				
___ American Coot.....	U	U		U
<b>CRANES</b>				
___ Sandhill Crane.....	F		F	
<b>PLOVERS</b>				
___ Killdeer.....	C	C	C	C
<b>SANDPIPERS</b>				
___ Lesser Yellowlegs.....	U		U	
___ Upland Sandpiper.....	U		U	
___ Least Sandpiper.....	U		U	
___ Wilson's Snipe.....	U	U		U
<b>GULLS &amp; TERN</b>				
___ Franklin's Gull.....	C		C	
<b>CORMORANTS</b>				
___ Double-crested Cormorant.....	U	U		U
<b>PELICANS</b>				
___ American White Pelican.....	R		R	
<b>HERONS</b>				
___ Great Blue Heron.....	C	C	C	C
___ Snowy Egret.....			R	
___ Little Blue Heron.....			R	
___ Cattle Egret.....	C	C	C	C
___ Green Heron.....			C	
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron.....			C	

	W	Sp	S	F
<b>IBIS &amp; SPOONBILLS</b>				
___ Roseate Spoonbill .....				X
<b>NEW WORLD VULTURES</b>				
___ Black Vulture .....	C	C	C	C
___ Turkey Vulture .....	C	C	C	C
<b>HAWKS, KITES, &amp; EAGLES</b>				
___ Mississippi Kite .....		U		U
___ Bald Eagle .....	R			R
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk .....	C			
___ Northern Harrier .....	C			
___ Red-shouldered Hawk .....	C	C	C	C
___ Broad-winged Hawk .....		C		C
___ Swainson's Hawk .....		C	C	C
___ Red-tailed Hawk .....	C	C	C	C
<b>BARN OWLS</b>				
___ Barn Owl .....	U	U	U	U
<b>TYPICAL OWLS</b>				
___ Eastern Screech-Owl .....	F	F	F	F
___ Great Horned Owl .....	U	U	U	U
___ Barred Owl .....	F	F	F	F
___ Long-eared Owl .....	R			
___ Short-eared Owl .....	R			
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>				
___ Belted Kingfisher .....	U	U	U	U
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>				
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker .....	C	C	C	C
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker .....	C			
___ Ladder-backed Woodpecker .....	C	C	C	C
___ Downy Woodpecker .....	C	C	C	C
___ Northern Flicker .....	U			
<b>FALCONS &amp; CARACARAS</b>				
___ Crested Caracara .....	F	F	F	F
___ American Kestrel .....	F	U		U

	W	Sp	S	F
<b>TYRANT FLYCATCHERS</b>				
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee .....	U		U	
___ Least Flycatcher .....	U		U	
___ Eastern Phoebe.....	F	F	F	F
___ Great Crested Flycatcher .....	C	C	U	
___ Western Kingbird .....	F	F	F	
___ Eastern Kingbird.....	F	F	F	
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.....	F	F	F	
<b>SHRIKES</b>				
___ Loggerhead Shrike.....	U	U	C	U
<b>VIREOS</b>				
___ White-eyed Vireo.....	F	F	F	
___ Yellow-throated Vireo .....	U	U	U	
___ Blue-headed Vireo .....	U			
___ Red-eyed Vireo .....	U	U	U	
<b>JAYS &amp; CROWS</b>				
___ Blue Jay .....	U	U	U	U
___ American Crow .....	F	F	F	F
<b>LARKS</b>				
___ Horned Lark.....	U			
<b>SWALLOWS</b>				
___ Purple Martin .....	C	C	C	
___ Cliff Swallow .....	C	C	C	
___ Barn Swallow.....	F	F	F	
<b>TITMICE</b>				
___ Black-crested Titmouse .....	F	F	F	F
<b>CREEPERS</b>				
___ Brown Creeper .....	U			
<b>WRENS</b>				
___ Canyon Wren .....	F	F	F	F
___ House Wren.....	F			
___ Winter Wren .....	U			
___ Bewick's Wren .....	F	F	F	F
___ Carolina Wren.....	F	F	F	F



	W	Sp	S	F
<b>GNATCATCHERS</b>				
Blue-gray Gnatcatchers.....	F	F	F	
<b>KINGLETS</b>				
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	F			
<b>THRUSHES</b>				
___ Eastern Bluebird.....	F	F	F	F
___ Swainson's Thrush.....	U		U	
___ Hermit Thrush.....	U			
___ American Robin.....	F	C	U	C
<b>THRASHERS &amp; MOCKINGBIRDS</b>				
___ Gray Catbird.....	U		U	
___ Brown Thrasher.....	U	U	U	U
___ Northern Mockingbird.....	F	F	F	F
<b>STARLINGS</b>				
___ European Starling.....	U	U	U	U
<b>WAXWINGS</b>				
___ Cedar Waxwing.....	F			C
<b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS</b>				
___ House Sparrow.....	C	C	C	C
<b>FINCHES</b>				
___ Purple Finch.....	R			R
___ House Finch.....	F	F	F	F
___ Pine Siskin.....	U		U	U
___ Lesser Goldfinch.....	F	F	F	F
___ American Goldfinch.....	F	U		U
<b>LONGSPUR</b>				
___ McCown's Longspur.....				R
<b>NEW WORLD SPARROWS</b>				
___ Spotted Towhee.....	U		U	U
___ Field Sparrow.....	C	C	C	C
___ Chipping Sparrow.....	F	U	U	U
___ Lark Bunting.....				U
___ Lark Sparrow.....	F	F	F	F
___ Vesper Sparrow.....	U		U	U

	W	Sp	S	F
___ Savannah Sparrow .....	U		U	U
___ Grasshopper Sparrow .....	U	U	U	U
___ Lincoln's Sparrow .....	F		F	F
___ Song Sparrow .....	U		U	U
___ Fox Sparrow .....	F		F	F
___ Harris's Sparrow .....	U		U	U
___ White-throated Sparrow .....	F		F	F
___ White-crowned Sparrow .....	F		F	F
___ Dark-eyed Junco .....	F		F	F
<b>BLACKBIRDS</b>				
___ Eastern Meadowlark .....	F	F	C	F
___ Western Meadowlark .....	F			
___ Red-winged Blackbird .....	F	F	F	F
___ Common Grackle .....	U	U	U	U
___ Great-tailed Grackle .....	U	U	C	U
___ Orchard Oriole .....	U	U		
___ Baltimore Oriole .....	U		U	
___ Bullock's Oriole .....	U		U	
<b>WOOD WARBLERS</b>				
___ Orange-crowned Warbler .....	U	U		U
___ Nashville Warbler .....	U		U	
___ Yellow Warbler .....	U		U	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler .....	F		F	F
___ Golden-cheeked Warbler .....	U	U		
___ Black-and-white Warbler .....	C	U	C	
___ Wilson's Warbler .....	U		U	
<b>CARDINALS &amp; ALLIES</b>				
___ Summer Tanager .....	C	F		
___ Scarlet Tanager .....	U		U	
___ Northern Cardinal .....	F	F	F	F
___ Dickcissel .....	C	F	C	
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak .....	U		U	
___ Painted Bunting .....	F	F	C	

## CITATION

Chadwick, Melissa and Sherri Crump. January 2018. Birds of Mother Neff State Park: a field checklist. Natural Resources Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

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