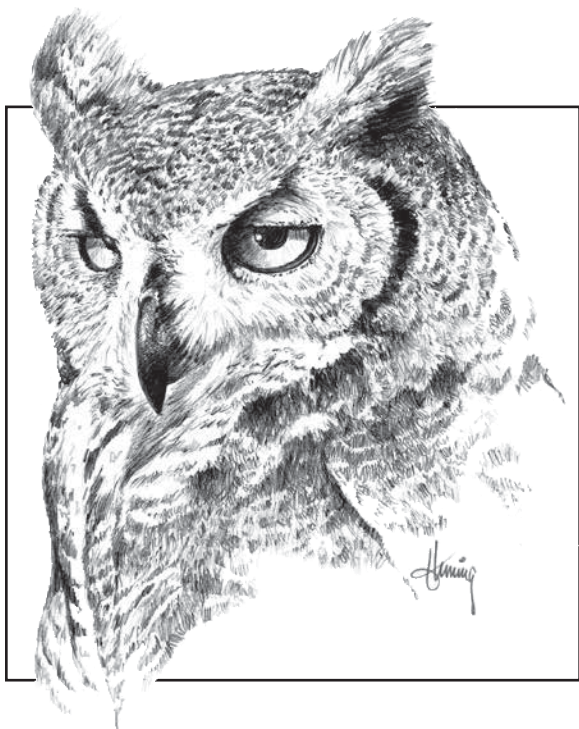


TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

BIRDS

OF

MOTHER NEFF STATE PARK



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2018

Cover: Illustration of Great Horned Owl by Rob Fleming.

INTRODUCTION

Mother 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.

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.

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
DUCKS & GEESE				
___ 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
NEW WORLD QUAIL				
___ Northern Bobwhite.....	F	F	F	F
PARTRIDGES & TURKEYS				
___ Wild Turkey.....	F	F	F	F
GREBES				
___ Pied-billed Grebe.....	U	U		U
PIGEONS & DOVES				
___ 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
CUCKOOS & ANIS				
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....		F		
___ Greater Roadrunner.....	F	F	F	F

	W	Sp	S	F
NIGHTJARS				
___ Common Nighthawk.....		C		
___ Chuck-will's-widow.....		C		
___ Whip-poorwill.....		U		
SWIFTS				
___ Chimney Swift.....	C	C	C	
HUMMINGBIRDS				
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird.....	C	C	C	
___ Black-chinned Hummingbird.....	C	C	C	
RAILS				
___ American Coot.....	U	U		U
CRANES				
___ Sandhill Crane.....	F		F	
PLOVERS				
___ Killdeer.....	C	C	C	C
SANDPIPERS				
___ Lesser Yellowlegs.....	U		U	
___ Upland Sandpiper.....	U		U	
___ Least Sandpiper.....	U		U	
___ Wilson's Snipe.....	U	U		U
GULLS & TERN				
___ Franklin's Gull.....	C		C	
CORMORANTS				
___ Double-crested Cormorant.....	U	U		U
PELICANS				
___ American White Pelican.....	R		R	
HERONS				
___ 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
IBIS & SPOONBILLS				
___ Roseate Spoonbill				X
NEW WORLD VULTURES				
___ Black Vulture	C	C	C	C
___ Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	C
HAWKS, KITES, & EAGLES				
___ 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
BARN OWLS				
___ Barn Owl	U	U	U	U
TYPICAL OWLS				
___ 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			
KINGFISHERS				
___ Belted Kingfisher	U	U	U	U
WOODPECKERS				
___ 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			
FALCONS & CARACARAS				
___ Crested Caracara	F	F	F	F
___ American Kestrel	F	U		U

	W	Sp	S	F
TYRANT FLYCATCHERS				
___ 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	
SHRIKES				
___ Loggerhead Shrike.....	U	U	C	U
VIREOS				
___ White-eyed Vireo.....	F	F	F	
___ Yellow-throated Vireo	U	U	U	
___ Blue-headed Vireo	U			
___ Red-eyed Vireo	U	U	U	
JAYS & CROWS				
___ Blue Jay	U	U	U	U
___ American Crow	F	F	F	F
LARKS				
___ Horned Lark.....	U			
SWALLOWS				
___ Purple Martin	C	C	C	
___ Cliff Swallow	C	C	C	
___ Barn Swallow.....	F	F	F	
TITMICE				
___ Black-crested Titmouse	F	F	F	F
CREEPERS				
___ Brown Creeper	U			
WRENS				
___ 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
GNATCATCHERS				
Blue-gray Gnatcatchers.....	F	F	F	
KINGLETS				
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	F			
THRUSHES				
___ Eastern Bluebird.....	F	F	F	F
___ Swainson's Thrush.....	U		U	
___ Hermit Thrush.....	U			
___ American Robin.....	F	C	U	C
THRASHERS & MOCKINGBIRDS				
___ Gray Catbird.....	U		U	
___ Brown Thrasher.....	U	U	U	U
___ Northern Mockingbird.....	F	F	F	F
STARLINGS				
___ European Starling.....	U	U	U	U
WAXWINGS				
___ Cedar Waxwing.....	F			C
OLD WORLD SPARROWS				
___ House Sparrow.....	C	C	C	C
FINCHES				
___ 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
LONGSPUR				
___ McCown's Longspur.....				R
NEW WORLD SPARROWS				
___ 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
BLACKBIRDS				
___ 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	
WOOD WARBLERS				
___ 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	
CARDINALS & ALLIES				
___ 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.

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.**

TPWD receives funds from the USFWS. TPWD prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, age, and gender, pursuant to state and federal law. To request an accommodation or obtain information in an alternative format, please contact TPWD on a Text Telephone (TDD) at (512) 389-8915 or by Relay Texas at 7-1-1 or (800) 735-2989. If you believe you have been discriminated against by TPWD, please contact TPWD or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office for Diversity and Workforce Management, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041.



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

© 2018 by TPWD

PWD BK P4503-022A (7/18)

In accordance with Texas Depository Law, this publication is available at the Texas State Publications Clearinghouse and/or Texas Depository Libraries.