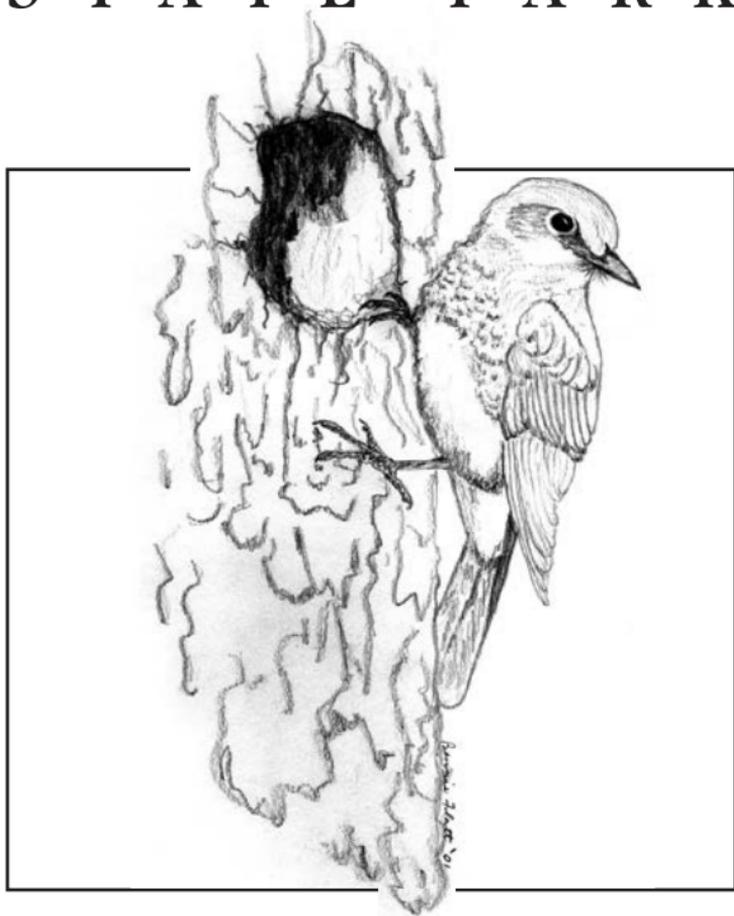


TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

BIRDS

OF

FORT PARKER STATE PARK



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2015

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.**

Cover: Illustration of Eastern Bluebird by Bennie Flatt.

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INTRODUCTION

Imagine yourself as an out of work farmer or banker in 1935. President Roosevelt starts the Civilian Conservation Corps to help you gain employment. Your job is to build state, national and city parks in the United States. Your camp is sent to a tallgrass prairie with large bur and post oaks dispersed throughout. The Navasota River runs through the prairie and bottomland hardwoods. You and your camps mission is to build a state park from the ground up. Since you are in Limestone County, your camp begins to quarry limestone to make bricks. The Activity Center is constructed of limestone and sand brick with beautiful heavy wood and glass doors. Your camp also builds a temporary dam to hold back the Navasota River while you construct the dam which will create Lake Fort Parker. The dam is 1,283 feet long, including a 423-foot concrete spillway. Throughout the years, people have farms and begin ranching on all sides of the park, leaving the park as the only suitable habitat for the native animals. There are large hardwood trees on the river and lake creating a thick dense riparian woodland. Species like wood ducks, turtles and herons are found in this area. In the sandy land above the lake is a open grassy area with species like deer, fox, coyote and hawks are found. Other habitats are forested areas where you will find deer, owls and raccoons. As the years go by, the park staff begin building trails for hikers and overnight facilities for campers. What was your infirmary while your CCC camp was constructing the park becomes the modern headquarters building. Being part of the Texas State Parks system, people come to Fort Parker State Park to hike, camp, birdwatch, swim, fish, boat, bike, picnic and study nature.

Fort Parker State Park is a 1,495-acre park which includes 750-acre Lake Fort Parker. It is located within the post oak savannah/blackland prairie region of Texas. It is very diverse park for flora and fauna. You will find plants and animals whose range goes from west of Waco to east of Tyler. Usually, birdwatching will be a very rewarding experience. You will find waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, passerines, raptors and ground birds. At Lake Springfield, a two acre lake, you'll find large numbers of ducks in the winter. At the picnic area in the day use area, you'll find large numbers of migrating warblers and sparrows. Along the hiking trails in the forested areas, you'll find tufted titmice, chickadees, cardinals and doves.

Fort Parker State Park is a highly significant site with a diversity of plant communities. The park is located at the crossroads of two Texas eco-regions, the post oak savannah (which runs east) and the blackland prairie (which runs west). Plant communities from both regions are found within the park. The park also represents one of the largest remaining tall grass prairies in Limestone County. Specialized plant communities such as the Lavender outcrop glades and the mixed prairie woodlands are now uncommon in the region, making Fort Parker State Park a very important resource. These plant systems are well protected and managed to preserve the integrity of this resource.

This checklist was compiled by Bennie Flatt, John MacFarlane, and the Limestone Organization of Nature Students (LOONS). You can contribute to this checklist by reporting new and unusual sightings or changes in status. You may leave your sightings at the park headquarters or mail them to the Natural Resource Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744. Nomenclature and organization for this checklist follow the 7th edition of the American Ornithologists Union *Check-list of North American Birds*.

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, essential territorial behavior and may lead to nest failure. Thank you for your cooperation.

OCCURRENCE/ABUNDANCE

- A - Abundant: should see, numerous, easily observed or heard in suitable habitat
- C - Common: should see or hear in suitable habitat
- U - Uncommon: present, but easily overlooked because of specific habitat, secretive habits or low numbers
- O - Occasional: seen infrequently during a season
- R - Rare: seen infrequently annually or seldom seen, except by chance or special search
- I - Irregular: not expected annually, sporadic appearances and variable populations
- T - Transient: occurs in variable numbers, usually flying overhead in migration, but may stop to feed or loaf

- P - Park Resident
- M - Migratory

- Sp - Spring, March-May
- S - Summer, June-August
- F - Fall, Sept-Nov
- W - Winter, Dec-Feb

CHECKLIST

	Sp	S	F	W	STATUS
___ Greater White-fronted Goose.....	T		T	T	M
___ Snow Goose.....	T		T	T	M
___ Canada Goose.....	T		T	T	M
___ Wood Duck.....	C	U	C	C	P, M
___ Gadwall.....	U		U	A	M
___ American Wigeon.....	U		U	U	M
___ Mallard.....	U		C	C	P, M
___ Blue-winged Teal.....	C		C	C	M
___ Cinnamon Teal.....	I		I	I	M
___ Northern Shoveler.....	U		C	C	M
___ Northern Pintail.....	U		U	U	M

	Sp	S	F	W	STATUS
___ Green-winged Teal.....	C		C	C	M
___ Canvasback.....	R		R	R	M
___ Redhead.....	O		O	U	M
___ Ring-necked Duck.....	U		U	U	M
___ Lesser Scaup.....	U		U	U	M
___ Common Goldeneye.....			I	O	M
___ Bufflehead.....	O		O	O	M
___ Hooded Merganser.....				O	M
___ Common Merganser.....				I	M
___ Ruddy Duck.....	U		U	U	M
___ Northern Bobwhite.....	R	R	R	R	P
___ Wild Turkey.....	R	R	R	R	P
___ Common Loon.....	I		I	I	M
___ Pied-billed Grebe.....	U	U	C	C	P, M
___ Horned Grebe.....	I		I		M
___ Eared Grebe.....	R		R	R	M
___ Wood Stork.....	I		I		M
___ Neotropic Cormorant.....	U	U	U	U	P, M
___ Double-crested Cormorant.....	C	C	C	C	P, M
___ Anhinga.....	I				M
___ American White Pelican.....	C	U	C	C	P, M
___ Great Blue Heron.....	C	C	C	C	P
___ Great Egret.....	U	U	U	O	P, M
___ Snowy Egret.....	U	U	U		M
___ Little Blue Heron.....	O	O	O		M
___ Tricolored Heron.....	I	I			M
___ Cattle Egret.....	U	U	C		M
___ Green Heron.....	O	O	O		M
___ Black-crowned Night Heron.....	U	U		U	M
___ Yellow-crowned Night Heron.....		R			M
___ White-faced Ibis.....	I		I		M
___ Roseate Spoonbill.....	I		I		M
___ Turkey Vulture.....	A	A	A	A	P, M
___ Black Vulture.....	A	A	A	A	P, M
___ Osprey.....				I	M

	Sp	S	F	W	STATUS
___ Mississippi Kite.....	T		T		M
___ Bald Eagle.....				O	M
___ Northern Harrier				O	M
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk				O	M
___ Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U	U	P, M
___ Red-shouldered Hawk.....	C	C	C	C	P, M
___ Red-tailed Hawk	U	U	U	U	M
___ Sandhill Crane.....	T		T		M
___ American Coot.....	C	U	C	A	M
___ Killdeer	U	U	U	U	P, M
___ American Avocet.....	I		R		M
___ Spotted Sandpiper	R		R	R	M
___ Solitary Sandpiper.....	R		R		M
___ Greater Yellowlegs.....	O		O	O	M
___ Willet.....	I		I		M
___ American Woodcock.....				R	M
___ Wilson's Phalarope.....	I				M
___ Franklins' Gull.....	T		T		M
___ Bonaparte's Gull			U	U	M
___ Ring-billed Gull	U		U	U	M
___ Caspian Tern.....			I		
___ Black Tern	I				
___ Forster's Tern.....			C	C	M
___ Mourning Dove.....	A	A	A	A	P, M
___ Inca Dove.....	U	U	U	U	P, M
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo		C			M
___ Greater Roadrunner.....	U	U	U	U	P
___ Eastern Screech-Owl.....	U	U	U	U	P
___ Great Horned Owl.....	U	U	U	U	P
___ Barred Owl.....	U	U	U	U	P
___ Common Nighthawk.....		U			P
___ Chuck-will's-widow		C			P
___ Chimney Swift.....	R	R			M
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird.....		U			M
___ Black-chinned Hummingbird.....		I			M

	Sp	S	F	W	STATUS
___ Belted Kingfisher	U	U	U	U	P
___ Red-headed Woodpecker.....	O	O	O	O	P
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	P
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			U	U	M
___ Downy Woodpecker.....	C	C	C	C	P
___ Hairy Woodpecker.....			R	R	M
___ Northern Flicker.....			U	U	M
___ Crested Caracara.....	U	U	U	U	P
___ American Kestrel.....	O		O	O	P
___ Merlin.....				I	M
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee		O	O		M
___ Least Flycatcher	U		U		M
___ Eastern Phoebe.....	C	C	C	C	P
___ Great Crested Flycatcher.....	O	O	O		M
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.....	U	U	U		M
___ Western Kingbird.....		U			M
___ Eastern Kingbird.....	C	C			M
___ Loggerhead Shrike.....	U	U	U	U	P, M
___ White-eyed Vireo.....	C	C	C		M
___ Yellow-throated Vireo.....	I				M
___ Blue-headed Vireo.....	R		R		M
___ Warbling Vireo	R		R		M
___ Red-eyed Vireo.....	U	U			M
___ Blue Jay.....	C	C	C	C	P
___ American Crow.....	A	A	A	A	P
___ Purple Martin		C	C		M
___ Tree Swallow.....	O		O		M
___ Violet-green Swallow			I		M
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow		U	U		M
___ Barn Swallow.....	C	C	C		M
___ Carolina Chickadee	A	A	A	A	P
___ Tufted Titmouse	A	A	A	A	P
___ White-breasted Nuthatch	U		U	U	M
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch.....			R	R	M
___ Brown Creeper	O		O		M

	Sp	S	F	W	STATUS
___ Carolina Wren	C	C	U	U	P
___ Bewick's Wren	R			R	M
___ Winter Wren				I	M
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet			R	R	M
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	C	P
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U		C	U	P, M
___ Eastern Bluebird	C	U	C	C	P, M
___ Swainson's Thrush.....	I				M
___ Hermit Thrush.....			U	U	M
___ American Robin.....	C	C	C	A	P, M
___ Gray Catbird	O				M
___ Northern Mockingbird	C	C	C	C	P
___ Brown Thrasher	U	U	U	U	P
___ European Starling.....	U	U	U	U	P
___ American Pipit.....			I	I	M
___ Cedar Waxwing	O			O	M
___ Prothonotary Warbler	U	U			M
___ Tennessee Warbler.....	O				M
___ Orange-crowned warbler	U		U	U	M
___ Nashville Warbler	O		O		M
___ Yellow Warbler	U		U		M
___ Blackburnian Warbler	R				M
___ Magnolia Warbler.....	R		R		M
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	C	M
___ Black-throated Green Warbler.....	R				M
___ Pine Warbler.....	U		U	U	M
___ Black-and-white Warbler.....	O		O		M
___ American Redstart.....	R		R		M
___ Wilson's Warbler	U		U		M
___ Common Yellowthroat			O	O	M
___ Summer Tanager	O				M
___ Spotted Towhee.....			O	O	P
___ Chipping Sparrow.....	C		C	C	M
___ Field Sparrow	U		U	U	M
___ Vesper Sparrow	U		U	U	M

	Sp	S	F	W	STATUS
___ Fox Sparrow	R			R	M
___ Song Sparrow	U		U	U	M
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	O		O	U	M
___ Swamp Sparrow	R		R	R	M
___ White-throated Sparrow	U		U	U	M
___ Harris's Sparrow	U		U	U	M
___ White-crowned Sparrow	U		U	U	M
___ Dark-eyed Junco	C		U	C	M
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak.....	R				M
___ Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C	P
___ Blue Grosbeak	O	O	O		M
___ Indigo Bunting	O	O	O		M
___ Painted Bunting.....	U	U	R		M
___ Red-winged Blackbird		C	C	C	M
___ Eastern Meadowlark.....	C	C	C	C	P
___ Brewer's Blackbird.....				O	M
___ Common Grackle	C	C	C	C	P
___ Great-tailed Grackle.....	C	C	C	C	P
___ Brown-headed Cowbird	U	U	U	U	P
___ Baltimore Oriole.....	R		R		M
___ Pine Siskin				U	M
___ American Goldfinch.....	U		C	C	M
___ Purple Finch.....				R	M

CITATION

Flatt, B., J. MacFarlane, and the Limestone Organization of Nature Students (LOONS). October 2012. The birds of Fort Parker State Park: a field checklist. Natural Resources Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife.



Natural Resource Program
Texas Parks and Wildlife
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