

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

# BIRDS

OF

## LAKE BROWNWOOD STATE PARK



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2009

*Cover: Illustration of Great Blue heron by Rob Fleming.*

# INTRODUCTION

Lake Brownwood consists of the impounded waters of two of the main tributaries of the Colorado River—Pecan Bayou and Jim Ned Creek. Lake Brownwood State Park occupies 538 acres of a peninsula formed near the confluence of these two streams.

Lake Brownwood State Park is near the geographical center of Texas and occurs in the vegetational area known as the Cross Timbers and Prairies. It has a strong influence from the adjacent Rolling Plains and Edwards Plateau. There is some diversity of habitat—lots of shoreline and much woodland. Most of the shoreline is rocky or sandy, with no mud flats, although there are some to be found on the lake away from the park.

Live oak motts and mixed mesquite, post oak, cedar elm woods comprise the timbered areas. Tall native grasses grow luxuriantly along the hillsides. The steep-banked hilly promontories are thick with skunk-bush sumac, buckeye and catclaw, but there are frequent limestone outcroppings which have separated to form rock crevasses wide enough to walk through.

There are several miles of hiking trails in the park—many leading through the picturesque limestone formations—with a chance to see Carolina Wrens, Hermit Thrushes, both Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, as well as the almost-sure look at Northern Mockingbirds, Mourning Doves, Bewick's Wrens, Northern Cardinals, Black-crested Titmice, and Carolina Chickadees. One note of caution—watch for poison oak and poison ivy!

Winter is a good time to see sparrows. Fourteen sparrow species have been recorded, with the most common being White-crowned, Harris's, Field, Chipping, Song, Rufous-crowned, and Dark-eyed Junco. Spotted Towhees, American Goldfinches, and Cedar Waxwings are also plentiful.

The high promontories on the peninsula offer long vistas of water and land beyond the confines of the park itself and for this reason, species are included that were observed within the park, overhead, or within three miles of the park headquarters.

This checklist is the result of visual records, mist-netting and bird-banding over a period of twenty-four months. Two people worked three days each month for the period of this study. The list should be considered preliminary for lack of complete data and because the area has been birded so little in the past. Few other records are available.

It is recognized that additional birds will be seen from time to time; therefore, it is requested that you report birds seen, but not on this list, on a BIRD SIGHTING REPORT form available at the park office. Return the completed forms to the park office or mail them to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Natural Resources Program, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744. Nomenclature and organization used in this list follow the latest edition of the *American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds*, as supplemented.

The database that comprises this checklist was compiled by Gordon and Mary Creel, with assistance by Ross Dawkins, Delbert Tarter, and Lorie Black. The artwork for the cover was provided by Dr. Terry Maxwell.

This check list was revised in February 2008 by Mary Creel and Sue Oliver.

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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

C = common, easy to find most days.

U = uncommon, usually present, not easy to find.

R = rare, not expected every year. Low numbers.

? = recorded or expected, but status unknown.

SPG = Spring (March, April, May)

SUM = Summer (June, July, August)

FAL = Fall (September, October, November)

WIN = Winter (December, January, February)

# CHECKLIST

	SPG	SUM	FAL	WIN
___ Snow Goose .....	U			
___ Canada Goose.....				U
___ Gadwall.....	C		C	C
___ American Wigeon .....	C		U	C
___ Mallard.....	C	C	C	C
___ Blue-winged Teal.....	C		C	
___ Cinnamon Teal.....				R
___ Northern Shoveler .....	C		U	C
___ Northern Pintail .....	R			C
___ Green-winged Teal.....	U		R	C
___ Canvasback .....	R			
___ Redhead.....	R			C
___ Ring-necked Duck .....	U			C
___ Lesser Scaup .....	C		C	C
___ Bufflehead .....	U		U	U
___ Ruddy Duck.....	C		C	R
___ Wild Turkey .....	U	U	U	U
___ Northern Bobwhite .....	C	C	C	C
___ Common Loon.....				R
___ Pied-billed Grebe .....	U		U	U
___ Horned Grebe.....	U		U	U
___ Eared Grebe.....				R
___ American White Pelican .....	R			
___ Double-crested Cormorant.....	C	R	C	C
___ Least Bittern .....		?		
___ Great Blue Heron.....	C	C	C	C

	SPG	SUM	FAL	WIN
___ Great Egret.....	R	R	R	
___ Snowy Egret.....		?		
___ Cattle Egret.....			?	
___ Green Heron.....	U	U	R	
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron.....	R			
___ Black Vulture.....	C	C	C	C
___ Turkey Vulture.....	C	C	C	C
___ Osprey.....	R		U	R
___ Mississippi Kite.....		R	U	
___ Northern Harrier.....			?	
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	R		R	R
___ Cooper's Hawk.....	R		R	R
___ Red-shouldered Hawk.....	R			
___ Swainson's Hawk.....	R		R	
___ Red-tailed Hawk.....	C	R	C	C
___ American Kestrel.....	R		U	C
___ American Coot.....	C		C	C
___ Sandhill Crane.....	U		U	U
___ Semipalmated Plover.....	?			
___ Killdeer.....	C	C	C	C
___ Spotted Sandpiper.....	C		C	C
___ Greater Yellowlegs.....	U		U	U
___ Willet.....	?			
___ Lesser Yellowlegs.....	R			
___ Western Sandpiper.....				?
___ Least Sandpiper.....			R	
___ Long-billed Dowitcher.....	R			
___ Wilson's Snipe.....	U		R	C

	SPG	SUM	FAL	WIN
___ Wilson's Phalarope.....	R			
___ Bonaparte's Gull.....	C		R	C
___ Ring-billed Gull.....	C		C	C
___ Forster's Tern .....	R			R
___ Rock Pigeon .....	R		R	
___ White-winged Dove .....	C	C	C	C
___ Mourning Dove .....	C	C	C	C
___ Inca Dove .....	U	U	U	U
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....	C	C		
___ Greater Roadrunner .....	U	U	U	U
___ Eastern Screech-Owl.....	U	U	U	U
___ Great Horned Owl .....	U	U	U	U
___ Common Nighthawk .....	R	U		
___ Chimney Swift.....	C	C	U	
___ Black-chinned Hummingbird.....	C	C	U	
___ Belted Kingfisher .....	U	U	U	U
___ Golden-fronted Woodpecker.....			R	R
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker .....	R		R	U
___ Ladder-backed Woodpecker .....	C	C	C	C
___ Downy Woodpecker .....	R			
___ Northern Flicker .....	R		U	U
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee .....	R			
___ Least Flycatcher.....		?		
___ Eastern Phoebe .....	C	C	C	C
___ Ash-throated Flycatcher .....	U	U		
___ Western Kingbird.....	U	U		
___ Eastern Kingbird.....			?	
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher .....	C	C	U	

	SPG	SUM	FAL	WIN
___ Loggerhead Shrike.....	U	U	U	U
___ White-eyed Vireo .....	R		R	
___ Black-capped Vireo.....			?	
___ Warbling Vireo.....			?	
___ Blue Jay .....	C	C	C	C
___ American Crow .....				U
___ Purple Martin.....	C	C	U	
___ No. Rough-winged Swallow.....			R	
___ Cliff Swallow .....	U		U	
___ Barn Swallow .....	C	C	C	
___ Carolina Chickadee.....	C	C	C	C
___ Black-crested Titmouse .....	C	C	C	C
___ Brown Creeper.....			R	R
___ Cactus Wren.....	C	C	C	C
___ Rock Wren.....	?	?	?	?
___ Canyon Wren.....	?	?	?	?
___ Carolina Wren.....	U	U	U	U
___ Bewick's Wren.....	C	C	C	C
___ House Wren .....	R		R	
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet.....			R	U
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	C		C	C
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.....	R	R	R	
___ Eastern Bluebird.....	C	C	C	C
___ Hermit Thrush.....				R
___ American Robin .....	C	U		C
___ Gray Catbird.....	?			
___ Northern Mockingbird.....	C	C	C	C
___ Curve-billed Thrasher .....		?		



	SPG	SUM	FAL	WIN
___ European Starling.....	C	C	C	C
___ American Pipit.....			?	
___ Cedar Waxwing.....	C			C
___ Tennessee Warbler.....		?		
___ Orange-crowned Warbler.....	R	U		U
___ Nashville Warbler .....	R		R	R
___ Yellow Warbler .....	U			
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler .....	C		C	C
___ Black-and-white Warbler .....		?		
___ Prothonotary Warbler.....		?		
___ Wilson's Warbler.....	R			
___ Green-tailed Towhee .....				?
___ Spotted Towhee.....	C		C	C
___ Canyon Towhee.....	C	C	C	C
___ Rufous-crowned Sparrow .....	C	C	C	C
___ Chipping Sparrow .....	C		U	C
___ Clay-colored Sparrow.....	U			
___ Field Sparrow .....	C		C	C
___ Vesper Sparrow.....	C		R	C
___ Lark Sparrow .....	C	C	R	C
___ Lark Bunting.....	C			C
___ Savannah Sparrow.....	R			U
___ Le Conte's Sparrow .....				?
___ Fox Sparrow.....			?	
___ Song Sparrow .....	C		R	C
___ Lincoln's Sparrow .....	U			C
___ White-throated Sparrow.....	R		R	U
___ Harris's Sparrow.....	U			C

	SPG	SUM	FAL	WIN
___ White-crowned Sparrow.....	C		C	C
___ Dark-eyed Junco.....	C		C	C
___ Northern Cardinal.....	C	C	C	C
___ Pyrrhuloxia.....	R		R	R
___ Painted Bunting.....	U	C		
___ Red-winged Blackbird.....	C	C	C	C
___ Eastern Meadowlark.....	U	R	R	C
___ Western Meadowlark.....	U			R
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird.....	R			
___ Brewer's Blackbird.....	R		R	
___ Common Grackle.....	C	C	C	
___ Great-tailed Grackle.....	R			
___ Brown-headed Cowbird.....	C	C	C	C
___ Bullock's Oriole.....			?	
___ House Finch.....		R		R
___ Pine Siskin.....	U			R
___ American Goldfinch.....	U		U	C
___ House Sparrow.....	C	C	C	C

## CITATION

Creel, Mary and Sue Oliver. February 2008. Birds of Lake Brownwood State Park: a field checklist. Natural Resources Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

# NOTES

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