

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

# BIRDS

OF

## LAKE SOMERVILLE STATE PARK



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2019



# INTRODUCTION

**L**ake Somerville State Park and Trailway in Lee and Burleson Counties contains 5,200 acres in three units along the western end of Lake Somerville. Birch Creek Unit is situated on the north side of the lake; Nails Creek Unit on the south side; and the Trailway Unit connects the units around the western end of the lake.

Lake Somerville is an impoundment of Yegua Creek, a major tributary of the Brazos River. The Park is within the Post Oak Savannah Vegetation Region of east-central Texas. Numerous habitats occur within the park. Aquatic, wetland and/or floodland habitats include open water, shallow marshy flats, mudflats during low water periods, saline grassy flats, riparian woodlands along the creeks, numerous snags and an extensive, cleared pastureland on the flood plain. Upland habitats in the park include oak-hickory woodlands, little bluestem dominated grasslands and yaupon thickets.

Water birds are a special attraction for this park. The reservoir receives heavy use by many species of ducks, herons and egrets, as well as grebes, wood storks and white pelicans. This area provides the best chance in the central Brazos River Valley to observe Bald Eagles and migrating Osprey. Both double-crested and neotropic cormorants are regular visitors to the lake.

You can contribute to our knowledge of the park's birdlife by sharing your observations on eBird, using Birch Creek Unit, Nails Creek Unit, Trailway and adjacent profiles. Additionally, new and unusual sightings may be reported to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department through Bird Sighting Report forms available at the park headquarters.

Checklist nomenclature and organization follow the 2018 A.O.S. *Checklist of North American Birds*. Dr. Bert Frenz and Dr. Keith Arnold based this checklist on more than 30,000 records from a large number of observers and including sightings at other parks bordering on Lake Somerville. Special thanks to the Rio Brazos Audubon Society.

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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

## Abundance

- A – abundant More than 25 per day; may occur in flocks or rafts  
C – common Between 10 and 25 per day, in proper habitat  
U – uncommon One to nine birds per day, in proper habitat  
O – occasional Several in a season, occasionally seen; may occur in flocks  
R – rare Few records, not expected every season or year  
I – irregular May occur in numbers some years, totally absent in other years  
X – accidental Out of normal range, not expected to reappear

## Seasons

- SP – Spring (March to May) — northward migration period  
S – Summer (June and July) — peak of breeding season  
F – Fall (August to November) — southward migration period  
W – Winter (December to February) — wintering season

# CHECKLIST

	SP	S	F	W
<b>WATERFOWL</b>				
___ Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	U	U	U	R
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck				X
___ Snow Goose	O		O	O
___ Ross's Goose			I	I
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	O		O	
___ Canada Goose	O		O	O
___ Wood Duck	U	U	U	U
___ Blue-winged Teal	C	I	C	C
___ Cinnamon Teal	R		R	R
___ Northern Shoveler	C-A	I	C-A	C-A
___ Gadwall	A	I	A	A
___ American Wigeon	U		U	C
___ Mallard	U		U	U
___ Mottled Duck		I	X	X
___ Northern Pintail	U-C	I	U-C	U-C
___ Green-winged Teal	C	I	C	C
___ Canvasback	U		U	R
___ Redhead	U		U	U
___ Ring-necked Duck	C		C	C
___ Lesser Scaup	U	I	U	U-C
___ Bufflehead	U		U	U
___ Common Goldeneye	I		I	I
___ Hooded Merganser	O		O	O
___ Red-breasted Merganser	I	O	O	
___ Ruddy Duck	U		U	U

	<b>SP</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>NEW WORLD QUAIL AND TURKEY</b>				
____ Northern Bobwhite	R	R		
____ Wild Turkey	R	R	R	R
<b>GREBES</b>				
____ Pied-billed Grebe	U	I	U	U
____ Horned Grebe			R	R
____ Eared Grebe	O		U	U
<b>PIGEONS AND DOVES</b>				
____ Rock Pigeon	U	U	U	U
____ Eurasian Collared-Dove	U	U	U	U
____ Inca Dove	U	U	U	U
____ Common Ground-Dove	R	R	R	R
____ White-winged Dove	U-C	U	U-C	U
____ Mourning Dove	C-A	C-A	C-A	C-A
<b>CUCKOOS</b>				
____ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	C	C	C	
____ Greater Roadrunner	U	U	U	U
____ Groove-billed Ani				X
<b>NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES</b>				
____ Common Nighthawk	U	U	U	
____ Chuck-wills-widow	U	U	U	
____ Eastern Whip-poor-will	R		R	
<b>SWIFTS</b>				
____ Chimney Swift	C	C	C	
<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>				
____ Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	C	C	
____ Black-chinned Hummingbird	R		R	

	<b>SP</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS</b>				
___ Virginia Rail	O		O	
___ Sora	O		O	
___ Common Gallinule			O	
___ American Coot	C-A	O	C-A	C-A
<b>CRANES</b>				
___ Sandhill Crane	I		R	I
<b>STILTS AND AVOCETS</b>				
___ Black-necked Stilt	R	R	R	
___ American Avocet	R	R	R	I
<b>PLOVERS</b>				
___ Black-bellied Plover	R		R	I
___ American Golden Plover	C			
___ Snowy Plover	R		R	
___ Semipalmated Plover	R		R	
___ Piping Plover			I	
___ Killdeer	C	C	C	C
<b>SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES</b>				
___ Upland Sandpiper	U-C		U-C	
___ Whimbrel	R		R	
___ Long-billed Curlew	R		R	
___ Hudsonian Godwit	R			
___ Marbled Godwit	R		R	
___ Ruddy Turnstone	R		O	
___ Stilt Sandpiper	R	R	R	
___ Sanderling	R		R	
___ Dunlin	R		R	

	<b>SP</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
_____ Baird's Sandpiper	U		U	
_____ Least Sandpiper	C-A	U	C-A	C-A
_____ White-rumped Sandpiper	R-U		R-U	
_____ Buff-breasted Sandpiper	C		C	
_____ Pectoral Sandpiper	U-C		U-C	
_____ Semipalmated Sandpiper	U		U	
_____ Western Sandpiper	U-C		U-C	
_____ Short-billed Dowitcher	I		I	
_____ Long-billed Dowitcher	U		U	R
_____ American Woodcock			U	U
_____ Wilson's Snipe	C		C	C
_____ Spotted Sandpiper	U	O	U	O
_____ Solitary Sandpiper	U		U	
_____ Lesser Yellowlegs	R	O	R	
_____ Willet	R	I	R	
_____ Greater Yellowlegs	U	O	U	U
_____ Wilson's Phalarope	R		R	

### **GULLS, TERNS AND SKIMMERS**

_____ Bonaparte's Gull	U-C		U-C	U-C
_____ Laughing Gull	O		O	
_____ Franklin's Gull	C		C	I
_____ Ring-billed Gull	C	I	C	C
_____ Herring Gull	O	I	O	O
_____ Lesser Black-backed Gull		X		
_____ Least Tern			R	
_____ Caspian Tern	O	O	O	O
_____ Black Tern	U-C	I	U-C	



	<b>SP</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
____ Common Tern	O		O	
____ Forster's Tern	U	I	U	U
____ Royal Tern	X		X	
____ Black Skimmer	X		X	
<b>LOONS</b>				
____ Common Loon	O		O	O
<b>STORKS</b>				
____ Wood Stork	R	U-C	U-C	
<b>FRIGATEBIRDS</b>				
____ Magnificent Frigatebird		X		
<b>CORMORANTS</b>				
____ Neotropic Cormorant	U	U	U	U
____ Double-crested Cormorant	C-A	U-C	C-A	A
<b>ANHINGAS</b>				
____ Anhinga	O	O	O	O
<b>PELICANS</b>				
____ American White Pelican	C-A	O	C-A	A
____ Brown Pelican	X		X	X
<b>HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNS</b>				
____ American Bittern	O		O	O
____ Great Blue Heron	U-C	U-C	U-C	U
____ Great Egret	U-C	U-C	U-C	U
____ Snowy Egret	U	U	U	O
____ Little Blue Heron	C	C	C	
____ Tricolored Heron	O	O	O	
____ Reddish Egret	O	O	O	O
____ Cattle Egret	C-A	C-A	C-A	X

	<b>SP</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
_____ Green Heron	U	U	U	
_____ Black-crowned-Night-Heron		U	U	
_____ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	U	U	U	
<b>IBISES AND SPOONBILLS</b>				
_____ White Ibis	O	U	U-C	
_____ White-faced Ibis	O		U-C	
_____ Roseate Spoonbill	O	U	U	
<b>NEW WORLD VULTURES</b>				
_____ Black Vulture	C	C	C-A	C-A
_____ Turkey Vulture	C-A	C	C-A	C-A
<b>OSPREY</b>				
_____ Osprey	U	I	U	U
<b>HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES</b>				
_____ Swallow-tailed Kite	X			
_____ White-tailed Kite	R	I	R	
_____ Mississippi Kite	U-C	U	U-C	
_____ Bald Eagle	U	U	U	U
_____ Northern Harrier	U		U	U
_____ Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	U
_____ Cooper's Hawk	U	I	U	U
_____ Red-shouldered Hawk	U	U	U	U
_____ Broad-winged Hawk	C-A		C-A	
_____ Swainson's Hawk	I		I	
_____ Red-tailed Hawk	C	U	C	C
_____ Golden Eagle			I	I

	SP	S	F	W
<b>OWLS</b>				
____ Eastern Screech-Owl	U	U	U	U
____ Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U
____ Barred Owl	U	U	U	U
____ Short-eared Owl			R	
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>				
____ Belted Kingfisher	U		U	U
____ Green Kingfisher	X			
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>				
____ Lewis's Woodpecker			X	
____ Red-headed Woodpecker	U	U	U	U
____ Red-bellied Woodpecker	U-C	U-C	U-C	U-C
____ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U		U	U
____ Ladder-backed Woodpecker		R	R	R
____ Downy Woodpecker	U	U	U	U
____ Hairy Woodpecker	R	R	R	R
____ Northern Flicker	U		U	U
____ Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U
<b>FALCONS AND CARACARAS</b>				
____ Crested Caracara	U	U	U	U
____ American Kestrel	U		U	U
____ Merlin	O		O	O
____ Peregrine Falcon	O		O	
____ Prairie Falcon			X	
<b>FLYCATCHERS</b>				
____ Olive-sided Flycatcher	U		U	
____ Eastern Wood-Pewee	U	R	U	

	<b>SP</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
_____ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	R		R	
_____ Acadian Flycatcher	U	U	U	
_____ Alder Flycatcher	R		R	
_____ Willow Flycatcher			R	
_____ Least Flycatcher	U		U	
_____ Eastern Phoebe	U-C	U	U-C	U-C
_____ Vermilion Flycatcher			R	R
_____ Great Crested Flycatcher	U-C	U-C	U-C	
_____ Couch's Kingbird			I	
_____ Western Kingbird	U	U	U	
_____ Eastern Kingbird	C	U	U	
_____ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	C-A	C	C-A	
<b>SHRIKES</b>				
_____ Loggerhead Shrike	U	R	U	U
<b>VIREOS</b>				
_____ White-eyed Vireo	C	C	C	U
_____ Bell's Vireo			R	
_____ Yellow-throated Vireo	U	U	U	
_____ Blue-headed Vireo	U		U	O
_____ Philadelphia Vireo	R			
_____ Warbling Vireo	R		R	
_____ Red-eyed Vireo	U	U	U	
<b>JAYS, CROWS</b>				
_____ Blue Jay	C	C	C	C
_____ American Crow	C	C	C	C-A
<b>LARKS</b>				
_____ Horned Lark				R

	SP	S	F	W
<b>SWALLOWS</b>				
_____ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U	I	U	
_____ Purple Martin	C-A	C-A	C-A	R
_____ Bank Swallow	U	R	U	
_____ Barn Swallow	C	C	C	R
_____ Cliff Swallow	C-A	C-A	C-A	
_____ Cave Swallow	C	C	C	R
<b>CHICKADEES, TITMICE</b>				
_____ Carolina Chickadee	U-C	U-C	U-C	U-C
_____ Tufted Titmouse	U	U	U	U
<b>NUTHATCHES</b>				
_____ Red-breasted Nuthatch			I	I
_____ White-breasted Nuthatch		I		
<b>CREEPERS</b>				
_____ Brown Creeper			O	O
<b>WRENS</b>				
_____ House Wren	U		U	U
_____ Winter Wren	R		R	R
_____ Sedge Wren	R		U	R
_____ Marsh Wren	U		U	I
_____ Carolina Wren	U-C	U-C	U-C	U-C
_____ Bewick's Wren	I		I	I
<b>GNATCATCHERS</b>				
_____ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	U	C	U
<b>KINGLETS</b>				
_____ Golden-crowned Kinglet	R		R	R
_____ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U		U	U

	<b>SP</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>THRUSHES</b>				
_____ Eastern Bluebird	C	U	C	C
_____ Townsend's Solitaire	X			
_____ Swainson's Thrush	U		R	
_____ Hermit Thrush	U		U	U
_____ Wood Thrush	I	I	I	
_____ American Robin	C	U	C	C-A
<b>MIMIDS</b>				
_____ Gray Catbird	U	R	U	
_____ Curve-billed Thrasher	X			
_____ Brown Thrasher	U		U	U
_____ Northern Mockingbird	C	C	C	C
<b>STARLINGS</b>				
_____ European Starling	U	U	U	U-C
<b>WAXWINGS</b>				
_____ Cedar Waxwing	C-A		C	C-A
<b>WEAVER FINCHES</b>				
_____ House Sparrow	U-C	U-C	U-C	U-C
<b>PIPITS</b>				
_____ American Pipit	U-C		U-C	U-C
_____ Sprague's Pipit	R		R	
<b>FINCHES</b>				
_____ House Finch	U	U	U	U
_____ Purple Finch				I
_____ Pine Siskin	O		O	O
_____ Lesser Goldfinch	X			
_____ American Goldfinch	C		C	C-A

	SP	S	F	W
<b>LONGSPURS</b>				
_____ Lapland Longspur	R			R
_____ McCown's Longspur				R
<b>NEW WORLD SPARROWS</b>				
_____ Grasshopper Sparrow	U	U		
_____ LeConte's Sparrow	R		R	R
_____ Nelson's Sparrow	R			
_____ Chipping Sparrow	C		C	C-A
_____ Field Sparrow	U		U	U-C
_____ Lark Sparrow	U	U	U	I
_____ Fox Sparrow	U		U	U
_____ Dark-eyed Junco	U		U	U
_____ White-crowned Sparrow	U		U	U
_____ Harris's Sparrow	R		R	R
_____ White-throated Sparrow	U-C		U-C	U-C
_____ Vesper Sparrow	U		U	U
_____ Savannah Sparrow	U-C		U-C	U-C
_____ Song Sparrow	U		U	U
_____ Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U	U
_____ Swamp Sparrow	U		U	U
_____ Spotted Towhee	I		I	I
_____ Eastern Towhee	R-U		R-U	R-U
<b>CHATS</b>				
_____ Yellow-breasted Chat	U	U	U	
<b>BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES</b>				
_____ Yellow-headed Blackbird	O		O	
_____ Western Meadowlark	U		U	U-C

	<b>SP</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
____ Eastern Meadowlark	C	U	C	C-A
____ Orchard Oriole	U	U	U	
____ Baltimore Oriole	U		U	I
____ Red-winged Blackbird	C	U	C	C-A
____ Bronzed Cowbird		I		
____ Brown-head Cowbird	C-A	U-C	C	C-A
____ Rusty Blackbird	I			
____ Brewer's Blackbird	R		O	I
____ Common Grackle	C	C	C-A	C-A
____ Great-tailed Grackle	C	C	C-A	C-A
<b>WOOD WARBLERS</b>				
____ Ovenbird	U		U	
____ Worm-eating Warbler	R			
____ Louisiana Waterthrush	U		U	
____ Northern Waterthrush	U		U	
____ Golden-winged Warbler	R			
____ Black-and-white Warbler	U	U	U	
____ Prothonotary Warbler	U	U		
____ Swainson's Warbler	R	R	R	
____ Tennessee Warbler	U			
____ Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U	U
____ Nashville Warbler	U		U	
____ Mourning Warbler			R-U	
____ Kentucky Warbler	U	U		
____ Common Yellowthroat	U		U	O
____ Hooded Warbler	U	R		
____ American Redstart	U		U	



	<b>SP</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>
____ Northern Parula	U-C	U	U	
____ Magnolia Warbler	U		R	
____ Bay-breasted Warbler	R			
____ Blackburnian Warbler	R			
____ Yellow Warbler	U		U-C	
____ Chestnut-sided Warbler	U		R	
____ Pine Warbler	U		U	U
____ Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	C-A
____ Yellow-throated Warbler	U		R	
____ Prairie Warbler		I		
____ Black-throated Green Warbler	U		U	
____ Canada Warbler	R		R	
____ Wilson's Warbler	U		U	U
<b>CARDINALS AND ALLIES</b>				
____ Summer Tanager	U	U	U	
____ Scarlet Tanager	R			
____ Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C
____ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	U		R	
____ Blue Grosbeak	U	R	U	
____ Indigo Bunting	C	U	C	
____ Painted Bunting	C	C	C	
____ Dickcissel	C	U	C	

## CITATION

Frenz, Bert and Keith Arnold. March 2019. Birds of the Lake Somerville State Recreation Area. A Field Checklist.

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

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