

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

BIRDS

OF

SOUTH LLANO RIVER STATE PARK



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2015

INTRODUCTION

South Llano River State Park, a 2,630-acre tract in Kimble County, Texas, lies on the west central Edwards Plateau. The clear, usually placid South Llano River courses through the tract. Bottomlands of the South Llano support a local forest of pecan, elm, oak and sycamore that shelters a significant winter roost for the Rio Grande subspecies of Wild Turkey.

Canyons on the escarpment support diverse deciduous woodlands of hackberry, persimmon, walnut, and several species of oak including Live Oak, Shin Oak, Spanish Oak, Lacey Oak and some Chinquapin Oak. Juniper (mostly Blue-berry Cedar) and oak woodlands cover the canyon slopes. Mesquite and succulents are more common in the lowland areas.

Birdlife is characteristic of the canyons of the Edwards Plateau with numerous typically western, "arid-land species" present. Woodlands and gallery forests, particularly along the South Llano River, are excellent habitats in which to observe migrants.

Green Kingfishers and Black Phoebes can be seen foraging along the clear river. Ringed Kingfishers, though uncommon, can also be viewed by canoeing or kayaking mainly downstream from the park. Black-capped Vireos are usually found just inside the mouths of the canyons or in some of the higher elevations of the park. Hike the Fawn Trail in spring/early summer for this species. The Golden-cheeked Warbler is a rare nester in the area but very frequently observed. Zone-tailed Hawks are frequently observed soaring along the river corridor both above and below the park. The park bird blinds are an excellent place to see species such as Painted Bunting, Black-throated Sparrow, and Spotted Towhee. During the warmer months the Vermilion Flycatcher is a regular around the park headquarters complex or along the high fence on the entrance road. Wild Turkey can be seen foraging in the park lowlands and the WMA throughout the year.

To provide maximum protection for the winter Wild Turkey roost, access to the park's day use area is restricted from October 1 through March 31 to the hours of 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Specific details can be obtained by calling South Llano River State Park at (325) 446-3994.

This checklist was originally compiled by Dr. Nick Jackson, formerly of Junction, and represented observations in the area since 1980. It included five years of records contributed by C.C. and Iris Wiedenfeld, formerly of San Angelo. Since 2004 the checklist was compiled by Rhandy J. Helton and Ann Lemon of Junction and this edition was updated by Rhandy Helton. A revision of this checklist would not have been possible without the contributions and observations provided by park birding hosts Bill and Rosita Shane. Nomenclature and organization for this checklist follow the 7th edition of the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds* as currently supplemented.

Please report any new or unusual observations to the state park headquarters. For additional help with finding birds in this area contact the park birding hosts or the checklist compilers.

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

LEGEND

Abundance (in suitable habitat)

- A Abundant (many should be seen or heard)
- C Common (should always be seen or heard)
- U Uncommon (might be seen or heard but not always)
- R Rare (seldom seen or heard but regular visitor or resident)
- VR Very Rare (irregular, not seen or heard every year, few records)

Seasons

- SPG Spring (March, April, May)
- SUM Summer (June, July, August)
- FAL Fall (September, October, November)
- WIN Winter (December, January, February)

CHECKLIST

| | SPR | SUM | FAL | WIN |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ___ Black-bellied Whistling Duck..... | R | | | |
| ___ Snow Goose | | | F | |
| ___ Wood Duck..... | U | U | U | U |
| ___ Gadwall..... | U | | U | U |
| ___ American Wigeon..... | U | | U | U |
| ___ Mallard..... | U | | U | U |
| ___ Blue-winged Teal | U | | U | U |
| ___ Northern Shoveler..... | U | | U | U |
| ___ Northern Pintail..... | R | | R | R |
| ___ Green-winged Teal | U | | U | U |
| ___ Ring-necked Duck | R | | R | R |
| ___ Bufflehead | R | | | |
| ___ Ruddy Duck..... | R | | R | R |
| ___ Northern Bobwhite | U | U | U | U |
| ___ Wild Turkey | C | C | C | C |
| ___ Pied-billed Grebe..... | U | | U | U |
| ___ Double-crested Cormorant | U | | U | U |
| ___ Great Blue Heron..... | U | R | U | |
| ___ Great Egret..... | | U | | |
| ___ Reddish Egret | | | VR | |
| ___ Cattle Egret | | U | | |
| ___ Green Heron..... | U | U | U | |
| ___ Turkey Vulture | A | A | C | R |
| ___ Black Vulture..... | A | A | C | C |
| ___ Osprey..... | U | R | U | U |

| | SPR | SUM | FAL | WIN |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| ___ Mississippi Kite | R | R | U | |
| ___ Northern Harrier | | | R | R |
| ___ Bald Eagle..... | | | R | R |
| ___ Sharp-shinned Hawk..... | U | R | U | U |
| ___ Cooper's Hawk..... | U | U | U | U |
| ___ Common Black-Hawk | VR | VR | | |
| ___ Red-shouldered Hawk | C | C | U | U |
| ___ Broad-winged Hawk | R | | R | |
| ___ Swainson's Hawk | U | R | U | VR |
| ___ Zone-tailed Hawk..... | U | U | U | |
| ___ Red-tailed Hawk | C | C | C | C |
| ___ Golden Eagle..... | | | R | R |
| ___ American Kestrel..... | U | | C | C |
| ___ Merlin..... | R | | R | R |
| ___ Peregrine Falcon..... | R | | R | |
| ___ American Coot..... | R | | R | R |
| ___ Sandhill Crane | U | | U | |
| ___ Killdeer..... | U | U | U | |
| ___ American Avocet..... | R | | R | |
| ___ Solitary Sandpiper..... | R | | U | |
| ___ Spotted Sandpiper..... | U | U | U | R |
| ___ Long-billed Curlew..... | VR | | VR | |
| ___ Wilson's Snipe | | | R | R |
| ___ Rock Pigeon | U | U | U | U |
| ___ Eurasian Collared-Dove | U | U | U | U |
| ___ Inca Dove | C | C | C | C |
| ___ Common Ground-Dove..... | U | U | U | U |

| | SPR | SUM | FAL | WIN |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| ___ White-winged Dove | A | A | A | A |
| ___ Mourning Dove | C | C | C | U |
| ___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo | C | C | U | |
| ___ Greater Roadrunner..... | U | U | U | U |
| ___ Western Screech-Owl..... | U | C | U | U |
| ___ Eastern Screech-Owl..... | U | C | U | U |
| ___ Great Horned Owl..... | C | C | C | C |
| ___ Common Nighthawk..... | U | C | U | R |
| ___ Common Poorwill..... | C | C | U | R |
| ___ Chuck-will's-widow..... | C | C | R | |
| ___ Chimney Swift | U | C | U | |
| ___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird..... | U | U | U | R |
| ___ Black-chinned Hummingbird..... | C | C | U | R |
| ___ Rufous Hummingbird | U | U | U | VR |
| ___ Calliope Hummingbird..... | | | R | |
| ___ Broad-tailed Hummingbird..... | VR | | VR | |
| ___ Ringed Kingfisher..... | U | U | U | U |
| ___ Belted Kingfisher..... | C | U | C | C |
| ___ Green Kingfisher | C | C | C | U |
| ___ Lewis's Woodpecker | VR | | VR | VR |
| ___ Red-headed Woodpecker..... | VR | VR | VR | VR |
| ___ Acorn Woodpecker | VR | | VR | VR |
| ___ Golden-fronted Woodpecker..... | C | C | C | C |
| ___ Red-bellied Woodpecker | VR | VR | VR | |
| ___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | | | U | U |
| ___ Red-naped Sapsucker | | | VR | VR |
| ___ Ladder-backed Woodpecker | C | C | C | C |

| | SPR | SUM | FAL | WIN |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| ___ Downy Woodpecker..... | C | C | U | U |
| ___ Northern Flicker..... | | | U | U |
| ___ Olive-sided Flycatcher..... | U | | U | |
| ___ Eastern Wood Pewee..... | C | C | U | |
| ___ Acadian Flycatcher..... | U | U | R | |
| ___ Alder Flycatcher..... | R | | | |
| ___ Willow Flycatcher..... | R | | R | |
| ___ Least Flycatcher..... | U | | U | |
| ___ Cordilleran Flycatcher..... | VR | | VR | |
| ___ Black Phoebe..... | U | U | U | U |
| ___ Eastern Phoebe..... | C | C | C | C |
| ___ Say's Phoebe..... | R | R | U | R |
| ___ Vermilion Flycatcher..... | C | C | C | U |
| ___ Great Crested Flycatcher..... | C | C | U | |
| ___ Ash-throated Flycatcher..... | C | C | U | VR |
| ___ Brown-crested Flycatcher..... | U | U | | |
| ___ Couch's Kingbird..... | | VR | VR | |
| ___ Western Kingbird..... | U | C | U | VR |
| ___ Cassin's Kingbird..... | | R | | |
| ___ Eastern Kingbird..... | R | R | U | |
| ___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher..... | C | C | C | VR |
| ___ Loggerhead Shrike..... | R | R | U | U |
| ___ White-eyed Vireo..... | C | C | C | R |
| ___ Bell's Vireo..... | C | A | U | |
| ___ Black-capped Vireo..... | U | U | VR | |
| ___ Yellow-throated Vireo..... | C | C | U | |
| ___ Blue-headed Vireo..... | U | | U | R |

| | SPR | SUM | FAL | WIN |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| ___ Hutton's Vireo | R | R | R | R |
| ___ Warbling Vireo..... | U | R | U | |
| ___ Philadelphia Vireo | VR | | | |
| ___ Red-eyed Vireo | C | C | U | |
| ___ Blue Jay | R | R | U | U |
| ___ Western Scrub-Jay..... | C | C | C | C |
| ___ American Crow | VR | VR | VR | VR |
| ___ Chihuahuan Raven | R | | R | |
| ___ Common Raven..... | C | C | C | C |
| ___ Purple Martin | C | C | U | |
| ___ Tree Swallow..... | R | | R | |
| ___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow | C | C | U | |
| ___ Bank Swallow | R | R | R | |
| ___ Cliff Swallow | C | C | U | |
| ___ Cave Swallow | C | C | C | |
| ___ Barn Swallow..... | C | C | U | |
| ___ Carolina Chickadee..... | C | C | C | C |
| ___ Black-crested Titmouse | A | A | A | A |
| ___ Verdin..... | C | C | U | |
| ___ Bushtit | U | U | U | R |
| ___ Red-breasted Nuthatch..... | R | | R | R |
| ___ Brown Creeper | | | U | U |
| ___ Rock Wren..... | U | U | U | U |
| ___ Canyon Wren | U | U | U | U |
| ___ House Wren..... | U | | U | U |
| ___ Winter Wren | | | | R |
| ___ Marsh Wren..... | R | R | R | R |

| | SPR | SUM | FAL | WIN |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| ___ Carolina Wren..... | C | C | C | C |
| ___ Bewick's Wren | C | C | C | C |
| ___ Cactus Wren..... | R | R | R | R |
| ___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher..... | C | C | U | R |
| ___ Golden-crowned Kinglet..... | R | | U | U |
| ___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet..... | U | | C | C |
| ___ Eastern Bluebird..... | U | U | C | C |
| ___ Western Bluebird..... | | | | R |
| ___ Mountain Bluebird..... | | | R | R |
| ___ Townsend's Solitaire | R | | | R |
| ___ Swainson's Thrush | U | | U | |
| ___ Hermit Thrush | U | | U | C |
| ___ American Robin..... | U | R | U | C |
| ___ Gray Catbird..... | R | | R | |
| ___ Northern Mockingbird..... | C | C | C | C |
| ___ Brown Thrasher..... | U | | U | U |
| ___ Sage Thrasher..... | | | VR | VR |
| ___ Curve-billed Thrasher | R | R | R | |
| ___ American Pipit..... | U | | U | |
| ___ Sprague's Pipit | | | VR | |
| ___ Cedar Waxwing..... | C | | U | C |
| ___ Phainopepla..... | | | VR | VR |
| ___ Ovenbird..... | R | | | |
| ___ Louisiana Waterthrush | R | R | | |
| ___ Golden-winged Warbler | R | | | |
| ___ Black-and-white Warbler | C | C | U | R |
| ___ Prothonotary Warbler | R | | | |

| | SPR | SUM | FAL | WIN |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| ___ Orange-crowned Warbler | C | | C | C |
| ___ Nashville Warbler..... | C | | C | R |
| ___ Virginia's Warbler | VR | | | |
| ___ MacGillivray's Warbler | U | | U | |
| ___ Mourning Warbler | R | | | |
| ___ Kentucky Warbler | VR | | | |
| ___ Common Yellowthroat | U | R | U | |
| ___ Hooded Warbler | R | | | |
| ___ American Redstart | VR | | VR | |
| ___ Cape May Warbler..... | VR | | | |
| ___ Northern Parula..... | VR | | | |
| ___ Magnolia Warbler | VR | | | |
| ___ Blackburnian Warbler | R | | | |
| ___ Yellow Warbler | C | R | A | |
| ___ Blackpoll Warbler..... | VR | | | |
| ___ Pine Warbler..... | | | R | R |
| ___ Yellow-rumped Warbler..... | C | | C | A |
| ___ Yellow-throated Warbler..... | U | U | U | |
| ___ Black-throated Gray Warbler | | | R | |
| ___ Golden-cheeked Warbler | U | U | | |
| ___ Black-throated Green Warbler | U | | R | |
| ___ Wilson's Warbler..... | C | | U | |
| ___ Yellow-breasted Chat | C | C | U | |
| ___ Green-tailed Towhee | R | | R | R |
| ___ Eastern Towhee..... | VR | | | |
| ___ Spotted Towhee..... | C | | C | C |
| ___ Rufous-crowned Sparrow | C | C | C | C |

| | SPR | SUM | FAL | WIN |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ___ Canyon Towhee..... | C | C | C | U |
| ___ Cassin's Sparrow..... | U | U | U | U |
| ___ Chipping Sparrow..... | C | U | C | C |
| ___ Clay-colored Sparrow..... | C | | C | R |
| ___ Field Sparrow..... | C | C | C | C |
| ___ Vesper Sparrow..... | C | | C | C |
| ___ Lark Sparrow..... | C | C | C | C |
| ___ Black-throated Sparrow..... | C | C | C | C |
| ___ Lark Bunting..... | R | | R | R |
| ___ Savannah Sparrow..... | U | | U | U |
| ___ Grasshopper Sparrow..... | U | U | U | U |
| ___ Fox Sparrow..... | U | | U | U |
| ___ Song Sparrow..... | U | | U | C |
| ___ Lincoln's Sparrow..... | C | | C | A |
| ___ Swamp Sparrow..... | R | | R | R |
| ___ White-throated Sparrow..... | U | | U | U |
| ___ Harris's Sparrow..... | | | R | R |
| ___ White-crowned Sparrow..... | C | | C | A |
| ___ Dark-eyed Junco..... | U | | U | U |
| ___ Summer Tanager..... | C | C | C | |
| ___ Scarlet Tanager..... | VR | | | |
| ___ Western Tanager..... | VR | | VR | |
| ___ Northern Cardinal..... | A | A | A | A |
| ___ Pyrrhuloxia..... | U | U | U | U |
| ___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak..... | R | | | |
| ___ Black-headed Grosbeak..... | R | | | |
| ___ Blue Grosbeak..... | C | C | U | |

| | SPR | SUM | FAL | WIN |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ___ Lazuli Bunting..... | U | | R | |
| ___ Indigo Bunting..... | C | C | U | |
| ___ Varied Bunting..... | R | R | | |
| ___ Painted Bunting | A | A | U | |
| ___ Dickcissel | U | R | U | |
| ___ Red-winged Blackbird | U | C | U | |
| ___ Eastern Meadowlark | U | U | U | U |
| ___ Western Meadowlark | | | U | C |
| ___ Yellow-headed Blackbird..... | R | | R | |
| ___ Brewer's Blackbird | | | U | U |
| ___ Common Grackle..... | R | R | | |
| ___ Great-tailed Grackle..... | U | U | U | |
| ___ Bronzed Cowbird..... | U | U | U | U |
| ___ Brown-headed Cowbird | C | C | C | U |
| ___ Orchard Oriole | C | C | U | |
| ___ Hooded Oriole..... | VR | VR | VR | |
| ___ Bullock's Oriole..... | U | U | U | |
| ___ Baltimore Oriole..... | R | R | U | |
| ___ Scott's Oriole | C | C | U | |
| ___ House Finch..... | A | A | A | A |
| ___ Purple Finch | | | | VR |
| ___ Cassin's Finch | | | | VR |
| ___ Pine Siskin..... | U | | C | C |
| ___ Lesser Goldfinch | C | C | C | U |
| ___ American Goldfinch | U | | U | C |
| ___ House Sparrow | C | C | C | C |

CITATION

Helton, Rhandy. April 2015. Birds of South Llano River State Park and the Walter Buck Wildlife Management Area: a field checklist. Natural Resource Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Austin.

Cover: Illustration of turkey by Rob Fleming.

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