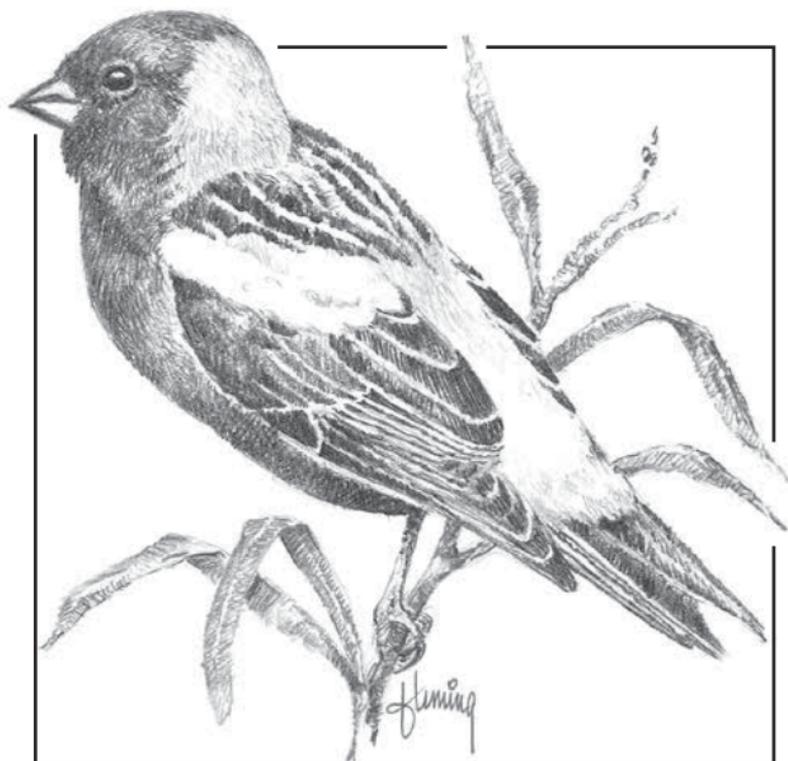


TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

# BIRDS

OF

## COOPER LAKE STATE PARK AND VICINITY



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2016



# INTRODUCTION

Cooper Lake is located in northeast Texas on the South Sulphur River in Hopkins and Delta counties. Completed in 1991, there are 19,300 acres at conservation pool level. The habitat consists of two major ecological zones – the Post Oak Savannah and the Blackland Prairie. In addition, the South Sulphur River floodplain, which was dammed to create the lake, was once extensively forested with bottomland hardwoods, and was another important component in the area's ecosystem.

The Post Oak/Savannah is characterized by a mix of forest and small grasslands of varying sizes. Post oak is the dominant tree with smaller numbers of blackjack oak and hickory. Also present are a variety of deciduous trees, including cedar elm, Mexican plum, choke cherry, and numerous other trees including eastern red cedar. The under story is comprised of such plants as American beautyberry and coralberry. Small openings of native grasses, especially little bluestem, punctuate the forest and provide abundant edge habitat.

Unfortunately, very little native Blackland Prairie is left in Texas. Much of what was once this habitat at Cooper Lake is today in the form of old fields, many of which are in early secondary succession. Several recent prescribed burns have attempted to restore the grasslands and prairies by eliminating the invasive vegetation. Many of these old fields are now dominated by extensive stands of eastern red cedar and baccarus. Other dominant trees include the sugar hackberry, bois d' arc and winged elm. Rough-leaf dogwood, corralberry, and persimmon are common and often form dense thickets, especially along old fences. Native grasses still present include little, silver and broomsedge bluestem, Indiangrass, switchgrass and others. Big bluestem is present but very local.

In historic times the floodplain on the South Sulphur River was heavily forested with a mix of ash, overcup oak and various other hardwoods. Today little remains of these natural woodland wetlands that were formed by periodical heavy rains which caused the water to overflow the narrow, winding, river channel, thus flooding the adjacent

woodlands and sweeping debris, such as dead leaves and fallen logs, away, or collecting them in piles around trees. As the floods receded, water collected in the old river channels, or oxbows, and other low-lying areas. Without the leaf litter serving as natural mulch, various woodland grasses and sedges formed a blanket of green, and the understory was often remarkably open.

The open water of the lake itself has been responsible for the occurrence of numerous water-related species that were not previously recorded in northeast Texas. The addition of these large inland bodies of water, such as Cooper Lake, has profoundly altered the avifauna of the region.

As a result of this habitat diversity, a large number of birds have been recorded in the region. Species in **ALL CAPS BOLD** are "Texas Review Species" for which documentation has been submitted, and later accepted, by the Texas Ornithological Society's Texas Birds Records Committee (T.B.R.C.). Species in **bold** are locally rare and details of the sighting are requested.

Nomenclature and organization are based upon the A.O.U. *Checklist of North American Birds* (7th Edition). You can contribute to this checklist by reporting details of new and unusual sightings or changes in status to the park headquarters. Please forward your observations to the Natural Resource Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin Texas 78744. Documentation for sightings of Texas Review Species should be sent to the Texas Bird Records Committee at [www.texasbirdrecordscommittee.org](http://www.texasbirdrecordscommittee.org).

---

*Please help protect natural avian communities by refraining from using playback tapes of bird songs. Frequent use of these tapes alters normal avian activity patterns, disrupts essential territorial behavior, and may lead to nest failure. Thank you for your cooperation.*

---

# LEGEND

## Seasonal Designations

Sp – Spring: March-May

Su – Summer: June-July

A – Autumn: August-November (shorebird migration is July-November)

W – Winter: December-February

## Abundance

A – Abundant: very numerous species

C – Common: certain to be seen in proper habitat and season

U – Uncommon: Usually present, often in small numbers

O – Occasional: seen one, to a few, times per season

R – Rare: seen every two to five years, or less

X – Accidental: one or two local records

I – Introduced recently, status unclear

\* – Species that are known to nest in the region

+ – Species for which nesting is strongly suspected

? – Status uncertain: more field work needed

# CHECKLIST

	Sp	Su	A	W
<b>GEESE AND DUCKS</b>				
_____ Black-bellied Whistling Duck	U	U	U	U
_____ Greater White-fronted Goose	U		U	
_____ Snow Goose	C		C	O
_____ Ross's Goose	O		O	
_____ Canada Goose	U		U	U
_____ *Wood Duck	U	U	U	U
_____ +Mottled Duck	U	U	U	
_____ +Mallard	C	O	C	C
_____ Northern Pintail	U		U	U
_____ +Blue-winged Teal	C	R	C	X
_____ Cinnamon Teal	R			

	Sp	Su	A	W
_____ Green-winged Teal	C	R	C	C
_____ Northern Shoveler	C	R	C	C
_____ Gadwall	C	R	C	C
_____ American Wigeon	U		U	U
_____ Canvasback	U		U	O
_____ Redhead	U		U	O
_____ Ring-necked Duck	C		C	C
_____ Greater Scaup	U		U	U
_____ Lesser Scaup	U		U	U
_____ <b>Long-tailed Duck</b>				X
_____ <b>Black Scoter</b>			X	
_____ Common Goldeneye	O		O	O
_____ Bufflehead	C		C	C
_____ +Hooded Merganser	U	?	U	U
_____ Common Merganser	R			R
_____ Red-breasted Merganser	O		O	O
_____ Ruddy Duck	C		C	C
<b>QUAIL</b>				
_____ Wild Turkey	I	I	I	I
_____ *Northern Bobwhite	U	U	U	U
<b>LOONS</b>				
_____ <b>Red-throated Loon</b>	R		R	R
_____ <b>Pacific Loon</b>			X	X
_____ Common Loon	U	X	U	U
<b>GREBES</b>				
_____ +Pied-billed Grebe	C	R	C	C
_____ Horned Grebe	C		C	C
_____ <b>RED-NECKED GREBE</b>			X	
_____ Eared Grebe	O		O	O
_____ <b>Western Grebe</b>	X			

	Sp	Su	A	W
<b>STORKS</b>				
_____ Wood Stork		O	O	
<b>CORMORANTS</b>				
_____ *Neotropic Cormorant	U	U	U	R
_____ *Double-crested Cormorant	A	U	A	A
<b>DARTERS</b>				
_____ Anhinga	O	O	O	
<b>PELICANS</b>				
_____ American White Pelican	C	U	C	C
<b>HERONS</b>				
_____ American Bittern	O	R	O	X
_____ <b>Least Bittern</b>	R	R		
_____ *Great Blue Heron	C	C	C	C
_____ *Great Egret	C	C	C	U
_____ +Snowy Egret	U	U	C	
_____ +Little Blue Heron	U	U	C	
_____ +Tricolored Heron	R	O	O	
_____ +Cattle Egret	U	A	A	
_____ +Green Heron	U	U	U	
_____ +Black-crowned Night-Heron	O	O	O	
_____ +Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	O	O	O	
<b>IBISES</b>				
_____ White-faced Ibis	O	R	O	
_____ +White Ibis	O	U	U	
_____ Glossy Ibis		X		
_____ Roseate Spoonbill		O	O	
<b>NEW WORLD VULTURES</b>				
_____ *Black Vulture	U	U	U	U
_____ +Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	C

	Sp	Su	A	W
<b>OSPREY</b>				
_____ Osprey	O		O	
<b>KITES, EAGLES &amp; HAWKS</b>				
_____ Mississippi Kite	O		O	
_____ White-tailed Kite		X		
_____ Bald Eagle	U		U	U
_____ Northern Harrier	C		C	C
_____ Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	O
_____ +Cooper's Hawk	U	O	U	U
_____ *Red-shouldered Hawk	U	U	U	U
_____ Broad-winged Hawk	O		O	
_____ Swainson's Hawk	O	U	O	
_____ <b>White-tailed Hawk</b>				X
_____ *Red-tailed Hawk	A	C	A	A
_____ <b>Golden Eagle</b>			R	
<b>RAILS</b>				
_____ <b>King Rail</b>			X	
_____ Virginia Rail	?		?	X
_____ Sora	U	X	U	U
_____ +American Coot	A	O	A	A
<b>CRANES</b>				
_____ <b>Sandhill Crane</b>			X	
<b>PLOVERS</b>				
_____ Black-bellied Plover	O		O	X
_____ American Golden Plover	U		R	X
_____ Snowy Plover	X		X	
_____ Semipalmated Plover	O		O	
_____ Piping Plover	X		X	
_____ *Killdeer	C	C	C	C
_____ <b>Mountain Plover</b>	R			

	Sp	Su	A	W
<b>STILTS AND AVOCETS</b>				
_____ American Avocet	O	X	O	
_____ Black-necked Stilt	R			
<b>SANDPIPERS</b>				
_____ Spotted Sandpiper	C		C	
_____ Solitary Sandpiper	U		U	
_____ Greater Yellowlegs	C		C	U
_____ Willet	R		O	
_____ Lesser Yellowlegs	C		C	
_____ Upland Sandpiper	U		U	
_____ Whimbrel	X			
_____ Hudsonian Godwit	O			
_____ Marbled Godwit	X	X	R	
_____ Ruddy Turnstone	R		R	
_____ Stilt Sandpiper	R		U	
_____ Sanderling	O		U	
_____ Dunlin	R		O	R
_____ Baird's Sandpiper	U		U	
_____ Least Sandpiper	C		C	O
_____ White-rumped Sandpiper	U		X	
_____ Buff-breasted Sandpiper	O		O	
_____ Pectoral Sandpiper	U		U	
_____ Semipalmated Sandpiper	U		U	
_____ Western Sandpiper	U		U	
_____ Short-billed Dowitcher	R		O	
_____ Long-billed Dowitcher	O		U	R
_____ Wilson's Snipe	U		U	U
_____ American Woodcock				R
_____ Wilson's Phalarope	U		U	
_____ <b>Red-necked Phalarope</b>			X	
_____ <b>RED PHALAROPE</b>	X			

	Sp	Su	A	W
<b>JAEGERS, GULLS, AND TERNS</b>				
_____ Pomarine Jaeger			X	
_____ Parasitic Jaeger			X	
_____ <b>BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE</b>			X	
_____ Bonaparte's Gull	C		C	C
_____ <b>BLACK-HEADED GULL</b>	X		X	X
_____ <b>LITTLE GULL</b>				X
_____ <b>Laughing Gull</b>	R	R	R	R
_____ Franklin's Gull	C	O	C	X
_____ Ring-billed Gull	A	O	A	A
_____ <b>CALIFORNIA GULL</b>	X	X		
_____ Herring Gull	U	X	U	U
_____ <b>THAYER'S GULL</b>	X	X		X
_____ <b>Sooty Tern</b>		X		
_____ <b>Bridled Tern</b>			X	
_____ *Least Tern	O	O	O	
_____ Caspian Tern	U	O	U	
_____ Black Tern	C	O	C	
_____ <b>ROSEATE TERN</b>			X	
_____ Common Tern	O		O	O
_____ Forster's Tern	C	O	C	C
_____ <b>Royal Tern</b>		X		
_____ <b>Sandwich Tern</b>			X	
_____ <b>Black Skimmer</b>		X		
<b>PIGEONS AND DOVES</b>				
_____ *Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C
_____ <b>Inca Dove</b>	X		X	
_____ <b>Common Ground-Dove</b>	X			
_____ <b>White-winged Dove</b>	X			
_____ *Mourning Dove	C	C	C	C

	Sp	Su	A	W
<b>CUCKOOS AND ROADRUNNERS</b>				
_____ <b>Black-billed Cuckoo</b>			X	
_____ *Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U	
_____ *Greater Roadrunner	U	U	U	U
_____ <b>Groove-billed Ani</b>			X	
<b>BARN OWL</b>				
_____ *Barn Owl	U	U	U	U
<b>OWLS</b>				
_____ +Eastern Screech-Owl	U	U	U	U
_____ *Great Horned Owl	C	C	C	C
_____ *Barred Owl	U	U	U	U
<b>GOATSUCKERS</b>				
_____ *Common Nighthawk	C	C	C	
_____ *Chuck Will's Widow	U	U	U	
_____ Eastern Whip-poor-will	R			
<b>SWIFTS</b>				
_____ +Chimney Swift	C	C	C	
<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>				
_____ *Ruby-throated Hummingbird	U	U	U	
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>				
_____ *Belted Kingfisher	U	U	U	U
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>				
_____ *Red-headed Woodpecker	U	U	U	U
_____ *Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
_____ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U		U	U
_____ *Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
_____ *Hairy Woodpecker	U	U	U	U
_____ Northern Flicker	C		C	C
_____ +Pileated Woodpecker	O	O	O	O

	Sp	Su	A	W
<b>FALCONS</b>				
_____ Crested Caracara	R			
_____ American Kestrel	C		C	C
_____ Merlin	O		O	R
_____ Peregrine Falcon	O		O	X
<b>TYRANT FLYCATCHERS</b>				
_____ Olive-sided Flycatcher	O		O	
_____ *Eastern Wood-Pewee	U	U	U	
_____ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	O		O	
_____ *Acadian Flycatcher	O	O		
_____ Alder Flycatcher	O		O	
_____ Willow Flycatcher	O		O	
_____ Least Flycatcher	O	X	O	
_____ *Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C	U
_____ <b>Say's Phoebe</b>	R		R	R
_____ <b>Vermilion Flycatcher</b>			X	
_____ *Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	C	
_____ *Western Kingbird	C	C		
_____ *Eastern Kingbird	C	U	C	
_____ *Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	C	C	C	
<b>SHRIKES</b>				
_____ *Loggerhead Shrike	U	U	U	U
<b>VIREOS</b>				
_____ *White-eyed Vireo	U	U	U	
_____ Blue-headed Vireo	U		U	O
_____ Yellow-throated Vireo		X		
_____ Warbling Vireo	O		O	
_____ Philadelphia Vireo	R			
_____ +Bell's Vireo	R	R	R	
_____ *Red-eyed Vireo	U	U	U	

	Sp	Su	A	W
<b>JAYS AND CROWS</b>				
_____ *Blue Jay	A	C	A	A
_____ *American Crow	C	C	C	C
_____ Fish Crow	O	O	O	
<b>LARKS</b>				
_____ *Horned Lark	C	U	C	C
<b>SWALLOWS</b>				
_____ *Purple Martin	U	U	U	
_____ +Tree Swallow	U	U	U	R
_____ +Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C		C	
_____ Bank Swallow	O		U	
_____ *Cliff Swallow	U	U	U	
_____ <b>Cave Swallow</b>			X	
_____ *Barn Swallow	C	C	C	O
<b>CHICKADEES AND TITMICE</b>				
_____ *Carolina Chickadee	C	C	C	C
_____ *Tufted Titmouse	U	U	U	U
<b>NUTHATCHES</b>				
_____ Red-breasted Nuthatch			R	R
_____ *White-breasted Nuthatch	U	U	U	U
<b>CREEPERS</b>				
_____ Brown Creeper	U		U	U
<b>WRENS</b>				
_____ <b>Rock Wren</b>	X		X	X
_____ House Wren	U		U	O
_____ Winter Wren	U		U	U
_____ Sedge Wren	C	X	C	C
_____ Marsh Wren	U		U	U
_____ *Carolina Wren	C	C	C	C
_____ Bewick's Wren	U		U	U

	Sp	Su	A	W
<b>KINGLETS</b>				
_____ Golden-crowned Kinglet	U		U	U
_____ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	C
<b>GNATCATCHERS</b>				
_____ *Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	C	C	O
<b>THRUSHES</b>				
_____ *Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	C
_____ Veery	R			
_____ Gray-cheeked Thrush	R			
_____ Swainson's Thrush	C			
_____ Hermit Thrush	U		U	U
_____ American Robin	C	U	C	C
<b>MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS</b>				
_____ Gray Catbird	O		O	
_____ +Brown Thrasher	C	O	C	C
_____ *Northern Mockingbird	A	A	A	A
<b>STARLINGS</b>				
_____ *European Starling	A	C	A	A
<b>PIPITS</b>				
_____ American Pipit	C		C	C
_____ Sprague's Pipit	R		R	R
<b>WAXWINGS</b>				
_____ <b>BOHEMIAN WAXWING</b>				X
_____ Cedar Waxwing	C		C	U
<b>LONGSPURS</b>				
_____ Lapland Longspur			U	U
_____ Smith's Longspur	R		O	R
_____ <b>McCown's Longspur</b>			X	

	Sp	Su	A	W
<b>WOOD-WARBLERS</b>				
___ Ovenbird	O		R	
___ +Louisiana Waterthrush	O	O	O	
___ Northern Waterthrush	U		U	
___ Golden-winged Warbler	R			
___ Blue-winged Warbler	R			
___ *Black-and-white Warbler	C	C	C	
___ *Prothonotary Warbler	U	U	U	
___ <b>Swainson's Warbler</b>	R	R		
___ Tennessee Warbler	U		U	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U	U
___ Nashville Warbler	C		C	
___ Mourning Warbler	O		O	
___ *Kentucky Warbler	U	U		
___ *Common Yellowthroat	U	U	U	O
___ Hooded Warbler	R			
___ American Redstart	O		O	
___ Cerulean Warbler	X			
___ *Northern Parula	O	O	O	
___ Magnolia Warbler	O		R	
___ Bay-breasted Warbler	R			
___ Blackburnian Warbler	O		O	
___ Yellow Warbler	U		U	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	O		R	
___ Blackpoll Warbler	R			
___ Palm Warbler			X	
___ Pine Warbler				R
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	C
___ Yellow-throated Warbler	R		R	
___ Prairie Warbler			X	
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	U		U	
___ Canada Warbler	O		O	
___ Wilson's Warbler	U		U	
___ *Yellow-breasted Chat	U	U	U	

	Sp	Su	A	W
<b>SPARROWS</b>				
_____ Eastern Towhee	U		U	U
_____ <b>Cassin's Sparrow</b>			X	
_____ Spotted Towhee	U		U	U
_____ Chipping Sparrow	U		U	O
_____ Clay-colored Sparrow	O		O	
_____ Field Sparrow	C	U	C	C
_____ Vesper Sparrow	U		U	U
_____ *Lark Sparrow	U	U	U	
_____ Savannah Sparrow	C		C	C
_____ Grasshopper Sparrow	U	?	U	R
_____ <b>Henslow's Sparrow</b>	R			R
_____ <b>Nelson's Sparrow</b>	R		R	
_____ Le Conte's Sparrow	U		U	U
_____ Fox Sparrow	U		U	U
_____ Song Sparrow	C		C	C
_____ Lincoln's Sparrow	C		C	U
_____ Swamp Sparrow	C		C	C
_____ White-throated Sparrow	C		C	C
_____ Harris's Sparrow	O		O	O
_____ White-crowned Sparrow	U		U	U
_____ Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	C
<b>GROSBEAKS AND BUNTINGS</b>				
_____ *Summer Tanager	C	C	C	
_____ *Northern Cardinal	A	A	A	A
_____ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	U		R	
_____ *Blue Grosbeak	U	U	U	
_____ Lazuli Bunting	R			
_____ *Indigo Bunting	C	C	C	
_____ *Painted Bunting	C	C	C	
_____ *Dickcissel	A	C	A	

	Sp	Su	A	W
<b>BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES</b>				
_____ Bobolink	O			
_____ *Red-winged Blackbird	A	C	A	A
_____ +Eastern Meadowlark	C	C	C	C
_____ Western Meadowlark	U		U	U
_____ Yellow-headed Blackbird	R		R	
_____ Rusty Blackbird	U		U	U
_____ Brewer's Blackbird	U		U	U
_____ +Great-tailed Grackle	U	U	U	U
_____ *Common Grackle	C	C	C	C
_____ *Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C	C
_____ +Orchard Oriole	O	R	U	
_____ Baltimore Oriole	U		U	
<b>FINCHES</b>				
_____ Purple Finch	?		R	R
_____ House Finch	U		U	U
_____ Pine Siskin	R		R	R
_____ *American Goldfinch	C	R	C	C
<b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS</b>				
_____ *House Sparrow	A	A	A	A

# CITATION

White, Matt. February 2016. Birds of Cooper Lake State Park and vicinity: a field checklist. Natural Resource 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.**

---

Cover: Illustration of Bobolink by Rob Fleming.

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  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, Texas 78744