

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

BIRDS

— OF —

GOOSE ISLAND STATE PARK



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2009

INTRODUCTION

Goose Island State Park, Aransas County, is situated in the great Central Flyway at the southern tip of Lamar Peninsula. It is on the shores of Aransas and St. Charles Bays just west of the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge.

Park habitats include shallow waters of the open bays, shorelines and mudflats, marshes, meadows, live oak mottes and dense shrub thickets with yaupon, American beautyberry, agarito, redbay, grape, poison ivy, bumelia, prickly-ash, greenbriar and others. A paved park road traverses several of these habitats and leads to the Big Tree, The State Champion coastal live oak.

The habitat variety at Goose Island State Park makes it a good place to observe water birds, waterfowl, shorebirds and passerines both in migration and in residence.

During spring migration, the live oaks attract many passerines; warblers can be especially abundant. Hawks and falcons can be seen flying overhead. Bird observations may be particularly rewarding during the wet cold fronts of spring.

During migration periods and low tide conditions, marshes and shores are especially good for shorebird sightings. St. Charles Bay, the shallowest of the area bays, provides good feeding for shorebirds. The marshes are good for rails and gallinules. Swallows can be observed flying overhead.

The winter bird population is excellent and varied. Aransas Bay has goldeneyes, Lesser Scaup, various other ducks, Common Loons, Eared Grebes and Double-crested Cormorants. St. Charles Bay, being shallow, attracts the dabblers: gadwalls, pintails, teals, wigeons, shovelers, and redheads; American White Pelicans are found across the bay on sand spits near the Aransas Refuge. On occasions, a family of Whooping Cranes can be seen feeding. Snow and Canada geese feed and rest in the bays; Herring, Ring-billed, Bonaparte's and Laughing gulls are found in winter over the water, as are Forster's, Royal and Caspian terns.

Some of the breeding birds in the marshes and on the shores and islands are: Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bitterns, herons and egrets, Roseate Spoonbills, Mottled Ducks, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Clapper Rails, Killdeer and Willets, Wilson's Plovers, Laughing Gulls and six species of terns, Seaside Sparrows and Red-winged Blackbirds.

Some of the birds that nest in the Oaks and open areas are: Inca Doves, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Purple Martins, Black-crested

Titmouse, Carolina Wrens, White-eyed Vireos, Northern Cardinals, Painted Buntings, Lark Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks and Great-tailed Grackles.

Bird observation and study at Goose Island State Park is always good, but is especially rewarding during low tides or during migration.

This checklist includes only those species that have been observed in the park or passing overhead or from Lamar Peninsula and the immediate environs of Aransas, St. Charles and Copano Bays. Nomenclature and organization follow the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds*, 7th edition (1998) as supplemented. This list was compiled by members of the Audubon Outdoor Club of Corpus Christi, who made spring and winter counts of the area for several years, and includes many sightings turned in by park visitors. It has been updated in 1986, 1993, 1999, 2002 and 2009. January 1980 - Original compiler: Audubon Outdoor Club of Corpus Christi Checklist Committee: Hilde and Chuck Kaigler; Russell Cabaniss; Doris Winship; Kay McCracken; Phyllis Yochem; Ray Little; Cullen S. Reeves, Jr. March 1987 - Checklist Committee: Hilde and Chuck Kaigler; Doris Winship; and Cullen S. Reeves, Jr. January 1993 - Checklist Committee: Charles T. Clark; Hilde Kaigler; Ruthie Melton; and Cullen S. Reeves, Jr. January 1999 - Checklist Committee: Charles T. Clark; Hilde Kaigler; Ray Little; Cynthia Womack; and Cullen S. Reeves, Jr. July 2002 - Checklist Committee: Dennis Haessly; Ray Little; Hilde Kaigler; Cullen S. Reeves, Jr. March 2009 - Checklist Committee: Dennis Haessly; Ray Little; Hilde Kaigler; Jim and Sally Lockwood; and Cullen S. Reeves, Jr. A special note of appreciation is extended to Ruthie Melton for her contribution to the 1993 checklist from which the current edition is based.

Because we are interested in maintaining and revising this checklist, we solicit your help and ask that you share new and unusual sightings and/or comments on the status of the park's birdlife with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. You may leave your sightings at the park headquarters or mail them to the Natural Resources Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.

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

Season/Abundance

- S = Summer - birds that come in summer and are presumed to breed - March through October.
- W = Winter - birds that come for the winter season - November through March. Some arriving as early as July and some leaving as late as June.
- R = Resident - the bird is found throughout the year.
- M = Migrant - a bird whose stay may be brief in spring and fall, while enroute between its summer and winter homes.
- c = common - should be seen in proper habitat during season noted.
- u = uncommon - may be seen in proper habitat during season noted.
- r = rare - unlikely to be seen even in proper habitat during season noted.
- ca = casual - a few records per decade.
- i = irregular - great variation in numbers for the same season from one year to the next.
- Acc = Accidental - not expected to recur.
- * = nesting/breeding documented.

CHECKLIST

SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS

___	*Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Rc
___	Fulvous Whistling-Duck	Su
___	Greater White-fronted Goose	Wr
___	Snow Goose	Wr
___	Canada Goose	Wr
___	Tundra Swan	Acc
___	Wood Duck	Wi
___	Gadwall	Wu
___	American Wigeon	Wu
___	Mallard	Wr
___	*Mottled Duck	Rc
___	Blue-winged Teal	Mc; Wc
___	Cinnamon Teal	Wr

_____	Northern Shoveler	Wc
_____	Northern Pintail	Wc
_____	Green-winged Teal	Wu
_____	Canvasback	Wu
_____	Redhead	Wc
_____	Ring-necked Duck	Wu
_____	Greater Scaup	Wr
_____	Lesser Scaup	Wc
_____	White-winged Scoter	Wr
_____	Long-tailed Duck	ca
_____	Bufflehead	Wc
_____	Common Goldeneye	Wc
_____	Hooded Merganser	Wr
_____	Red-breasted Merganser	Wc
_____	Common Merganser	Acc
_____	Masked Duck	Acc
_____	Ruddy Duck	Wu

TURKEYS

_____	Wild Turkey	Ru
-------	-------------------	----

QUAILS

_____	*Northern Bobwhite	Ru
-------	--------------------------	----

LOONS

_____	Red-throated Loon	Acc
_____	Common Loon	Wc

GREBES

_____	*Least Grebe	Rr
_____	*Pied-billed Grebe	Rc
_____	Horned Grebe	Wr
_____	Eared Grebe	Wi
_____	Western Grebe	Acc

FLAMINGOS

_____ American Flamingo Acc

GANNETS AND BOOBIES

_____ Masked Booby Acc

PELICANS

_____ American White Pelican Wc

_____ *Brown Pelican Rc

CORMORANTS

_____ Neotropic Cormorant Rc

_____ Double-crested Cormorant Wc

ANHINGA

_____ Anhinga Wc

FRIGATEBIRDS

_____ Magnificent Frigatebird Su; Wr

HERONS

_____ American Bittern Wu

_____ Least Bittern Sc

_____ *Great Blue Heron Rc

_____ *Great Egret Rc

_____ *Snowy Egret Rc

_____ Little Blue Heron Rc

_____ *Tricolored Heron Rc

_____ *Reddish Egret Rc

_____ Cattle Egret Rc

_____ *Green Heron Sc; Wr

_____ *Black-crowned Night-Heron Rc

_____ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron Rr

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS

_____	White Ibis	Rc
_____	White-faced Ibis	Rc
_____	Roseate Spoonbill	Rc

STORKS

_____	Wood Stork	M
-------	------------------	---

AMERICAN VULTURES

_____	Black Vulture	Rc
_____	Turkey Vulture	Rc

KITES AND HAWKS

_____	Osprey	Wc
_____	Swallow-tailed Kite	Mr
_____	White-tailed Kite	Wr
_____	Mississippi Kite	Mu
_____	Northern Harrier	Wu
_____	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Wu
_____	Cooper's Hawk	Wr
_____	Harris's Hawk	Wr
_____	*Red-shouldered Hawk	Rc
_____	Broad-winged Hawk	Mc
_____	Swainson's Hawk	Mu
_____	*White-tailed Hawk	Rc
_____	Red-tailed Hawk	Wc
_____	Ferruginous Hawk	Wr

CARACARAS AND FALCONS

_____	Crested Caracara	Rc
_____	American Kestrel	Wc
_____	Merlin	Wr
_____	Peregrine Falcon	Mr

RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS

_____	Yellow Rail	Acc
_____	*Clapper Rail	Rc

_____	King Rail	Wr
_____	Virginia Rail	Wr
_____	Sora	Mc
_____	Purple Gallinule	Sr
_____	Common Moorhen	Rc
_____	American Coot	Wc

CRANES

_____	Sandhill Crane	Wc
_____	Whooping Crane	Wc

PLOVERS

_____	Black-bellied Plover	Wc
_____	American Golden-Plover	Mu
_____	Snowy Plover	Ru
_____	Wilson's Plover	Su
_____	Semipalmated Plover	Wc
_____	Piping Plover	Wu
_____	* Killdeer	Rc

OYSTERCATCHERS

_____	American Oystercatcher	Rc
-------	------------------------------	----

STILTS AND AVOCETS

_____	* Black-necked Stilt	Sc
_____	American Avocet	Wu

SHOREBIRDS

_____	Spotted Sandpiper	Wc
_____	Solitary Sandpiper	Mu; Wr
_____	Greater Yellowlegs	Wc
_____	* Willet	Rc
_____	Lesser Yellowlegs	Wc
_____	Upland Sandpiper	Mc
_____	Whimbrel	Mr

_____	Long-billed Curlew	Wc; Su
_____	Marbled Godwit	Wi
_____	Ruddy Turnstone	Wc
_____	Red Knot	Mr
_____	Sanderling	Wc
_____	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Mu
_____	Western Sandpiper	Wu
_____	Least Sandpiper	Wc
_____	White-rumped Sandpiper	Mr
_____	Baird's Sandpiper	Mr
_____	Pectoral Sandpiper	Mu
_____	Dunlin	Wc
_____	Stilt Sandpiper	Mu
_____	Short-billed Dowitcher	Wc
_____	Long-billed Dowitcher	Wc
_____	Wilson's Snipe	Wi
_____	American Woodcock	Wr
_____	Wilson's Phalarope	Mu

GULLS AND TERNS

_____	* Laughing Gull	Rc
_____	Franklin's Gull	Mc
_____	Bonaparte's Gull	Wu
_____	Ring-billed Gull	Wc
_____	Herring Gull	Wc
_____	* Least Tern	Sc
_____	* Gull-billed Tern	Sc; Wu
_____	* Caspian Tern	Rc
_____	Black Tern	Mc
_____	Common Tern	Mr
_____	* Forster's Tern	Rc
_____	* Royal Tern	Rc
_____	* Sandwich Tern	Sc
_____	* Black Skimmer	Rc

PIGEONS AND DOVES

_____	* Rock Pigeon	Rc
_____	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Rc
_____	White-winged Dove	Rc
_____	* Mourning Dove	Rc
_____	* Inca Dove	Rc
_____	Common Ground-Dove	Rr

CUCKOOS AND ANIS

_____	Black-billed Cuckoo	Mr
_____	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Su
_____	Greater Roadrunner	Ru
_____	Groove-billed Ani	r

OWLS

_____	Eastern Screech-Owl	Rr
_____	* Great Horned Owl	Rc
_____	Barred Owl	Acc
_____	Short-eared Owl	Wr

NIGHTJARS

_____	* Lesser Nighthawk	Rr
_____	* Common Nighthawk	Sc
_____	* Common Pauraque	Ru
_____	Chuck-will's-widow	Mu
_____	Whip-poor-will	Mu

SWIFTS

_____	Chimney Swift	Sc
-------	---------------------	----

HUMMINGBIRDS

_____	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	Rc
_____	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Mc; Sr
_____	Black-chinned Hummingbird	Wu
_____	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Acc
_____	Rufous Hummingbird	Mr

KINGFISHERS

_____ Belted Kingfisher Wc

WOODPECKERS

_____ Red-headed Woodpecker Wu

_____ *Golden-fronted Woodpecker Rr

_____ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Wu

_____ Ladder-backed Woodpecker Ru

_____ Downy Woodpecker Wca

_____ Northern Flicker Wc

FLYCATCHERS

_____ Olive-sided Flycatcher Mu

_____ Eastern Wood-Pewee Mc

_____ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Mc

_____ Acadian Flycatcher Mu

_____ Alder Flycatcher Mr

_____ Willow Flycatcher Mr

_____ Least Flycatcher Mc

_____ Eastern Phoebe Wc

_____ Vermilion Flycatcher Wr

_____ Ash-throated Flycatcher Mr

_____ Great Crested Flycatcher Mc

_____ Brown-crested Flycatcher Mu

_____ Great Kiskadee Wca

_____ Couch's Kingbird Wr

_____ Western Kingbird Mu

_____ Eastern Kingbird Mc

_____ *Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Sc

SHRIKES

_____ Loggerhead Shrike Wc

VIREOS

_____ *White-eyed Vireo Rc

_____ Bell's Vireo Mr

_____	Yellow-throated Vireo	Mu
_____	Blue-headed Vireo	Wu
_____	Warbling Vireo	Mu
_____	Philadelphia Vireo	Mu
_____	Red-eyed Vireo	Mc
_____	Black-whiskered Vireo	ca

JAYS AND CROWS

_____	Blue Jay	Wi
_____	American Crow	Acc

LARKS

_____	*Horned Lark	Ru
-------	--------------------	----

SWALLOWS

_____	*Purple Martin	Sc
_____	Tree Swallow	Mc
_____	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Mc
_____	Bank Swallow	Mc
_____	Cliff Swallow	Sc
_____	*Cave Swallow	Sc
_____	*Barn Swallow	Mc; Su

CHICKADEES AND TITMICE

_____	Carolina Chickadee	r
_____	Black-crested Titmouse	Rc

NUTHATCHES

_____	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Acc
-------	-----------------------------	-----

WRENS

_____	*Cactus Wren	ca
_____	*Carolina Wren	Rc
_____	*Bewick's Wren	Ru
_____	House Wren	Wc

_____	Sedge Wren	Wc
_____	Marsh Wren	Wc

KINGLETS

_____	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Wi
_____	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Wc

GNATCATCHERS

_____	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Wc
-------	-----------------------------	----

THRUSHES

_____	Eastern Bluebird	Wr
_____	Veery	Mu
_____	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Mr
_____	Swainson's Thrush	Mc
_____	Hermit Thrush	Wc
_____	Wood Thrush	Mu
_____	American Robin	Wc
_____	Clay-colored Robin	ca

MIMIC THRUSHES

_____	Gray Catbird	Mc
_____	*Northern Mockingbird	Rc
_____	Brown Thrasher	Wc
_____	Long-billed Thrasher	Rr
_____	Curve-billed Thrasher	Rr

STARLINGS

_____	*European Starling	Rc
-------	--------------------------	----

PIPITS

_____	American Pipit	Wc
-------	----------------------	----

WAXWINGS

_____	Cedar Waxwing	Wu
-------	---------------------	----

WOOD WARBLERS

_____	Blue-winged Warbler	Mu
_____	Golden-winged Warbler	Mu
_____	Tennessee Warbler	Mc
_____	Orange-crowned Warbler	Wc
_____	Nashville Warbler	Mc
_____	Northern Parula	Mc
_____	Yellow Warbler	Mc
_____	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Mc
_____	Magnolia Warbler	Mc
_____	Cape May Warbler	Mr
_____	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Mr
_____	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Wc
_____	Black-throated Gray Warbler	Acc
_____	Townsend's Warbler	Acc
_____	Black-throated Green Warbler	Mc
_____	Hermit Warbler	Acc
_____	Blackburnian Warbler	Mc
_____	Yellow-throated Warbler	Mc
_____	Pine Warbler	Wu
_____	Palm Warbler	Wr
_____	Bay-breasted Warbler	Mc
_____	Blackpoll Warbler	Mr
_____	Cerulean Warbler	Mu
_____	Black-and-White Warbler	Mc; Wr
_____	American Redstart	Mc
_____	Prothonotary Warbler	Mc
_____	Worm-eating Warbler	Mc; Wc
_____	Ovenbird	Mc
_____	Northern Waterthrush	Mc
_____	Louisiana Waterthrush	Mr
_____	Kentucky Warbler	Mc
_____	Mourning Warbler	Mr
_____	MacGillivray's Warbler	Acc

_____	Common Yellowthroat	Wc
_____	Hooded Warbler	Mc
_____	Wilson's Warbler	Mc
_____	Canada Warbler	Mc
_____	Yellow-breasted Chat	Mc; Wu

TANAGERS

_____	Summer Tanager	Mc
_____	Scarlet Tanager	Mc
_____	Western Tanager	Mr

SPARROWS

_____	Olive Sparrow	Wr
_____	Eastern Towhee	Wr
_____	Spotted Towhee	Wc
_____	Chipping Sparrow	Wc
_____	Clay-colored Sparrow	Mu
_____	Field Sparrow	Wc
_____	Vesper Sparrow	Wc
_____	* Lark Sparrow	Ru
_____	Savannah Sparrow	Wc
_____	Grasshopper Sparrow	Mc; Wr
_____	Le Conte's Sparrow	Wu
_____	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	Wu
_____	* Seaside Sparrow	Rc
_____	Fox Sparrow	Wr
_____	Song Sparrow	Wr
_____	Lincoln's Sparrow	Wc
_____	Swamp Sparrow	Wc
_____	White-throated Sparrow	Wc
_____	Harris's Sparrow	Wr
_____	White-crowned Sparrow	Wu
_____	Dark-eyed Junco	Wca

GROSBEAKS

_____	* Northern Cardinal	Rc
_____	Pyrrhuloxia	Wu
_____	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Mc
_____	Black-headed Grosbeak	Acc
_____	Blue Grosbeak	Mc
_____	Lazuli Bunting	ca
_____	Indigo Bunting	Mc
_____	* Painted Bunting	Sc
_____	Dickcissel	Mc

ORIOLES AND BLACKBIRDS

_____	Bobolink	Mr
_____	* Red-winged Blackbird	Rc
_____	* Eastern Meadowlark	Rc
_____	Western Meadowlark	Wu
_____	Yellow-headed Blackbird	Wr
_____	Brewer's Blackbird	Wu
_____	Common Grackle	Wu
_____	Boat-tailed Grackle	Wu
_____	* Great-tailed Grackle	Rc
_____	* Bronzed Cowbird	Sc
_____	* Brown-headed Cowbird	Rc
_____	Orchard Oriole	Mc
_____	Hooded Oriole	Acc
_____	Baltimore Oriole	Mc

FINCHES

_____	Pine Siskin	Wu
_____	American Goldfinch	Wc

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

_____	*House Sparrow	Rc
-------	----------------------	----

CITATION

Audubon Outdoor Club of Corpus Christi Checklist Committee: Dennis Haessly; Ray Little; Hilde Kaigler; Cullen S. Reeves, Jr. March 2009. Birds of Goose Island State Park: a field checklist. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Natural Resources Program, Austin, Texas.

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.**



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