

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

BIRDS

OF

RESACA DE LA PALMA STATE PARK



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2008

INTRODUCTION

Resaca de la Palma State Park is a 1,200-acre park and World Birding Center site located to the northwest of Brownsville, Texas. The flora and fauna in the park are sustained by a resaca. The resaca, or dry riverbed, was formed by the flooding of the Rio Grande; when seasonal rains fill the resacas, wildlife come to the water, creating an opportunity for people to view wildlife and enjoy the natural world. Park staff can control the water level in the resaca to support a variety of wildlife throughout the year.

The resaca also supports a variety of habitats that are vital for the survival of the wildlife. White-tipped Doves and Green Jays call from within the hackberry forest, and migrating warblers forage for insects on the hackberry's large leaves. In the Ebony forest, Groove-billed Anis quietly watch the visitors, and White-eyed Vireos and Long-billed Thrashers use the dense vegetation for nesting. Olive Sparrows and Northern Mockingbirds sing as they forage through the thorn-scrub. In the revegetated grasslands one will find White-tailed Kites, Mississippi Kites and other raptors searching for prey. Northern Bobwhites call from the grass, where they nest and raise young. In the resaca itself, Least Grebes, Green Herons, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks and other water birds forage through the water and mud. In one visit to the resaca, a birder could easily see Belted, Ringed and Green Kingfishers.

The trail system, over 8 miles, winds through these different habitats. Although vehicular traffic is not permitted past the Visitor Center, visitors can access the trail system from a tram that circles a 3.2-mile loop through the park for easy wildlife viewing.

This checklist includes 277 bird species that can be found in Resaca de la Palma State Park. This checklist was compiled by John C. Arvin, now at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, and modified by Katherine S. Miller, natural resource specialist at Resaca de la Palma. While some birds live here year-round, others use the dense habitat to rest during their migration or are seasonal residents. For this reason, the checklist shows the bird species' abundance by season to aid birders in planning their trips to Resaca de la Palma. The nomenclature and taxonomic organization follow the *American Ornithologist's Union Check-list of North American Birds*, 7th Edition (1998) as currently supplemented. The checklist will be updated with further observations, so please report your sightings by utilizing the e-bird kiosk in our visitor center, where birders can record and view sightings and the location within the park on a user-friendly computer.

Please note that playing any audio recording of bird songs in an effort to attract the birds is prohibited. This disrupts the birds from their daily activities and can cause nest failure. For your safety and for the preservation of the wildlife, stay on designated trails at all times. We appreciate your cooperation and hope you have a pleasant visit to our park.

LEGEND

Seasons

- Sp = Spring: March, April and May
- Su = Summer: June, July and August
- F = Fall: September, October and November
- W = Winter: December, January and February

Abundance

- A = Abundant: always present and observed, large numbers in proper habitats and seasons.
- C = Common: numbers vary but always found in proper habitat and season.
- U = Uncommon: present in proper habitat and season, but not common and may be overlooked.
- R = Rare: seldom recorded, may not be recorded every year.
- X = Scarce: few records.

CHECKLIST

	Sp	Su	F	W
ANATIDAE				
___ Black-bellied Whistling-Duck.....	C	C	C	C
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck.....	U		U	R
___ Greater White-fronted Goose			R	R
___ Snow Goose			R	R
___ Ross's Goose			R	R
___ Canada Goose.....			X	X
___ Wood Duck.....	R	R	X	X

	Sp	Su	F	W
___ Gadwall.....	U		R	C
___ American Wigeon	U		R	C
___ Mallard.....	R	R		R
___ "Mexican Duck"	U	U	U	U
___ Mottled Duck	C	C	C	C
___ Blue-winged Teal.....	C		C	C
___ Cinnamon Teal.....	R		R	R
___ Northern Shoveler	A	R	C	A
___ Northern Pintail	C			C
___ Green-winged Teal.....	A			A
___ Canvasback	C		U	U
___ Redhead.....	A		A	A
___ Ring-necked Duck	U		U	C
___ Lesser Scaup	C		C	A
___ Bufflehead.....	U		C	C
___ Hooded Merganser				X
___ Ruddy Duck.....	C	U	C	C
CRACIDAE				
___ Plain Chachalaca.....	C	C	C	C
ODONTOPHORIDAE				
___ Northern Bobwhite	C	C	C	C
GREBES				
___ Least Grebe	C	C	C	C
___ Pied-billed Grebe	C	U	C	C
___ Eared Grebe.....	C		C	C
PELICANS				
___ American White Pelican	A	U	C	A
PHALACROCORACIDAE				
___ Neotropic Cormorant.....	U	U	U	U
___ Double-crested Cormorant	C		C	C
ANHINGIDEA				
___ Anhinga.....	C	U	U	U

		Su	F	W
ARDEIDAE				
—	American Bittern	R		R R
—	Least Bittern	R	R	R X
—	Great Blue Heron.....	C	C	C C
—	Great Egret.....	C	C	C C
—	Snowy Egret.....	C	C	C C
—	Little Blue Heron	C	C	C R
—	Tricolored Heron	U	U	U U
—	Cattle Egret	C	C	C C
—	Green Heron.....	C	C	C C
—	Black-crowned Night-Heron	U	U	C C
—	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	C	U	C R
THRESKIORNITHIDAE				
—	White Ibis.....	C	C	C U
—	White-faced Ibis	C	U	C U
—	Roseate Spoonbill.....	C	C	C C
CICONIDAE				
—	Wood Stork		U	U
CATHARTIDAE				
—	Black Vulture.....	C	C	C C
—	Turkey Vulture	A	C	A C
ACCIPTRIDAE				
—	Osprey.....	R	X	R R
—	Swallow-tailed Kite.....	R		R
—	White-tailed Kite.....	R	R	R R
—	Mississippi Kite	C		C
—	Northern Harrier	U		U U
—	Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	C		C U
—	Cooper's Hawk.....	C	X	C R
—	Harris's Hawk.....	C	C	C C
—	Gray Hawk	R	R	R R
—	Red-shouldered Hawk	R	R	R R
—	Broad-winged Hawk.....	A		A

	Sp	Su	F	W
___ Swainson's Hawk.....	A	X	A	
___ White-tailed Hawk.....	C	C	C	C
___ Red-tailed Hawk.....	U	R	R	U
FALCONIDAE				
___ Crested Caracara.....	U	U	U	U
___ American Kestrel.....	C	R	C	C
___ Merlin.....	R		R	R
___ Peregrine Falcon.....	R	X	R	R
RALLIDAE				
___ King Rail.....	R	R	R	R
___ Virginia Rail.....	R		R	R
___ Sora.....	U		U	U
___ Purple Gallinule.....	U	R		
___ Common Moorhen.....	C	C	C	C
___ American Coot.....	A	C	A	A
GRUIDAE				
___ Sandhill Crane.....	U		C	C
CHARADRIIDAE				
___ Black-bellied Plover.....	U	R	U	U
___ American Golden-Plover.....	C			
___ Semipalmated Plover.....	U	U	U	U
___ Killdeer.....	C	C	C	C
RECURVIROSTRIDAE				
___ Black-necked Stilt.....	C	C	C	C
___ American Avocet.....	C	U	C	C
SCOLOPACIDAE				
___ Spotted Sandpiper.....	U	U	U	U
___ Solitary Sandpiper.....	U	U	U	R
___ Greater Yellowlegs.....	C	U	C	U
___ Lesser Yellowlegs.....	C	U	C	C
___ Upland Sandpiper.....	C		C	
___ Long-billed Curlew.....	C	U	C	C
___ Hudsonian Godwit.....	U			

	Sp	Su	F	W
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	U		U	
___ Western Sandpiper	C	U	C	C
___ Least Sandpiper.....	C	C	C	C
___ White-rumped Sandpiper	U			
___ Baird's Sandpiper	U		U	
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	C	U	U	
___ Dunlin.....	C		C	C
___ Stilt Sandpiper.....	C	U	C	U
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper.....	U		U	
___ Short-billed Dowitcher.....	C	C	C	C
___ Long-billed Dowitcher.....	A	C	A	A
___ Wilson's Snipe.....	U		U	U
___ Wilson's Phalarope.....	C		U	U
LARIDAE				
___ Laughing Gull.....	A	A	A	A
___ Franklin's Gull	A		A	R
___ Ring-billed Gull.....	C	R	C	C
___ Gull-billed Tern	U	U	U	U
___ Caspian Tern.....	U	U	U	U
___ Black Tern.....	U	U	U	
___ Forster's Tern	C	C	C	C
___ Black Skimmer	C	C	C	C
COLUMBIDAE				
___ Rock Pigeon	C	C	C	C
___ White-winged Dove	A	A	A	A
___ Mourning Dove	A	A	A	A
___ Inca Dove	C	C	C	C
___ Common Ground-Dove	C	C	C	C
___ White-tipped Dove.....	U	U	U	U
CUCULIDAE				
___ Black-billed Cuckoo.....	R		R	
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....	U	U	R	

	Sp	Su	F	W
___ Greater Roadrunner	U	U	U	U
___ Groove-billed Ani.....	U	C	C	
TYTONIDAE				
___ Barn Owl.....	U	U	U	U
STRIGIDAE				
___ Eastern Screech-Owl.....	U	U	U	U
___ Great Horned Owl.....	U	U	U	U
___ Burrowing Owl.....			R	R
___ Short-eared Owl.....				R
CAPRIMULGIDAE				
___ Lesser Nighthawk.....	U	C	C	R
___ Common Nighthawk	C	C	C	
___ Common Pauraque.....	U	U	U	U
___ Chuck-wills-widow	U		U	
___ Whip-poor-will	R		R	
APODIDAE				
___ Chimney Swift.....	C	U	U	
TROCHILIDAE				
___ Buff-bellied Hummingbird.....	U	U	U	U
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird.....	C		C	X
___ Black-chinned Hummingbird.....	U	U	R	R
___ Rufous Hummingbird.....	R	X	R	R
ALCEDINIDAE				
___ Ringed Kingfisher	R	R	R	R
___ Belted Kingfisher	R	R	R	R
___ Green Kingfisher.....	R	R	R	R
PICIDAE				
___ Golden-fronted Woodpecker.....	U	U	U	U
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U		U	U
___ Ladder-backed Woodpecker	U	U	U	U
___ Northern Flicker	R		U	U

	Sp	Su	F	W
TYRANNIDAE				
___ Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet.....	R	R	R	R
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher	R		R	
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee	U		U	
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.....	R		R	
___ Acadian Flycatcher	R		R	
___ Alder Flycatcher	R		R	
___ Willow Flycatcher	R		R	
___ Least Flycatcher.....	R		R	R
___ Eastern Phoebe	R		U	U
___ Say's Phoebe.....			R	R
___ Vermilion Flycatcher	R	R	R	R
___ Great Crested Flycatcher	R	R	R	
___ Brown-crested Flycatcher	R	R	R	
___ Great Kiskadee.....	U	U	U	U
___ Tropical Kingbird.....	R	R	R	R
___ Couch's Kingbird	U	U	U	R
___ Western Kingbird.....	U	U		
___ Eastern Kingbird.....	U		U	
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	C	U	C	R
LANIIDAE				
___ Loggerhead Shrike.....	U	R	U	U
VIREONIDAE				
___ White-eyed Vireo	U	U	U	R
___ Bell's Vireo.....	U	U	U	
___ Yellow-throated Vireo	R		R	
___ Blue-headed Vireo	U		U	U
___ Warbling Vireo.....	U		U	
___ Philadelphia Vireo.....	U		R	
___ Red-eyed Vireo	U		U	
CORVIDAE				
___ Green Jay.....	C	C	C	C
___ Chihuahuan Raven	U	U	U	U

	Sp	Su	F	W
HIRUNDINIDAE				
___ Purple Martin.....	C	U	C	
___ Tree Swallow	C		C	C
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U	U	U	R
___ Bank Swallow	C	C	C	
___ Barn Swallow	C	C	C	R
___ Cliff Swallow	U	U	U	
___ Cave Swallow.....	C	C	C	C
PARIDAE				
___ Black-crested Titmouse	U	U	U	U
REMIZIDAE				
___ Verdin	R	R	R	R
TROGLODYTIDAE				
___ Cactus Wren.....	R	R	R	R
___ Carolina Wren.....	R	R	R	R
___ Bewick's Wren.....	R	R	R	R
___ House Wren	R		R	R
___ Sedge Wren.....	R		R	R
___ Marsh Wren	R		R	R
REGULIDAE				
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	U		U	U
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet.....			R	R
SYLVIIDAE				
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.....	U	R	U	U
TURDIDAE				
___ Eastern Bluebird.....	U	R	U	U
___ Veery	R		R	
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush.....	R		R	
___ Swainson's Thrush	U		U	
___ Hermit Thrush.....			U	U
___ Wood Thrush.....	R		R	
___ American Robin	R	R	R	U

	Sp	Su	F	W
MIMIDAE				
___ Gray Catbird.....	U		U	U
___ Northern Mockingbird.....	C	C	C	C
___ Long-billed Thrasher.....	U	U	U	U
___ Curve-billed Thrasher.....	R	R	R	R
STURNIDAE				
___ European Starling.....	C	C	C	C
MOTACILLIDAE				
___ American Pipit.....	U		U	U
___ Sprague's Pipit.....	R		R	R
BOMBYCILLIDAE				
___ Cedar Waxwing.....	U			U
PARULIDAE				
___ Blue-winged Warbler.....	R		R	
___ Golden-winged Warbler.....	R		R	
___ Tennessee Warbler.....	U		U	X
___ Orange-crowned Warbler.....	U		U	U
___ Nashville Warbler.....	U		U	R
___ Northern Parula.....	U	R	U	R
___ Tropical Parula.....	U	U	U	U
___ Yellow Warbler.....	U	U	U	R
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler.....	R		R	
___ Magnolia Warbler.....	R		R	
___ Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler.....	U		U	C
___ Black-throated Gray Warbler.....			R	R
___ Black-throated Green Warbler.....	R		R	R
___ Blackburnian Warbler.....	R		R	
___ Yellow-throated Warbler.....	R		R	R
___ Pine Warbler.....			R	R
___ Prairie Warbler.....			X	
___ Bay-breasted Warbler.....	R		X	
___ Cerulean Warbler.....	R		X	
___ Black-and-white Warbler.....	U	R	R	R

	Sp	Su	F	W
___ American Redstart.....	U		R	R
___ Prothonotary Warbler.....	R		R	
___ Worm-eating Warbler.....	R		R	
___ Swainson's Warbler.....	R			
___ Ovenbird.....	R		R	R
___ Northern Waterthrush.....	R		R	R
___ Louisiana Waterthrush.....	R		R	
___ Kentucky Warbler.....	R		R	
___ Mourning Warbler.....	R		R	
___ Common Yellowthroat.....	C	R	R	R
___ Hooded Warbler.....	R		R	
___ Wilson's Warbler.....	R		R	R
___ Canada Warbler.....	R		R	
THRAUPIDAE				
___ Summer Tanager.....	U	R	U	R
___ Scarlet Tanager.....	R		R	
EMBERIZIDAE				
___ Olive Sparrow.....	U	U	U	U
___ Spotted Towhee.....	X		X	X
___ Cassin's Sparrow.....	U	U	R	R
___ Chipping Sparrow.....	U		U	U
___ Clay-colored Sparrow.....	U		U	U
___ Field Sparrow.....				X
___ Vesper Sparrow.....	U		U	U
___ Lark Sparrow.....	U	U	U	U
___ Savannah Sparrow.....	C		C	C
___ Grasshopper Sparrow.....	U	R	U	R
___ Le Conte's Sparrow.....	R		R	R
___ Song Sparrow.....				U
___ Lincoln's Sparrow.....	U		U	U
___ Swamp Sparrow.....	R		R	R
___ White-throated Sparrow.....	R			R
___ White-crowned Sparrow.....	C		C	C

	Sp	Su	F	W
CARDINALIDAE				
___ Northern Cardinal.....	U	U	U	U
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	R		R	
___ Blue Grosbeak.....	R	R	R	
___ Indigo Bunting.....	U		U	R
___ Painted Bunting.....	U	U	R	
___ Dickcissal.....	U	U	U	
ICTERIDAE				
___ Red-winged Blackbird	A	A	A	A
___ Eastern Meadowlark.....	C	C	C	C
___ Western Meadowlark				C
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird	U		U	R
___ Brewer's Blackbird	U		U	U
___ Great-tailed Grackle	A	A	A	A
___ Bronzed Cowbird.....	A	A	A	A
___ Brown-headed Cowbird.....	A	A	A	A
___ Orchard Oriole	U	U	R	
___ Hooded Oriole.....	U	U	U	U
___ Altamira Oriole	R	R	R	R
___ Baltimore Oriole	U		R	
___ Bullock's Oriole.....	R	R		
FRINGILLIDAE				
___ Pine Siskin.....	R		R	U
___ American Goldfinch	U		U	U
___ Lesser Goldfinch	U	U	U	U
PASSERIDAE				
___ House Sparrow.....	A	A	A	A

Additional sightings

CITATION

Checklist compiled by John C. Arvin. Text and modifications by Katherine S. Miller.

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.**



**WORLD BIRDING
C E N T E R**

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