

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

BIRDS

OF

SOUTH LLANO RIVER
STATE PARK
AND
WALTER BUCK
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2007

Cover: Illustration of turkey by Rob Fleming.

May 2007

INTRODUCTION

The South Llano River State Park and Walter Buck Wildlife Management Area (WMA), 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 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.

Bird life 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 represented by about 35 calling males and are usually found just inside the mouths of the canyons or in some of the higher elevations of the Walter Buck WMA. Hike the Fawn Trail in spring/early summer for this species. The Golden-cheeked Warbler is a rare nester in the area but very infrequently 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 (spring and summer), Black-throated Sparrow and Rufous-crowned Sparrow. 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, the park's day use area is closed October through March. Access to the Walter Buck WMA is restricted during hunting season. Specific details can be obtained by calling Walter Buck WMA at (325) 446-3617. Information on South Llano River State Park can be obtained by calling the 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 worth of records contributed by C.C. and Iris Wiedenfeld, formerly of San Angelo. In 2004, the checklist was revised by Rhandy J. Helton, TPWD Biologist (Ret.) and Ann Lemon of Junction. A revision of this checklist would not have been possible without the contributions and observations provided by park birding hosts Bill and Rosita Shane. The revised checklist was reviewed by TPWD Wildlife Biologist Gilbert Guzman and TPWD Wildlife Resource Biologist Mark Lockwood. 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 or to Rhandy J. Helton or Ann Lemon in Junction. 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

	SPG	SUM	FAL	WIN
___ Black-bellied Whistling Duck	R			
___ Snow Goose	U	U	U	U
___ 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

	SPG	SUM	FAL	WIN
___ Ruddy Duck	R		R	R
___ Wild Turkey	C	C	C	C
___ Northern Bobwhite	U	U	U	U
___ Pied-billed Grebe	U		U	U
___ Double-crested Cormorant	U		U	U
___ Great Blue Heron	U	U	U	
___ Great Egret		U		
___ Cattle Egret		U		
___ Green Heron	C	C	C	
___ Turkey Vulture	A	A	C	R
___ Black Vulture	A	A	C	U
___ Osprey	U	R	U	U
___ Mississippi Kite	R	R	U	
___ Northern Harrier			R	R
___ Bald Eagle			R	R
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	R	U	U
___ Cooper's Hawk	R	R	R	R
___ 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

	SPG	SUM	FAL	WIN
___ Killdeer	U	U	U	
___ American Avocet	R		R	
___ Solitary Sandpiper	R		R	
___ 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	R	R	R	R
___ White-winged Dove	U	C	U	U
___ Mourning Dove	C	C	C	U
___ Inca Dove	C	C	C	C
___ Common Ground-Dove	U	U	U	U
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	C	C	U	
___ Greater Roadrunner	C	C	C	C
___ Western Screech-Owl	U	C	U	U
___ Eastern Screech-Owl	U	C	U	U
___ Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U
___ 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
___ Broad-tailed Hummingbird	VR		VR	
___ Rufous Hummingbird	U	U	U	VR
___ Belted Kingfisher	U	U	U	C
___ Ringed Kingfisher	U	U	U	U
___ Green Kingfisher	C	C	C	U
___ Red-headed Woodpecker	R	VR	VR	R

	SPG	SUM	FAL	WIN
___ Acorn Woodpecker	VR		VR	VR
___ Lewis's Woodpecker	VR		VR	VR
___ Golden-fronted Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker	R	VR	R	
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			U	U
___ Red-naped Sapsucker			VR	VR
___ Ladder-backed Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
___ Downy Woodpecker	U	U	U	U
___ Northern Flicker			U	U
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher	U		U	
___ Eastern Wood Pewee	C	C	U	
___ Acadian Flycatcher	U	U	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	U	R
___ Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	U	
___ Ash-throated Flycatcher	C	C	U	VR
___ Brown-crested Flycatcher	R	R		
___ Couch's Kingbird		VR	VR	
___ Western Kingbird	U	U	U	VR
___ Cassin's Kingbird		R		
___ Eastern Kingbird	R	R		
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	C	C	C	VR
___ Loggerhead Shrike	R	R	R	
___ White-eyed Vireo	C	C	C	R

	SPG	SUM	FAL	WIN
___ Bell's Vireo	C	A	U	
___ Black-capped Vireo	U	U	VR	
___ Yellow-throated Vireo	U	U	R	
___ Blue-headed Vireo	U		R	R
___ Warbling Vireo	U	R	U	
___ Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	U	
___ Blue Jay	R	R	R	R
___ Western Scrub-Jay	C	C	C	C
___ American Crow	VR	VR	VR	VR
___ 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	U	
___ Barn Swallow	C	C	U	
___ Carolina Chickadee	C	C	C	C
___ Black-crested Titmouse	A	A	A	A
___ Verdin	C	C	U	
___ Bushtit	C	C	U	
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	R		R	R
___ Brown Creeper				U
___ Cactus Wren	U	U	U	U
___ Rock Wren	U	U	U	U
___ Canyon Wren	U	U	U	U
___ Carolina Wren	C	C	C	C
___ Bewick's Wren	C	C	C	C
___ House Wren	U		U	U

	SPG	SUM	FAL	WIN
___ Winter Wren				R
___ Marsh Wren	R	R	R	R
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	R		U	U
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U		C	C
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	C	U	R
___ Eastern Bluebird	U	U	C	C
___ Mountain Bluebird			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	
___ Cedar Waxwing	U		U	U
___ Phainopepla			VR	VR
___ Golden-winged Warbler	R			
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	C		C	C
___ Nashville Warbler	C		C	R
___ Virginia's Warbler	VR			
___ Yellow Warbler	C	R	U	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	R			
___ Cape May Warbler	VR			
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	A
___ Black-throated Gray Warbler			R	
___ Golden-cheeked Warbler	R	R		
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	R		R	
___ Blackburnian Warbler	R			

	SPG	SUM	FAL	WIN
___ Yellow-throated Warbler	U	U	R	
___ Pine Warbler			R	R
___ Blackpoll Warbler	VR			
___ Black-and-white Warbler	C	C	U	R
___ American Redstart	VR		VR	
___ Prothonotary Warbler	R			
___ MacGillivray's Warbler	U		U	
___ Common Yellowthroat	U	R	U	
___ Wilson's Warbler	C		U	
___ Yellow-breasted Chat	C	C	U	
___ Summer Tanager	C	C	U	
___ Scarlet Tanager	VR			
___ Western Tanager	VR		VR	
___ Green-tailed Towhee	R		R	R
___ Spotted Towhee	C		C	C
___ Canyon Towhee	C	C	C	U
___ Cassin's Sparrow	U	U	U	U
___ Rufous-crowned Sparrow	C	C	C	C
___ 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	C	U	U	U
___ Fox Sparrow	R		R	R
___ Song Sparrow	U		U	C

	SPG	SUM	FAL	WIN
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	C		C	A
___ Swamp Sparrow	R		R	R
___ White-throated Sparrow	C		C	C
___ Harris's Sparrow			R	R
___ White-crowned Sparrow	C		C	A
___ Dark-eyed Junco	U		U	U
___ Northern Cardinal	A	A	A	A
___ Pyrrhuloxia	R	R	U	U
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	R			
___ Black-headed Grosbeak	R			
___ Blue Grosbeak	C	C	U	
___ Lazuli Bunting	R		R	
___ Indigo Bunting	U	U	U	
___ Varied Bunting	R	R		
___ Painted Bunting	A	A	U	
___ Dickcissel	U	R		
___ 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	C
___ Orchard Oriole	C	C	U	
___ Hooded Oriole	R	R	R	
___ Bullock's Oriole	U	U	U	
___ Baltimore Oriole	R	R	R	

	SPG	SUM	FAL	WIN
___ Scott's Oriole	C	C	U	
___ Cassin's Finch				VR
___ House Finch	A	A	A	A
___ Pine Siskin	U		U	U
___ Lesser Goldfinch	C	C	C	U
___ American Goldfinch	U		U	C
___ House Sparrow	C	C	C	C

CITATION

Helton, Rhandy and Ann Lemon, Compilers. April 2007. 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.

NOTES

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
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