

## INTRODUCTION

Lake Somerville State Recreation Area in Lee and Burleson Counties contains 5,200 acres in three units along the western end of Lake Somerville. Birch Creek Unit is situated on the north side of the lake; Nails Creek Unit on the south side; and the Trailway's Unit connects the units around the western end of the lake.

Lake Somerville is an impoundment of Yegua Creek, a major tributary of the Brazos River. The park is within the Post Oak Savannah Vegetation Region of east-central Texas. Numerous habitats occur within the park. Aquatic, wetland and/or floodplain habitats include (1) open water; (2) shallow marshy flats; (3) mud flats during low water periods; (4) saline grassy flats, (5) riparian woodlands along the creeks; and (6) an extensive cleared pastureland on the floodplain. Upland habitats in the park include (1) oak-hickory woodlands; (2) little bluestem dominated grasslands; and (3) yaupon thickets.

Without doubt, water birds are the special attraction for this park. This reservoir receives heavy use by many species of ducks, herons and egrets, as well as grebes, wood storks, and white pelicans. This area provides the best chance in the central Brazos River valley to observe wintering Bald Eagles and migrating Osprey. Both Double-crested and Olivaceous Cormorants are regular visitants to the lake.

This checklist includes species which have been observed either within or over the park or in waters adjacent to the park's shoreline. The other species included in this listing were observed in other parts of the lake or in areas near the park. These are listed as hypothetical and many will be documented from the park in the future.

You can contribute to our knowledge of the park's birdlife by sharing your observations (with details) of new and unusual sightings, nesting records, verification of hypothetical species, etc., with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, on Bird Sighting Report forms available at the park headquarters. Please return the completed forms to the Resource Management Section, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or leave them at the park headquarters for forwarding. Checklist nomenclature and organization follow the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds* (6th ed., 1983) as currently supplemented. This checklist was compiled by Dr. Keith A. Arnold of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University.

## LEGEND

### Abundance

- |   |                |   |   |
|---|----------------|---|---|
| c | — common       | — | more than 10 per day; to be expected in proper habitat.                               |
| u | — uncommon     | — | 1 to 10 per day; usually present but may be overlooked.                               |
| o | — occasional   | — | several per season; occasionally seen.  |
| r | — rare         | — | few records; not expected every season or year.                                       |
| i | — irregular    | — | may occur in numbers; some years totally absent.                                      |
| H | — hypothetical | — | no verified sightings from within the park, but to be looked for in season indicated. |

### Seasons

- Sp — Spring (March to May) — northward migration period;  
 S — Summer (June and July) — peak of breeding season;  
 F — Fall (August to November) — southward migration period;  
 W — Winter (December to February) — wintering season.

## CHECKLIST

	SP	S	F	W
___ Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	H	r	r	i
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck			H	
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	u-c		u-c	i
___ Snow Goose	u-c		u-c	u-c
___ Ross's Goose	H		r	
___ Canada Goose	u		u	u-c
___ Wood Duck*	u	u-c	u-c	u-c
___ Gadwall	c		c	c
___ American Wigeon	c		u-c	c
___ American Black Duck				H

___ Mallard	c	u	c	c
___ Mottled Duck	o-u	u	u	H
___ Blue-winged Teal	c	i	c	o
___ Cinnamon Teal	r		H	r
___ Northern Shoveler	c	i	u-c	c
___ Northern Pintail	c		c	i
___ Green-winged Teal	c		c	c
___ Canvasback	c		c	c
___ Redhead	c		c	o
___ Ring-necked Duck	c		u-c	u-c
___ Greater Scaup	H		H	H
___ Lesser Scaup	c		u-c	u-c
___ Common Goldeneye	r		o	H
___ Bufflehead			u	u
___ Hooded Merganser	r		u	u
___ Red-breasted Merganser	H		H	H
___ Ruddy Duck	u		u-c	u-c
___ Northern Bobwhite	u	u-c	u-c	u-c
___ Common Loon	H		H	r
___ Pied-billed Grebe	u		u-c	c
___ Horned Grebe	i			H
___ Eared Grebe	u		o	u
___ American White Pelican	c	i	c	c
___ Neotropic Cormorant	u	u	u	u
___ Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	c	c
___ Anhinga	o	o	o	
___ American Bittern	H		H	
___ Least Bittern	H		H	
___ Great Blue Heron	c	u	u-c	u-c
___ Great Egret	c	c	c	u-c
___ Little Blue Heron*	u	c	u-c	
___ Tricolored Heron	r	r	o	
___ Reddish Egret	i		H	
___ Cattle Egret	c	c	c	i
___ Green Heron	u	u	u-c	
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron	u-c	u-c	u-c	
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	o	o	o	H
___ White Ibis		H	H	
___ White-faced Ibis		H	r	
___ Roseate Spoonbill	r	o-u	o-u	
___ Wood Stork		u-c	u-c	
___ Black Vulture	c	c	c	c
___ Turkey Vulture	c	c	c	c
___ Osprey	r	r	r	r
___ White-tailed Kite	H	H	H	H
___ Mississippi Kite	u		u	
___ Bald Eagle*	r	r	r	r
___ Northern Harrier	u		u	u
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	u		u	u
___ Cooper's Hawk	u		u	u
___ Red-shouldered Hawk*	u	u	u	u
___ Broad-winged Hawk	c		u-c	
___ Swainson's Hawk	u-c		u-c	
___ Red-tailed Hawk*	u	u	u	c
___ Ferruginous Hawk	H		H	H
___ Rough-legged Hawk	H		H	H
___ Golden Eagle	H		r	r
___ Crested Caracara*	r	r	r	r
___ American Kestrel	u-c		c	c
___ Merlin	H		H	H
___ Peregrine Falcon	r		r	o
___ King Rail	H	H	H	
___ Virginia Rail	H		H	
___ Sora	u	u	u	
___ Purple Gallinule	H	H	H	
___ Common Moorhen	r	r	r	
___ American Coot	c		c	c
___ Sandhill Crane	i		u-c	i
___ Black-bellied Plover	H		u	
___ American Golden-Plover			H	

___ Semipalmated Plover	r		r	
___ Killdeer	c	u-c	c	c
___ American Avocet		o	u	
___ Greater Yellowlegs	c	o	u-c	u
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	u-c	o	u	i
___ Solitary Sandpiper	r	o	r	
___ Spotted Sandpiper	u	o	u	u
___ Upland Sandpiper	u		u-c	
___ Whimbrel	H		r	
___ Long-billed Curlew	H		H	
___ Hudsonian Godwit	r			
___ Marbled Godwit	H			
___ Ruddy Turnstone	H		H	
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	u-c		o	
___ Western Sandpiper	u-c		u-c	
___ Least Sandpiper	c	c	c	u-c
___ White-rumped Sandpiper	c	r	u-c	
___ Baird's Sandpiper	u		u	
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	u		u	
___ Dunlin	H	r	H	
___ Stilt Sandpiper	o	o	o	
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper	r		o	
___ Long-billed Dowitcher	u		u	
___ Wilson's Snipe	u-c		u-c	u-c
___ American Woodcock	u		o	u
___ Wilson's Phalarope	o		H	
___ Laughing Gull			r	
___ Franklin's Gull	u-c	o	u-c	i
___ Bonaparte's Gull	o		u	u-c
___ Ring-billed Gull	u	o	u-c	u
___ Herring Gull	u		H	i
___ Caspian Tern	o		H	r
___ Royal Tern	r			
___ Common Tern	u		u	H
___ Forster's Tern	c	u	u-c	c
___ Black Tern	u		u	
___ Black Skimmer		H		
___ Rock Pigeon	u	u	u	u
___ Mourning Dove*	c	c	c	c
___ Eurasian Collared-Dove*	c	c	c	c
___ Inca Dove	u-c	u-c	u-c	u-c
___ Common Ground-Dove			o	o
___ Black-billed Cuckoo	H		H	
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	u	u	u	
___ Greater Roadrunner	u	u	u	u
___ Barn-Owl*	r	r	r	r
___ Eastern Screech-Owl*	u	u	u	u
___ Great Horned Owl*	u	u	u	u
___ Barred Owl*	u	u	u	u
___ Long-eared Owl				H
___ Short-eared Owl			H	H
___ Common Nighthawk	u	u	u	
___ Chuck-will's-widow	H	H	H	
___ Whip-poor-will	H	H	H	
___ Chimney Swift	c	u	u-c	
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird	r	u	u	
___ Belted Kingfisher*	u	u	u	o
___ Red-headed Woodpecker*	u	u	u	H
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u			u
___ Ladder-backed Woodpecker				H
___ Downy Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
___ Hairy Woodpecker	o	o	H	H
___ Northern Flicker	u		u	u
___ Pileated Woodpecker*	o	H	o	o
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher	H		H	
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee	H	H	H	
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher			r	
___ Acadian Flycatcher*	u	u	r	
___ "Traill's"/Alder Flycatcher			o	

Least Flycatcher			r	
Eastern Phoebe	u-c		u	u
Great Crested Flycatcher*	u-c	u	o	
Western Kingbird*	r	r	o	
Eastern Kingbird*	c	o	o	
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*	c	c	c	
Horned Lark				o
Purple Martin*	u-c	u-c	u-c	i
Tree Swallow	i		i	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	u	o	u	
Bank Swallow	i		i	
Cliff Swallow*	c	c	c	
Barn Swallow*	c	c	c	
Blue Jay*	c	c	c	c
American Crow	c	c	c	c
Carolina Chickadee*	c	c	c	c
Tufted Titmouse*	u	u	u	u
Red-breasted Nuthatch				i
White-breasted Nuthatch				H
Brown Creeper	o			u
Carolina Wren*	c	c	c	c
Bewick's Wren	u		u	u
House Wren	u		u	u
Winter Wren	r	r	r	
Sedge Wren	r		r	r
Marsh Wren	H		H	H
Golden-crowned Kinglet	i			i
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c		u-c	c
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	cu-c	u-c	o	
Eastern Bluebird*	u	o	o	c
Veery	H		H	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	H		H	
Swainson's Thrush	o		o	
Hermit Thrush	u		u	u
Wood Thrush	H	H	H	
American Robin*	c	u	u	c
Gray Catbird	o	H	H	
Northern Mockingbird*	c	c	c	c
Brown Thrasher	u	r	r	u
American Pipit	u		u-c	u-c
Sprague's Pipit	H		H	H
Cedar Waxwing	u-c			u-c
Loggerhead Shrike*	u	u	u	u-c
European Starling*	c	c	c	c
White-eyed Vireo*	u	u	u	
Bell's Vireo	H		H	
Blue-headed Vireo	u		u	r
Yellow-throated Vireo*	r	r	r	
Warbling Vireo	H		H	
Philadelphia Vireo	H		H	
Red-eyed Vireo*	o	o	o	
Tennessee Warbler	u-c		u-c	
Orange-crowned Warbler	u		o	u
Nashville Warbler	u		H	
Northern Parula*	u-c	u	u	
Yellow Warbler	u-c		u-c	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	u-c		u-c	
Magnolia Warbler	u-c		u-c	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		o-u	c
Black-throated Green Warbler	u-c		o	
Blackburnian Warbler	u		r	
Yellow-throated Warbler*	u	u	u	
Pine Warbler	u		u	u-c
Palm Warbler	o		o	o
Bay-breasted Warbler	u		u	
Black-and-white Warbler	u	r	o	r
American Redstart	r		r	
Prothonotary Warbler*	u	o	o	
Swainson's Warbler*	u	u	o	
Ovenbird	u-c		u-c	

_____ Northern Waterthrush	r		r	
_____ Louisiana Waterthrush	H	H	H	
_____ Kentucky Warbler	r	r	r	
_____ Mourning Warbler	o		o	
_____ Common Yellowthroat	u-c	ru-c		
_____ Hooded Warbler	r	H	r	
_____ Wilson's Warbler	u		u	u
_____ Canada Warbler	r		r	
_____ Yellow-breasted Chat	r	r	r	
_____ Summer Tanager*	u-c	u		
_____ Scarlet Tanager	r			
_____ Northern Cardinal*	c	c	c	c
_____ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u-c		u-c	
_____ Blue Grosbeak*	u	u	o	
_____ Indigo Bunting	c		o	
_____ Painted Bunting*	c	c	c	
_____ Dickcissel*	u-c	u-c	u-c	
_____ Eastern Towhee	u		u	o
_____ Chipping Sparrow	u		u	u-c
_____ Field Sparrow	u		u	u-c
_____ Vesper Sparrow	u		u	u-c
_____ Lark Sparrow*	u	u	o	
_____ Savannah Sparrow	u-c		u-c	u-c
_____ Grasshopper Sparrow*	u-c	u-c	u-c	o
_____ Henslow's Sparrow	i			i
_____ Le Conte's Sparrow	i		i	i
_____ Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	r		H	
_____ Fox Sparrow	u		r	u
_____ Song Sparrow	u		u	u
_____ Lincoln's Sparrow	u-c		u	u-c
_____ Swamp Sparrow	u-c		u	u-c
_____ White-throated Sparrow	c		u-c	c
_____ Harris's Sparrow	o	o	o	
_____ White-crowned Sparrow	u		u	u
_____ Dark-eyed Junco	u-c		u-c	u-c
_____ Red-winged Blackbird*	c	c	u-c	u-c
_____ Eastern Meadowlark*	c	c	c	c
_____ Western Meadowlark	r		o	r
_____ Yellow-headed Blackbird	i		i	
_____ Rusty Blackbird				i
_____ Brewer's Blackbird	i		H	i
_____ Great-tailed Grackle*	u-c	u	u-c	u-c
_____ Common Grackle*	c	u-c	u-c	c
_____ Bronzed Cowbird	i		i	
_____ Brown-headed Cowbird*	c	u	c	c
_____ Orchard Oriole*	u	u	o	
_____ Baltimore Oriole	u-c		o	
_____ Purple Finch	i			i
_____ Pine Siskin	i			i
_____ American Goldfinch	c			u-c
_____ House Sparrow*	c	c	c	c

## CITATION:

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