

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

BIRDS

OF

ESTERO LLANO GRANDE
STATE PARK

WORLD BIRDING CENTER



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2007

*Cover: Illustration of Belted, Green and Ringed Kingfishers
by Clemente Guzman.*

May 2007

INTRODUCTION

Estero Llano Grande State Park, the Weslaco wing of the World Birding Center, encompasses approximately 200 acres of restored wetlands and subtropical thorn-scrub forest. The park is located in the heart of the subtropical Lower Rio Grande Valley, a four-county area that has unmatched biotic diversity, documenting 512 species of birds, over 300 species of butterflies and over 1,100 species of plants.

Estero Llano Grande State Park is seated at the geographic center of the World Birding Center network and is the site with the largest wetlands environment. This former agricultural field has been restored to thriving wetlands and flourishing woodlands through cooperative efforts from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the World Birding Center, the City of Weslaco and Ducks Unlimited. Since its opening in June 2006, Estero Llano Grande State Park has documented over 247 species of birds with an additional 41 species likely to occur within the park. Many of these birds are subtropical species typical of eastern Mexico and are not found north of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Some of the characteristic species of the park include Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Plain Chachalaca, Least Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, Black-necked Stilt, Red-crowned Parrot, Groove-billed Ani, Green Kingfisher, Great Kiskadee, Green Jay and Altamira Oriole. Within its first year of opening, Estero Llano Grande State Park gained attention by attracting a rarely seen bird, the Northern Jacana, which resided in the park for over three months.

This checklist, compiled by John Arvin and updated by park staff, is based on observations by numerous individuals and includes species which have been observed within or passing over the park. Because the park is relatively new, the checklist also includes species expected to be seen within the park boundaries. Nomenclature and organization for this checklist follow the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds*, 7th edition, 1998, as currently supplemented.

For information on how to contribute your sightings to a state wide bird database, visit Texas eBird online at www.ebird.org/tx/about/whatisbird.html. We would greatly appreciate reports to our visitor's center of any bird designated as a visitor (v), rare (x), not previously recorded (without √) or not on this list. You may also send reports by mail to Estero Llano Grande State Park, World Birding Center, 154 A. Lakeview Drive, Weslaco, Texas 78596.

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 and essential territorial behavior, and may lead to nest failure. Thank you for your cooperation.

LEGEND

- R - Resident
W - Winter (September-February)
S - Summer (March-August)
V - Visitor; not usually seen but may make an appearance
X - Rare, few records
T - Transient; may be seen during migration
F - Flyover; not usually seen in park
ssp. - Subspecies
√ - Record for park

Underlined birds indicate park specialties.

CHECKLIST

Swans, Geese and Ducks

_____	√ <u>Black-bellied Whistling-Duck</u>	R
_____	√ <u>Fulvous Whistling-Duck</u>	SR
_____	√ Greater White-fronted Goose	WF
_____	√ Snow Goose	WF
_____	√ Ross's Goose	WF
_____	Canada Goose	WF
_____	√ Gadwall	WR
_____	√ American Wigeon	WR
_____	√ Mallard	WX
_____	√ Mexican Duck (Mallard ssp.)	R
_____	√ Mottled Duck	R

_____	√ Blue-winged Teal	WR
_____	√ Cinnamon Teal	WR
_____	√ Northern Shoveler	WR
_____	√ Northern Pintail	WR
_____	√ Green-winged Teal	WR
_____	√ Canvasback	WV
_____	Redhead	WV
_____	√ Ring-necked Duck	WR
_____	Greater Scaup	X
_____	√ Lesser Scaup	WR
_____	Bufflehead	WV
_____	Hooded Merganser	WX
_____	√ Ruddy Duck	WR

Upland Game Birds

_____	√ <u>Plain Chachalaca</u>	R
_____	√ Northern Bobwhite	R

Grebes

_____	√ <u>Least Grebe</u>	R
_____	√ Pied-billed Grebe	R
_____	Eared Grebe	WV

Pelicans

_____	√ <u>American White Pelican</u>	WR
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Cormorants

_____	√ <u>Neotropic Cormorant</u>	R
_____	√ Double-crested Cormorant	WR

Anhingas

_____	√ Anhinga	WR
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Hérons

_____	√ American Bittern	WV
_____	√ Least Bittern	SR
_____	√ Great Blue Heron	R
_____	√ Great Egret	R
_____	√ Snowy Egret	R

_____	√ Little Blue Heron	R
_____	√ Tricolored Heron	R
_____	√ Reddish Egret	V
_____	√ Cattle Egret	R
_____	√ Green Heron	SR
_____	√ Black-crowned Night-Heron	R
_____	√ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	R

Ibises and Spoonbills

_____	√ White Ibis	V
_____	√ Glossy Ibis	X
_____	√ <u>White-faced Ibis</u>	WR
_____	√ <u>Roseate Spoonbill</u>	V

Storks

_____	√ <u>Wood Stork</u>	SR
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New World Vultures

_____	√ Black Vulture	R
_____	√ Turkey Vulture	R

Kites, Eagles, and Hawks

_____	√ Osprey	WR
_____	Swallow-tailed Kite	T
_____	√ White-tailed Kite	R
_____	Mississippi Kite	T
_____	√ Northern Harrier	WR
_____	√ Sharp-shinned Hawk	WR
_____	√ Cooper's Hawk	WR
_____	√ Harris's Hawk	R
_____	√ Red-shouldered Hawk	WR
_____	√ Broad-winged Hawk	T
_____	√ Swainson's Hawk	T
_____	√ White-tailed Hawk	V
_____	√ Zone-tailed Hawk	X
_____	√ Red-tailed Hawk	WR

Falcons and Caracaras

_____	√ Crested Caracara	V
_____	√ American Kestrel	WR
_____	√ Merlin	WR
_____	√ Peregrine Falcon	WR

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots

_____	√ King Rail	V
_____	√ Virginia Rail	WV
_____	√ Sora	WR
_____	√ <u>Purple Gallinule</u>	SV
_____	√ Common Moorhen	R
_____	√ American Coot	R

Cranes

_____	√ Sandhill Crane	WF
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Plovers

_____	√ Black-bellied Plover	T
_____	American Golden Plover	T
_____	√ Semipalmated Plover	T
_____	√ Killdeer	R

Stilts and Avocets

_____	√ <u>Black-necked Stilt</u>	R
_____	√ <u>American Avocet</u>	WR

Jacanas

_____	√ Northern Jacana	X
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Sandpipers and Phalaropes

_____	√ Spotted Sandpiper	WR
_____	√ Solitary Sandpiper	WR
_____	√ <u>Greater Yellowlegs</u>	WR
_____	√ <u>Lesser Yellowlegs</u>	WR
_____	√ Hudsonian Godwit	ST
_____	√ Marbled Godwit	WT
_____	√ Upland Sandpiper	T
_____	√ Long-billed Curlew	WR

_____	√ Semipalmated Sandpiper	T
_____	√ <u>Western Sandpiper</u>	WR
_____	√ <u>Least Sandpiper</u>	WR
_____	√ <u>White-rumped Sandpiper</u>	T
_____	√ Baird's Sandpiper	T
_____	√ <u>Pectoral Sandpiper</u>	T
_____	√ Dunlin	WV
_____	√ <u>Stilt Sandpiper</u>	WR
_____	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	T
_____	√ <u>Short-billed Dowitcher</u>	WV
_____	√ <u>Long-billed Dowitcher</u>	WR
_____	√ Wilson's Snipe	WR
_____	√ American Woodcock	X
_____	√ <u>Wilson's Phalarope</u>	T

Gulls and Terns

_____	√ Laughing Gull	V
_____	√ Franklin's Gull	T
_____	√ Ring-billed Gull	WV
_____	Herring Gull	WV
_____	√ Least Tern	SR
_____	√ Gull-billed Tern	R
_____	√ Caspian Tern	R
_____	√ Black Tern	T
_____	√ Forster's Tern	R
_____	√ Black Skimmer	V

Pigeons and Doves

_____	√ Rock Pigeon	R
_____	√ Eurasian Collared-Dove	V
_____	√ White-winged Dove	R
_____	√ Mourning Dove	R
_____	√ Inca Dove	R
_____	√ Common Ground-Dove	R
_____	√ Ruddy Ground-Dove	X
_____	√ <u>White-tipped Dove</u>	R

Parrots and Parakeets

_____	Green Parakeet	V
_____	√ <u>Red-crowned Parrot</u>	V

Cuckoos

_____	√ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	SR
_____	Black-billed Cuckoo	T
_____	√ Greater Roadrunner	V
_____	√ <u>Groove-billed Ani</u>	SR

Owls

_____	√ Barn Owl	R
_____	√ Eastern Screech-Owl	R
_____	√ Great Horned Owl	R

Goatsuckers

_____	√ Lesser Nighthawk	SR
_____	√ Common Nighthawk	SR
_____	√ <u>Common Pauraque</u>	R
_____	√ Chuck-wills-widow	T
_____	Whip-poor-will	T

Swifts

_____	√ Chimney Swift	SR
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Hummingbirds

_____	√ <u>Buff-bellied Hummingbird</u>	R
_____	√ Ruby-throated Hummingbird	WR
_____	√ Black-chinned Hummingbird	WR, S
_____	√ Rufous Hummingbird	WV

Kingfishers

_____	√ <u>Ringed Kingfisher</u>	R
_____	√ Belted Kingfisher	WR
_____	√ <u>Green Kingfisher</u>	R

Woodpeckers

_____	√ Golden-fronted Woodpecker	R
_____	√ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	WV
_____	√ Ladder-backed Woodpecker	R
_____	Northern Flicker	WV

Tyrant Flycatchers

_____	Olive-sided Flycatcher	T
_____	√ Eastern Wood-Pewee	T
_____	√ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	T
_____	√ Acadian Flycatcher	T
_____	√ Alder Flycatcher	T
_____	Willow Flycatcher	T
_____	√ Least Flycatcher	T
_____	√ Black Phoebe	X
_____	√ Eastern Phoebe	WR
_____	Say's Phoebe	WV
_____	√ Vermilion Flycatcher	WR
_____	√ Ash-throated Flycatcher	V
_____	√ Great-crested Flycatcher	T
_____	√ Brown-crested Flycatcher	SR
_____	√ <u>Great Kiskadee</u>	R
_____	√ <u>Tropical Kingbird</u>	R
_____	√ <u>Couch's Kingbird</u>	R
_____	√ Western Kingbird	SV
_____	√ Eastern Kingbird	T
_____	√ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	SV

Shrikes

_____	√ Loggerhead Shrike	
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Vireos

_____	√ White-eyed Vireo	R
_____	√ Bell's Vireo	T
_____	Yellow-throated Vireo	T
_____	√ Blue-headed Vireo	WR
_____	Warbling Vireo	T
_____	Philadelphia Vireo	T
_____	Red-eyed Vireo	T

Crows, Ravens and Jays

_____	√ <u>Green Jay</u>	R
_____	√ Chihuahuan Raven	V

Larks

_____ √ Horned Lark R

Swallows

_____ √ Purple Martin SR

_____ √ Tree Swallow WR

_____ √ Northern Rough-winged Swallow R

_____ √ Bank Swallow SR

_____ √ Cliff Swallow SR

_____ √ Cave Swallow R

_____ √ Barn Swallow SR

Titmice and Chickadees

_____ √ Black-crested Titmouse R

Nuthatches

_____ Red-breasted Nuthatch WX

Wrens

_____ √ Cactus Wren V

_____ √ Carolina Wren R

_____ √ Bewick's Wren R

_____ √ House Wren WR

_____ √ Sedge Wren WR

_____ √ Marsh Wren WR

Kinglets

_____ √ Golden-crowned Kinglet WR

_____ √ Ruby-crowned Kinglet WR

Gnatcatchers

_____ √ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher WR

Thrushes

_____ √ Eastern Bluebird WV

_____ √ Veery T

_____ Gray-checked Thrush T

_____ √ Swainson's Thrush T

_____ √ Hermit Thrush WR

_____ √ Wood Thrush T

_____	√ <u>Clay-colored Robin</u>	R
_____	√ <u>American Robin</u>	WR
Mockingbirds and Thrashers		
_____	√ <u>Gray Catbird</u>	T
_____	√ <u>Northern Mockingbird</u>	R
_____	√ <u>Long-billed Thrasher</u>	R
_____	√ <u>Curve-billed Thrasher</u>	R
Starlings		
_____	√ <u>European Starling</u>	R
Pipits		
_____	√ <u>American Pipit</u>	WV
_____	√ <u>Sprague's Pipit</u>	WV
Waxwings		
_____	√ <u>Cedar Waxwing</u>	WV
Wood Warblers		
_____	<u>Blue-winged Warbler</u>	T
_____	<u>Golden-winged Warbler</u>	T
_____	√ <u>Tennessee Warbler</u>	T
_____	√ <u>Orange-crowned Warbler</u>	WR
_____	√ <u>Nashville Warbler</u>	WR
_____	√ <u>Northern Parula</u>	T
_____	<u>Tropical Parula</u>	WV
_____	√ <u>Yellow Warbler</u>	T
_____	√ <u>Chestnut-sided Warbler</u>	T
_____	√ <u>Magnolia Warbler</u>	T
_____	√ <u>Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle ssp.)</u>	WR
_____	<u>Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's ssp.)</u>	T
_____	<u>Black-throated Gray Warbler</u>	WR
_____	√ <u>Black-throated Green Warbler</u>	WR
_____	√ <u>Blackburnian Warbler</u>	T
_____	<u>Yellow-throated Warbler</u>	WR
_____	√ <u>Pine Warbler</u>	WR
_____	√ <u>Bay-breasted Warbler</u>	T

_____	Cerulean Warbler	T
_____	√ Black-and-white Warbler	WR
_____	√ American Redstart	T
_____	√ Prothonotary Warbler	T
_____	Worm-eating Warbler	T
_____	√ Ovenbird	T
_____	√ Northern Waterthrush	T
_____	√ Louisiana Waterthrush	T
_____	Kentucky Warbler	T
_____	√ Mourning Warbler	T
_____	√ Common Yellowthroat	WR
_____	Hooded Warbler	T
_____	√ Wilson's Warbler	WR
_____	√ Canada Warbler	T
_____	√ Yellow-breasted Chat	T

Tanagers

_____	√ Summer Tanager	WR
_____	√ Scarlet Tanager	T

Sparrows

_____	√ <u>Olive Sparrow</u>	R
_____	√ Spotted Towhee	WX
_____	Cassin's Sparrow	T
_____	√ Chipping Sparrow	WV
_____	Clay-colored Sparrow	T
_____	Field Sparrow	WV
_____	√ Vesper Sparrow	WV
_____	√ Lark Sparrow	WR
_____	√ Savannah Sparrow	WR
_____	Grasshopper Sparrow	WV
_____	√ Song Sparrow	WV
_____	√ Lincoln's Sparrow	WR
_____	√ Swamp Sparrow	WR
_____	White-throated Sparrow	WV
_____	White-crowned Sparrow	WV

Cardinals and Grosbeaks

_____	√ Northern Cardinal	R
_____	√ Pyrrhuloxia	R
_____	√ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	T
_____	√ Blue Grosbeak	SR
_____	√ Indigo Bunting	WV
_____	√ Painted Bunting	T, SV
_____	√ Dickcissel	SV

Blackbirds and Orioles

_____	√ Red-winged Blackbird	R
_____	√ Eastern Meadowlark	R
_____	√ Western Meadowlark	WR
_____	√ Yellow-headed Blackbird	WV
_____	√ Brewer's Blackbird	WV
_____	√ Great-tailed Grackle	R
_____	√ Bronzed Cowbird	R
_____	√ Brown-headed Cowbird	R
_____	√ Orchard Oriole	T
_____	√ Hooded Oriole	SR
_____	Bullock's Oriole	T
_____	√ <u>Altamira Oriole</u>	R
_____	√ Baltimore Oriole	T

Finches

_____	√ House Finch	X
_____	Pine Siskin	WV
_____	√ Lesser Goldfinch	R
_____	√ American Goldfinch	WR

Old World Sparrows

_____	√ House Sparrow	R
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CITATION

Arvin, J.C. 2007. Birds of Estero Llano Grande State Park: A Field Checklist. Natural Resources Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 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 Resource Program
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
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