

BIRDS

OF THE

BRAZOS VALLEY

CHECKLIST



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CHECKLIST

1st Edition, Produced in 2024

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CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
PARKS & RECREATION

Produced by the City of College Station
Parks and Recreation Department

Acknowledgements

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Special thanks to the Brazos Valley Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist, the Rio Brazos Audubon, and the Post Oak Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas for all they do to protect and preserve our area's precious native landscape and wildlife.

To learn more about what the City of College Station is doing to protect birds, visit cstx.gov/birdcity.

To learn more about birding in Texas, visit tpwd.texas.gov

Statistics and tips provided by:

- » birdinghotspots.org
- » eBird.org

Tips for Birders

- » Though parks in College Station are safe, it is always a good idea to bird in pairs or groups.
- » Please be mindful of park curfews.
- » Share your findings with the birding community on Merlin (merlin.allaboutbirds.org), eBird (ebird.org), and iNaturalist (inaturalist.org)

Cover Photo: Yellow-crowned Night Herons,
Gabbard Park

INTRODUCTION

College Station Parks & Greenways

The City of College Station is dedicated to conserving its wildlife and wild places. Located deep in the heart of the Brazos Valley, and the proud home of Texas A&M University, the city boasts over 55 parks, 600 acres of protected greenways, and eight miles of multi-use paths. Our parks are home to rare and rapidly declining bird species, and unique habitats are monitored by professional and community researchers alike. Peak times for local observations coincide with the spring and fall migration periods of most birds, but we welcome you to join us on a birding adventure year-round.

Birding Data

According to open access data from eBird.org, the yearly average number of bird species observed in the past decade was about 280, with a peak of 313 in 2020. The steady growth in the number of species observed may be the result of the community's growing interest in birding, as well as the spread of citizen engagement apps like iNaturalist and eBird. According to eBird, as of April 2024, College Station logged:

- » 365 species observed
- » 49,045 complete checklists
- » 1,658 users of the eBird platform
- » 79 birding hotspots

POPULAR HOTSPOTS

Lick Creek Park

13600 Rock Prairie Road

One of the most visited parks in the city, Lick Creek Park spans 523 acres and has recorded 226 unique species of birds. The Gary Halter Nature Center, located at the heart of the park, serves as a gathering place for conservation-oriented societies like the Post Oak Chapter of Native Plant Society of Texas and Rio Brazos Audubon. Native plant gardens attract many Rufous and Black-chinned Hummingbirds, and birders recorded sightings of migrating Sandhill Crane, Snow Goose, Northern Pintail, Nashville Warbler, and many other species.

The park features two bird blinds: an ADA accessible blind located near the Fox Trot Trail with a paved pathway from the parking lot, and another tucked into the woods along the Yaupon Trail. Woodpeckers, owls and warblers are frequent visitors to the Yaupon blind.

Tips from birders: *"Walk the numerous trails throughout the park, as seen on Google Maps. The park is in a flood plain, so be prepared for muddy trails during rainy days. Stop by the visitor center for trail maps, information about our programs, and binocular rentals."*

- Laurie Brown, Recreational Supervisor at Lick Creek

Bee Creek Park

1900 Anderson Street

The 26.5 acre community park contains a 17 acre arboretum, making it one of the top birding parks in the city. Broad-winged Hawk, Cedar Waxwing, and Red-winged Blackbird are among the most common sightings, with rare sightings of Green Heron and Ruby-crowned Kinglet reported as well.

Tips from birders: *"Bird the edges of the woods and the arboretum trail during the day. Herons and hawks can often be seen from the open areas and creek. Trails in wooded areas provide ample opportunities to find migrant warblers and thrushes."*

- Rhett Raibley, via birdinghotspots.org

Brison Park

400 Dexter Drive

The 8.07 acre inner-city park is located close to the campus of Texas A&M University. The park, featuring large trees and a creek, is a favored spot for migrating and year-round birds alike, with 192 species of birds observed.

Tips from birders: *"This is a small park, so be thorough. This park is incredible during migration...The largest trees hold a majority of the warblers, vireos, orioles, and flycatchers...The peak time of year to bird this hotspot is April-May and September-October."*

- Anonymous Birder, via birdinghotspots.org

Brothers Pond Park

3100 Rio Grande Blvd.

The 16.28 acre park is known for some birds that are masters of camouflage. According to local birders, Eastern Screech Owls can be spotted here year-round. The near-threatened Eastern Whip-poor-will (migrating) and the near-threatened Chuck-will's-widow (breeding) have been spotted here, in addition to 140 other species.

Gabbard Park

1201 Dexter Drive

Located within established city neighborhoods, this small city park features paved trails and easy spotting of common birds of the area. The attractions of the park are the nesting Yellow-crowned Night Heron and Green Heron nestled amongst the trees of the "island" within the park's pond. Up to 84 species have been recorded here.

Tips from birders: *"Check the cypress trees in the middle of the pond and scan the trees for migrants."*

- Anonymous Birder, via birdinghotspots.org

John Crompton Park

201 Holleman Drive W.

The main features of this largely forested park are its large pond and surrounding trails with a pavilion and benches near the water, making it a wonderful place to view riparian birds. Up to 97 species can be observed during peak migration periods.

Tips from birders: *"Warblers can be heard much of the year calling in the park during peak migration periods in Fall and Spring. This is a great place to look at ducks in winter months."*

- Anonymous Birder, via birdinghotspots.org

CHECKLIST

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS

Black-bellied Whistling Duck						
Snow Goose						
Ross's Goose						
Swan Goose						
Greater White-fronted Goose						
Cackling Goose						
Canada Goose						
Wood Duck						
Blue-winged Teal						
Cinnamon Teal						
Northern Shoveler						
Gadwall						
American Wigeon						
Mallard						
Northern Pintail						
Green-winged Teal						
Canvasback						
Redhead						
Ring-necked Duck						
Greater Scaup						
Lesser Scaup						
Bufflehead						
Common Goldeneye						
Hooded Merganser						
Ruddy Duck						

GREBES

Pied-billed Grebe						
Horned Grebe						
Eared Grebe						



*American Robin,
Gabbard Park*

RAILS

Virginia Rail						
Sora						
Common Gallinule						
American Coot						

LIMPKIN

Limpkin						
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CRANES

Sandhill Crane						
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AVOCETS AND STILTS

Black-necked Stilt						
American Avocet						

PLOVERS

Black-bellied Plover						
American Golden-Plover						
Killdeer						
Semipalmated Plover						

SANDPIPERS

Upland Sandpiper						
Long-billed Curlew						

Hudsonian Godwit						
Long-billed Dowitcher						
American Woodcock						
Wilson's Snipe						
Wilson's Phalarope						
Spotted Sandpiper						
Solitary Sandpiper						
Lesser Yellowlegs						
Greater Yellowlegs						
Stilt Sandpiper						
Buff-breasted Sandpiper						
Dunlin						
Baird's Sandpiper						
White-rumped Sandpiper						
Least Sandpiper						
Pectoral Sandpiper						
Western Sandpiper						
Semipalmated Sandpiper						

GULLS, TERNS, AND SKIMMERS

Franklin's Gull						
Ring-billed Gull						
Least Tern						
Black Tern						
Forster's Tern						

LOONS

Common Loon						
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STORKS

Wood Stork						
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DARTERS

Anhinga						
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CORMORANTS

Double-crested Cormorant						
Neotropic Cormorant						

PELICANS

American White Pelican

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HERONS AND EGRETS

American Bittern

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Least Bittern

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Yellow-crowned Night Heron

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Black-crowned Night Heron

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Little Blue Heron

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Tricolored Heron

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Reddish Egret

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Snowy Egret

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Green Heron

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Western Cattle Egret

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Great Egret

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Great Blue Heron

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White Ibis

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White-faced Ibis

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Roseate Spoonbill

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NEW WORLD VULTURES

Black Vulture

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Turkey Vulture

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OSPREY

Osprey

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KITES, HAWKS, AND EAGLES

Mississippi Kite

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Northern Harrier

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Sharp-shinned Hawk

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Cooper’s Hawk

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Bald Eagle

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White-tailed Hawk

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Red-shouldered Hawk

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Broad-winged Hawk

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*Red-shouldered Hawk,
Veterans Park*



*Red-bellied Woodpecker,
Dexter Street*

Swainson's Hawk

Red-tailed Hawk

OWLS

Barn Owl

Eastern Screech-Owl

Great Horned Owl

Barred Owl

Short-eared Owl

KINGFISHERS

Belted Kingfisher

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WOODPECKERS

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Red-headed Sapsucker

Red-bellied Sapsucker

Downy Woodpecker

Pileated Woodpecker

Northern Flicker

FALCONS AND CARACARAS

Crested Caracara

American Kestrel

Merlin

Peregrine Falcon



*Scissor-tailed Flycatcher,
The Golf Club at Texas A&M*

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

Olive-sided Flycatcher						
Eastern Wood-Pewee						
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher						
Acadian Flycatcher						
Alder Flycatcher						
Willow Flycatcher						
Least Flycatcher						
Eastern Phoebe						
Vermilion Flycatcher						
Great Crested Flycatcher						
Western Kingbird						
Eastern Kingbird						
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher						

VIREOS

White-eyed Vireo						
Yellow-throated Vireo						
Philadelphia Vireo						
Warbling Vireo						
Red-eyed Vireo						

SHRIKES

Loggerhead Shrike						
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CROWS, JAYS, AND ALLIES

Blue Jay						
American Crow						

CHICKADEES AND TITMICE

Carolina Chickadee						
Tufted Titmouse						

LARKS

Horned Lark						
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SWALLOWS AND MARTINS

Bank Swallow						
Tree Swallow						
Purple Martin						
Nor. Rough-winged Swallow						
Barn Swallow						
Cliff Swallow						
Cave Swallow						

KINGLETS

Ruby-crowned Kinglet						
Golden-crowned Kinglet						

NUTHATCHES

White-breasted Nuthatch						
Red-breasted Nuthatch						

CREEPERS

Brown Creeper						
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GNATCATCHERS

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher						
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WRENS

House Wren						
Winter Wren						
Sedge Wren						
Marsh Wren						
Carolina Wren						
Bewick's Wren						

STARLINGS

European Starling

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MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS

Gray Catbird

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Brown Thrasher

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Northern Mockingbird

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THRUSHES AND ALLIES

Eastern Bluebird

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Veery

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Gray-cheeked Thrush

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Swainson’s Thrush

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Hermit Thrush

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Wood Thrush

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American Robin

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WAXWINGS

Cedar Waxwing

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PIPITS AND WAGTAILS

American Pipit

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Sprague’s Pipit

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FINCHES

House Finch

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Purple Finch

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Pine Siskin

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American Goldfinch

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LONGSPURS

Lapland Longspur

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OLD WORLD SPARROWS

House Sparrow

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NEW WORLD SPARROWS

Grasshopper Sparrow

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Chipping Sparrow

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Clay-colored Sparrow

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Field Sparrow

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*Eastern Meadowlark,
Robertson County*

Lark Sparrow						
Lark Bunting						
Fox Sparrow						
Dark-eyed Junco						
White-crowned Sparrow						
Harris’s Sparrow						
White-throated Sparrow						
LeConte’s Sparrow						
Savannah Sparrow						
Song Sparrow						
Lincoln’s Sparrow						
Swamp Sparrow						
Spotted Towhee						
Eastern Towhee						

NEW WORLD CHAT

Yellow-breasted Chat						
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BLACKBIRDS

Yellow-headed Blackbird						
Bobolink						
Western Meadowlark						
Eastern Meadowlark						
Orchard Oriole						



*Dickcissel,
Robertson County*

Baltimore Orioles						
Red-winged Blackbird						
Bronzed Cowbird						
Brown-headed Cowbird						
Rusty Blackbird						
Brewer's Blackbird						
Common Grackle						
Great-tailed Grackle						

WOOD WARBLERS

Ovenbird						
Worm-eating Warbler						
Louisiana Waterthrush						
Northern Waterthrush						
Golden-winged Warbler						
Blue-winged Warbler						
Black-and-white Warbler						
Prothonotary Warbler						
Swainson's Warbler						
Tennessee Warbler						
Orange-crowned Warbler						
Nashville Warbler						
Mourning Warbler						

Kentucky Warbler						
Common Yellowthroat						
Hooded Warbler						
American Redstart						
Northern Parula						
Magnolia Warbler						
Bay-breasted Warbler						
Blackburnian Warbler						
Yellow Warbler						
Chestnut-sided Warbler						
Pine Warbler						
Yellow-rumped Warbler						
Yellow-throated Warbler						
Black-throated Green Warbler						
Canada Warbler						
Wilson's Warbler						

CARDINALS AND ALLIES

Summer Tanager						
Scarlet Tanager						
Northern Cardinal						
Rose-breasted Grosbeak						
Indigo Bunting						
Painted Bunting						
Dickcissel						

CASUAL AND ACCIDENTAL SPECIES

Fulvous Whistling Duck

Tundra Swan

Mottled Duck

Surf Scoter

Black Scoter

Northern Bobwhite*

Least Grebe

Western Grebe

Anna's Hummingbird

Calliope Hummingbird

Broad-tailed Hummingbird

King Rail

Paint-billed Crake

Purple Gallinule

Yellow Rail

Whooping Crane

Piping Plover

Mountain Plover

Snowy Plover

Whimbrel

Marbled Godwit

Short-billed Dowitcher

Red-necked Phalarope

Willet

Ruddy Turnstone

Ruff

Sanderling

Sabine's Gull

Bonaparte's Gull

Laughing Gull

Herring Gull

Black Skimmer

Caspian Tern

Common Tern

Magnificent Frigatebird

Brown Booby

Brown Pelican

Glossy Ibis

White-tailed Kite

Swallow-tailed Kite

Golden Eagle

Harris's Hawk

Zone-tailed Hawk

Burrowing Owl

Red-naped Sapsucker

Ladder-backed Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker

Prairie Falcon

Western Wood-Pewee

Black Phoebe

Say's Phoebe

Ash-throated Flycatcher

Great Kiskadee

Couch's Kingbird

Cassin's Kingbird

Bell's Vireo

Cassin's Vireo**

Common Raven

Sage Thrasher

Western Bluebird

Mountain Bluebird

Lesser Goldfinch

Chestnut-collared Longspur

Smith's Longspur

Thick-billed Longspur

Brewers's Sparrow

Nelson's Sparrow

Green-tailed Towhee

Bullock's Oriole

MacGillivray's Warbler

Cape May Warbler

Cerulean Warbler

Tropical Parula

Blackpoll Warbler

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Palm Warbler

Prairie Warbler

Black-throated Gray Warbler

Western Tanager

Pyrrhuloxia

Black-headed Grosbeak

Lazuli Bunting

**Escapes from game ranches*

***Disputed*

NOTES

CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
**PARKS &
RECREATION**

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CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Home of Texas A&M University®

LIGHTS OUT,
COLLEGE STATION!



*By turning off all non-essential lights from 11 PM to 6 AM,
you can provide birds safer passage across the Texas night sky.*

March—June and August—November