



Matagorda County Bird Checklist

Matagorda Bay Nature Park is a 1,600-acre park and preserve at the mouth of the Colorado River on the Matagorda Peninsula. LCRA developed the park to provide recreation, natural science education, nature tourism opportunities and wetlands conservation. The park has about two miles of Gulf of Mexico and two miles river frontage and hundreds of acres of coastal marshes and dunes. Matagorda County is one of the best birding areas in the nation.

Checklist Guide

* - species known to nest locally

Threatened or endangered species are listed in capital letters.

Seasonal status and abundance are coded as follows:

Sp - March-May

S - June-August

F - September-November

W - December-February

a - abundant: common species, very numerous

c - common: certain to be seen in suitable habitat

u - uncommon: present, but not certain to be seen

o - occasional: seen only a few times during a season

r - rare: seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
BITTERNS & HERONS				
___ American Bittern	u	o	o	o
___ Least Bittern*	u	u	u	o
___ Great Blue Heron*	a	a	a	a
___ Great Egret*	c	c	c	c
___ Snowy Egret*	c	c	c	c
___ Little Blue Heron*	c	c	c	c
___ Tricolored Heron*	c	c	c	c
___ Reddish Egret*	u	u	u	u
___ Cattle Egret*	c	c	c	c
___ Green Heron*	c	c	u	u
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron*	c	c	c	c
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	u	u	u	o
FRIGATEBIRDS				
___ Magnificent Frigatebird	o	u	o	-
CORMORANTS				
___ Double-crested Cormorant	c	o	c	c
___ Olivaceous Cormorant	u	u	o	o
DARTERS				
___ Anhinga	o	o	o	o
PELICANS				
___ American White Pelican	c	u	c	c
___ BROWN PELICAN	u	u	u	u
GREBES				
___ Pied-billed Grebe	c	u	c	c
___ Horned Grebe	-	-	-	r
___ Eared Grebe	r	-	r	c
LOONS				
___ Common Loon	-	-	-	o
IBISES & STORKS				
___ White Ibis*	c	c	c	c
___ White-faced Ibis	c	u	c	u
___ Roseate Spoonbill*	c	c	c	c
___ Wood Stork	-	c	u	-
SWANS, GEESE & DUCKS				
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck	u	u	u	r
___ Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	u	u	u	r
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	o	-	c	c
___ Snow Goose	o	-	a	a
___ Ross' Goose	r	-	r	r
___ Canada Goose	r	-	u	u
___ Wood Duck	o	-	o	o
___ Green-winged Teal	c	-	a	a
___ Common Goldeneye	-	-	r	o
___ American Black Duck	r	-	r	r
___ Mallard	u	-	u	u
___ Northern Pintail	u	-	c	c
___ Blue-winged Teal*	c	r	c	u
___ Cinnamon Teal	o	r	o	u
___ Northern Shoveler	c	-	a	a
___ Gadwall	u	-	a	a
___ American Wigeon	u	-	c	c
___ Canvasback	u	-	u	u

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
SWANS, GEESE & DUCKS (cont.)				
___ Redhead	u	-	u	u
___ Ring-necked Duck	u	-	u	u
___ Greater Scaup	-	-	r	r
___ Lesser Scaup	u	-	u	u
___ White-winged Scoter	-	-	r	-
___ Bufflehead	u	-	o	u
___ Hooded Merganser	u	-	o	u
___ Red-breasted Merganser	u	-	u	u
___ Ruddy Duck	o	-	u	u
___ Masked Duck	r	-	-	r
RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS				
___ Yellow Rail	u	-	u	u
___ Black Rail*	r	r	r	r
___ Clapper Rail*	c	c	c	c
___ King Rail*	u	u	u	u
___ Virginia Rail	u	-	u	u
___ Sora	u	-	u	u
___ Purple Gallinule*	u	u	o	-
___ Common Moorhen*	c	c	c	c
___ American Coot*	c	u	a	a
CRANES				
___ Sandhill Crane	u	-	c	c
___ WHOOPING CRANE	-	-	r	-
PLOVERS & OYSTERCATCHERS				
___ Black-bellied Plover	u	-	u	u
___ American Golden Plover (Lesser Golden-Plover)	o	r	o	-
___ Snowy Plover	u	u	u	u
___ Wilson's Plover*	u	u	-	-
___ Semipalmated Plover	u	-	u	u
___ PIPING PLOVER	u	-	u	u
___ Killdeer*	a	a	a	a
___ American Oystercatcher	u	u	u	u
___ Mountain Plover	r	-	-	-
SANDPIPERS & PHALAROPES				
___ Black-necked Stilt*	c	c	c	o
___ American Avocet	u	u	u	u
___ Greater Yellowlegs	c	u	c	c
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	a	u	c	c
___ Solitary Sandpiper	o	-	u	o
___ Willet*	c	c	c	c
___ Spotted Sandpiper*	u	o	u	u
___ Upland Sandpiper	r	-	o	-
___ Whimbrel	u	-	u	r
___ Long-billed Curlew	c	u	c	c
___ Marbled Godwit	u	-	u	u
___ Hudsonian Godwit	o	-	-	-
___ Ruddy Turnstone	c	-	c	c
___ Red Knot	o	-	o	-
___ Sanderling	c	u	c	c
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	a	r	c	-
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	a	r	c	-
___ Western Sandpiper	a	r	c	c
___ Least Sandpiper	c	u	c	c
___ White-rumped Sandpiper	u	-	-	-

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
SANDPIPERS & PHALAROPES (cont.)				
___ Baird's Sandpiper	o	-	-	-
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	c	-	u	-
___ Dunlin	a	-	c	c
___ Stilt Sandpiper	c	r	u	o
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper	-	-	o	-
___ Short-billed Dowitcher	a	-	c	c
___ Long-billed Dowitcher	a	r	c	c
___ Common Snipe	c	-	c	c
___ Wilson's Phalarope	u	-	r	-
GULLS & TERNS				
___ Laughing Gull*	c	c	c	c
___ Franklin's Gull	u	-	u	-
___ Bonaparte's Gull	u	-	r	u
___ Ring-billed Gull	c	u	c	c
___ Herring Gull	c	u	c	c
___ Gull-billed Tern*	u	u	u	u
___ Caspian Tern	u	u	u	u
___ Royal Tern*	u	u	u	u
___ Sandwich Tern*	u	u	u	r
___ Common Tern	u	r	u	u
___ Forster's Tern*	c	c	c	c
___ Least Tern*	c	c	u	-
___ Black Tern	u	c	u	-
___ Black Skimmer*	u	u	u	u
KINGFISHERS				
___ Belted Kingfisher	u	-	u	u
KITES, EAGLES & HAWKS				
___ Osprey	u	-	u	u
___ American Swallow-tailed Kite	r	r	-	-
___ White-tailed Kite*	c	u	c	c
___ Mississippi Kite	r	r	-	-
___ BALD EAGLE	r	r	o	o
___ Northern Harrier (Marsh Hawk)*	c	u	c	c
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	u	-	u	u
___ Cooper's Hawk	u	-	u	u
___ Red-shouldered Hawk	c	c	c	c
___ Broad-winged Hawk	r	-	r	-
___ Swainson's Hawk	r	-	r	-
___ White-tailed Hawk*	u	u	u	u
___ Red-tailed Hawk	c	u	c	c
___ Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	r	r
CARACARAS & FALCONS				
___ Crested Caracara*	u	u	u	u
___ American Kestrel	c	-	c	a
___ Merlin	r	-	o	o
___ PEREGRINE FALCON	u	-	u	u
BARN OWLS				
___ Barn Owl	u	u	u	u
TYPICAL OWLS				
___ Great Horned Owl*	u	u	u	u
___ Burrowing Owl	r	r	r	r
___ Barred Owl	c	c	c	c
___ Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	o

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
AMERICAN VULTURES				
___ Black Vulture*	c	c	c	c
___ Turkey Vulture	c	c	c	c
PHEASANTS, TURKEYS & QUAIL				
___ Northern Bobwhite*	u	u	u	u
PIGEONS & DOVES				
___ White-winged Dove	r	r	r	r
___ Mourning Dove*	c	c	c	c
___ Common Ground-Dove	o	o	-	o
___ Rock Dove	o	o	o	o
CUCKOOS & ANIS				
___ Black-billed Cuckoo	r	-	-	-
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	o	u	o	-
___ Groove-billed Ani	r	r	r	r
WOODPECKERS				
___ Red-headed Woodpecker	r	r	r	r
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u	-	u	u
___ Downy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
___ Northern Flicker (Common Flicker)	u	-	u	u
___ Pileated Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
GOATSUCKERS				
___ Lesser Nighthawk	r	r	-	-
___ Common Nighthawk*	c	c	c	-
___ Chuck-will's-widow	u	-	r	-
___ Whip-poor-will	r	-	r	-
SWIFTS				
___ Chimney Swift	u	u	u	-
HUMMINGBIRDS				
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird	c	u	u	-
___ Black Chinned Hummingbird	m	m	m	-
TYRANT FLYCATCHERS				
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher	u	-	u	-
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee	c	c	c	-
___ Empidonax Sp.	u	u	u	-
___ Eastern Phoebe	u	-	u	c
___ Vermilion Flycatcher	u	-	u	u
___ Great Crested Flycatcher	u	u	u	u
___ Ash-throated Flycatcher	-	-	-	r
___ Western Kingbird	o	-	-	-
___ Eastern Kingbird*	c	c	c	-
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*	c	c	c	-
LARKS				
___ Horned Lark*	c	c	c	u
SWALLOWS				
___ Purple Martin*	c	c	u	-
___ Tree Swallow	u	-	u	o
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	c	-	c	-
___ Bank Swallow	u	-	u	-
___ Cliff Swallow*	o	-	r	-
___ Barn Swallow	c	c	c	-

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
STARLINGS				
___ European Starling*	c	c	c	c
VIREOS				
___ White-eyed Vireo*	u	u	u	u
___ Solitary Vireo	o	o	r	o
___ Yellow-throated Vireo	r	-	r	-
___ Warbling Vireo	u	-	c	-
___ Philadelphia Vireo	u	-	u	-
___ Red-eyed Vireo*	c	c	u	-
JAYS, MAGPIES & CROWS				
___ Blue Jay*	c	c	c	c
___ American Crow*	c	c	c	c
CHICKADEES & TITMICE				
___ Carolina Chickadee*	c	c	c	c
___ Tufted Titmouse*	c	c	c	c
WRENS				
___ Carolina Wren*	c	c	c	c
___ House Wren	u	-	u	u
___ Marsh Wren*	r	-	u	u
___ Sedge Wren*	c	u	c	c
KINGLETS & GNATCATCHERS				
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	r	o
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u	-	u	c
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	u	-	u	u
THRUSHES				
___ Eastern Bluebird*	u	u	u	u
___ Veery	u	-	-	-
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	u	-	-	-
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	u	-	-	-
___ Swainson's Thrush	u	-	-	-
___ Hermit Thrush	u	-	u	u
___ Wood Thrush*	u	-	u	r
___ American Robin	c	-	u	c
MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS				
___ Gray Catbird	u	-	u	u
___ Northern Mockingbird*	c	c	c	c
___ Brown Thrasher	u	-	u	c
___ Sage Thrasher	-	-	r	r
SHRIKES				
___ Loggerhead Shrike*	c	c	c	c
PIPITS				
___ American Pipit (Water Pipit)	u	-	c	c
___ Sprague's Pipit	u	-	r	u
WAXWINGS				
___ Cedar Waxwing	c	-	-	c
WOOD-WARBLERS				
___ Blue-winged Warbler	u	u	-	-
___ Golden-winged Warbler	u	-	-	-
___ Tennessee Warbler	c	-	c	-
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	u	-	u	c
___ Nashville Warbler	u	-	u	-
___ Cerulean Warbler	u	-	-	-
___ Northern Parula*	c	c	u	-
___ Yellow Warbler	c	u	u	-
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	u	-	u	-

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
WOOD-WARBLERS (cont.)				
___ Magnolia Warbler	c	-	u	-
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	c	-	u	u
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	u	-	u	-
___ Blackburnian Warbler	u	-	-	-
___ Yellow-throated Warbler	u	-	-	-
___ Palm Warbler	u	-	u	u
___ Bay-breasted Warbler	c	-	u	-
___ Blackpoll Warbler	u	-	-	-
___ Cerulean Warbler	u	-	-	-
___ Black-and-white Warbler	u	r	u	u
___ American Redstart	c	-	u	-
___ Prothonotary Warbler	u	-	-	-
___ Worm-eating Warbler	u	-	-	-
___ Ovenbird	u	-	-	-
___ Northern Waterthrush	u	-	u	-
___ Louisiana Waterthrush	u	-	-	-
___ Kentucky Warbler	u	-	-	-
___ Common Yellowthroat*	c	c	c	c
___ Hooded Warbler	u	-	u	-
___ Wilson's Warbler	u	u	u	u
___ Canada Warbler	u	-	u	-
___ Yellow-breasted Chat	u	-	-	-
TANAGERS				
___ Summer Tanager	r	r	-	-
___ Scarlet Tanager	r	-	-	-
CARDINALS & GROSBEAKS				
___ Northern Cardinal*	c	c	c	c
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	r	-	r	r
___ Blue Grosbeak	u	-	u	-
___ Indigo Bunting	c	u	u	r
___ Painted Bunting*	u	u	u	-
___ Dickcissel*	c	c	c	-
SPARROWS				
___ Field Sparrow	u	-	u	u
___ Vesper Sparrow	u	-	u	-
___ Lark Sparrow	o	r	o	r
___ Savannah Sparrow	c	-	u	c
___ Grasshopper Sparrow	r	-	r	r
___ Le Conte's Sparrow	u	-	o	u
___ Sharp-tailed Sparrow	u	r	o	u
___ Seaside Sparrow*	c	c	c	c
___ Fox Sparrow	-	-	-	r
___ Song Sparrow	u	-	u	u
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	u	-	u	u
___ Swamp Sparrow	u	-	u	c
___ White-throated Sparrow	u	-	u	u
___ Dark-eyed Junco	-	-	-	o
BLACKBIRDS & ORIOLES				
___ Bobolink	u	-	-	-
___ Red-winged Blackbird*	a	a	c	c
___ Eastern Meadowlark*	a	a	c	c
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird	u	-	-	-
___ Brewer's Blackbird	u	-	u	u
___ Great-tailed Grackle*	c	c	c	c
___ Boat-tailed Grackle*	c	c	c	c

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
BLACKBIRDS & ORIOLES (cont.)				
___ Common Grackle	c	c	c	c
___ Brown-headed Cowbird*	c	c	c	c
___ Orchard Oriole*	u	u	u	-
___ Northern Oriole	c	-	u	-
FINCHES				
___ American Goldfinch	u	-	r	u
OLD WORLD SPARROWS				
___ House Sparrow*	u	u	u	u



Please report any unlisted species sighted to park staff
1-877-776-5272

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http://www.lcra.org/parks/developed_parks/matagorda.html

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