



Mitchell Lake Audubon Center - Bird Checklist

The Audubon Center at Mitchell Lake connects people to nature and protects unique habitats. Located only fifteen miles from downtown San Antonio, the 624-acre property is an important stop-over location for many migrating shorebirds, waterfowl and songbirds. The drainages, ponds, wetlands, grasslands, and brushlands provide much needed food and shelter resources for an abundance of bird and other wildlife species. The diverse habitats also create an exceptional backdrop for a full range of educational experiences.

The Mitchell Lake Audubon Center (MLAC) has an average rainfall of 28 inches. The predominant vegetation of the uplands includes honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), huisache (*Acacia smallii*), retama (*Parkinsonia aculeate*), hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*), granjeno (*Celtis pallida*), brasil (*Condalia hookeri*), prickly pear (*Opuntia lindheimeri*), and others. The upland habitat of MLAC may at one time have mirrored the brush and grassland communities of the Rio Grande Plains Eco-region, however, past land use has influenced the composition of the vegetative community we see today. Non-native brush and grass species such as chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*), chinese tallow tree (*Sapium sebiferum*), coastal bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*), johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*), and others have replaced or out competed native brush and clump grasses. MLAC is working to restore native grassland to the property.

Water and its availability is a major influence in the diversity and abundance of plant and animal life at MLAC. MLAC has 3 distinct water bodies: a lake, polders and basins, and storm water ponds and drainages. All are eutrophic to varying degrees meaning that they generally have a high surface-to-depth ratio. Eutrophic water bodies also have an abundance of nutrients, especially nitrogen and phosphorus that readily stimulate a heavy growth of algae and other aquatic plants.

The Mitchell Lake Wetland Society (MLWS), an organization dedicated to the responsible stewardship of Mitchell Lake, currently has documented over 300 bird species at MLAC, of which more than 30 are on Audubon's WatchList for Bexar County. Audubon's WatchList is designed specifically to highlight those bird species that have the greatest conservation needs. MLAC is especially important because of its critical habitat for migrating shorebirds. Shorebirds utilize muddy shores or mudflats to gather important food resources. MLAC is the only site in the San Antonio area that has mud flat habitat vital to migrating shorebirds. Additionally, it is a major wintering site for migratory waterfowl. Because of this, MLAC is a proposed Important Bird Area (IBA). Due to the efforts of the MLWS and others, an IBA proposal has been submitted to Audubon for consideration. The IBA program is a global effort to identify areas that are most important for maintaining bird populations, and it focuses conservation efforts at protecting these sites.

MLAC also has a diverse assemblage of reptiles, amphibians, insects, and mammals and over 120 plant species. Studying the interdependency of the plants and animals found at MLAC will help guide management efforts that will benefit the entire ecosystem for a more healthy environment for all.

In an effort to continue the wonderful work at the MITCHELL LAKE AUDUBON CENTER, please stop by the Visitor Center before you leave and post your bird and other wildlife sightings. HAPPY BIRDING!!

Loons, Grebes, Boobies, etc.

- ___ Least Grebe
- ___ Pied-billed Grebe
- ___ Eared Grebe

Pelicans, Cormorants, etc.

- ___ Am White Pelican
- ___ Brown Pelican
- ___ Double-Cr. Cormorant
- ___ Neotropical Cormorant
- ___ Anhinga

Hérons, Bitterns, and Egrets

- ___ Great Blue Heron
- ___ Great Egret
- ___ Snowy Egret
- ___ Little Blue Heron
- ___ Tricolored Heron
- ___ Cattle Egret
- ___ Green Heron
- ___ Black-crowned Night-heron
- ___ Yellow-crowned Night-heron

Ibises and Relatives

- ___ White Ibis
- ___ White-faced Ibis
- ___ Roseate Spoonbill

Geese, Ducks, etc.

- ___ Black-bell. Whistling-Duck
- ___ Canada Goose
- ___ Wood Duck
- ___ Gadwall
- ___ Northern Pintail
- ___ American Wigeon
- ___ Northern Shoveler
- ___ Cinnamon Teal
- ___ Blue-winged Teal
- ___ Green-winged Teal
- ___ Canvasback
- ___ Redhead
- ___ Ring-necked Duck
- ___ Lesser Scaup
- ___ Bufflehead
- ___ Ruddy Duck

Hawks and Relatives

- ___ Black Vulture
- ___ Turkey Vulture
- ___ Osprey
- ___ Northern Harrier
- ___ Sharp-shinned Hawk
- ___ Cooper's Hawk
- ___ Harris's Hawk
- ___ Red-shouldered Hawk
- ___ Swainson's Hawk
- ___ Red-tailed Hawk
- ___ Crested Caracara
- ___ American Kestrel

Rails, Coots, Cranes, etc.

- ___ Sora
- ___ Common Moorhen
- ___ American Coot

Shorebirds

- ___ Semipalmated Plover
- ___ Killdeer
- ___ Black-necked Stilt
- ___ American Avocet

- ___ Greater Yellowlegs
- ___ Lesser Yellowlegs
- ___ Solitary Sandpiper
- ___ Spotted Sandpiper
- ___ Upland Sandpiper
- ___ Semipalmated Sandpiper
- ___ Western Sandpiper
- ___ Least Sandpiper
- ___ Baird's Sandpiper
- ___ Pectoral Sandpiper
- ___ Stilt Sandpiper
- ___ Long-billed Dowitcher
- ___ Wilson's Snipe
- ___ Wilson's Phalarope

Gulls and Terns

- ___ Franklin's Gull
- ___ Bonaparte's Gull
- ___ Ring-billed Gull
- ___ Herring Gull
- ___ Foster's Tern
- ___ Black Tern

Pigeons and Doves

- ___ White-winged Dove
- ___ Mourning Dove
- ___ Inca Dove
- ___ Common Ground Dove

Cuckoos and Relatives

- ___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- ___ Greater Roadrunner
- ___ Grooved-billed Ani

Owls

- ___ Barn Owl
- ___ Eastern Screech-Owl
- ___ Great Horned Owl
- ___ Barred Owl

Goatsuckers and Swifts,

- ___ Lesser Nighthawk
- ___ Common Nighthawk
- ___ Chuck-will's-widow
- ___ Chimney Swift

Hummingbirds and Kingfishers

- ___ Ruby-throated Humm.
- ___ Black-chinned Humm.
- ___ Rufous Hummingbird
- ___ Belted Kingfisher
- ___ Green Kingfisher

Woodpeckers

- ___ Golden-fronted Woodpecker
- ___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- ___ Ladder-backed Woodpecker
- ___ Downy Woodpecker
- ___ Northern Flicker

Flycatchers

- ___ Olive-sided Flycatcher
- ___ Eastern Wood-Pewee
- ___ Acadian Flycatcher
- ___ Eastern Phoebe
- ___ Say's Phoebe
- ___ Vermillion Flycatcher
- ___ Ash-throated Flycatcher
- ___ Great-crested Flycatcher

- ___ Brown-crested Flycatcher
- ___ Couch's Kingbird
- ___ Western Kingbird
- ___ Eastern Kingbird
- ___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

Shrikes and Vireos

- ___ Loggerhead Shrike
- ___ White-eyed Vireo
- ___ Bell's Vireo
- ___ Blue-headed Vireo
- ___ Warbling Vireo
- ___ Red-eyed Vireo

Swallows

- ___ Purple Martin
- ___ Tree Swallow
- ___ N. Rough-winged Swallow
- ___ Cliff Swallow
- ___ Cave Swallow
- ___ Barn Swallow

Wrens, Kinglets, Thrashers, etc.

- ___ Carolina Chickadee
- ___ Black-crested Titmouse
- ___ Verdin
- ___ Carolina Wren
- ___ Bewick's Wren
- ___ House Wren
- ___ Marsh Wren
- ___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- ___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- ___ Eastern Bluebird
- ___ Swainson's Thrush
- ___ Hermit Thrush
- ___ American Robin
- ___ Northern Mockingbird
- ___ Long-billed Thrasher
- ___ Curved-billed Thrasher
- ___ European Starling
- ___ Sprague's Pipet
- ___ American Pipet

Warblers

- ___ Orange-crowned Warbler
- ___ Nashville Warbler
- ___ Yellow Warbler
- ___ Magnolia Warbler
- ___ Yellow-rumped Warbler
- ___ Black-thro. Green Warbler
- ___ Black and White Warbler
- ___ American Redstart
- ___ Northern Waterthrush
- ___ Common Yellowthroat
- ___ Wilson's Warbler
- ___ Yellow-breasted Chat

Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Buntings, etc.

- ___ Northern Cardinal
- ___ Pyrrhuloxia
- ___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- ___ Blue Grosbeak
- ___ Indigo Bunting
- ___ Painted Bunting
- ___ Dickcissel

Sparrows and Relatives

- ___ Spotted Towhee
- ___ Eastern Towhee
- ___ Cassin's Sparrow
- ___ Chipping Sparrow
- ___ Clay-colored Sparrow
- ___ Field Sparrow
- ___ Vesper Sparrow
- ___ Lark Sparrow
- ___ Savannah Sparrow
- ___ Grasshopper Sparrow
- ___ Song Sparrow
- ___ Lincoln's Sparrow
- ___ Swamp Sparrow
- ___ White-crowned Sparrow
- ___ White-throated Sparrow

Blackbirds

- ___ Red-winged Blackbird
- ___ Eastern Meadowlark
- ___ Common Grackle
- ___ Great-tailed Grackle
- ___ Bronzed Cowbird
- ___ Brown-headed Cowbird

Orioles, Goldfinch, etc.

- ___ Bullock's Oriole
- ___ Baltimore Oriole
- ___ Orchard Oriole
- ___ House Finch
- ___ Lesser Goldfinch
- ___ American Goldfinch
- ___ House Sparrow

Additional Species Seen:

- ___ _____
- ___ _____
- ___ _____
- ___ _____
- ___ _____
- ___ _____
- ___ _____
- ___ _____
- ___ _____

The above species list is a report of birds that are listed as Common, Fairly Common, and Uncommon at the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center. Rare and Very Rare bird species have been left off

