











Species	Season
__ Snowy Egret	R O
__ Little Blue Heron	S O
__ Cattle Egret	R O
__ Green-backed Heron	M
__ Yellow-crowned Night Heron	S
__ White Ibis	M O
__ Snow Goose	W O
__ Wood Duck	M O #
__ Black Vulture	W O
__ Turkey Vulture	W O
__ American Swallow-tailed Kite	M O #
__ Mississippi Kite	M
__ Sharp-shinned Hawk	W
__ Cooper's Hawk	W
__ Broad-winged Hawk	M
__ Swainson's Hawk	M O
__ Red-tailed Hawk	W
__ Solitary Sandpiper	M O #
__ American Woodcock	W #
__ Laughing Gull	M O
__ Franklin's Gull	M O #
__ Ring-billed Gull	W O
 __ Rock Dove	R *
__ Eurasian Collared Dove	R *
 __ White-winged Dove	R *
 __ Ringed Turtle-Dove	R *
__ Mourning Dove	R *
__ Inca Dove	R *
__ Monk Parakeet	R, O
__ Black-billed Cuckoo	M #
__ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	M
__ Eastern Screech Owl	R *
__ Great-horned Owl	R
__ Common Nighthawk	S, O
__ Chuck-will's-widow	M
__ Whip-poor-will	M #
__ Chimney Swift	S O

Species	Season
__ Buff-bellied Hummingbird	W
__ Ruby-throated Hummingbird	R
__ Black-chinned Hummingbird	W
__ Broad-tailed Hummingbird	W
 __ Rufous Hummingbird	W
__ Allen's Hummingbird	W #
__ Red-headed Woodpecker	M #
 __ Red-bellied Woodpecker	R *
__ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	W
 __ Downy Woodpecker	R *
__ Hairy Woodpecker	M #
__ Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker	R *
__ Pileated Woodpecker	M
__ Olive-sided Flycatcher	M #
__ Eastern Wood-pewee	M
__ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	M
__ Acadian Flycatcher	M
__ Alder/Willow Flycatcher	M
__ Least Flycatcher	M
__ Eastern Phoebe	W
__ Great-crested Flycatcher	M
__ Eastern Kingbird	M #
 __ Purple Martin	S *
__ Barn Swallow	M
 __ Blue Jay	R *
__ American Crow	R *
__ Carolina Chickadee	R *
__ Tufted Titmouse	R *
__ Brown Creeper	W
__ Carolina Wren	R *
__ House Wren	W
__ Winter Wren	W #
__ Golden-crowned Kinglet	W
__ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	W
__ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	M
__ Veery	M
__ Gray-cheeked Thrush	M

Species	Season
__ Swainson's Thrush	M
__ Hermit Thrush	W
__ Wood Thrush	M
__ American Robin	R *
__ Gray Catbird	M
 __ Northern Mockingbird	R *
__ Brown Thrasher	M
__ Cedar Waxwing	W
__ Loggerhead Shrike	M
 __ European Starling	R *
__ White-eyed Vireo	M
__ Blue-headed Vireo	M
__ Yellow-throated Vireo	M
__ Warbling Vireo	M
__ Philadelphia Vireo	M
__ Red-eyed Vireo	M
__ Blue-winged Warbler	M
__ Brewster's Warbler	M #
__ Golden-winged Warbler	M
__ Tennessee Warbler	M
__ Orange-crowned Warbler	W
__ Nashville Warbler	M
__ Northern Parula	M
__ Yellow Warbler	M
__ Chestnut-sided Warbler	M
__ Magnolia Warbler	M
__ Black-throated Blue Warbler	M #
__ Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)	M
__ Black-throated Green Warbler	M
__ Blackburnian Warbler	M
__ Yellow-throated Warbler	M
__ Pine Warbler	W
__ Bay-breasted Warbler	M
__ Blackpoll Warbler	M
__ Cerulean Warbler	M
__ Black-and-white Warbler	M
__ American Redstart	M

Summer bird watching in the park features common urban birds as well as six species of doves, Purple Martins, and Screech Owls. Early fall migrants begin to be seen in the park in August when the Mississippi Kites return.

Winter features some of the best hummingbird watching in the area. Six species have spent some or all of the winter in the park. At least three species have been present each winter for the last five years. The Park offers a rare opportunity to study and compare several species in one day on the upper Texas coast.

Bird feeders, misters, a fountain, a wetland bog, as well as native fruiting shrubs and trees enhance bird watching in Russ Pitman Park. These facilities are made possible in part by the generous contributions of the Ornithology Group of the Houston Outdoor Nature Club, Bellaire Garden Club, and Enron. These facilities are maintained by the Bellaire Parks and Recreation Department, the Bellaire Garden Club, and the volunteers of the Willing Wednesday Workers of the Nature Discovery Center: Bill Baker, Norma Barnes, Eugene Bullard, Don and Marcel Daniels, Bernie Freeland, Linda Sparks, Nelda Stegall, and John Goodrich.

This checklist of 148 species is a culmination of the records of many dedicated bird watchers that have amassed hundreds of hours of observation in the park. We thank all of them for reporting their observations. Among them are Norma Barnes, Sumita Prasad, Bob & Margaret Simmons, Robert Thacker, Don Verser, and Robert Van Zant. We also wish to thank the Harris County Mosquito Control District for allowing us access to their banding records for the Park.

Finally, many thanks to Mary Ann Beauchemin for reviewing the various drafts of this checklist as well as to Jeni Howell for production of this revised edition.

KEY

- R** resident year-round
M migrates through
S summer
W winter
O seen flying overhead
***** nests in Russ Pitman park
fewer than 5 records for R.P. park







easily shown to children

Bird List for Russ Pitman Park

by Fred Collins
February 2001 edition

Russ Pitman Park is in Bellaire, Texas. It was a tall grass prairie prior to 1920. Birds that once were common to the area like Attwater Prairie Chicken, LeConte's Sparrow, Dickcissel and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher are no longer present. The prairie has been replaced with an exotic mature urban forest. Much of the avifauna is exotic as well: Rock Dove, Eurasian Collared Dove, White-wing Dove, Monk Parakeet, European Starling, House Finch, and House Sparrow.

The large pecan trees that dominate and form the canopy of the Park are a refuge for migratory songbirds each spring. They are an "island in an urban sea". More than fifty species of migratory songbird including cuckoos, thrushes, warblers, vireos, tanagers, orioles, and grosbeaks visit the park each spring. Fifteen species of warblers in a day is not unusual.

Species	Season
__ Prothonotary Warbler	M
__ Worm-eating Warbler	M
__ Swainson's Warbler	M
__ Ovenbird	M
__ Northern Waterthrush	M
__ Louisiana Waterthrush	M
__ Kentucky Warbler	M
__ Mourning Warbler	M #
__ Common Yellowthroat	M
__ Hooded Warbler	M
__ Wilson's Warbler	M
__ Canada Warbler	M
__ Yellow-breasted Chat	M
__ Summer Tanager	M
__ Scarlet Tanager	M
__ Western Tanager	M #
 __ Northern Cardinal	R *
__ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	M
__ Black-headed Grosbeak	M #
__ Blue Grosbeak	M
__ Indigo Bunting	M
__ Painted Bunting	M
__ Dickcissel	W #
__ Eastern Towhee	M #
__ Chipping Sparrow	M
__ Lincoln's Sparrow	M
__ White-throated Sparrow	M
__ Red-winged Blackbird	W
__ Great-tailed Grackle	R
 __ Common Grackle	R
__ Bronzed Cowbird	M
__ Brown-headed Cowbird	R
__ Orchard Oriole	M
__ Baltimore Oriole	M
 __ House Finch (Red & Yellow morphs)	R
__ American Goldfinch	W
 __ House Sparrow	R *

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BIRD LIST
FOR
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PARK

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