

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

# BIRDS

— OF —

## RAY ROBERTS LAKE S T A T E P A R K



A FIELD CHECKLIST

2010

*Cover: Illustration of Double-crested Cormorant by Rob Fleming.*

# INTRODUCTION

Situated along the shores of a 30,000-acre reservoir, Ray Roberts Lake State Park Complex consists of two state park units (Isle du Bois and Johnson Branch), six satellite parks (Jordan Unit, Pond Creek, Pecan Creek, Buck Creek, Sanger, and Elm Fork), wildlife management areas, wetlands, waterfowl sanctuaries and the 20-mile Ray Roberts Lake/Lake Lewisville Greenbelt Corridor. The lake was created to provide water to the Cities of Dallas and Denton. Ray Roberts Lake, authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1965, takes in portions of three counties: Denton, Cooke, and Grayson. Originally known as the Aubrey Reservoir, the lake was named in 1980 for former Congressman Ray Roberts (1913-1992) of Denton. The lake is a 29,350-acre Corps of Engineers impoundment on the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. The lake is surrounded by two state park units (Isle du Bois and Johnson Branch), six satellite parks, as well as wildlife management areas, wetlands, and waterfowl sanctuaries. All the parks are open. Jordan Unit contains 477 acres; Pond Creek – 20 acres; Pecan Creek – 48 acres; Buck Creek – 11 acres; Sanger – 20 acres; and Elm Fork – 290 acres.

The park is located in the Eastern Cross Timbers, a narrow strip of wooded terrain bordering the Blackland Prairies of North-Central Texas. Geologically, the region is part of the Woodbine Formation, an Upper Cretaceous deposit consisting mostly of sandstone, with localized layers of shales and clay. A partial plant list includes sumac holly, milkweed, prickly pear, honeysuckle, sunflower, rough leaf dogwood, eastern red cedar, persimmon, bullnettle, blackjack oak, post oak, bluestem grass, grass burr, Bermuda grass, switch grass, Indian grass, Johnson grass, Texas wintergrass, black hickory, black walnut, red bud, honey locust, honey mesquite, greenbrier, Spanish needles, chinaberry, snailseed, bois d'arc, red mulberry, pokeweed, buckwheat, knotweed, hawthorne, wild plum, blackberry, toothache tree, eastern cottonwood, black willow, western soapberry, gum elastic, ground cherry, horse nettle, winged elm, American elm, ivy treevine, and mustang grape.

You can contribute to this checklist by reporting new and unusual sightings or changes in status. You may leave your sightings at the park headquarters or mail them to the Natural Resources Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744. Nomenclature and organization for this checklist follow the 7th edition of the *American Ornithologists Union Check-list of North American Birds*, as currently amended.

---

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

---

## LEGEND

- A – Abundant – should be seen on 75% or more of trips in proper habitat and season. Often encountered in large numbers.
- C – Common – should be seen on 50% or more of trips in proper habitat and season. Can sometimes be encountered in large numbers.
- U – Uncommon – should be seen on 25% or more of trips in proper habitat and season. Usually not encountered in more than moderate numbers.
- O – Occasional – should be seen on 10% or more of trips in proper habitat and season. Usually not encountered in more than small numbers.
- R – Rare – not seen annually, but expected to occur again. Usually no more than one or two individuals are encountered.
- X – Accidental – only one or two records in any decade.
- I – Irregular – absent some years, but may be numerous in others.
  
- Sp – spring (March – May)
- S – summer (June – July)
- F – fall (August – November)
- W – winter (December – February)

# CHECKLIST

	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Waterfowl</b>				
___ Black-bellied Whistling Duck .....				R
___ Snow Goose .....	O		O	R
___ Greater White-fronted Goose .....	O		O	O
___ Canada Goose .....			U	O
___ Wood Duck.....	U	U	U	U
___ Blue-winged Teal.....	A		A	R
___ Cinnamon Teal .....	U			
___ Northern Shoveler .....	A	R	C	C
___ Gadwall .....	C		C	A
___ American Wigeon .....	C	R	C	C
___ Mallard .....	C		A	A
___ Northern Pintail .....	U		C	C
___ Green-winged Teal .....	C		C	A
___ Canvasback .....	U		C	C
___ Redhead .....	U		A	U
___ Ring-necked Duck .....	C		C	A
___ Greater Scaup .....	R			O
___ Lesser Scaup .....	U		U	C
___ Bufflehead .....	U		C	C
___ Common Goldeneye.....	U		U	U
___ Hooded Merganser.....	O		U	U
___ Common Merganser .....				O
___ Red-breasted Merganser.....	O		U	U
___ Ruddy Duck .....				R

	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Grouse, Quails and Allies</b>				
___ Northern Bobwhite .....	U	U	U	U
___ Wild Turkey.....	O	O	O	O
<b>Grebes</b>				
___ Pied-billed Grebe .....	C	O	U	C
___ Horned Grebe .....	U		R	U
___ Red-necked Grebe .....				X
___ Eared Grebe .....	U	R	C	U
<b>Pigeons, Doves</b>				
___ Rock Pigeon .....	U	U	U	U
___ Eurasian Collared-dove .....		U	U	U
___ Mourning Dove .....	A	A	A	A
___ Inca Dove .....	O	O	O	R
<b>Cuckoos, Roadrunners</b>				
___ Greater Roadrunner .....	C	C	C	C
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo .....	C	C	C	
<b>Nightjars</b>				
___ Common Nighthawk .....	C	C	C	
___ Chuck-will's-widow .....	C	U	R	
<b>Swifts</b>				
___ Chimney Swift .....	C	C	C	
<b>Hummingbirds</b>				
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird .....	C	C	C	
___ Black-chinned Hummingbird .....	O	O	O	
<b>Rails, Gallinules and Allies</b>				
___ Sora.....	U		U	O
___ American Coot .....	C	C	C	A
<b>Cranes</b>				
___ Sandhill Crane .....	U		U	U

	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Shorebirds</b>				
___ American Avocet .....	U		U	
___ Black-billed Plover .....	O		O	
___ American Golden-Plover .....	R			
___ Snowy Plover .....	R		R	
___ Semipalmated Plover .....	O		O	
___ Killdeer .....	C	C	C	C
___ Upland Sandpiper .....	U	R	U	
___ Ruddy Turnstone .....	R		R	
___ Baird's Sandpiper .....	C		C	
___ Least Sandpiper .....	A	O	A	U
___ Pectoral Sandpiper .....	C	O	C	
___ Wilson's Snipe .....	U		U	O
___ Wilson's Phalarope .....	C		U	
___ Spotted Sandpiper .....	C	R	O	U
___ Solitary Sandpiper .....	U		U	
___ Greater Yellowlegs .....	U	O	U	O
___ Willet .....	O	O	O	
___ Lesser Yellowlegs .....	C	O	C	R
___ Long-billed Curlew .....	O			
___ Hudsonian Godwit .....	R			
___ Sanderling .....	R		R	
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper .....	U	O	U	
___ Western Sandpiper .....	C	O	C	R
___ White-rumped Sandpiper .....	U	R		
___ Stilt Sandpiper .....	U		U	
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper .....	O	R	O	
___ Short-billed Dowitcher .....	X			
___ Long-billed Dowitcher .....	U		U	R

	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers</b>				
___ Bonaparte's Gull.....	C		C	A
___ Franklin's Gull.....	C	O	C	
___ Ring-billed Gull .....	A	R	C	A
___ Herring Gull.....	O		O	U
___ Least Tern .....				R
___ Caspian Tern.....	O	R	O	
___ Black Tern.....	C	O	C	
___ Forster's Tern .....	C	O	C	U
<b>Loons</b>				
___ Common Loon.....	U		U	U
<b>Cormorants and Anhingas</b>				
___ Double-crested Cormorant.....	C	U	U	A
___ Neotropic Cormorant .....	R	R	R	
<b>Pelicans</b>				
___ American White Pelican.....	A	R	A	U
<b>Hérons, Ibis and Allies</b>				
___ American Bittern .....	O		O	R
___ Least Bittern.....	O	O	O	
___ Great Blue Heron.....	A	A	A	A
___ Great Egret.....	C	C	U	O
___ Snowy Egret .....	U	U	U	
___ Little Blue Heron .....	U	U	R	X
___ Cattle Egret .....	A	C	R	
___ Green Heron .....	C	C	C	X
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron .....	R	R	R	
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron.....	O	R	R	
___ White-faced Ibis.....	U	R	U	



	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Vultures, Hawks and Allies</b>				
___ Black Vulture .....	C	C	C	U
___ Turkey Vulture .....	A	A	A	A
___ Osprey .....	U	U	U	
___ White-tailed Kite.....	R			
___ Mississippi Kite .....	C	C	R	
___ Northern Harrier .....	C	X	C	U
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	U		C	U
___ Cooper's Hawk .....	U	R	U	U
___ Bald Eagle.....	U		C	
___ Red-shouldered Hawk .....	U	U	U	U
___ Broad-winged Hawk .....	U		U	
___ Swainson's Hawk .....	C	U	C	
___ Red-tailed Hawk .....	C	C	C	C
___ Ferruginous Hawk .....				R
___ Rough-legged Hawk .....				R
<b>Owls</b>				
___ Eastern Screech-Owl .....	C	C	C	C
___ Great Horned Owl.....	U	U	U	U
___ Barred Owl.....	U	U	U	U
___ Short-eared Owl .....				R
<b>Kingfishers</b>				
___ Belted Kingfisher .....	C	R	C	C
<b>Woodpeckers</b>				
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....	U		U	U
___ Red-headed Woodpecker .....	U	O	U	U
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker .....	C	C	C	C
___ Downy Woodpecker .....	C	C	C	C
___ Ladder-backed Woodpecker.....	R	R	R	R

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Hairy Woodpecker .....	O	O	O	U
___ Pileated Woodpecker .....	U	U	U	U
___ Northern Flicker .....	C		A	C
<b>Falcons and Caracaras</b>				
___ Crested Caracara .....			R	R
___ American Kestrel .....	C		C	C
___ Merlin .....	O		O	R
___ Peregrine Falcon .....	R		O	R
<b>Tyrant Flycatchers: Pewees, Kingbirds, and Allies</b>				
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher .....	O		O	
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee .....	C	U	C	
___ Willow Flycatcher .....	U		U	
___ Least Flycatcher .....	U		U	
___ Eastern Phoebe .....	C	U	U	U
___ Great Crested Flycatcher .....	C	C	U	
___ Western Kingbird .....	U	U	U	
___ Eastern Kingbird .....	U	U	U	
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher .....	A	A	A	
<b>Vireos</b>				
___ White-eyed Vireo .....	U	U	O	
___ Bell's Vireo .....	R	R	R	
___ Blue-headed Vireo .....	U		U	R
___ Warbling Vireo .....	U	R	U	
___ Red-eyed Vireo .....	U	U	U	
<b>Shrikes</b>				
___ Loggerhead Shrike .....	C	C	C	C
<b>Jays, Magpies, Crows, and Ravens</b>				
___ Blue Jay .....	C	C	C	C
___ American Crow .....	C	C	C	C

	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Chickadees, Titmice</b>				
___ Carolina Chickadee .....	A	A	A	A
___ Tufted Titmouse.....	A	A	A	A
<b>Larks</b>				
___ Horned Lark.....	O	O	O	U
<b>Martins and Swallows</b>				
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow.....	U	U	U	R
___ Purple Martin .....	A	A	C	
___ Tree Swallow .....	U	R	U	U
___ Bank Swallow .....	C		U	
___ Barn Swallow.....	A	C	A	U
___ Cliff Swallow .....	A	A	A	
___ Cave Swallow .....	O	O		
<b>Kinglets</b>				
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	C		C	A
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet.....				U
<b>Nuthatches</b>				
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch .....				R
___ White-breasted Nuthatch .....	O	O	O	O
<b>Treecreepers</b>				
___ Brown Creeper .....	O		O	U
<b>Gnatcatchers</b>				
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher .....	C	U	C	R
<b>Wrens</b>				
___ Rock Wren .....				O
___ House Wren.....	U		U	O
___ Winter Wren.....	O			O
___ Sedge Wren .....	X			X
___ Marsh Wren .....	O		O	O

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Carolina Wren .....	C	C	C	C
___ Bewick's Wren .....	U	U	U	U
<b>Starlings and Mynas</b>				
___ European Starling .....	A	A	A	A
<b>Catbirds, Mockingbirds, and Thrashers</b>				
___ Gray Catbird .....	O		O	
___ Brown Thrasher .....	U	U	U	U
___ Northern Mockingbird .....	A	A	A	A
<b>Thrushes</b>				
___ Eastern Bluebird .....	C	C	C	C
___ Swainson's Thrush .....		U		
___ Hermit Thrush .....	U			U
___ American Robin .....	C	U	U	A
<b>Waxwings</b>				
___ Cedar Waxwing .....	C		C	A
<b>Old World Sparrows</b>				
___ House Sparrow .....	A	A	A	A
<b>Wagtails and Pipits</b>				
___ American Pipit .....	U		U	C
<b>Finches, Euphonias, and Allies</b>				
___ House Finch .....	O	O	O	O
___ Purple Finch .....	O			
___ Red Crossbill .....	R			R
___ Pine Siskin .....	I		I	I
___ Lesser Goldfinch .....	R		R	R
___ American Goldfinch .....	C		U	C
<b>New World Sparrows</b>				
___ Grasshopper Sparrow .....	U	U		R
___ Chipping Sparrow .....	C		C	C

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Clay-colored Sparrow.....	O			
___ Field Sparrow.....	C	U	U	C
___ Lark Sparrow.....	C	C	U	U
___ American Tree Sparrow.....				I
___ Fox Sparrow.....	U		O	U
___ Dark-eyed Junco.....	U		O	C
___ White-crowned Sparrow.....	C		C	C
___ Harris's Sparrow.....	C		C	A
___ White-throated Sparrow.....	A		A	A
___ Vesper Sparrow.....	U		U	C
___ Le Conte's Sparrow.....	U		O	U
___ Savannah Sparrow.....	C		C	A
___ Song Sparrow.....	U		O	C
___ Lincoln's Sparrow.....	C		C	C
___ Swamp Sparrow.....	U		U	O
___ Spotted Towhee.....	U		C	C
___ Eastern Towhee.....	U			U
<b>Yellow-breasted Chat</b>				
___ Yellow-breasted Chat.....	O	R		
<b>Blackbirds</b>				
___ Western Meadowlark.....			U	C
___ Eastern Meadowlark.....	C	C	C	C
___ Orchard Oriole.....	U	U	U	
___ Baltimore Oriole.....	U	O	O	
___ Red-winged Blackbird.....	C	C	C	C
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird.....	O	O	O	
___ Brown-headed Cowbird.....	C	C	C	C
___ Bronzed Cowbird.....	X			
___ Brewer's Blackbird.....	O		U	U

___ Common Grackle .....	A	A	A	A
___ Great-tailed Grackle .....	A	A	C	C

### Wood-Warblers

___ Ovenbird .....			X	
___ Northern Waterthrush.....	X			
___ Blue-winged Warbler.....	X			
___ Black-and-white Warbler .....	U		U	
___ Prothonotary Warbler .....	O		O	
___ Tennessee Warbler .....	U		U	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler .....	U		U	O
___ Nashville Warbler .....	C		C	
___ Mourning Warbler.....	O			
___ Common Yellowthroat .....	O		O	R
___ American Redstart.....	U		U	
___ Northern Parula.....	O			
___ Blackburnian Warbler.....	O			
___ Yellow Warbler.....	C		C	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler.....	R			
___ Pine Warbler .....	C	C	U	U
___ Yellow-rumped Warble .....	C		C	C
___ Black-throated Green Warbler .....	O		O	
___ Wilson's Warbler.....	O			

### Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Allies

___ Summer Tanager.....	C	C	U	
___ Scarlet Tanager.....	O			
___ Northern Cardinal.....	A	A	A	A
___ Pyrrhuloxia .....		X		
___ Blue Grosbeak.....	U	U	U	
___ Indigo Bunting.....	U	U	U	
___ Painted Bunting .....	C	C	U	
___ Dickcissel .....	C	C	U	

# CITATION

Lockwood, Mark. January 2010. Revised by Texas State Park Staff, March 2023. Birds of Ray Roberts Lake State Park: a field checklist. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

---

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.**

---

TPWD receives funds from DHS and USFWS. TPWD prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin (including limited English proficiency), disability, age, and gender, pursuant to state and federal law. If you believe you have been discriminated against by TPWD, visit [tpwd.texas.gov/nondiscrimination](http://tpwd.texas.gov/nondiscrimination) or call (512) 389-4800 for information on filing a complaint. To obtain information in an alternative format, contact TPWD on a Text Telephone (TTY) at (512) 389-8915, by Relay Texas at 7-1-1, (800) 735-2989, or by email at [accessibility@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:accessibility@tpwd.texas.gov). If you speak a language other than English and need assistance, email [lep@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:lep@tpwd.texas.gov). You can also contact Department of the Interior Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Civil Rights, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240, and/or U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL), Mail Stop #0190 2707, Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave., S.E. Washington, D.C. 20528.



Natural Resources Program  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, Texas 78744