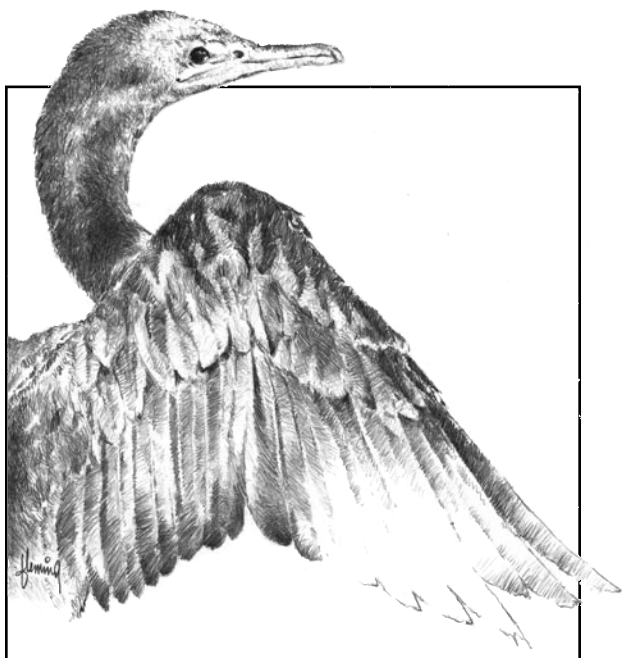


TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

# BIRDS

OF

## RAY ROBERTS LAKE STATE PARK



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.

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*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.*

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## 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
___ Greater White-fronted Goose .....	O		O	O
___ Snow Goose .....	O		O	R
___ Canada Goose.....			U	O
___ Wood Duck .....	U	U	U	U
___ Gadwall.....	C		C	A
___ American Wigeon .....	C	R	C	C
___ Mallard .....	C		A	A
___ Blue-winged Teal.....	A		A	R
___ Cinnamon Teal.....	U			
___ Northern Shoveler .....	A	R	C	C
___ 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
___ Wild Turkey .....	O	O	O	O
___ Northern Bobwhite .....	U	U	U	U
___ Common Loon.....	U		U	U
___ Pied-billed Grebe .....	C	O	U	C
___ Horned Grebe.....	U		R	U

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Red-necked Grebe .....				X
___ Eared Grebe.....	U	R	C	U
___ American White Pelican.....	A	R	A	U
___ Neotropic Cormorant.....	R	R	R	
___ Double-crested Cormorant.....	C	U	U	A
___ 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	
___ 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	
___ Bald Eagle .....	U			C
___ Northern Harrier.....	C	X	C	U
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	U		C	U
___ Cooper's Hawk.....	U	R	U	U
___ Red-shouldered Hawk .....	U	U	U	U
___ Swainson's Hawk .....	C	U	C	
___ Red-tailed Hawk .....	C	C	C	C
___ Ferruginous Hawk.....				R

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Rough-legged Hawk.....				R
___ American Kestrel .....	C		C	C
___ Merlin .....	O		O	R
___ Peregrine Falcon .....	R		O	R
___ Sora .....	C		U	O
___ Common Moorhen.....	R	R		
___ American Coot .....	C	C	C	A
___ Sandhill Crane.....	U		U	U
___ Black-bellied Plover.....	O		O	
___ American Golden-Plover.....	R			
___ Snowy Plover .....	R		R	
___ Semipalmated Plover .....	O		O	
___ Killdeer .....	C	C	C	C
___ American Avocet .....	U		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
___ Upland Sandpiper .....	U	R	U	
___ Long-billed Curlew .....	O			
___ Hudsonian Godwit.....	R			
___ Ruddy Turnstone .....	R		R	
___ Sanderling.....	R		R	
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper .....	U	O	U	
___ Western Sandpiper .....	C	O	C	R
___ Least Sandpiper.....	A	O	A	U
___ White-rumped Sandpiper .....	U	R		
___ Baird's Sandpiper .....	C		C	

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Pectoral Sandpiper .....	C	O	C	
___ Stilt Sandpiper.....	U		U	
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper.....	O	R	O	
___ Short-billed Dowitcher.....	X			
___ Long-billed Dowitcher.....	U		U	R
___ Wilson's Snipe.....	U		U	O
___ Wilson's Phalarope.....	C		U	
___ Franklin's Gull .....	C	O	C	
___ Bonaparte's Gull.....	C		C	A
___ Ring-billed Gull.....	A	R	C	A
___ Herring Gull .....	O		O	U
___ Least Tern.....				R
___ Black Tern.....	C	O	C	
___ Caspian Tern.....	O	R	O	
___ Forester's Tern .....	C	O	C	U
___ Rock Pigeon .....	U	U	U	U
___ Mourning Dove .....	A	A	A	A
___ Inca Dove .....	O	O	O	R
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo .....	C	C	C	
___ Greater Roadrunner .....	C	C	C	C
___ Eastern Screech-Owl .....	C	C	C	C
___ Great Horned Owl .....	U	U	U	U
___ Barred Owl .....	U	U	U	U
___ Short-eared Owl.....				R
___ Common Nighthawk .....	C	C	C	
___ Chuck-will's-widow .....	C	U	R	
___ Chimney Swift .....	C	C	C	
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird.....	C	C	C	
___ Black-chinned Hummingbird .....	O	O	O	



	Sp	S	F	W
___ Belted Kingfisher .....	U	U	U	U
___ Red-headed Woodpecker .....	U	O	U	U
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker .....	U	U	U	U
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker .....	U		U	U
___ Ladder-backed Woodpecker .....	R	R	R	R
___ Downy Woodpecker .....	C	C	C	C
___ Hairy Woodpecker.....	O	O	O	U
___ Northern Flicker .....	C		A	C
___ 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	
___ Loggerhead Shrike .....	C	C	C	C
___ 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	
___ Blue Jay .....	C	C	C	C
___ American Crow .....	C	C	C	C
___ Horned Lark .....	O	O	O	U
___ Purple Martin .....	A	A	C	
___ Tree Swallow .....	U	R	U	U
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow .....	U	U	U	R

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Bank Swallow .....	C		U	
___ Cliff Swallow .....	A	A	A	
___ Cave Swallow .....	O	O		
___ Barn Swallow .....	A	C	A	U
___ Carolina Chickadee .....	A	A	A	A
___ Tufted Titmouse .....	A	A	A	A
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch.....				R
___ White-breasted Nuthatch.....	O	O	O	O
___ Brown Creeper.....	O		O	U
___ Rock Wren .....				O
___ Carolina Wren .....	C	C	C	C
___ Bewick's Wren .....	U	U	U	U
___ House Wren.....	U		U	O
___ Winter Wren.....	O			O
___ Sedge Wren.....	X			X
___ Marsh Wren .....	O		O	O
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet.....				U
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	C		C	A
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher .....	C	U	C	R
___ Eastern Bluebird .....	C	C	C	C
___ Hermit Thrush.....	O			O
___ American Robin .....	C	U	U	A
___ Gray Catbird.....	O		O	
___ Northern Mockingbird .....	A	A	A	A
___ Brown Thrasher .....	U	U	U	U
___ European Starling .....	A	A	A	A
___ American Pipit.....	U		U	C
___ Cedar Waxwing.....	C		C	A
___ Blue-winged Warbler.....	X			

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Tennessee Warbler.....	U		U	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler.....	U		U	O
___ Nashville Warbler .....	C		C	
___ Northern Parula.....	O			
___ Yellow Warbler.....	C		C	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler.....	R			
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	C		C	C
___ Black-throated Green Warbler.....	O		O	
___ Black-and-white Warbler .....	U		U	
___ American Redstart.....	U		U	
___ Prothonotary Warbler.....	O		O	
___ Common Yellowthroat.....	O		O	R
___ Wilson's Warbler.....	O			
___ Yellow-breasted Chat .....	O	R		
___ Summer Tanager .....	C	C	U	
___ Scarlet Tanager.....	O			
___ Spotted Towhee.....	U		C	C
___ Eastern Towhee.....	U			U
___ American Tree Sparrow.....				I
___ Chipping Sparrow .....	C		C	C
___ Clay-colored Sparrow.....	O			
___ Field Sparrow .....	C	U	U	C
___ Vesper Sparrow.....	U		U	C
___ Lark Sparrow .....	C	C	U	U
___ Savannah Sparrow.....	C		C	A
___ Grasshopper Sparrow .....	U	U		R
___ Le Conte's Sparrow .....	U		O	U
___ Fox Sparrow.....	U		O	U
___ Song Sparrow.....	U		O	C

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Lincoln's Sparrow .....	C		C	C
___ Swamp Sparrow .....	U		U	O
___ White-throated Sparrow .....	A		A	A
___ Harris's Sparrow .....	C		C	A
___ White-crowned Sparrow .....	C		C	C
___ Dark-eyed Junco .....	U		O	C
___ 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	
___ Red-winged Blackbird .....	C	C	C	C
___ Eastern Meadowlark .....	C	C	C	C
___ Western Meadowlark .....			U	C
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird .....	O	O	O	
___ Brewer's Blackbird .....	O		U	U
___ Common Grackle .....	A	A	A	A
___ Great-tailed Grackle .....	A	A	C	C
___ Bronzed Cowbird .....	X			
___ Brown-headed Cowbird .....	C	C	C	C
___ Orchard Oriole .....	U	U	U	
___ Baltimore Oriole .....	U	O	O	
___ House Finch .....	O	O	O	O
___ Pine Siskin .....	I		I	I
___ Lesser Goldfinch .....	R		R	R
___ American Goldfinch .....	C		U	C
___ House Sparrow .....	A	A	A	A

## CITATION

Lockwood, Mark. January 2010. Birds of Ray Roberts Lake State Park: a field checklist. Natural Resources Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

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# NOTES





Natural Resources Program  
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