

A Checklist  
of  
Heard Sanctuary  
**BIRDS**



Yellow-Crowned  
Night-Heron

# Introduction

The Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary is a 289-acre wildlife conservancy located in the Blackland Prairie Ecological Region of central Collin County. It contains four different habitats. Along Wilson's Creek many acres of riparian vegetation ranging from early to late succession make excellent habitat for woodland birds. A 50-acre wetlands complex, located in the floodplain, is also found within our borders. It seasonally hosts a large number of migratory waterfowl, shorebirds and a rookery with as many as seven species. As the topography rises through the sanctuary from east to west, the habitat changes into restored tallgrass prairie. The Heard has nearly 60 acres of this endangered habitat. When the land reaches 75 to 80 feet above the flood plain, Austin Chalk outcroppings of Cretaceous limestone, commonly called escarpments, appear within the sanctuary. The diversity and health of the different habitats creates the perfect opportunity to observe a high number of bird species, both resident and migrant. There have been 222 bird species observed at the Heard and 61 species have been documented nesting here.

The Heard has a long history of bird conservation dating back to its founding in 1967. Bird banding, providing nest boxes, filming nest box activity, Christmas bird counts and habitat improvement have been part of the sanctuary's mission from its beginning. In August of 2000 the sanctuary was selected as an Important Bird Area (IBA). The IBAs are considered key sites for bird conservation. Several of the birds on the ABC's green list nest at the Heard

Records from bird banding, nest box monitoring, migration census reports, historic sanctuary manager notes and Christmas bird counts have been used to create this updated bird checklist. The census reports are stored at [ebird.org](http://ebird.org). The checklist order followed is that of the American Ornithologist's Union's *Check-list of North American Birds, Seventh Edition*.

## LEGEND

\* Nests in the sanctuary

**SP** March, April, May

**SU** June and July

**F** August, September, October, November

**W** December, January, February

**A** Abundant; this species seen or heard 70% or more of the time

**C** Common; seen or heard 45% to 69% of the time

**U** Uncommon; seen or heard 20% to 44% of the time

**O** Occasionally: seen or heard 19% or less of the time annually

**R** Rare; Not seen annually, but every 2 to 3 years

**X** Accidental; once or twice a decade

	SP	SU	F	W	LOCATION
__ Greater White-fronted Goose				X	Flyover
__ Snow Goose			O	X	Flyover
__ *Canada Goose	A	O	O	C	Pond
__ *Wood Duck	A	C	C	A	Pond/Swamp
__ Gadwall	O		O	C	Pond
__ American Wigeon	R		O	R	Pond
__ Mallard	C	O	U	A	Pond
__ Blue-winged Teal	C		O	O	Pond
__ Cinnamon Teal	X				Pond
__ Northern Shoveler	U		O	C	Pond
__ Northern Pintail				R	Pond
__ Green-winged Teal	O		O	O	Pond
__ Canvasback				X	Pond
__ Redhead	R			X	Pond
__ Ring-necked Duck	O		O	O	Pond
__ Greater Scaup				X	Pond
__ Lesser Scaup				O	Pond
__ Bufflehead				X	Pond
__ *Hooded Merganser	C	O	O	C	Pond/Swamp
__ Pied-billed Grebe	U			O	Pond
__ American White Pelican			X	X	Flyover
__ Neotropic Cormorant		R	X		Flyover
__ Double-crested Cormorant	C		U	A	Pond
__ *Anhinga	C	C			Pond
__ *Great Blue Heron	A	A	C	A	Pond/Swamp
__ *Great Egret	A	A	U	O	Pond/Swamp
__ *Snowy Egret	U	A	O		Pond/Swamp
__ *Little Blue Heron	U	A	O		Pond/Swamp
__ Tricolored Heron	X	X			Pond/Swamp
__ *Cattle Egret	U	A	O		Pond/Swamp
__ *Green Heron	U	A	O		Pond/Swamp
__ *Black-crowned Night-Heron	R	C	O		Swamp
__ *Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	U	A	O	X	Swamp

	SP	SU	F	W	LOCATION
__ White Ibis		U			Swamp
__ White-faced Ibis	X				Swamp
__ Wood Stork		X			Swamp
__ *Black Vulture	A	A	C	A	Forest Edge/Swamp
__ *Turkey Vulture	A	A	A	A	Forest Edge/Swamp
__ Mississippi Kite	O	X	O		Forest Edge
__ Bald Eagle				X	Flyover
__ Northern Harrier	R		O	O	Prairie
__ Sharp-shinned Hawk	O		O	O	Forest
__ *Cooper's Hawk	U	C	U	U	Forest
__ *Red-shouldered Hawk	A	A	A	A	Forest
__ Broad-winged Hawk	R		O		Flyover
__ Swainson's Hawk	O	O	O		Flyover/Prairie
__ *Red-tailed Hawk	C	O	C	C	Flyover/Prairie
__ American Kestrel	R		U	U	Forest Edge/Swamp
__ Peregrine Falcon	X				Flyover
__ Sandhill Crane			X		Flyover
__ American Coot	U			O	Pond/Swamp
__ *Killdeer	A	A	A	A	Mudflats
__ Spotted Sandpiper	U	R	O	X	Mudflats
__ Solitary Sandpiper	X				Mudflats
__ Greater Yellowlegs	O			R	Mudflats
__ Lesser Yellowlegs	O		O	R	Mudflats
__ Upland Sandpiper	O		O		Flyover
__ Semipalmated Sandpiper	R				Mudflats
__ Least Sandpiper	O				Mudflats
__ Baird's Sandpiper	R				Mudflats
__ Pectoral Sandpiper	R				Mudflats
__ Long-billed Dowitcher	O				Mudflats
__ Wilson's Snipe	R			R	Mudflats
__ American Woodcock	R		X	R	Forest Edge
__ Franklin's Gull	U		O		Flyover
__ Ring-billed Gull	O		O	A	Flyover
__ Herring Gull				X	Flyover



	SP	SU	F	W	LOCATION
__Rock Pigeon	U	U	A	O	Flyover
__Eurasian Collared-Dove		X	X		Prairie
__*White-winged Dove	R	U	U		Forest Edge
__*Mourning Dove	A	A	A	A	Forest Edge
__Inca Dove	X				Garden
__*Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	A	U		Forest
__Black-billed Cuckoo			X		Forest
__*Greater Roadrunner	O	O	O	O	Prairie
__Barn Owl			X		Prairie
__*Eastern Screech Owl	U	O	O	O	Forest
__Great Horned Owl				R	Forest
__*Barred Owl	C	O	O	O	Forest
__Common Nighthawk	R	R			Flyover
__Chuck-will's-widow	X				Flyover
__Chimney Swift	C	A	C		Flyover
__*Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	A	U		Garden
__*Black-chinned Hummingbird	U	O	O		Garden
__Rufous Hummingbird		X			Garden
__Belted Kingfisher	U	U	C	U	Swamp/Pond
__*Red-headed Woodpecker	A	A	A	R	Forest/Swamp
__*Red-bellied Woodpecker	A	A	A	A	Forest/Forest Edge
__Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	O		U	A	Forest
__*Downy Woodpecker	A	A	A	A	Forest
__*Hairy Woodpecker	O	O	U	O	Forest
__Northern Flicker	O		C	A	Forest/Prairie
__Pileated Woodpecker	O		X	X	Forest
__Olive-sided Flycatcher	R		O		Forest Edge
__*Eastern Wood Pewee	U	O	O		Forest Edge
__Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	R	X	O		Swamp
__Acadian Flycatcher	X		X		Forest
__Alder Flycatcher	U		U		Swamp
__Willow Flycatcher	U		U		Swamp
__Least Flycatcher	C	X	C		Swamp

	SP	SU	F	W	LOCATION
___ *Eastern Phoebe	C	A	A	A	Forest Edge/Swamp
___ *Great Crested Flycatcher	C	A	O		Forest
___ *Western Flycatcher	U	C	O		Prairie
___ *Eastern Kingbird	C	C	U		Prairie
___ *Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	C	A	C		Forest Edge
___ *Loggerhead Shrike	U	O	U	R	Prairie
___ *White-eyed Vireo	A	A	C		Forest Edge
___ Bell's Vireo	O		O		Forest Edge
___ Blue-headed Vireo	U		O		Forest Edge
___ Warbling Vireo	U		O		Forest Edge
___ Philadelphia Vireo	O				Forest Edge
___ *Red-eyed Vireo	C	A	O		Forest
___ *Blue Jay	A	A	A	A	Forest Edge
___ *American Crow	A	A	A	A	Forest Edge
___ Horned Lark				X	Prairie
___ *Purple Martin	C	A	O		Flyover/Swamp
___ Tree Swallow	X				Pond
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	O	R	O		Pond
___ Bank Swallow			X		Pond
___ Cliff Swallow	O	O	O		Pond
___ Barn Swallow	C	A	U		Pond
___ *Carolina Chickadee	A	A	A	A	Forest
___ *Tufted Titmouse	A	A	A	A	Forest
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch			X	X	Forest
___ *White-breasted Nuthatch	O	R	O	O	Forest
___ Brown Creeper	O		U	C	Forest/Swamp
___ *Carolina Wren	A	A	A	A	Forest Edge
___ Bewick's Wren	X		O	X	Forest Edge
___ House Wren	C		C	X	Forest Edge
___ Winter Wren	X		U	C	Swamp
___ Sedge Wren	X		X	X	Swamp
___ Marsh Wren	X				Swamp
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	R		U	C	Forest

	SP	SU	F	W	LOCATION
__ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	A		C	A	Forest
__ *Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	A	U		Forest Edge
__ *Eastern Bluebird	A	A	A	A	Prairie
__ Veery	R				Forest
__ Gray-cheeked Thrush	O		X		Forest
__ Swainson's Thrush	C	X	X		Forest
__ Hermit Thrush	U		U	C	Forest
__ Wood Thrush	R				Forest
__ American Robin	U	O	C	A	Everywhere
__ Gray Catbird	C		O		Forest Edge
__ *Northern Mockingbird	A	A	A	A	Forest Edge
__ Brown Thrasher	C		C	A	Forest Edge
__ *European Starling	A	A	A	A	Swamp
__ American Pipit				R	Swamp
__ Cedar Waxwing	C			C	Forest
__ Blue-winged Warbler	X				Willows
__ Golden-winged Warbler	X				Willows
__ Tennessee Warbler	O		X		Willows
__ Orange-crowned Warbler	C		U	U	Forest Edge
__ Nashville Warbler	C		U		Willows
__ *Northern Parula	C	C			Forest
__ Yellow Warbler	C		O		Willows
__ Chestnut-sided Warbler	O				Willows
__ Magnolia Warbler	U				Willows
__ Cape May Warbler	X				Willows
__ Yellow-rumped Warbler	A		U	A	Forest
__ Black-throated Green Warbler	O		O		Willows
__ Blackburnian Warbler	O				Willows
__ Pine Warbler			X	O	Forest/Prairie
__ Prairie Warbler			X		Prairie
__ Bay-breasted Warbler	O				Willows
__ Blackpoll Warbler	R				Swamp
__ Black-and-white Warbler	U	O	O		Forest



	SP	SU	F	W	LOCATION
__American Redstart	U		O		Swamp
__*Prothonotary Warbler	A	A	O		Swamp/Willows
__Worm-eating Warbler			X		Willows
__Swainson's Warbler	X				Willows
__Ovenbird	U		O		Forest
__Northern Waterthrush	U		R		Swamp/Pond
__Louisiana Waterthrush	R	O			Swamp/Pond
__Kentucky Warbler	X		X		Swamp
__Mourning Warbler	U	X	U		Forest
__Common Yellowthroat	C	R	U		Pond
__Hooded Warbler	X				Forest
__Wilson's Warbler	C		C		Swamp
__Canada Warbler	R		X		Swamp
__Yellow-breasted Chat	O		O		Swamp
__Summer Tanager	R		X		Forest Edge
__Scarlet Tanager	X				Forest Edge
__Spotted Towhee	X		O	O	Forest Edge
__Eastern Towhee	R		R	O	Forest Edge
__Chipping Sparrow	U		U	R	Forest Edge
__Clay-colored Sparrow	O		O		Prairie
__Field Sparrow	U		U	C	Prairie
__Vesper Sparrow			X		Forest Edge
__*Lark Sparrow	U	C	O	X	Prairie
__Savannah Sparrow	O		O	U	Prairie
__Grasshopper Sparrow	X		X		Prairie
__Henslow's Sparrow	X				Prairie
__LeConte's Sparrow	X		O	O	Prairie
__Fox Sparrow	O		U	A	Forest Edge
__Song Sparrow	U		U	A	Prairie
__Lincoln's Sparrow	A		C	C	Prairie
__Swamp Sparrow	U		U	C	Swamp
__White-throated Sparrow	A		U	A	Forest Edge
__Harris's Sparrow	U		O	C	Forest Edge

	SP	SU	F	W	LOCATION
___ White-crowned Sparrow	U		U	C	Forest Edge
___ Dark-eyed Junco	O		U	C	Forest Edge
___ *Northern Cardinal	A	A	A	A	Forest Edge
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	O				Forest
___ Blue Grosbeak	O		O		Prairie
___ Lazuli Bunting	X				Willows
___ *Indigo Bunting	C	A	C		Forest Edge
___ *Painted Bunting	C	A	O		Prairie
___ Dickcissel	U	O	O		Prairie
___ *Red-winged Blackbird	A	C	C	A	Swamp
___ Eastern Meadowlark	O		O	R	Prairie
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird	R				Swamp
___ Rusty Blackbird	X		R	C	Swamp
___ Brewer's Blackbird				X	Prairie
___ *Common Grackle	C	C	C	O	Prairie/Swamp
___ Great-tailed Grackle	A	C	C	C	Flyover
___ *Brown-headed Cowbird	A	A	C	O	Forest Edge
___ Orchard Oriole	U	O	O		Swamp
___ Baltimore Oriole	U		O		Swamp
___ Purple Finch				X	Forest Edge
___ *House Finch	U	C	C	A	Forest Edge
___ Pine Siskin			R	R	Forest Edge
___ American Goldfinch	U		U	A	Forest Edge
___ *House Sparrow	C	A	O	U	Prairie

*Revised 2007*

**What do I do if I sight a bird not on the checklist or one considered accidental, rare or uncommon?**

Report it immediately to the front and ask for someone from the wildlife sanctuary department or e-mail your sighting to the wildlife sanctuary department supervisor using the contact information on the website.

## **Birds Historically Seen In the Sanctuary**

Ruddy Duck  
Common Goldeneye  
Northern Bobwhite  
Eared Grebe  
American Bittern  
Rough-legged Hawk  
Merlin  
Sora

Common Moorhen  
American Golden-Plover  
Bonaparte's Gull  
Forster's Tern  
Short-eared Owl  
Broad-billed Hummingbird  
Lapland Longspur

## **Bird Related Activities at the Heard**

The bird banding station, established in 1978, is the longest continuously operated station in Texas. The banders tag between 700 and 1,200 birds annually. The data is then sent to the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, the Institute for Bird Populations, Center for Tropical Research, and the Landbird Migration Monitoring Network of Americas for use by researchers.

Bird houses for bluebirds and purple martins have always been present. However it wasn't until the 1980s that a consistent and systematic upkeep and monitoring of the nest boxes began. The Heard now has 44 nest boxes and a team of volunteers that monitor and tend them. One of the recent successes of the nest box program has been the attraction of the Prothonotary Warblers. Thanks to hatching success, the Heard now has close to 20 nesting pairs.

To learn more about volunteering for any of the bird related projects, call the Heard's front desk at 972-562-5566 or go to [heardmuseum.org](http://heardmuseum.org).

# Thank You

**Migration Census** – Georgette Guernsey, Master Naturalist

**Nest Box Camera** – Loney Duncan and Jennifer Maxwell

**Bird Banding** – Ron Cook; Linda Ergonis; Tom Heath; Jennifer Maxwell; Betty Parker; Sandy Polcyn; Leslie, Emily, and Caroline Stanton; Karen White; and Judy Woods

**Nest Box Monitoring** – Sandy Campbell and Dianne Stricker

Thank you everyone and to all of those not mentioned who in the past contributed so much.

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**Cattle Egret**



**Great Blue Heron**



**Great Egret**



**Green Heron**



Painted Bunting



Red Headed Woodpecker

Jim Ross



Anhinga

Red-shouldered Hawk



## Bird Banding

## Nest Box Monitoring &



1 Nature Place, McKinney, TX 75069

[heardmuseum.org](http://heardmuseum.org)



Prothonotary Warbler