

Birds of Elm Fork Nature Preserve

GREAT BLUE HERON

Ardea herodias

Appearance: It exhibits a blue-gray plumage when observed from a distance, and it's characterized by a prominent wide black stripe running over its eye.

Behavior: They typically wade slowly through shallow water or maintain a statue-like stance when stalking fish and other prey.

Where do I live? Find me in the pond in the back of the preserve looking for my next meal.



DOWNY WOODPECKER

Picoides pubescens

Appearance: Woodpeckers are typically small to medium-sized birds with distinctive markings. They have white stomachs, breasts, and backs, along with black tails and wings.

Behavior: They are often seen perched on tiny branches or balancing on slender plant galls, seed balls, and feeders as they search for insects and food.

Where do I live? I'll be pecking into trees in search of insects and other prey.



NORTHERN CARDINAL

Cardinalis cardinalis

Appearance: Both male and females have crests on their heads, and males have vibrant red plumage while females are more camouflaged in brown with red highlights.

Behavior: They are songbirds that produce a variety of different melodies, making them a delightful and musical presence in their habitat.

Where do I live? Find me flying throughout the preserve. I'm hard to miss because of my brilliant red feathers!



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CAROLINA CHICKADEE

Poecile carolinensis

Appearance: Chickadees have a black cap and bib separated by stark white cheeks. The back, wings, and tail are soft gray.

Behavior: They forage mostly by hopping among twigs and branches and comes to bird feeders for seeds.

Where do I live? Find me amongst the forested areas where the large trees are, I'll be hopping from branch to branch.



CAROLINA WREN

Thryothorus ludovicianus

Appearance: Wrens are a bright, un-patterned reddish-brown above and warm orange below, with a long white eyebrow strip, dark bill, and white chin and throat.

Behavior: The Carolina Wren creeps around vegetated areas and scoots up and down tree trunks in search of insects and fruits.

Where do I live? Hear me singing or look for me from dense vegetation in the woods.



WHEN AND WHERE CAN I SEE THESE BIRDS?

You can observe these birds year-round at the Elm Fork Nature Preserve, as they are commonly found in North Texas. For the best birdwatching experience, consider visiting during the early morning and late afternoon when many birds are most active.