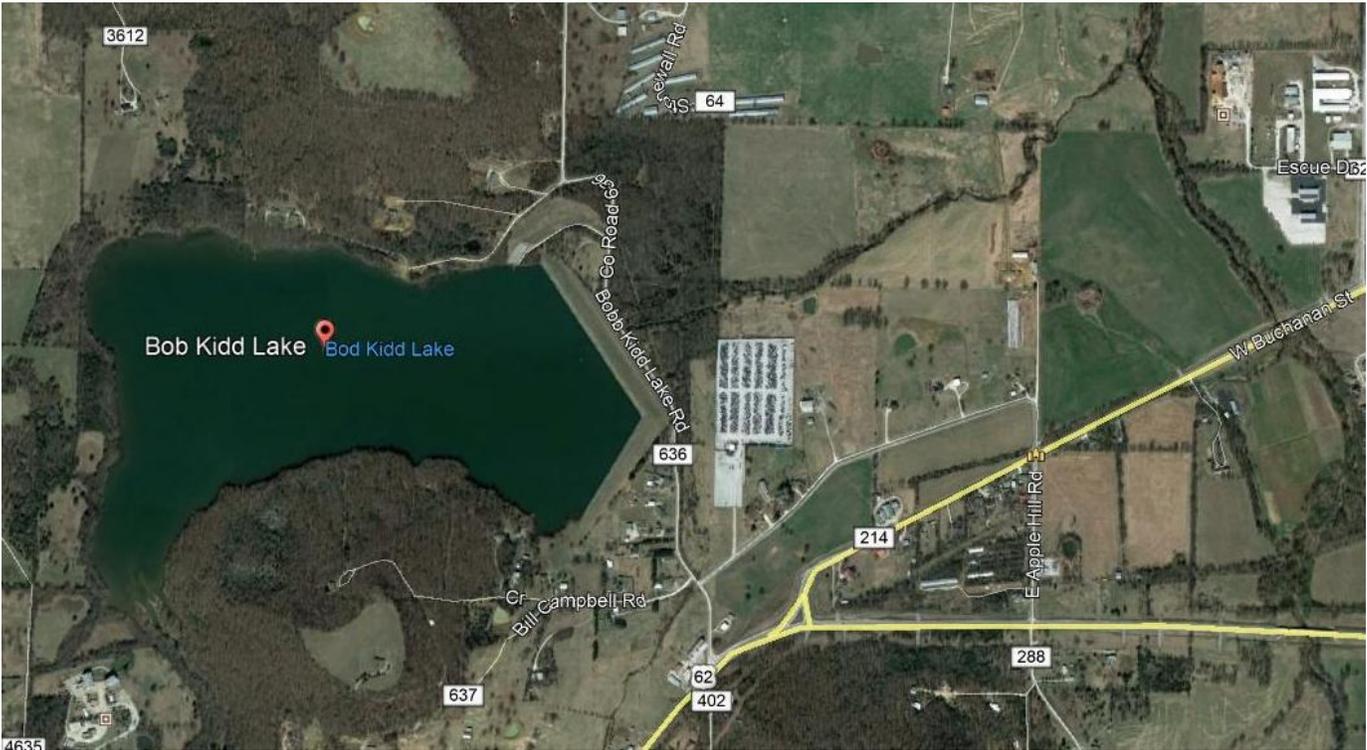
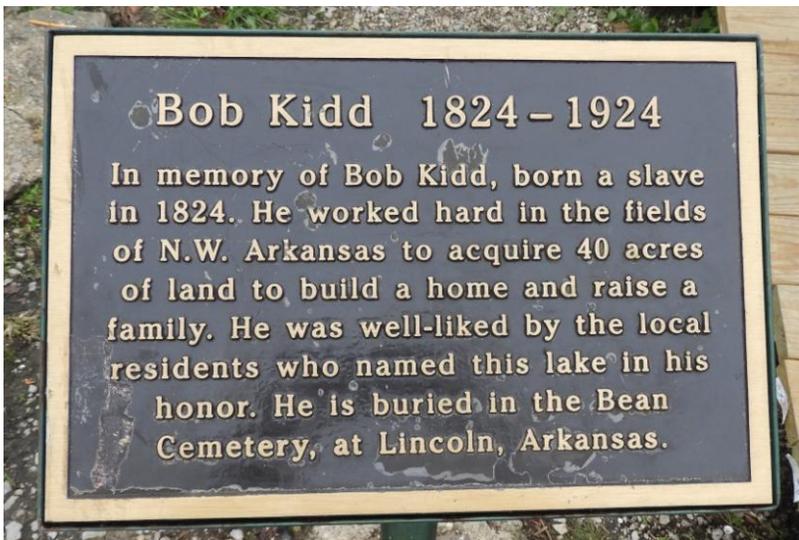


# BOB KIDD LAKE

**LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS:** Bob Kidd is about 2.0 miles west of Prairie Grove in Washington County. Access is off US 62. Turn NORTH off 62 onto Bob Kidd Lake Road immediately west of the intersection of 62 bypass and old 62 (W. Buchanan St). Watch traffic CAREFULLY while making this turn.



**ABOUT THE LAKE:** The 200 acres of Bob Kidd Lake were created in 1975 by damming a creek of the same name. The creek and lake were named for a former slave who farmed the bottomlands now covered by the lake. Arkansas Game and Fish Commission manages it for fishing and duck hunting. The birding is good, too. We bird it steadily in the fall, especially during waterfowl migration and before opening of duck hunting.



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**BIRDING:** From the turn-off from 62, drive about 0.4 miles and stop at the base of the dam where you see a place to park. Climb to the top to check-out the east end of the lake. This is a good place to find grebes and diving ducks in both spring and fall. Waterfowl migration in fall (especially during big cold fronts in November) can bring hundreds and even thousands of diving ducks into Bob Kidd. Both here and at other lakes, swallows often abound in the spring on days when there is a strong north

wind.

Notice a turn left onto a short road that provides a place to launch boats and a fishing pier at about mile 0.7. This is another good spot to survey to lake's deep water. Now follow the road as it loops around to the lake's northside. You will want to observe from along as much of the north shore of the lake as possible. This road ends at about mile 1.2. This provides a view of the middle portions of the lake and something of a view of the west and southwest ends of the lake. You can't drive any further. The old two-track road is now gated and several private homes have been built in the area. Bald Eagles are often present in mid-winter and they often perch on trees along the south shore.

During low water conditions it is possible to continue on foot along the north shoreline, close to the lake edge. With determination, you can reach the west side of the lake. There are some open marshy habitats. In past years these have yielded Sedge Wrens, LeConte's Sparrow and Sharp-tailed Sparrow (in the fall). Spring gems have included American Bittern, Sora, Willet and other shorebirds

Brushy edges of roads around the lake can be rewarding for land birds and it is easy to scan the lake from almost anywhere along the trail. Tree Swallows have nested in the snags out in the lake and will probably



continue as long as the snags survive. From mid-July through late September, scan the lake for herons and terns. Cattle Egrets, for example, have roosted in the snags out in the lake. Both Yellow Warblers and Northern Waterthrushes have been found during late August and early September. In October, the abandoned farmland now becoming old fields in the area around the lake are good spots to find lingering Common Yellowthroats, Indigo Buntings and Dickcissels as well as Orange-crowned Warblers. In late October and November, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Winter Wrens and a variety of sparrows--sometimes in very high numbers--have been found. The wet, dense open field vegetation can literally crawl with migrants about the time of the first frosts in fall.

Many unusual species have been found here: Western Grebe, Eared Grebe, Plegadis ibis, Greater Scaup, Surf Scoter. Greater Roadrunners are seen along brushy roadsides.

