

## LAKE ELMDALE

Lake Elmdale is constructed on Brush Creek, a tributary of the Illinois River. It includes 200 acres between Elm Springs and Springdale (name combines the two communities) in northwest Washington County. It was built in 1953 by the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission. Fishing is popular all year, with favorites being largemouth bass, bream, catfish and crappie. Biologists have found shad, bluegill and redear bream in good numbers – this probably helps to explain surprisingly good numbers of fish-eating birds on the lake at times.

Access to the lake is by a concrete ramp with parking area near the dam on the lake's northwest side. There is another access point in the midsection of the lake. Both are reached off Elm Springs Road between Elm Springs and Springdale. The road intersects with Interstate 540 at Springdale.

There are a variety of birds around this small lake. Because of its small size and good vantage points, a lot can be seen. The lake has been especially interesting for waterfowl during migration and winter.



**DIRECTIONS TO DAM SITE VIEWING:** If you are coming from I-540, take the Elm Springs exit WEST, and continue west until you reach East Lake Road. This winds around the north side of the lake and eventually winds up in Elm Springs. Names on road signs vary some: Elm Springs Road, then "S Lake Rd". The dam site parking lot is about 2/3s of the way from I-540 to the community of Elm Springs. Traveling from I-540, Elm Springs Road makes a sharp NORTH turn and becomes S. Elm Springs. At this intersection, keep going WEST on the Lake Road. You will reach an intersection for Lake Road and N. Elm Springs Road; continue a short distance on Lake and notice on your right (SOUTH) the short road that goes down to the dam & the parking lot.

**DIRECTIONS FOR VIEWING FROM THE SOUTH BANK:** There is a good viewpoint on the southside of Lake Elmdale. If you take a look at a map, note Elm Springs on 112, with the lake just to the EAST. If you travel S on 112 from Elm Springs, you will reach an intersection called W. Gibbs Road in about 1.2 miles. Turn EAST on W. Gibbs and travel about 0.8 miles to the intersection of W. Gibbs and Co. Rd 913. Turn NORTH on 913 and drive the short distance to the lake.