

WEST TENNESSEE

Chickasaw–Cabins, Campground
Mixed hardwood and pine forests cover the majority of the park, providing a range of habitats across the rolling hills. Woodland birding is generally good year round. Look for Canada geese and great blue herons on the lake. White-breasted nuthatch, eastern towhee and other forest birds are common year round. Vireos, yellow-billed cuckoo, wood thrush, Acadian flycatcher, blue-gray gnatcatcher, eastern wood pewee and warblers may be found in summer. Swamp sparrow, brown creeper, hermit thrush, dark-eyed junco, yellow-bellied sapsucker and kinglets may be found in winter. Keep your eyes open for box turtles on hiking trails and sliders in the lake. Over 80 species of birds have been observed.

Meeman Shelby Forest–Cabins, Campground
The site consists primarily of some 12,539 acres of upland and bottomland forests. Two thirds of the park contains bottomland forests of oak, cypress, and tupelo. There are two man-made lakes in the uplands and some natural lakes and wetland areas in the bottomlands. The wide variety of habitats present ensures year round opportunities for birding for such species as woodpeckers, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, Carolina wren, American goldfinch and wild turkey. In summer, Kentucky warbler and Acadian flycatcher are abundant. Also seen are yellow-billed cuckoo, eastern kingbird, eastern wood pewee, blue-gray gnatcatcher, vireos, orioles, summer tanager and several warblers. Barred owls are abundant across the bottomland forests. Cerulean warblers are common breeding birds on the bluffs. Swainson's warbler and Louisiana waterthrush are readily encountered. Least terns and Mississippi kites may be seen from the river bank in summer. In winter, yellow-bellied sapsucker, brown creeper, winter wren, hermit thrush, kinglets, yellow-rumped warbler, purple finch, sparrows and waterfowl are observed. Late April into May and September to October bring many migrant bird species. 240 species of birds have been observed throughout the year.

Natchez Trace–Inn, Cabins, Campground
Pine and deciduous forests comprise the 48,000 acres of Natchez Trace State Park and State Forest. Hiking trails, including overnight trails, are available for pleasant walks and bird watching. Summer birds that can be seen include yellow-billed cuckoo, eastern phoebe, Acadian flycatcher, wood thrush, whip-poor-will, chuck-will's-widow, yellow-breasted chat and great crested flycatcher, blue-gray gnatcatcher, vireos, tanagers, and warblers. In winter, brown creepers, yellow-bellied sapsucker, red-breasted nuthatch, yellow-rumped warbler, dark-eyed junco, sparrows and kinglets can be found. Small numbers of ducks can be found on the small ponds in winter. Over 130 species of birds have been observed primarily spring, summer and fall.

Nathan Bedford Forrest–Cabins, Campground
Views of the expansive open waters are available from the boat ramps and at open spots on trails along the shoreline. Numerous migrating and wintering waterfowl along with herons, egrets and several gull species can be seen from here. The trail system winds from hardwood bottoms uphill through oak-hickory

forest, and trails on the Pilot Knob Ridge and the observation deck at the Tennessee River Folklife Center enable views of the canopy for abundant resident and migrant songbirds. Over 50 species of birds have been observed primarily in spring, summer and fall.

Reelfoot Lake–Campground
From the visitors center's grounds and boardwalk, a representative sample of area birds can be seen, including prothonotary warblers, double-crested cormorants, wood ducks, osprey and various wading birds like great blue heron, and great egret. To the west, the Keystone Trail offers similar viewing, with abundant American goldfinch and migratory warblers attracted to thick, second growth forests. From the shore, American coot and white pelican can be seen in large numbers during the fall through spring in this section of the lake. On State Highway 21 at the new spillway is a pull-off on the south side from where an eagle nest is readily visible. Hundreds of bald eagles overwinter at Reelfoot Lake and tours are provided. In winter, hundreds of thousands of ducks and geese, including mallards, black, redhead, bufflehead, lesser scaup, canvasback, gadwell, American wigeon and pintail can be observed. In addition to migrant songbirds, shorebirds like semipalmated plover, killdeer and pectoral sandpiper, can be seen in spring and early fall. Reelfoot Lake State Park and Natural Area are part of the Mississippi Alluvial Valley Important Bird Area, Reelfoot Lake Complex. Over 190 species of birds have been observed primarily in winter, spring and fall.

Paris Landing–Inn, Cabins, Campground
From behind and east of the inn, along the paved picnic loop, views of the lake are fantastic for migrating and wintering water birds. In late afternoon sunlight green and great blue heron, American coot, Canada geese, common loon, grebes, cormorants, gulls and many diving ducks can be seen. In the shallows and swampy areas adjacent to the south and north sides of State Highway 79, marsh ducks congregate. More lake views are possible from any shoreline opening and from behind cabins four and five wintering bald eagles are a common sight. The open forest around the picnic area is a good place to see red-headed woodpeckers, dark-eyed juncos, eastern wood pewee, white-breasted nuthatch, chipping sparrow, warblers and other birds. Over 145 species of birds have been observed throughout the year.

Pickwick Landing–Inn, Cabins, Campground
The main attraction at Pickwick Landing State Park is waterbirds. Gulls, loons, grebes, American coot and ducks can be abundant in winter. Ring-billed gulls are the most common gull in winter, but herring gulls are often present. Occasionally a lesser black-backed gull may be found, as well as, less common gulls such as Thayer's and laughing gulls. Common loons and pied-billed grebes are also found on the lake in winter. The park is one of the best places in West Tennessee to find brown-headed nuthatches. These birds can be found in the pine stands around the park. In winter, red-breasted nuthatches may be present, along with resident white-breasted nuthatches that may combine for the three nuthatch species trifecta in one location. In spring and fall, songbird migration can be excellent along the woodland edges and along the walking and hiking trail. Chuck-will's-widow and whip-poor-will may be heard in late spring. In winter, white-throated, swamp and song sparrows and dark-eyed juncos may be encountered. General woodland birding is excellent. Nearly 150 species of birds have been observed.



MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Cedars of Lebanon–Cabins, Campground
Birds seen or heard in or near glades include prairie warbler, yellow-breasted chat, and chuck-will's-widow, as well as other typical mid-south field and forest dwellers. Over 120 species of birds have been observed primarily during late spring and fall.

David Crockett–Cabins, Campground
The park has mixed deciduous forest, pine forest, open areas and a lake providing abundant habitat for birds. In summer expect yellow-billed cuckoo, eastern kingbird, flycatchers, wood thrush, eastern wood pewee, blue-gray gnatcatcher, vireos, warblers, yellow-breasted chat, orchard oriole summer tanager and indigo bunting. In winter expect yellow-bellied sapsucker, red-breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, Wilson's snipe, hermit thrush, winter wren, kinglets, purple finch, dark-eyed junco and sparrows. Year-round killdeer, belted kingfisher, woodpeckers, blue jay, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, Carolina wren, eastern bluebird, American goldfinch and eastern towhee can be found. Nearly 100 species of birds observed throughout the year.

Edgar Evins–Cabins, Campground
From spring to fall, the observation tower enables treetop-level views of extensive mixed hardwood forest. Birding can result in sightings of numerous songbirds, including scarlet and summer tanagers, and the rare cerulean warbler, a consistent summer resident. Other summer birds include yellow-billed cuckoo, Acadian flycatcher, eastern wood pewee, wood thrush, blue-gray gnatcatcher, indigo bunting, vireos, and warblers. On the peninsula below the cabins, transient waterfowl may be spotted as well as bald eagles and osprey. In winter yellow-bellied sapsucker, hermit thrush, cedar waxwing, yellow-rumped warbler, purple finch, dark-eyed junco, white-throated sparrows and kinglets can be encountered. Over 140 species of birds have been observed throughout the year.



Fall Creek Falls–Inn, Cabins, Campground
Fall Creek Falls, in the heart of the southern Cumberland Plateau, has gorges with scenic views, Millikan's Overlook on the auto tour loop being one of the finest. From here, migrating red-tailed, broad-winged and other "buzzard hawks" soar with resident turkey vultures, sometimes at eye level. Many of the bluff tops offer canopy-level views of blue-headed vireos, black-throated green and several other warblers, scarlet tanagers and other songbirds from mid-March to October. Year-round residents include owls, woodpeckers, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, Carolina wren, and eastern towhee. The Lake Trail from the dam to the headwaters, offers views of beaver dams, barn swallows, wood ducks, herons, and transient grebe and loons in winter. 130 species of birds have been observed throughout the year.



Henry Horton–Inn, Cabins, Campground
Birding is good along the bluff tops here for residents such as Carolina chickadee and tufted titmouse, pileated and red-bellied woodpeckers, and migrating warblers. Approximately 50 species of birds can be expected here during the late spring.

Montgomery Bell–Inn, Cabins, Campground
The park has high quality oak-hickory forests surrounding three lakes and a stream. Green herons and ducks are found on the lakes and transient warblers and wild turkeys are common across the park. In summer yellow-billed cuckoo, whip-poor-will, eastern kingbird, eastern wood pewee, wood thrush, blue-gray gnatcatcher, orchard oriole, yellow-breasted chat, indigo bunting, tanagers, warblers, flycatchers and vireos can be expected. In winter brown creeper, hermit thrush, kinglets, cedar waxwing, yellow-bellied-sapsucker, yellow-rumped warbler, purple finch, dark-eyed junco and sparrows are observed. The cerulean warbler might also be seen. Over 100 species of birds have been observed throughout the year.

Rock Island–Cabins, Campground
Birds such as osprey, black vulture, belted kingfisher, black-crowned night-heron and yellow-crowned night-heron can be seen along with great blue heron which have a rookery nearby. 60 species of birds have been observed, especially in late spring. Acadian flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo, eastern wood pewee, eastern kingbird, eastern phoebe, tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, Carolina wren, blue-gray gnatcatcher, summer tanager, orchard oriole, indigo bunting, American goldfinch, vireos, and warblers may all be observed.

Standing Stone–Cabins, Campground
Kelly Lake supports great blue herons, migrating waterfowl, and northern rough-winged swallows. Barred owls are regularly heard around the cabin area and vireos and migrating warblers can be seen. The gravel road below the dam goes past fields managed as meadows, attracting American goldfinch and common yellowthroat. Over 115 species of birds have been observed during the spring and fall.

Tims Ford–Cabins, Campground
Tims Ford offers shoreline and upland habitat for birds. Open field birds such as indigo bunting, song and field sparrows share created meadow areas on either side of the park road past the visitor center. Barred owls can be heard calling and seen on the nearby Spann House Trail. From the scenic Marble Plains Trail Overlook, the Ray Branch Shoreline Loop hugs the lake edge and is a good way to spot herons, pied-billed grebe and the occasional bald eagle. Over 125 species of birds have been observed throughout the year.



EAST TENNESSEE

Big Ridge–Cabins, Campground
Bald eagles, herons, and kingfishers can be seen on the lakes as well as many species of waterfowl during the winter. Common loons sometimes visit during the winter and can be seen on Norris Lake. The trails are good places to see migratory birds in the spring and fall. Over 100 species of birds have been observed throughout the year but especially during the autumn months.

Cumberland Mountain–Cabins, Campground
Herons, belted kingfishers, and ducks in migration or wintering can be seen from the lakeshore. Woodland birds are common. In the summer expect yellow-billed cuckoo, flycatchers, wood thrush, warblers, blue-gray gnatcatcher, scarlet tanager, indigo bunting, and vireos. Year-round red-tailed hawk, woodpeckers, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, Carolina wren, American goldfinch and eastern towhee may be encountered. Over 90 species of birds have been observed.



Norris Dam–Cabins, Campground
Waterfowl, great blue and green herons, gulls, osprey and bald eagle frequent the lake and the forests harbor great numbers of migratory birds in the spring and fall. Over 70 species of birds have been observed throughout the year. On the adjacent TVA Songbird Trail, over 180 species of birds have been observed throughout the year. Below the dam look for orchard and northern orioles, eastern bluebirds, sparrows and tree swallows.

Pickett–Cabins, Campground
Year round residents include red-tailed hawk, owls, white-breasted nuthatch, Carolina wren, eastern towhee, and field and song sparrows. In summer, breeding whip-poor-wills can be heard singing at dawn and dusk, while hooded warbler, worm-eating warbler, wood thrush, and ruby-throated hummingbirds can be found during the day. Flycatchers, eastern wood pewee, blue-gray gnatcatcher, vireos, warblers, and tanagers are also found in summer. Northern rough-winged swallows and eastern phoebes nest on rock faces. In winter yellow-bellied sapsucker, red-breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, winter wren, hermit thrush, kinglets, yellow-rumped warbler, purple finch and sparrows can be encountered. Over 80 species of birds have been observed primarily in spring, summer and fall.

Roan Mountain–Cabins, Campground
130 species of birds have been observed throughout the year. Year-round one may find red-tailed hawk, woodpeckers, blue jay, common raven, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, Carolina wren, eastern towhee, cedar waxwing, northern cardinal, and American goldfinch. Belted kingfisher may be seen here along the Doe River and northern parula sings from the tall trees in spring and summer. The short Peg Leg Mine Trail behind the visitor center should produce Acadian flycatcher and ovenbird in summer. Typical woodland and edge birds can be found at the Dave Miller Farmstead. Picnic Shelter # 1 is usually an excellent site, especially in migration. Warblers, vireos, thrushes, sparrows, and others may be seen. Nesting species include chestnut-sided warbler and gray catbird, while Louisiana waterthrush can be found across the road along the river. The state park is part of the Southern Blue Ridge Important Bird Area, Roan Mountain.

Seven Islands
During the breeding season, nesting birds are quite a highlight here. Easily heard singing well into the summer are common yellowthroat, yellow-breasted chat, summer tanager, blue grosbeak, orchard orioles and indigo bunting. Purple martins nest in boxes and gourds erected by the Knoxville Chapter of Tennessee Ornithological Society and tree swallows are also present. In winter, hundreds of sparrows can be found, especially field, savannah, song, swamp, white-throated and white-crowned. It is possibly the most reliable Knox County location to find white-crowned sparrows. A prothonotary warbler may also be present. A northern harrier regularly cruises the hilly fields, and short-eared owls could occur as the grass fields become established. Over 180 species of birds have been observed throughout the year.



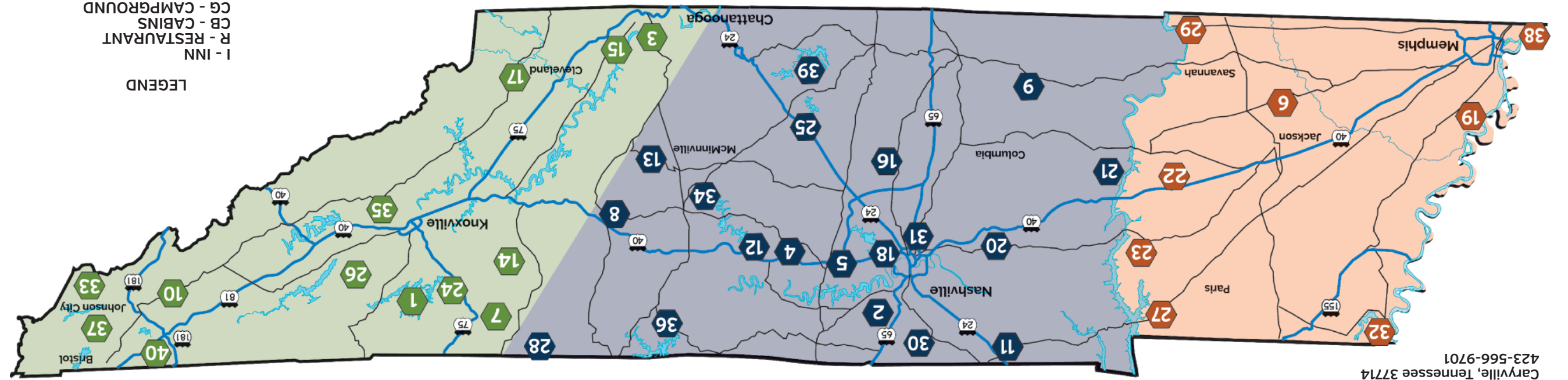


- 35. Seven Islands
2809 Kelly Lane
Kodak, Tennessee 37764
865-407-8335
- 36. Standing Stone-CB, CG
1674 Standing Stone Park Hwy.
Hillman, Tennessee 38568
800-713-5157
- 37. Sycamore Shoals
1651 W. Elk Avenue
Elizabethton, Tennessee 37643
423-543-5808
- 38. T.O. Fuller-CG
1500 Mitchell Road
Memphis, Tennessee 38109
901-543-7581
- 39. Tims Ford-CB, CG
570 Tims Ford Drive
Winchester, Tennessee 37398
800-471-5295
- 40. Warriors' Path-C
490 Hemlock Road
Kingsport, Tennessee 37663
423-239-8531

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- 26. Panther Creek-CG
2010 Panther Creek Road
Morristown, Tennessee 37814
423-587-7046
- 27. Paris Landing-I, R, CB, CG
16055 Hwy 79 N
Buchanan, Tennessee 38222
800-250-8614
- 28. Pickert-CB, CG
4605 Pickert Park Highway
Jameson, Tennessee 38556
877-260-0010
- 29. Pickwick Landing-I, R, CB, CG
116 State Park Lane
Pickwick Dam, Tennessee 38365
800-250-8615
- 30. Port Royal
3300 Old Clarksville Hwy.
Adams, Tennessee 37010
931-645-0622
- 31. Radnor Lake
25. Old Stone Fort-C
732 Stone Fort Drive
Manchester, Tennessee 37355
931-723-5073
- 32. Reelfoot Lake-CG
2595 Hwy 21 E
Tiptonville, Tennessee 38079
731-253-9652
- 33. Roan Mountain-CB, CG
1015 Hwy 143
Roan Mountain, Tennessee 37687
800-250-8620
- 34. Rock Island-CB, CG
82 Beach Road
Rock Island, Tennessee 38581
800-713-6065



- 1. Big Ridge-CB, CG
1015 Big Ridge Park Road
Maynardville, Tennessee 37807
800-471-5305
- 2. Bledsoe Creek-C
400 Ziegler's Fort Road
Gallatin, Tennessee 37066
615-452-3706
- 3. Booker T. Washington
5801 Champion Road
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37416
423-894-4955
- 4. Burgess Falls
4000 Burgess Falls Drive
Sparta, Tennessee 38583
931-432-5312
- 5. Cedars of Lebanon-CB, CG
328 Cedar Forest Road
Lebanon, Tennessee 37090
800-213-5180
- 6. Chickasaw-CB, CG
20 Cabin Lane
Henderson, Tennessee 38340
800-458-1752
- 7. Cove Lake-C
110 Cove Lake Lane
Caryville, Tennessee 37714
423-566-9701
- 8. Cumberland Mountain-R, CB, CG
24 Office Drive
Crossville, Tennessee 38555
800-250-8618
- 9. David Crockett-R, CB, CG
23 Crockett Park Road
GPS: 1400 West Gaines
Lawrenceburg, Tennessee 38464
931-762-9408
- 10. David Crockett Birthplace-C
1245 Davy Crockett Park Road
Limestone, Tennessee 37681
423-257-2167
- 11. Dunbar Cave
401 Old Dunbar Cave Road
Clarksville, Tennessee 37043
931-648-5526
- 12. Edgar Evans-CB, CG
1630 Edgar Evans State Park Road
Silver Point, Tennessee 38582
800-250-8619
- 13. Fall Creek Falls-I, R, CB, CG
2009 Village Camp Road
Spencer, Tennessee 38585
800-250-8611
- 14. Frozen Head-CG
964 Jackson Hill Road
Warburg, Tennessee 37887
423-346-3318
- 15. Harrison Bay-C
8411 Harrison Bay Road
Burns, Tennessee 37029
800-250-8613
- 20. Montgomery Bell-I, R, CB, CG
1020 Jackson Hill Road
Morristown, Tennessee 37029
800-250-8613
- 21. Mousetail Landing-C
21. Mousetail Landing-C
800-250-8613
- 22. Natchez Trace-I, R, CB, CG
24845 Natchez Trace Road
Wildersville, Tennessee 38388
800-250-8612
- 17. Hiwassee / Ocoee-C
404 Spring Creek Road
Delano, Tennessee 37325
423-263-0050
- 18. Long Hunter
2910 Hobson Pike
Hermitage, Tennessee 37076
615-885-2422
- 19. Meeman-Shelby Forest-CB, CG
910 Riddick Road
Millington, Tennessee 38053
800-471-5293
- 25. Old Stone Fort-C
732 Stone Fort Drive
Manchester, Tennessee 37355
931-723-5073
- 24. Norris Dam-CB, CG
125 Village Green Circle
Rocky Top, Tennessee 37769
800-543-9335
- 25. Old Stone Fort-C
732 Stone Fort Drive
Manchester, Tennessee 37355
931-723-5073
- 26. Panther Creek-CG
2010 Panther Creek Road
Morristown, Tennessee 37814
423-587-7046
- 27. Paris Landing-I, R, CB, CG
16055 Hwy 79 N
Buchanan, Tennessee 38222
800-250-8614
- 28. Pickert-CB, CG
4605 Pickert Park Highway
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- 29. Pickwick Landing-I, R, CB, CG
116 State Park Lane
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3300 Old Clarksville Hwy.
Adams, Tennessee 37010
931-645-0622
- 31. Radnor Lake
25. Old Stone Fort-C
732 Stone Fort Drive
Manchester, Tennessee 37355
931-723-5073
- 32. Reelfoot Lake-CG
2595 Hwy 21 E
Tiptonville, Tennessee 38079
731-253-9652
- 33. Roan Mountain-CB, CG
1015 Hwy 143
Roan Mountain, Tennessee 37687
800-250-8620
- 34. Rock Island-CB, CG
82 Beach Road
Rock Island, Tennessee 38581
800-713-6065

40 Premier Birding Locations

Tennessee Birding Through the Seasons

Starting in West Tennessee in March the purple martin migration signals the beginning of spring. Birding springs to life with Neotropical migrants that come through the state in the hundreds of thousands during April and May. The peak spring migration is in mid to late April. By the first of May wintering waterfowl have moved on but herons have returned. By the end of May overwintering birds have flown north and breeding and nesting are underway. In summer the birds quiet down and nest and foliage makes them harder to see so recognizing calls becomes key to identifying birds. Nonetheless, throughout the state there are many species of resident birds to hear and see. Shorebirds begin to leave from early August through October. The autumn season begins in August and is all about movement as the young birds fly about and mature birds begin post-breeding dispersal. The Neotropical migrants are on the move with peak migration in September. Identifying young birds and mature birds can be a challenge as their plumages differ. September and October are a good time to observe migrating hawks and vultures. In October droves of geese and wintering ducks begin to arrive. Wild turkeys are also easily found in large grazing flocks in October. Winter is a great time to observe feeder birds in December through February.



The Christmas Bird Count provides an opportunity to get outside in early winter. The big draw in winter is the waterfowl including geese, ducks and gulls. American bald eagles are also easily observed at Reelfoot Lake in January and February. Winter is a good time to look for sparrows in old fields and along forest edges. Fruit eating birds like cedar waxwing, white-breasted nuthatch and kinglets feed on the fruits of shrubs and trees. In February the Great Backyard Bird Count is another great opportunity to get outside and see winter birds.



Tennessee State Parks-Birding

From the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Mississippi River, Tennessee is home to a great diversity of birdlife. Tennessee State Parks offer excellent, year-round opportunities to explore this diversity from common species like Tennessee's state bird, the northern mockingbird, to rare species like the cerulean warbler. Whether you're looking for a barred owl, wood thrush or a white ibis, you can find many of Tennessee's birds in a state park.

Tennessee State Parks offer a variety of lodging options including camping, cabins and inns, and for those traveling with groups, many parks offer group accommodations.

Helpful Links

- Tennessee Birding Trails
www.tnbirdingtrail.org
- Field Checklist of Tennessee Birds
www.tnwatchablewildlife.org
- eBird Hotspots and Sightings
www.ebird.org
- Tennessee Ornithological Society
www.tnbirds.org
- Tennessee State Parks
www.tnstateparks.com/activities/birding

Responsible Birding

- Do not endanger the welfare of birds.
- Tread lightly and respect bird habitat.
- Silence is golden.
- Do not use electronic sound devices to attract birds during nesting season, May-July.
- Take extra care when in a nesting area.
- Always respect the law and the rights of others, violators subject to prosecution.
- Do not trespass on private property.
- Avoid pointing your binoculars at other people or their homes.
- Limit group sizes in areas that are not conducive to large crowds.

Tennessee State Parks
William R. Snodgrass TN Tower
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 2nd Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

www.tnstateparks.com

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers and Friends assist in protecting, preserving and promoting the cultural and natural resources of their favorite state park, giving of their time and talents to ensure their park's integrity for future generations to enjoy. It's easy to show your support - join a Friends group or participate in one of the many volunteer opportunities we offer individuals, families and groups.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities in your area visit www.tnstateparks.com.



TENNESSEE
State Parks

Birding In
TENNESSEE
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www.tnstateparks.com