



Birds of Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park

910 Riddick Road, Millington, Tennessee 38053 / 901-876-5215

The Audubon Society designated Meeman-Shelby an Important Bird Area in 2006. The 13,476-acre park contains bottomland hardwoods, swamps, lakes and upland forest. There are over 20 miles of trails in the park which offer great opportunities for birding. Over 240 species of birds have been reported from the park. Substantial numbers of neotropical migrants can be found during the spring and fall migrations. Summer breeding birds include cerulean, Swainson's and hooded warblers, Mississippi kites, anhinga, yellow-crowned night-herons and great egrets. In winter, visit Poplar Tree Lake for waterfowl and the boat ramp to the Mississippi River for gulls, ducks, and geese flying over. Owls, woodpeckers, wild turkey and other resident birds are common year-round.



barred owl

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.

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 Birding
www.tnstateparks.com/activities/birding



T E N N E S S E E
State Parks
www.tnstateparks.com

Additional Nearby State Park Birding Opportunities

Chickasaw – Cabins, Campground – Henderson, TN 38340 / 731-989-5141
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/chickasaw

Fort Pillow – Campground - Henning, TN 38041 / 731-738-5581
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/fort-pillow

Reelfoot Lake – Campground - Tiptonville, TN 38079 / 731-253-9652
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/reelfoot-lake

T.O. Fuller – Campground - Memphis, TN 38109 / 901-543-7581
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/t-o-fuller

Birding Locations In and Around Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park

A hiking trail map and checklist to the Birds of Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park are available at the park.

Poplar Tree Lake: 35.30611, -90.06723 - Year-round

The forest and open areas surrounding the 125-acre lake provide habitat for a large diversity of birds.

Featured Birds: great blue heron, Mississippi kite, red-headed woodpecker, warbling vireo, tree swallow, warblers, tanagers, Baltimore and orchard orioles.

Island Forty Road: 35.29818, -90.0428 - Approx. 2.4 Miles – Natural Surface - Easy - Spring, Summer, Fall
The poorly maintained gravel road [it may be best to walk most of the road] heads west to Eagle Lake. The State Park does offer canoe trips on the lake.

Featured Birds: great blue heron, red-shouldered hawk, barred owl, Acadian flycatcher, fish crow, vireos, thrushes, warblers, summer and scarlet tanagers.

River Road and Sasser Boat Launch: Boat Launch: 35.367574, -90.077085 Year-round

Listen for cerulean warblers and other birds as you drive River Road [there are few places to pull over along the road]. From the boat launch area scan the river for gulls and terns and watch for bank swallows flying close to land. Large flocks of geese are sometimes seen flying over the area in winter.

Featured Birds: Mississippi kite, the endangered least tern in summer, bank swallow, flycatchers, vireos, thrushes, warblers, summer and scarlet tanagers, indigo bunting, and orchard oriole.

Pioneer Springs Trail: 35.30611, -90.06723 - 4 Miles – Natural Surface – Moderate - Spring, Summer, Fall
The trail runs along the borders of the upland bluff and bottomland forests.

Featured Birds: barred owl, eastern wood-pewee, cerulean warbler, Swainson's warbler, Louisiana waterthrush and other songbirds.

Nearby Birding Locations

Eagle Lake Refuge: Parking: 35.25984, -90.06324 – Year-round

www.tnwatchablewildlife.org/wheretowatch.cfm [from this page, choose West Tennessee] - 731-423-5725

The area is mostly cleared Mississippi River floodplain partitioned into water management units. The refuge is open from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on non-hunt days, but closed to all entrance from November 15 to last day of February. Over 225 bird species identified.

Featured Birds: waterfowl, wading birds and shorebirds, Mississippi kites and other hawks.

Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge: Headquarters: 35.611107, -89.884538

www.fws.gov/refuge/Lower_Hatchie - 731-38-2296 - Year-round

The site contains a variety of forested and non-forested habitats and access to Mississippi River riverfront and sandbar habitats. 1000s of ducks and geese are typically observed in and around the managed ponds near the headquarters. Please refer to Refuge personnel about hunting seasons and public access dates. Access dates vary by site. Over 180 bird species identified.

Featured Birds: waterfowl, egrets and herons, osprey, bald eagle, gulls, terns [including the Endangered least tern nesting on sandbars in the summer], shorebirds, and songbirds.

Ensley Bottoms Complex: Ensley Sewage Ponds: 35.06455, -90.13849 – Year-round

Due to the complicated nature of this site please visit the Tennessee Watchable Wildlife page at www.tnwatchablewildlife.org/wheretowatch.cfm and navigate to the Ensley Bottoms Complex for information. Mudflats and ponds provide excellent birding opportunities. Over 300 bird species identified.

Featured Birds: waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and terns, hawks and songbirds.