



Birds of Natchez Trace State Park

24845 Natchez Trace Road, Wildersville, Tennessee 38388 / 800-250-8616

The 9,629-acre Natchez Trace State Park consists primarily of pine and hardwood forest. Three man-made lakes occur within the park, where great blue herons, pied-billed grebes, American coots and a small number of ducks can be found in winter.

Over 23 miles of hiking trails including a 14-mile overnight trail are ideal for woodland birding. A wide variety of migrating warblers, vireos, thrushes and flycatchers pass through the area. Summer birds that can be seen include yellow-billed cuckoo, great crested and Acadian flycatchers, scarlet and summer tanagers, wood thrush, pine, prairie, and Kentucky warblers. In winter, brown creepers, yellow-bellied sapsucker, and occasionally red-breasted nuthatch can be found. The park is part of the larger 48,000-acre Natchez Trace State Forest and Wildlife Management Area. Over 135 species of birds have been observed in the park.



Carolina chickadee

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

Montgomery Bell – Inn, Cabins, Campground, Restaurant - Burns, TN 37029 / 615-797-9052
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/montgomery-bell

Mousetail Landing – Campground - Linden, TN 37096 / 731-847-0841
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/mousetail-landing

Nathan Bedford Forrest – Cabins, Campground - Eva, TN 38333 / 731-584-6356
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/nathan-bedford-forrest

Paris Landing – Inn, Cabins, Campground, Restaurant - Buchanan, TN 38222 / 731-641-4465
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/paris-landing

Birding Locations In and Around Natchez Trace State Park

A hiking trail map and checklist to the Birds of Natchez Trace State Park are available at the park.

Red Leaves Trail: Park Office: 35.79663, -88.26459

40 Miles – Natural Surface – Moderate to Difficult – Year-round

There are numerous access points to this 40-mile trail. The park office is a good place to start since trail maps and other park information are available here. Also, the park office has a feeder station. This section of trail winds through forested uplands. Overnight camping along the trail is available with permit.

Featured Birds: woodpeckers, migrating songbirds in spring and fall, nesting songbirds in the summer, and resident songbirds all year.

Pin Oak Lodge: 35.70858, -88.29003 - Year-round

Bird along the lakeshore and woodlands surrounding the inn. If you are up for more walking, the trailheads for the 1.5-mile Pin Oak Trail and the 0.8-mile Oak Ridge Trail are nearby.

Featured Birds: red-headed woodpecker and other woodpeckers, migrating songbirds in spring and fall, nesting songbirds in the summer, and resident songbirds all year.

Recreation Lodge: 35.78233, -88.251197 - Year-round

Bird around the lodge which includes lakeside views and trailhead for the 4-mile Cub Lake Trail, the 0.2-mile Fern Trail and the 2.5-mile Deer Trail. At approximately 0.5 miles along the Cub Lake Trail you will find marsh and shrub wetlands as well as early successional uplands.

Featured Birds: pied-billed grebe, possibly wood duck and great blue heron, woodpeckers, and songbirds including indigo bunting, common yellowthroat and sparrows in the shrub wetland and early successional habitat.

Fairview Gullies Trail: N 35.81188, W 88.25545

1 Mile – Natural Surface – Moderate - Year-round

This short loop trail takes you through pine forest, mixed pine-hardwood forest, and hardwood forest. It is a good location to hear singing pine warblers in spring.

Featured Birds: woodpeckers, migrating songbirds in spring and fall, nesting songbirds in the summer, and resident songbirds all year.

Nearby Birding Locations

Camden Wildlife Management Area: Main Entrance: 36.01601, -88.01683 – Year-round

www.tnwatchablewildlife.org/wheretowatch.cfm (choose middle Tennessee), 731-423-5725 (TWRA Region I office). Call before visiting since areas may be closed due to flooding and hunting.

The 3,692-acre area consists of cropland, bottomland hardwood forests, and flooded ponds. Over 135 species of birds have been identified from the area.

Featured Birds: waterfowl in winter, herons and egrets, hawks, woodpeckers, and songbirds.

Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge: Duck River Unit: Main Entrance: 35.9743, -87.95129

www.fws.gov/refuge/tennessee, 731-642-2091 - Year-round

A diversity of habitats which include wetlands, mudflats, shrub/scrub, forest and agricultural cropland make this unit of the refuge an excellent area for birding. Over 250 species of birds have been identified from the area.

Featured Birds: waterfowl in winter, northern bobwhite, wild turkey, double-crested cormorant, American white pelican, herons and egrets, bald eagle and other hawks, shorebirds, gulls, woodpeckers and songbirds.

Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, Busseltown Unit: Entrance: 35.67506, -88.02939

www.fws.gov/refuge/tennessee/, 731-642-2091 - Winter, Spring

The main attraction at this unit is waterfowl. Shorebirds are possible during spring migration. Over 160 species of birds have been identified.

Featured Birds: waterfowl, shorebirds, northern harrier, ring-billed gull, horned lark, savannah sparrow and eastern meadowlark.