



Birds of Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park

1825 Pilot Knob Road, Eva, Tennessee 38333 / 731-584-6356

The 2,650-acre park is home to the Tennessee River Folk Life Interpretive Center and Museum which is situated on Pilot Knob, one of the highest points in west Tennessee. Pilot Knob offers excellent views of Kentucky Lake and is a good site for watching for hawks and vultures as well as songbirds in the tree tops.

There are over 25 miles of hiking trails ranging in length from ¼ mile to 20 miles. Trails wind through hardwood bottoms uphill through oak-hickory forest. Additional views of Kentucky Lake are available from boat ramps and at open spots along shoreline trails. The park is good for birding all year long. Over 85 species of birds have been reported from the park.



summer tanager

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

Natchez Trace – Inn, Cabins, Campground, Restaurant - Wildersville, TN 38388 / 731-968-3742
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/natchez-trace

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

Birding Locations In and Around Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park

A hiking trail map Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park is available at the park.

Lake Front Road Boat Ramp #1: 36.08574, -87.97428 - Winter, Fall

Lake Front Road Boat Ramp #2: 36.08687, -87.97201 - Winter, Fall

The boat ramps and other areas along Lake Front Road provide for extensive looks at Kentucky Lake. A third boat ramp found outside the park at the Eva Beach Day Use Area [36.061125, -87.997302] adds yet another location to scan for waterfowl on Kentucky Lake.

Featured Birds: waterfowl, grebes, loons, gulls, double-crested cormorant, American white pelican, great blue heron, and bald eagle.

Nathan Bedford Forrest 3-Mile Trail: 36.08875, -87.97409

3 Miles - Natural Surface - Easy - Spring, Summer, Fall

Trailhead located at the Pilot Knob Interpretive Center which is one of the highest points in West Tennessee.

Featured Birds: osprey, bald eagle, red-tailed hawk, black and turkey vultures, woodpeckers, flycatchers, vireos, thrushes, warblers, scarlet tanager, and other songbirds.

Polk Creek Wildflower Trail: 36.08293, -87.98522

0.3 Miles - Natural Surface - Easy - Year-round

This short trail offers a chance to see woodland birds as well as birds on the lake.

Featured Birds: in winter look for waterfowl, pied-billed and horned grebes, double-crested cormorants, American white pelican, great blue heron, and bald eagle; in spring, summer, and fall look for woodland birds.

Pafford-Wilson Trail: 36.09111, -87.98580 - 0.9 Miles - Natural Surface - Moderate- Spring, Summer, Fall

Be sure to bird around the fields near the trailhead before hiking this trail.

Featured Birds: ruby-throated hummingbird, woodpeckers, flycatchers, vireos, eastern bluebird, wood thrush, warblers, summer and scarlet tanager, orchard oriole, and rose-breasted grosbeak.

Nearby Birding Locations

Camden Wildlife Management Area: Main Entrance: 36.01601, -88.01683 - Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall

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, Britton Ford: Headquarters: 36.33099, -88.126579

www.fws.gov/refuge/Tennessee/visit/plan_your_visit.html, 731-642-2091 - Year-round

The headquarters is a great place to start your birding of the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge. Here you can get information on birding sites within the refuge including the Duck River Unit listed below. The observation deck at the headquarters is a good place to scan the lake for waterfowl in the winter. Over 105 species of birds seen at the headquarters.

Featured Birds: waterfowl, pied-billed and horned grebe, and bald eagle in winter, hawks, woodpeckers and songbirds year-round.

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.