Paris Landing State Park is an 841-acre park located on the western shore of the Tennessee River, which is dammed to form Kentucky Lake. The park is primarily open hardwood forest with lake access. Woodland birding is generally good, but the highlights of Paris Landing State Park are waterfowl and bald eagles.

In late fall through spring, waterfowl are abundant, including lesser scaup, bufflehead, ruddy duck, hooded mergansers, plus horned and pied-billed grebes. Common loons and a variety of gulls may be found as well. Common goldeneye may be abundant in the colder weeks of the winter. Peregrine falcons are occasionally seen in winter. Lesser black-backed gull is rare in Tennessee, but is occasionally found here as well. Bald eagles nest along the edge of Kentucky Lake and are seen regularly at the state park, more often in winter when wintering birds from north of Tennessee are present. Over 185 species of birds have been recorded for the park.

**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](http://www.tnbirdingtrail.org)
- Field Checklist of Tennessee Birds [www.tnwatchablewildlife.org](http://www.tnwatchablewildlife.org)
- eBird Hotspots and Sightings [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)
- Tennessee Ornithological Society [www.tnbirds.org](http://www.tnbirds.org)

**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](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/montgomery-bell)
- **Natchez Trace** – Inn, Cabins, Campground, Restaurant - Wildersville, TN 38388 / 731-968-3742 [www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/natchez-trace](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/natchez-trace)
- **Nathan Bedford Forrest** – Cabins, Campground - Eva, TN 38333 / 731-584-6356 [www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/nathan-bedford-forrest](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/nathan-bedford-forrest)
- **Pickwick Landing** – Inn, Cabins, Campground, Restaurant – Pickwick Dam, TN 38365 / 731-689-3129 [www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/pickwick-landing](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/pickwick-landing)
A hiking trail map is available at the park.

**Parking Lot and Fishing Pier Below inn:** 36.43488, - 88.07683 – Winter, Spring, Fall
From behind and east of the inn, along the paved picnic loop, views of the lake are fantastic for migrating and wintering water birds. The parking lot is the best location for viewing wintering water birds.

**Featured Birds:** waterfowl (over 20 species have been reported), common loon, horned and pied-billed grebes, double-crested cormorant, American white pelican, ring-billed and herring gulls, and bald eagle.

**Bridgeview Road Parking Lot:** 36.43965, W 88.07558 – Winter, Spring, Fall
This parking lot offers a different view of Kentucky Lake that you won't see from the lot mentioned above. The picnic area adjacent to the parking lot is a good place to see red-headed woodpeckers.

**Featured Birds:** waterfowl (over 20 species have been reported), common loon, horned and pied-billed grebes, double-crested cormorant, American white pelican, ring-billed and herring gulls, and bald eagle.

**Paris Landing Marina Fishing Pier:** 36.44135, W 88.078835 - Winter, Spring, Fall
Bird from the fishing pier and from the shoreline to get different views of the lake.

**Featured Birds:** waterfowl, common loon, horned and pied-billed grebes, double-crested cormorant, American coot, ring-billed and herring gulls, and bald eagle.

**Hiking Trails:** 36.43723, -88.08369 - Easy to Moderate - Year-round
The approximately four miles of trails in the park offer opportunities for birding along shrubby edges, small fields and forest.

**Featured Birds:** woodpeckers, eastern phoebe, white-eyed and red-eyed vireos, blue-gray gnatcatcher, thrushes, warblers, sparrows, indigo bunting, summer and scarlet tanagers, and orchard oriole.

**Cross Creeks National Waterfowl Refuge: Visitor's Center:** 36.4934, -87.79473
www.fws.gov/crosscreeks/, 931-232-7477  Year-round
The refuge includes a number of managed waterfowl ponds and upland forest. Most of the refuge is closed from November 15 to March 15, but a viewing deck at the visitor's center is always open. You may want to contact the refuge before your visit to get information on hunting seasons, flooding and recently observed birds. Over 200 bird species identified.

**Featured Birds:** waterfowl, shorebirds, herons and egrets, bald eagle, American white pelican, occasionally sandhill cranes, sparrows and other songbirds.

**Gray's Landing Entrance Road:** 36.44827, -88.04389
www.tnwatchablewildlife.org/index.cfm [Gray’s Landing on map for Middle Tennessee] Winter, Spring, Fall
The boat ramp area offers excellent views of waterfowl on Kentucky Lake. A peninsula sticks out from the shoreline about 0.25 miles north of the boat ramp and is used by gulls and waterfowl in winter. Birders can walk the shoreline or the dirt road north to the peninsula. Wooded edges are good for songbirds. Over 100 bird species identified.

**Featured Birds:** waterfowl, loons, grebes, gulls, bald eagle, migrating warblers, and other songbirds.

**Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, Big Sandy Unit: Visitor's Center:** 36.3313, -88.1267
www.fws.gov/refuge/Tennessee/visit/plan_your_visit.html, 731-642-2091  Year-round
The refuge includes a diversity of habitats including upland forest, marsh, lake (Kentucky Lake), fields and mudflats. Sections of the refuge are closed from November 15 to March 15. The visitor's center has a birding checklist and maps of the refuge. Over 200 species of birds have been identified.

**Featured Birds:** waterfowl, loons and grebes, American white pelican, herons and egrets, hawks, shorebirds, gulls and terns, short-eared owl, and songbirds.