



Birds of Henry Horton State Park

4209 Nashville Highway, Chapel Hill, Tennessee 37034 / 800-250-8612

This 1,523-acre park is set in the gently rolling to flat open terrain of Tennessee's Central Basin. Habitats range from limestone cedar glades to mature deciduous forests interspersed with fields and young woodlands. The Duck River, recognized as one of the most biodiverse in the country, bisects the park and is accessible from the Wilhoite Mill Trail, the Adeline Wilhoite Horton River Trail and the river access in the picnic loop. Herons hunt for fish in the shallows while belted kingfishers fly over. Paved roadways wind past grasslands behind the inn and restaurant and along the tree-lined Duck River. Barn owls may be heard from trees here during winter and spring evenings. Turkey, black vultures and red-tailed hawks soar above open areas. The Adeline Wilhoite Horton River Trail traverses cedar glade and old field habitats, especially good spots for brown thrasher, common yellowthroat, and yellow-breasted chat. Near the river on this trail, a 20-foot observation tower overlooks a large native grassland and wetland. An additional trail follows the edge of the grassland and contains a central shelter overlooking a pond. From here, sparrows and wild turkey can be seen, while in nearby woods, winter residents such as ruby and golden-crowned kinglets and hermit thrush occur alongside the common Carolina chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch, and barred owl. During spring and fall migration, a variety of wood warblers present an exciting birding challenge. Over 70 species of birds have been observed throughout the year.



northern flicker

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

Cedars of Lebanon – Cabins, Campground - Lebanon, TN 37090 / 800-713-5180

www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cedars-of-lebanon

Old Stone Fort – Campground, Picnicking - Manchester, TN 37355 / 931-723-5073

www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/old-stone-fort

Radnor Lake – Day Use - Trails, Visitor Center - Nashville, TN 37220 / 615-373-3467

www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/radnor-lake

Tims Ford – Cabins, Campground - Winchester, TN 37398 / 800-471-5295

www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/tims-ford

Birding Locations In and Around Henry Horton State Park

A hiking trail map is available at the park.

A-Frame Shelter to Disc Golf Course: 36.95196, -86.69457

0.5 Miles – Paved/Grass Surface – Easy - Spring, Summer, Fall

This section of park road allows viewing of riverside hardwoods, Duck River, and a tall stand of pines.

Featured Birds: eastern bluebird, barn owl, summer tanager, northern flicker, variety of warblers in migration, song sparrow.

Adeline Wilhoite Horton River Trail: 36.59333, -86.69638

3.5 Miles - Natural Surface – Easy-Moderate - Spring, Summer, Fall

This trail runs parallel to the Duck River, climbs to low wooded bluffs, through old field, cedar glades and grasslands.

Featured Birds: great blue heron, wild turkey, eastern screech-owl, barred owl, Louisiana waterthrush, downy and hairy woodpecker, prairie warbler, Louisiana waterthrush, field sparrow, American goldfinch.

Wilhoite Mill Trail: 36.59333, -86.69638 - 1 Mile - Natural Surface - Easy - Spring, Summer, Fall

This trail runs alongside the Duck River, into lowland woods along an old stream channel, open powerline cuts and scrubby young growth around parking area.

Featured Birds: black-crowned night-heron, green heron, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, red-bellied woodpecker.

Wild Turkey Trail: 35.58334, -86.68998 – 1.5 Miles - Natural Surface – Easy - Spring, Summer, Fall

The trail wanders through mature open forest, past a small pond and into younger successional cedar woods.

Featured Birds: turkey vulture, red-tailed hawk, wild turkey, great horned owl, pileated woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch, scarlet tanager, American redstart and other warblers in migration.

Nearby Birding Locations

Duck River Complex State Natural Area: Cheeks Bend Unit: 35.57638, -86.93056

www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-duck-river-complex - Spring, Summer, Fall

Complex consists of six natural areas within Yanahli Wildlife Management Area. The parking lot and trail at Cheeks Bend leads to bluff vistas. Cedar glades and oak-hickory forests mixed with fields provide a mix of edge and forest.

Featured Birds: field sparrow, indigo bunting, yellow-breasted chat, willow flycatcher, blue-winged warbler, summer and scarlet tanager, wood thrush, and red-eyed vireo. Wild turkey are common year-round.

Williamsport Wildlife Management Area: Akin Road Entrance: 35.707998, -87.229902

www.tnwatchablewildlife.org - Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall

This area contains six lakes ranging from 12 - 80 acres. Cedar glades, upland hardwood forest, fields and ridgetops are mixed with cropland, providing a mix of edge and forest for a variety of wildlife. 90 species of bird have been observed.

Featured Birds: winter waterfowl, red-winged blackbird, eastern towhee, Kentucky and prairie warbler, great crested flycatcher. Bald eagles nest and are seen in winter.

Haley-Jaqueth Wildlife Management Area: Barn Parking Area: 35.78899, -86.67350

www.tnwatchablewildlife.org - Winter, Spring, Fall

Forested tree lines break up agricultural fields across this 200-acre site. Two intermittent creeks and the Harpeth River pass through the property, along which there is a great blue heron rookery. 40 species of bird have been observed.

Featured Birds: wild turkey, northern bobwhite, eastern meadowlark, indigo bunting, field sparrow. Barn swallows, eastern phoebe and barn owl may be present around barn.