



Birds of Long Hunter State Park

2910 Hobson Pike, Hermitage, Tennessee 37076

This 2,267-acre park follows 30 miles of shoreline along J. Percy Priest Lake. A two-mile paved loop encircles Couchville Lake. Five other hiking trails are present within three units at various access points. Up to 20 species of waterfowl can be seen on J. Percy Priest Lake in winter, including common loon, hooded merganser, bufflehead, horned and pied-billed grebe, gadwall, and lesser scaup. Landbird migrants can be abundant in the woods in spring and fall. Killdeer, common nighthawk, and prairie warbler are breeding residents. Over 125 species have been identified.



Field Sparrow

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, Picnicking, Trails - Lebanon, Tennessee 37090 / 800-713-5180
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cedars-of-lebanon

Harpeth River - Day Use, Picnicking, Trails - Kingston Springs, Tennessee 37082 / 615-952-2099
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/harpeth-river

Montgomery Bell - Cabins, Campground, Inn, Restaurant - Burns, Tennessee 37029 / 800-250-8613
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/montgomery-bell

Radnor Lake - Day Use, Trails, Visitor Center - 1160 Otter Creek Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37220 / 615-373-3467
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/radnor-lake

Birding Locations In and Around Long Hunter State Park

A hiking trail map is available at the park.

Deer Trail: N 36.09256, -86.55549 – .85 Miles - Natural Surface – Easy – Year-round

Trailhead is located at the visitor center, looping through barrens under restoration, secondary growth and open woods. At the end of the dead end road next to the trailhead is an open view of a cove of Percy Priest Lake.

Featured Birds: Field and song sparrow, American goldfinch, Cooper's hawk, Carolina wren, great crested flycatcher, white-eyed vireo, common loon and double-crested cormorant in cove in winter.

Couchville Lake: N 36.09468, -86.54309 – 2.1 Miles - Paved Surface - Easy – Year-round

The trail traverses open oak-hickory and successional cedar glade woods, with overlooks onto 85-acre Couchville Lake. Couchville Lake has had 125 species observed.

Featured Birds: Black and turkey vulture, red-bellied and pileated woodpeckers, prothonotary and yellow warblers, occasional osprey, purple martin, northern rough-winged swallow, ring-billed gull and hooded merganser in winter.

Inland Trail: N 36.08857, -86.54929 – .75 Miles - Natural Surface - Easy – Year-round

This trail winds through open oak-hickory forest with some understory and groundcover growth.

Featured Birds: Barred owl, yellow-billed cuckoo, yellow-bellied sapsucker, scarlet and summer tanager, eastern wood-pewee, red-eyed and yellow-throated vireo, American redstart, black-and-white warbler, other warblers in migration. Spectacular open view of J. Percy Priest Lake is at picnic area next to the trailhead.

Couchville Cedar Glade State Natural Area: N 36.10119, -86.52943

0.8 Miles - Natural Surface - Easy – Spring, Summer, Fall

This adjacent state natural area preserves an extensive cedar glade/barrens complex. The trail loops around a flat landscape dominated by open limestone and native grass coverage and edges of oak-hickory woods. Couchville Cedar Glade has had 73 species observed.

Featured Birds: Common nighthawk, chuck will's-widow, killdeer, white-eyed vireo, prairie warbler, yellow-breasted chat, orchard oriole, indigo bunting, field sparrow.

Nearby Birding Locations

Percy Priest Lake, Dam Overlook: N 36.15854, -86.61534

www.tnwatchablewildlife.org – Winter Spring, Fall

The dam area provides extensive views of the lake, where a variety of winter and transient waterfowl stop over. The adjacent Stones River Greenway provides a mix of woodland and shrub land species. Ninety four species of birds identified.

Featured Birds: Great egret, common loon, black-crowned night-heron, Caspian, common and Forster's tern, blue grosbeak, yellow-breasted chat, indigo bunting, variety of migratory warblers and vireos.

Old Hickory Dam, "Snow Bunting" Peninsula: Old Hickory Lake Park: N 36.28756, -86.65756

www.tnwatchablewildlife.org - Winter, Spring, Fall

A large part of Old Hickory Lake can be scanned from this area, with cormorants, grebes, gulls and many winter ducks observed, and occasional sightings of rare species. Largest breeding colonies of wading birds are found on the lake.

Over 185 species have been observed.

Featured Birds: Great blue heron, double-crested cormorant, cattle egret, osprey, killdeer, horned lark, swamp, white-throated and song sparrow.

Percy Priest WMA, Field Trial Area: Entrance: N 36.038325, -86.51517

www.tnwatchablewildlife.org – Year-round

The field trail area has a mixture of agricultural fields, old fallow fields, shallow water ponds and a view of Percy Priest Lake. Periodically flooded "goose ponds" are present on both sides of road. 190 bird species identified.

Featured Birds: indigo bunting, northern bobwhite, blue grosbeak, field sparrow, waders, sora, and shorebirds.