



Birds of Montgomery Bell State Park

1020 Jackson Hill Road, Burns, Tennessee 37029 / 615-797-9052

This 3,996-acre park lies in the gently rolling to hilly terrain of Tennessee's Western Highland Rim. Extensive oak-hickory forests provided fuel for a 19th century regional iron industry; here the forests have recovered to exhibit a prime example of mid-south mixed deciduous woodlands. Small creeks flow through many of the valleys, feeding three impounded lakes. The primary habitat is open forest with small field openings and roadway edges. The lakes attract small numbers of waterfowl such as mallard and wood duck, and bald eagle primarily in winter. Twenty miles of trails wind through woods or adjacent to roadways or fields, allowing observation of such residents as Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, barred owl, and many more. During migration, a variety of warblers can be seen along with breeding red-eyed and yellow-throated vireos. Northern parula can be heard or seen in summer at the creek next to the visitor center. Montgomery Bell has had 139 species identified.



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

Harpeth River – Day Use, Picnicking, Trails - Kingston Springs, TN 37887 / 615-952-2099
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/harpeth-river

Johnsonville – Day Use, Picnicking, Trails, Visitor Center - New Johnsonville, TN 37134 / 931-535-2789
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/johnsonville

Nathan Bedford Forrest - Cabins, Campground, Trails, Visitor Center - Eva, TN 38333 / 800-714-7305
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/nathan-bedford-forrest

Paris Landing – Cabins, Campground, Inn, Restaurant, Trails - Buchanan, TN 38222 / 800-250-8614
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/paris-landing

Birding Locations In and Around Montgomery Bell State Park

A hiking trail map is available at the park.

Inn Area: 36.09925, -87.27419

Paved/Grass Surface - Easy - Year-round

Wood edges and isolated trees adjacent to parking lots are good for ground level to treetop viewing. Lake Acorn behind the inn brings in some aquatic species. Hummingbird feeders next to restaurant windows allow diners easy viewing.

Featured Birds: eastern bluebird, American robin, belted kingfisher, Canada goose, great-horned owl, summer tanager, ruby-throated hummingbird, northern flicker, red-bellied, red-headed woodpeckers, chipping sparrow.

Church Hollow: 36.09165, -87.29093

.25 Miles - Natural/Paved Surface - Easy/Moderate - Year-round

This narrow valley from Group Camp 1 Road to the McAdow cabin offers wood/field edge and stream viewing. Can be combined with the Ore Pit Trail for a .75-mile loop through open woods.

Featured Birds: broad-winged, red-tailed and Cooper's hawk, barred owl, hairy woodpecker, northern cardinal, cedar waxwing, Louisiana waterthrush, other warblers in migration.

Hall Spring: 36.07347, -87.29196

2.0 Miles - Natural Surface - Moderate - Spring, Summer, Fall

From McAdow cabin, the Ore Pit/Montgomery Bell Trail leads through open woods to Hall Spring and the head of Lake Woodhaven, both areas having heavy understory and wetland growth.

Featured Birds: barred owl, pileated woodpecker, wood thrush, ruby and golden-crowned kinglet, Carolina wren, Kentucky and hooded warbler, white-throated and swamp sparrow.

Crech Hollow Lake: 36.08538, -87.277905

1.0 Miles - Natural Surface - Easy/Moderate - Year-round

From parking area across from Lake Woodhaven Road a short connector trail through open woods meets Crech Hollow Trail near the dam. The trail hugs the open lakeshore.

Featured Birds: great blue and green heron, American coot, occasional waterfowl, red-tailed hawk, great-horned owl, yellow-bellied sapsucker, red-breasted nuthatch, eastern kingbird, chimney swift, indigo bunting, common yellowthroat, American goldfinch.

Nearby Birding Locations

Tennessee NWR: Duck River Unit Main Entrance: 35.9743, -87.951287

www.tnwatchablewildlife.org - Spring, Summer, Fall

This unit consists of dissected forested uplands, the adjacent waters, seasonal mudflats and Duck River bottomlands. Main road goes through agricultural fields, open water, and sparse woods. Past main entrance 2.1 miles is a parking area with views of sheltered and open water at levee pump station. Duck River NWR unit has had 261 species identified.

Featured Birds: winter waterfowl, nesting bald eagle, great egret, double-crested cormorant, northern harrier, variety of gulls, sandpipers and waders, prothonotary warbler, song, field, and swamp sparrow.

Cheatham Wildlife Management Area: Checking Station: 36.20276, -87.10089

www.tnwatchablewildlife.org - Spring, Summer, Fall

This 20,810-acre area contains upland hardwood and some pine forest, fields and scrub habitat, a combination providing a mix of open land, edge and forest for a variety of wildlife. Cheatham WMA has had 111 species observed.

Featured Birds: wild turkey, red-tailed and red-shouldered hawk, resident songbirds. During migration, easy viewing of transient passerines; prairie and cerulean warblers and yellow-breasted chat.

Bells Bend Park: Nature Center: 36.153955, -86.920214

www.nashville.gov/Parks-and-Recreation/Nature-Centers-and-Natural-Areas - Year-round

This 880-acre park lies within a bend of the Cumberland River and consists of weedy fields, reclaimed pastures and riparian woodlands, with several miles of paved and mulched trails. Bells Bend has had 188 species observed.

Featured Birds: indigo bunting, common yellowthroat, yellow warbler, blue grosbeak, white-throated, grasshopper, small population of Henslow's sparrow.