



Birds of Fall Creek Falls State Park

2009 Village Camp Road, Spencer, Tennessee 38585 / 800-250-8610

Fall Creek Falls is filled with deep gorges, dense and diverse woods, and bluff-top vistas, attracting a wide array of bird life year-round. From the wide, panoramic views, such as famous Buzzard's Roost, migratory broad-winged and other "buzzard hawks" soar with resident turkey and black vultures, frequently at eye level. The bluff tops also offer a peek into the canopy, with close looks at vibrantly colored warblers, vireos, and other neotropical migrants from mid-March to October. Year-round residents include barred owls, red-headed woodpeckers, Cooper's hawks, and white-breasted nuthatches. Fall Creek Lake provides viewing opportunities in the winter for a variety of transient ducks, loons, and bald eagles. 140 species of birds have been observed throughout the year.



pileated woodpecker

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

Cumberland Mountain – Cabins, Campground, Restaurant - Crossville, TN 38555 / 800-250-8616

www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cumberland-mountain

Edgar Evins – Cabin, Campground - Silver Point, TN 38582 / 800-250-8619

www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/edgar-evins

Rock Island – Cabins, Campground - Rock Island, TN 38581 / 800-713-6065

www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/rock-island

Standing Stone – Cabins, Campground - Hilham, TN 38053 / 800-713-5157

www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/standing-stone

Birding Locations In and Around Fall Creek Falls State Park

A hiking trail map and checklist to the Birds of Fall Creek Falls State Park are available at the park.

Paw Paw Trail: 35.66229, -85.34936 - 2.7 Miles – Natural Surface – Moderate - Spring, Fall

This woodland trail provides views into Cane Creek Gorge.

Featured Birds: woodland birds, warblers, turkey vulture, red-tailed hawk, wild turkey, eastern screech-owl, great horned owl, pileated woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, eastern whip-poor-will and white-breasted nuthatch.

Wheeler Farm Loop: 35.73049, -85.38355 - 1.8 Miles – Moderate - Spring, Fall

This trail traverses a variety of habitats including oak-hickory forest, hemlock forest and open fields.

Featured Birds: black-throated green warbler, blackburnian warbler, wood thrush, yellow-billed cuckoo, worm-eating warbler, great crested and Acadian flycatcher, eastern whip-poor-will and blue-headed vireo.

Millikan's Overlook: 35.67969, -85.36799 Gorge Scenic Drive Nature Trail – Easy - Spring, Fall

This overlook provides a superb view into Cane Creek gorge.

Featured Birds: red-tailed hawk, broad-winged hawk, and turkey vulture.

Gilbert Gaul Trail: 35.65168, -85.37137 4.3 Miles – Natural Surface – Moderate – Winter, Spring, Fall

This trail follows the shore of Fall Creek Lake with several open water views.

Featured Birds: barn swallow, wood duck, great blue heron, and common loon.

Nearby Birding Locations

Yuchi Wildlife Management Area: Observation Tower: 35.55248, -84.80515

www.tn.gov/twra/topic/wildlife-management-area-wma-maps - 423-365-9166 - Spring, Fall

The refuge is especially important for sandhill cranes, grassland birds and waterfowl. 140 species of birds have been identified.

Featured Birds: white ibis, northern harrier, yellow-breasted chat, red-headed woodpecker, northern bobwhite and orchard oriole.

Hiwassee Refuge: Observation Platform: 35.399978, -84.989953

www.tn.gov/twra/topic/wildlife-management-area-wma-maps - 423- 614-3018 - Spring, Fall

The refuge has the largest winter flock of sandhill cranes in the Southeast outside of Florida. The Tennessee Sandhill Crane Festival is held here in January. Over 170 species of birds identified.

Featured Birds: mallard, gadwall, northern shoveler, gulls, great blue heron, northern harrier and bald eagle.

Bridgestone Firestone Centennial Wilderness: Entrance: 35.87984, -85.27229

www.tn.gov/twra/topic/wildlife-management-area-wma-maps - 931-935-3280 - Spring, Summer, Fall

700 acres of native warm season grass occurs near the main entrance but most of the area is forested. Over 70 species of birds identified.

Featured Birds: bay-breasted warbler, blackburnian warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, worm-eating warbler, eastern whip-poor-will, northern bobwhite, dickcissel, blue grosbeak, red-winged blackbird, common yellowthroat, Henslow's sparrow and hawks.