



# Birds of Natchez Trace State Park

24845 Natchez Trace Road, Wildersville, Tennessee 38388 / 800-250-8616

The 9,629-acre Natchez Trace State Park consists primarily of pine and hardwood forest. Three man-made lakes occur within the park, where great blue herons, pied-billed grebes, American coots and a small number of ducks can be found in winter.

Over 23 miles of hiking trails including a 14-mile overnight trail are ideal for woodland birding. A wide variety of migrating warblers, vireos, thrushes and flycatchers pass through the area. Summer birds that can be seen include yellow-billed cuckoo, great crested and Acadian flycatchers, scarlet and summer tanagers, wood thrush, pine, prairie, and Kentucky warblers. In winter, brown creepers, yellow-bellied sapsucker, and occasionally red-breasted nuthatch can be found. The park is part of the larger 48,000-acre Natchez Trace State Forest and Wildlife Management Area. Over 135 species of birds have been observed in the park.



Carolina chickadee

## 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)  
Tennessee State Parks Birding  
[www.tnstateparks.com/activities/birding](http://www.tnstateparks.com/activities/birding)



T E N N E S S E E  
**State Parks**  
[www.tnstateparks.com](http://www.tnstateparks.com)

## 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)

Mousetail Landing – Campground - Linden, TN 37096 / 731-847-0841  
[www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/mousetail-landing](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/mousetail-landing)

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)

Paris Landing – Inn, Cabins, Campground, Restaurant - Buchanan, TN 38222 / 731-641-4465  
[www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/paris-landing](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/paris-landing)

# Birding Locations In and Around Natchez Trace State Park

A hiking trail map and checklist to the Birds of Natchez Trace State Park are available at the park.

**Red Leaves Trail: Park Office:** 35.79663, -88.26459

40 Miles – Natural Surface – Moderate to Difficult – Year-round

There are numerous access points to this 40-mile trail. The park office is a good place to start since trail maps and other park information are available here. Also, the park office has a feeder station. This section of trail winds through forested uplands. Overnight camping along the trail is available with permit.

**Featured Birds:** woodpeckers, migrating songbirds in spring and fall, nesting songbirds in the summer, and resident songbirds all year.

**Pin Oak Lodge:** 35.70858, -88.29003 - Year-round

Bird along the lakeshore and woodlands surrounding the inn. If you are up for more walking, the trailheads for the 1.5-mile Pin Oak Trail and the 0.8-mile Oak Ridge Trail are nearby.

**Featured Birds:** red-headed woodpecker and other woodpeckers, migrating songbirds in spring and fall, nesting songbirds in the summer, and resident songbirds all year.

**Recreation Lodge:** 35.78233, -88.251197 - Year-round

Bird around the lodge which includes lakeside views and trailhead for the 4-mile Cub Lake Trail, the 0.2-mile Fern Trail and the 2.5-mile Deer Trail. At approximately 0.5 miles along the Cub Lake Trail you will find marsh and shrub wetlands as well as early successional uplands.

**Featured Birds:** pied-billed grebe, possibly wood duck and great blue heron, woodpeckers, and songbirds including indigo bunting, common yellowthroat and sparrows in the shrub wetland and early successional habitat.

**Fairview Gullies Trail:** N 35.81188, W 88.25545

1 Mile – Natural Surface – Moderate - Year-round

This short loop trail takes you through pine forest, mixed pine-hardwood forest, and hardwood forest. It is a good location to hear singing pine warblers in spring.

**Featured Birds:** woodpeckers, migrating songbirds in spring and fall, nesting songbirds in the summer, and resident songbirds all year.

## Nearby Birding Locations

**Camden Wildlife Management Area: Main Entrance:** 36.01601, -88.01683 – Year-round

[www.tnwatchablewildlife.org/wheretowatch.cfm](http://www.tnwatchablewildlife.org/wheretowatch.cfm) (choose middle Tennessee), 731-423-5725 (TWRA Region I office). Call before visiting since areas may be closed due to flooding and hunting.

The 3,692-acre area consists of cropland, bottomland hardwood forests, and flooded ponds. Over 135 species of birds have been identified from the area.

**Featured Birds:** waterfowl in winter, herons and egrets, hawks, woodpeckers, and songbirds.

**Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge: Duck River Unit: Main Entrance:** 35.9743, -87.95129

[www.fws.gov/refuge/tennessee/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/tennessee/), 731-642-2091 - Year-round

A diversity of habitats which include wetlands, mudflats, shrub/scrub, forest and agricultural cropland make this unit of the refuge an excellent area for birding. Over 250 species of birds have been identified from the area.

**Featured Birds:** waterfowl in winter, northern bobwhite, wild turkey, double-crested cormorant, American white pelican, herons and egrets, bald eagle and other hawks, shorebirds, gulls, woodpeckers and songbirds.

**Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, Busselton Unit: Entrance:** 35.67506, -88.02939

[www.fws.gov/refuge/tennessee/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/tennessee/), 731-642-2091 - Winter, Spring

The main attraction at this unit is waterfowl. Shorebirds are possible during spring migration. Over 160 species of birds have been identified.

**Featured Birds:** waterfowl, shorebirds, northern harrier, ring-billed gull, horned lark, savannah sparrow and eastern meadowlark.