



Birds of Paris Landing State Park

16055 Hwy 79 N, Buchanan, Tennessee 38222 / 731-641-4465

Paris Landing State Park is an 841-acre park located on the western shore of the Tennessee River, which is dammed to form Kentucky Lake. The park is primarily open hardwood forest with lake access. Woodland birding is generally good, but the highlights of Paris Landing State Park are waterfowl and bald eagles.

In late fall through spring, waterfowl are abundant, including lesser scaup, bufflehead, ruddy duck, hooded mergansers, plus horned and pied-billed grebes. Common loons and a variety of gulls may be found as well. Common goldeneye may be abundant in the colder weeks of the winter. Peregrine falcons are occasionally seen in winter. Lesser black-backed gull is rare in Tennessee, but is occasionally found here as well. Bald eagles nest along the edge of Kentucky Lake and are seen regularly at the state park, more often in winter when wintering birds from north of Tennessee are present. Over 185 species of birds have been recorded for the park.



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

Montgomery Bell – Inn, Cabins, Campground, Restaurant - Burns, TN 37029 / 615-797-9052
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/montgomery-bell

Natchez Trace – Inn, Cabins, Campground, Restaurant - Wildersville, TN 38388 / 731-968-3742
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/natchez-trace

Nathan Bedford Forrest – Cabins, Campground - Eva, TN 38333 / 731-584-6356
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/nathan-bedford-forrest

Pickwick Landing – Inn, Cabins, Campground, Restaurant – Pickwick Dam, TN 38365 / 731-689-3129
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/pickwick-landing

Birding Locations In and Around Paris Landing State Park

A hiking trail map is available at the park.

Parking Lot and Fishing Pier Below inn: 36.43488, - 88.07683 – Winter, Spring, Fall

From behind and east of the inn, along the paved picnic loop, views of the lake are fantastic for migrating and wintering water birds. The parking lot is the best location for viewing wintering water birds.

Featured Birds: waterfowl (over 20 species have been reported), common loon, horned and pied-billed grebes, double-crested cormorant, American white pelican, ring-billed and herring gulls, and bald eagle.

Bridgeview Road Parking Lot: 36.43965, W 88.07558 – Winter, Spring, Fall

This parking lot offers a different view of Kentucky Lake that you won't see from the lot mentioned above. The picnic area adjacent to the parking lot is a good place to see red-headed woodpeckers.

Featured Birds: waterfowl (over 20 species have been reported), common loon, horned and pied-billed grebes, double-crested cormorant, American white pelican, ring-billed and herring gulls, and bald eagle.

Paris Landing Marina Fishing Pier: 36.44135, W 88.078835 - Winter, Spring, Fall

Bird from the fishing pier and from the shoreline to get different views of the lake.

Featured Birds: waterfowl, common loon, horned and pied-billed grebes, double-crested cormorant, American coot, ring-billed and herring gulls, and bald eagle.

Hiking Trails: 36.43723, -88.08369 - Easy to Moderate - Year-round

The approximately four miles of trails in the park offer opportunities for birding along shrubby edges, small fields and forest.

Featured Birds: woodpeckers, eastern phoebe, white-eyed and red-eyed vireos, blue-gray gnatcatcher, thrushes, warblers, sparrows, indigo bunting, summer and scarlet tanagers, and orchard oriole.

Nearby Birding Locations

Cross Creeks National Waterfowl Refuge: Visitor's Center: 36.4934, -87.79473

www.fws.gov/crosscreeks/, 931-232-7477 Year-round

The refuge includes a number of managed waterfowl ponds and upland forest. Most of the refuge is closed from November 15 to March 15, but a viewing deck at the visitor's center is always open. You may want to contact the refuge before your visit to get information on hunting seasons, flooding and recently observed birds. Over 200 bird species identified.

Featured Birds: waterfowl, shorebirds, herons and egrets, bald eagle, American white pelican, occasionally sandhill cranes, sparrows and other songbirds.

Gray's Landing: Entrance Road: 36.44827, -88.04389

www.tnwatchablewildlife.org/index.cfm [Gray's Landing on map for Middle Tennessee] Winter, Spring, Fall

The boat ramp area offers excellent views of waterfowl on Kentucky Lake. A peninsula sticks out from the shoreline about 0.25 miles north of the boat ramp and is used by gulls and waterfowl in winter. Birders can walk the shoreline or the dirt road north to the peninsula. Wooded edges are good for songbirds. Over 100 bird species identified.

Featured Birds: waterfowl, loons, grebes, gulls, bald eagle, migrating warblers, and other songbirds.

Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, Big Sandy Unit: Visitor's Center: 36.3313, -88.1267

www.fws.gov/refuge/Tennessee/visit/plan_your_visit.html, 731-642-2091 Year-round

The refuge includes a diversity of habitats including upland forest, marsh, lake (Kentucky Lake), fields and mudflats. Sections of the refuge are closed from November 15 to March 15. The visitor's center has a birding checklist and maps of the refuge. Over 200 species of birds have been identified.

Featured Birds: waterfowl, loons and grebes, American white pelican, herons and egrets, hawks, shorebirds, gulls and terns, short-eared owl, and songbirds.