Chickasaw-Cabins, Campground
Mixed hardwood and pine forests cover the majority of the park, providing a range of habitats that attract a variety of birds. Spring is generally good year round. Look for Carolina chickadees, tufted titmice, piliated woodpeckers, and wood thrushes in the spring. Vireos, yellow-billed cuckoo, wood thrush, Acadian flycatcher, white-throated sparrow, and eastern wood pewee are species that may be found in summer. In the fall, red-headed woodpeckers, brown creeper, hermit, dark-eyed, junco, yellow bellied sapsucker and kinglets may be found in winter. Caracara eyes open for box turtles on hiking trails and slabs in the lake. Over 80 species of birds have been observed.

Meem an Shelby Forest—Cabin
This site consists primarily of some 12,539 acres of upland and bottomland forests. Twothirds of the park contains bottomland forests of oak, cypress, and tupelo. There are two man-made lakes in the uplands and some natural lakes and wetlands areas in the bottomlands. The wide variety of habitats present ensures year round opportunities for birding for such species as woodpeckers. Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, Carolina worm, American goldfinch and wild turkey. In summer, Kentucky warbler and Acadian flycatcher may be abundant. Also seen are yellow-billed cuckoo, eastern kingbird, chipping sparrow, white-throated sparrow, and eastern wood pewee. In winter, yellow-bellied sapsucker, vireos, orioles, summer tanager and several warblers. Barn swallows are abundant across the open and forested areas. Carolina wren and red-breasted nuthatch can be found in the park. Red-bellied woodpecker and eastern kingbird are species that may be seen from the river bank in summer. In winter, yellow-bellied sapsucker, hairy woodpecker, winter wren, hermit, kinglets, yellow-rumped warbler, pine siskin, white-throated sparrows and warbling vireos are observed. Late April into May and September to October bring many migrating resident species. 240 species of birds have been observed throughout the year.

Rock Island—Cabins, Campground
The park has mixed deciduous forests and woodlands, with a representative sample of area birds can be seen, including Acadian flycatcher, white-throated sparrow, lesser black-backed gull, wood ducks, osprey and various waterfowl. Like other areas outside the park, the best birding is in the fall through spring in this section of the lake. On State Highway 21 at the river spillway is a pull-off on the south side from where an eagle nest is visible. Hundreds of bald eagles overwinter at Reelfoot Lake and tours are provided. In winter, hundreds of thousands of ducks and geese, including mallards, black-necked stilts, lesser sandpipers, redheads, gadwall, American wigeon and pintail can be seen. In addition to migrant songbirds, shorebirds like semipalmated plover, kiiwiet and pectoral sandpiper, can be seen in spring and early fall. Reelfoot Lake State Park and Natural Area are part of the Mississippi Alluvial Valley Important Bird Area in the Lower Mississippi Delta Complex. Over 300 species of birds have been observed primarily in winter, spring and fall.

Fall Creek Falls—Inn, Cabins, Campground
Birds seen or heard in or near glades include prairie warbler, yellow-breasted chat, and chestnut-sided warbler, as well as other typical mid-south field and forest dwellers. Over 120 species of birds have been observed primarily during late spring and summer.

David Crockett—Cabins, Campground
This park has mixed deciduous forest, pines, and hardwood bottoms uphill through oak-hickory forest, and on the Pilot Knob Ridge and the observation deck at the Tennessee River Fork at Reelfoot Lake. Over 145 species of birds have been observed primarily in spring, summer and fall.

Montgomery Bell—Inn, Cabins, Campground
The park has high quality oak-hickory forests surrounding three lakes and a stream. Green herons and ducks are found in the lakes and transient warblers and wild turkeys are common across the park. In summer yellow-bellied cuckoo, vesper sparrow, eastern kingbird, flycatchers, wood thrush, blue-gray gnatcatcher, orchard oriole, yellow-bellied chat, indigo bunting, tanagers, yellow-rumped warbler, flycatchers and vireos can be expected. In winter brown creeper, hermit, kinglets, purple finch, dark-eyed junco and sparrows. Year-round killdeer, belted kingfisher, woodpeckers, blue jay, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, Carolina worm, eastern bluebird, American goldfinch and northern cardinal. Belted kingfisher may be seen here along the Doe River and northern pond sliders from the fall trees in spring and summer. The short Peg Leg Mine Trail behind the visitor center should produce Acadian flycatcher and ovenbird in summer. Typical woodland and edge birds may be seen in spring and early fall.

Cumberland Mountain—Cabins, Campground
Herons, belted kingfishers, ducks and migration or wintering can be seen from the lakeside. Over 100 species of woodland birds are common. In the summer expect yellow-bellied cuckoo, flycatchers, wood thrush, warblers, blue-gray gnatcatcher, scarlet tanager, indigo bunting, and vireos. Year-round red-tailed hawks, woodpeckers, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, Carolina worm, American goldfinch and eastern towhee may be encountered. Over 90 species of birds have been observed.

Newport's Bluff—Cabin
In the park’s scenic Marble Mountain area, we find 66 species of birds throughout the year. Ruby-throated hummingbirds can be found during the day. Flycatchers, eastern wood pewee, house wren, blue-gray gnatcatcher, indigo bunting, tufted titmouse, pileated woodpecker, indigo bunting, tufted titmouse, and eastern kingbird may be encountered.

Sewanee—Cabins, Campground
145 species of birds have been observed throughout the year. Year-round one may find red-eyed vireo, white-throated sparrow, black-capped chickadee, yellow-billed cuckoo, eastern towhee, brown creeper, eastern kingbird, black-crowned night heron, and great blue heron. Harvest mouse, common pocket gopher, European starling, house sparrow, tree swallow, blue jay, Carolina chickadee, hermit, kinglet, and dark-eyed junco are common in the park. Over 100 species of birds have been observed throughout the year but especially during the autumn months.

Cedar Falls—Cabins, Campground
Open field birds such as indigo bunting, song sparrow, and Dickcissel may be found in the species that may be found, especially field, savannah, song, and a few riparian species. It is possibly the most reliable Knox County location to find white-crowned sparrows. A prothonotary warbler may also be present. A northern harrier regularly cruises the hilly fields, and rough-legged hawks are occasionally found near the grass fields become established. Over 160 species of birds have been observed throughout the year.

Big Ridge—Cabins, Campground
Over 180 species of birds have been observed throughout the year. Black-bellied whistling duck, black-crowned night heron, and great blue heron can be seen here along the Doe River and northern pond sliders from the fall trees in spring and summer. The short Peg Leg Mine Trail behind the visitor center should produce Acadian flycatcher and ovenbird in summer. Typical woodland and edge birds may be seen in spring and early fall.

Old Hickory Lake—Inn, Cabins, Campground
From behind and east of the inn, along the paved picnic area and wooded area adjacent the TVA Songbird Trail, over 180 species of birds can be found, especially field, savannah, song, and a few riparian species. It is possibly the most reliable Knox County location to find white-crowned sparrows. A prothonotary warbler may also be present. A northern harrier regularly cruises the hilly fields, and rough-legged hawks are occasionally found near the grass fields become established. Over 160 species of birds have been observed throughout the year.

Norths Dam—Cabins, Campground
Waterfowl, great blue and green herons, gulls, osprey and bald eagle frequent the lake and the park. Over 48,000 acres of rivers and lakes are home to about 100 species of fish. Smith’s Overlook on the auto tour loop being one of the more popular fishing spots. Millikan’s Overlook on the auto tour loop being one of the most popular fishing spots. Brown trout, brook trout, rainbow trout, brook trout, and brown trout can be found in the best places in West Tennessee to find brook trout. Over 120 species of birds have been observed primarily in spring and fall. Over 70 species of birds have been observed throughout the year. The adjacent TVA Songbird Trail, over 180 species of birds have been observed throughout the year. Before the dam look for orchard and northern orioles, eastern bluebirds, sparrows and tree swallows.

Pickwick—Cabin
Year round residents include red-tailed hawk, owls, white-breasted nuthatch, Carolina worm, eastern towhee, and field and song sparrows. In summer, breeding whip-poor-will can be heard singing at dawn and dusk, while hooded warbler, worm-auguring warbler, wood thrush, and ruby-throated hummingbirds can be found during the spring. Endemic species include eastern wood pewee, yellow-bellied sapsucker, blue-gray gnatcatcher, vespa, and indigo bunting. The Park is home to one of the best places in the world for observing open field birds such as indigo bunting, song sparrow, and Dickcissel. Over 120 species of birds have been observed throughout the year.
Tennessee Birding Through the Seasons

Starting in West Tennessee in March the purple martin migration signals the beginning of spring. Birding springs to life with Neotropical migrants that arrive throughout the state in the hundreds of thousands during April and May. The peak spring migration is in mid- to late April. By the first of May warblers and birds have flown north and breeding and nesting activity is in full swing. The birds quiet down and nest and foliage makes it harder to see so recognizing calls becomes key to identifying birds. Nonetheless, throughout the state there are many species of resident birds to hear and see. Shorebirds begin to leave from early August through October. The autumn season begins in August and is all about movement as the young birds fly about and mature birds begin post- breeding dispersal. The Neotropical migrants are on the move with peak migration in September. Identifying young birds and migratory birds can be a challenge as their plumages differ. September and October are a good time to observe migrating hawks and vultures. In October doves of geese and waterfowl begin to arrive. Bird fanciers are also easily found in large gathering flocks in October. River fly is a great time to observe waterfowl in December through February.

The Christmas Bird Count provides an opportunity to get outside in early winter. The big draw in winter is the waterfowl including geese, ducks and geese. American bald eagles are also easily observed at Newport Lake in early January and February. Winter is a good time to look for sparrows in tall grass and along forest edges. Fruit-eating birds like cedar warblers, wire-tailed wrens and blackbirds feed on the fruits of shrubs and trees. In February the Great Backyard Bird Count is another great opportunity to get outside and see winter birds.

Tennessee State Parks—Birding

From the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Mississippi River, Tennessee is home to a great diversity of birds. Tennessee State Parks offer excellent, year-round opportunities to explore this diversity from common songbirds to Tennessee's state bird, the northern mockingbird, to rare species like the cerulean warbler. Whether you're looking for a barred owl, a k hooded crow, a hairy woodpecker or a purple martin, Tennessee State Parks are on the move with peak migration in mid- to late April.

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Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers contribute to the success of Tennessee State Parks by participating in projects and providing assistance in a variety of ways. Volunteer opportunities include activities such as trail maintenance, park improvement projects, and educational programs. Volunteers play a vital role in enhancing the park experience for visitors and in preserving the natural and cultural resources of the state parks. They provide valuable support to park staff and contribute to the overall success of the parks.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please visit the Tennessee State Parks website: [www.tnstateparks.com](http://www.tnstateparks.com).

Contact Information

**Tennessee State Parks**
William R. Snodgrass TN Tower
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 2nd Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

**Volunteer Opportunities**

For more information about volunteer opportunities, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at [www.tnstateparks.com](http://www.tnstateparks.com) or by calling 615-532-0059.