



Birds of Bledsoe Creek State Park

Bledsoe Creek is a small park located in the state's Central Basin on the shore of impounded Bledsoe Creek, a tributary of Old Hickory Lake. The park offers camping, fishing, hiking, and interpretation of Middle Tennessee history. Over four and a half miles of trails take visitors from the lakeshore to a high ridgetop. From these locations a variety of birds ranging from waders and wintering waterfowl to transient and nesting songbirds may be observed. One hundred and sixteen species have been recorded at the park.



Rough-winged Swallow

Scott Somershoe

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

Cedars of Lebanon: Cabins, Campground, Picnicking, Trails | Lebanon, Tennessee 37090 | 800-713-5180
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/cedars-of-lebanon

Edgar Evins: Cabins, Campground | Silver Point, TN 38582 | 931-858-2115
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/edgar-evins

Long Hunter: Day Use, Trails, Visitor Center, Picnicking | Hermitage, Tennessee 37076 | 615-885-2422
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/long-hunter

Standing Stone: Cabins, Campground | Hilham, Tennessee 38568 | 800-713-5157
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/standing-stone

Birding Locations In and Around Bledsoe Creek State Park

A hiking trail map is available at the park.

Mayo Wix Trail: 36.37818, -86.36035, Year-round

1.0 Miles | Paved Surface | Easy | www.cityofclarksville.com/index.aspx?page=125 | 931-645-7476

This level barrier-free trail goes through young woodlands and is adjacent to a shaded stream. A wildlife viewing deck offering views of open water and a swampy backwater habitat.

Featured Birds: red-shouldered hawk, belted kingfisher, green heron, barred owl, pileated woodpecker, Carolina wren, prothonotary warbler, Louisiana waterthrush, other warblers in migration, indigo bunting.

Shoreline Trail: 36.37716, -86.35907, Year-round

1.5 Miles | Natural Surface | Easy

This trail hugs the shore consisting of open woods, with several accessible open water viewing spots, ending at the park boat ramp.

Featured Birds: Canada goose, bald eagle, osprey, great egret, great blue heron, double-crested cormorant, lesser scaup, bufflehead, other winter waterfowl, black and turkey vulture, purple martin, eastern kingbird, northern rough-winged swallow, downy and hairy woodpecker, northern parula, yellow-throated warbler, American goldfinch.

High Ridge Trail: 36.37864, -86.36057, Winter, Spring, Fall

1.3 Miles | Natural Surface | Moderate/Challenging

Climbing in elevation from the lakeshore to a high ridge with a scenic view of the lake, this trail winds through oak-hickory forest, along a steep, rocky hillside and shaded lake edge.

Featured Birds: Red-tailed and sharp-shinned hawk, red-bellied woodpecker, wild turkey, great-crested flycatcher, scarlet and summer tanager, yellow-billed cuckoo, blue-gray gnatcatcher, Kentucky and black-and-white warbler, Tennessee, other warblers in migration, American goldfinch.

Nearby Birding Locations

Old Hickory Lake - Lock 5 Refuge: Access on east side of Hwy 231: 36.30374, -86.26255, Winter, Spring, Fall
www.tnwatchablewildlife.org

Site consists of tree-lined river and creek banks with cultivated fields that are subject to flooding in the winter. Main waterfowl area consists of five ponds totaling around 41 acres on the north side of the Cumberland River at the Hunter's Point bridge.

Featured Birds: Waterfowl are abundant in winter with mallards being the most common species. Mid-winter counts average more than 2000 individuals annually. American coots are also very common in the area.

Old Hickory Dam, "Snow Bunting" Peninsula: OHL Park: 36.28756, -86.65756, Winter, Spring, Fall
www.tnwatchablewildlife.org

A large part of Old Hickory Lake can be scanned from this area, with cormorants, grebes, gulls and many winter ducks observed, with occasional sightings of rare species. So far, 197 species have been recorded for Old Hickory Dam-Snow Bunting Peninsula.

Featured Birds: great blue heron, double-crested cormorant, cattle egret, osprey, killdeer, horned lark, swamp, white-throated and song sparrow.

Old Hickory WMA: Canoe Branch Road Access: 36.34462, -86.28169, Year-round
www.tn.gov/twra/topic/wildlife-management-area-wma-maps,

The area contains hardwood forest of oak, hickory, and maple, and riparian forest along the shoreline of parts of the lake. These are mixed with cropland that is flooded for waterfowl in winter. Public access is via walkable/gravel roads.

Featured Birds: waterfowl are abundant in winter. Early successional birds common in summer include indigo bunting, northern cardinal, eastern towhee, and yellow-breasted chat. Several sparrow species may be seen throughout the winter. There are about a dozen heron rookeries around Old Hickory Lake.