



# Birds of Booker T. Washington and Harrison Bay State Parks

Booker T. Washington State Park, 5801 Champion Road, Chattanooga, TN 37416 / 423-894-4955  
Harrison Bay State Park, 8411 Harrison Bay Road, Harrison, TN 37341 / 423-344-6214

Bald eagles, osprey, and many species of waterfowl are frequently seen at Booker T. Washington State Park. The fishing pier is popular with great blue herons and one is often seen on the peak of the roof. The hilly area where the mountain bike trails are located is excellent for spring and fall migratory birds. 129 species observed. Harrison Bay State Park is located on the largest open water area of Chickamauga Lake. Shorebirds, wintering waterfowl, osprey, and bald eagles are frequently seen. A bald eagle nest is located on the golf course and is the site for the "Eagle Cam" for Tennessee State Parks. 130 species of birds observed.



Photo by Scott Somershoe

Osprey

## Responsible Birding

- Do not endanger the welfare of birds.
- Do not harm the natural environment.
- 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

Fall Creek Falls – Cabins, Campground / Spencer, TN 38585 / 423-881-5298  
<http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/fall-creek-falls>

Hiwassee / Ocoee State Scenic River – Campground / Delano, TN 37325 / 423-263-0050  
[www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/hiwassee-ocoe](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/hiwassee-ocoe)

South Cumberland – Campground / Monteagle, TN 37356 / 931-924-2980  
[www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/south-cumberland](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/south-cumberland)

Tims Ford – Cabins, Campground / Winchester, TN 37398 / 931-962-1183  
[www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/tims-ford](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/tims-ford)

# Birding Locations In and Around Booker T. Washington State Park Harrison Bay State Park

A hiking trail map is available at the parks.

**Booker T. Washington, Boat Ramp and Fishing Pier:** 35.11218, -85.17730 – Winter, Spring, Fall

0.25 Mile - Paved Surface – Easy

The fishing pier and the boat ramp are the best areas for viewing the lake at the park.

**Featured Birds:** Canada goose, great blue heron, common loon, horned grebe, bald eagle, gulls, scaups, terns, common loon, ducks, and mergansers.

**Booker T. Washington, Hiking Trail:** 35.11220, -85.17527 – Winter, Spring, Fall

5.00 Miles - Natural Surface – Difficult

The brushy lake shore affords fall migrant songbirds and breeding eastern kingbird and orchard oriole. The Virginia pines hold breeding brown-headed nuthatches and pine warblers.

**Featured Birds:** eastern kingbird, orchard oriole, brown-headed nuthatch, pine warbler, red-breasted nuthatch, purple finch, and pine siskin.

**Harrison Bay, Bay Point Loop Trail:** 35.16831, -85.11976 – Winter, Spring, Fall

4.50 Miles - Natural Surface – Moderate - Winter, Spring, Fall

Forested trail that follows along the lakeshore and shallow bays.

**Featured Birds:** pine warbler, Tennessee warbler, blackpoll warbler, black-throated green warbler, vireos, red-headed woodpecker, brown-headed nuthatch, northern flicker, brown creeper and waterfowl.

**Harrison Bay, Picnic Area:** 35.16703, -85.12590 – Winter, Spring, Fall

0.25 Mile – Paved/Natural Surface – Easy

This wooded and semi-open peninsula provides easy views into the main lake and bay area containing the marina.

**Featured Birds:** black tern, Caspian tern, osprey, Canada goose, great blue heron, common loon, horned grebe, bald eagle, gulls, scaups, ducks, and mergansers.

## Nearby Birding Locations

**Standifer Gap Marsh: Road alongside the marsh:** 35.06241, -85.16726 Year-round

<http://woodlandpark.org> - 423-899-9185

This site is owned by the Woodland Park Baptist Church and contains a cattail marsh with some large pockets of open water, bordered by stands of wet grasses, sedges, bulrushes, and willows and other moisture-loving trees and shrubs. Over 200 species of birds identified.

**Featured Birds:** wild turkey, Canada goose, killdeer, song and field sparrows, Eastern phoebe, red-shouldered hawk, belted kingfishers, warblers, vireos, thrushes, flycatchers, shorebirds, and waterbirds.

**Chester Frost Park: Entrance:** 35.177088, -85.155719 – Winter, Spring, Fall

[www.hamiltontn.gov/parkrec](http://www.hamiltontn.gov/parkrec) - 423-842-3306

A leisurely walk around the park roads offers good birdwatching for waterfowl and gulls in winter with views of the lake and mixed pine/deciduous forest. 170 species of birds identified.

**Featured Birds:** waterfowl, shorebirds, brown-headed nuthatch, red-headed woodpecker, bald eagle, red-tailed hawk, northern flicker, great blue heron, common loon, horned grebe, black tern, warblers, and gulls.

**Brainerd Levee (South Chickamauga Creek Greenway): Parking Area:** 35.043516, -85.218685 – Year-round

[www.chattanooga.gov/public-works/parks](http://www.chattanooga.gov/public-works/parks) - 423-643-6311

This storm water control structure, with a paved trail atop the 2.60 miles long levee, has created freshwater habitats including cattail marsh, seasonal mudflats, wet fields, wet woods, shallow ponds, fields with shrub and shrubby edges, and riparian woods. Over 190 species of birds identified.

**Featured Birds:** great blue heron, great egret, American bittern, common yellowthroat, orchard oriole, winter wren, rusty blackbird, killdeer, brown-headed nuthatch, sandpipers, plovers, yellowlegs, waterfowl and warblers.