



Birds of Cove Lake and Indian Mountain State Parks

110 Cove Lake Lane, Caryville, Tennessee 37714 / 423-566-9701
143 State Park Circle, Jellico, Tennessee 37762 / 423 784-7958

Cove Lake's 717 acres are situated in a beautiful mountain valley on the eastern edge of the Cumberland Plateau. Scenic nature trails lead through a diversity of wetlands and woodlands offering wildlife viewing for the nature enthusiast. The lake serves as a magnet for migrating birds. In the winter there are hundreds of geese and other waterfowl. There are piers, bridges and a tower along the paved trail to aid in seeing the birds. The Volunteer Loop Trail, accessed from the Cumberland Trail Trailhead, traverses a mature hardwood forest where many migratory birds can be seen in the spring and fall and many nesting birds can also be found.

Indian Mountain State Park is a multi-use facility in Campbell County near Tennessee's northern border. Visitors to the 203-acre park enjoy fishing at the lake, picnicking, camping, and hiking on the three trails. Although the park's name would indicate that it is located on a mountain, it is actually located at the base of the mountain. Bluebirds and tree swallows nest in boxes around the main lake. Waterfowl are frequently seen in the flooded pits and along the stream and lakeshore.



Osprey

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.
- Enjoy yourself!

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

Big Ridge – Cabins, Campground, Boating, Trails - Maynardville, TN 37807 / 865-992-5523
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/big-ridge

Frozen Head – Campground, Pavilions, Trails - Wartburg, TN 37887 / 423-346-3318
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/frozen-head

Norris Dam - Campground, Cabins, Trails - Rocky Top, TN 37769 / 865-426-7461
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/norris-dam

Pickett CCC Memorial State Park – Cabins, Campground, Trails - Jamestown, TN 38556 / 931-879-5821
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/pickett

Birding Locations In and Around Cove Lake and Indian Mountain State Parks

A hiking trail map and checklist to the Birds of Cove Lake and Indian Mountain are available at each park.

Cove Lake: Volunteer Loop Trail: 36.30926, -84.21875 - 1.2 Miles - Natural Surface - Moderate - Year-round
The Volunteer Loop Trail traverses a mature hardwood forest. A large variety of warblers can be seen here during the spring.

Featured Birds: cedar waxwing, red-winged blackbird, vireo, wood duck, woodpeckers, ovenbirds, a variety of warblers.

Cove Lake: Paved Trail Loop: Observation Platform: 36.30818, -84.21997
3.5 Miles - Paved Surface - Easy - Winter, Spring, Fall

This trail traverses a variety of habitats including fallow field, edge, and open water. A 3-tiered wildlife observation platform overlooks Cove Lake and is the perfect place to observe waterfowl in the winter months.

Featured Birds: red-shouldered hawk, bald eagle, killdeer, hooded merganser, redhead, gadwall, pied-billed grebe, ring-billed gull, bufflehead, great blue heron, green heron, black-crowned night heron, belted kingfisher, osprey, wood duck.

Indian Mountain: Ballard Lake Trail: 36.585316, -84.141136
0.75 Mile - Natural Surface - Moderate - Winter, Spring

The path meanders its way along a unique shallow lake with irregular borders.

Featured Birds: great blue heron, mallard, belted kingfisher, red-bellied woodpecker, downy woodpecker, northern flicker, yellow-rumped warbler, white-throated sparrow, song sparrow, eastern meadowlark, and American goldfinch

Indian Mountain: Lake Trail: 36.585612, -84.141776

1.00 Mile - Paved Surface - Easy - Winter, Spring, Fall

This section of trail forms a loop alongside a 21 acre lake.

Featured Birds: Canada geese, mallard, American coot, killdeer, green-winged teal, pied-billed grebe, red-tailed hawk, red-shouldered hawk, eastern bluebirds, and tree swallows.

Nearby Birding Locations

Oneida City Park: Observation Pier: 36.499138, -84.503494

www.townofoneida.com/playing/oneida-city-park - 423-569-6244 - Spring, Summer, Fall

This city park is situated on a small lake that is a hot spot for waterfowl. So far, 85 species of birds have been identified.

Featured Birds: Canada geese, mallard, blue-winged teal, ring-necked duck, American coot, killdeer, tree swallow, barn swallow, eastern bluebird, and chipping sparrow.

Melton Lake Park: Parking Area: 36.033647, -84.193558

<http://orrecparcs.oakridgetn.gov/parks/> - 865-425-3450 - Winter, Spring, Summer

This city park is located in Oak Ridge on the tail waters of Norris Lake. The park has a parking area on a long peninsula that offers a great view of the lake. More than 90 species of birds have been identified.

Featured Birds: ring-billed gull, mallard, Canada goose, barn swallow, song sparrow, purple martin, eastern towhee, belted kingfisher, double-crested cormorant, redhead, cedar waxwing, warblers, and Carolina wren.

Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery: Entrance: 36.121026, -84.115299 - Open 8:00 to 4:30, Monday through Friday.

www.tn.gov/twra/article/twra-fish-hatchery-system - 865-457-5135 - Year-round

The fish hatchery is operated by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency for rearing cool water fish and is also a productive place for shorebirds, wading birds, and waterfowl. Nearly 200 species of birds identified.

Featured Birds: warblers, sandpipers, plovers, herons, Swainson's thrush, marsh wren, Philadelphia vireo, merlin, eastern phoebe, eastern kingbird, ducks, killdeer, willow flycatcher, double crested cormorant, osprey, lesser yellowlegs and greater yellowlegs.