



Birds of Cumberland Mountain State Park

24 Office Drive, Crossville, Tennessee 38555 / 931-484-6138

Hérons, belted kingfishers, and ducks in migration or wintering can be seen from the lakeshore. Woodland birds are common. In the summer expect yellow-billed cuckoo, flycatchers, wood thrush, warblers, blue-gray gnatcatcher, scarlet tanager, indigo bunting, and vireos. Year-round red-tailed hawk, woodpeckers, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, Carolina wren, American goldfinch and eastern towhee may be encountered. One-hundred and five species of birds have been observed.



Blue-headed Vireo

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

Edgar Evins – Cabins, Campground, Restaurant [Seasonal] / Silver Point, TN 38582 / 931-858-2115
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/edgar-evins

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

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

Rock Island – Cabins, Campground / Rock Island, TN 38581 / 931-686-2471
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/rock-island

Birding Locations In and Around Cumberland Mountain State Park

A hiking trail map is available at the park.

Lake Trail Loop: 35.89974, -84.99868 - 0.7 Miles - Natural Surface - Easy - Year-round

This trail begins near the restaurant, crosses over the dam via the road and follows the shores of Byrd Lake between the dam and wooden bridge near the boathouse offering many views over the lake.

Featured Birds: water birds, Canada goose, mallard, bufflehead, spotted sandpiper, belted kingfisher, American robin, American crow, blue jay, northern cardinal, American goldfinch, eastern bluebird, brown thrasher, song sparrow and mourning dove.

Pioneer Short Loop: 35.89824, -84.99978 - 2.0 Miles - Natural Surface - Easy - Year-round

This trail begins near the restaurant following the shores of Byrd Lake between the bridge near the boathouse and the upstream swinging bridge across Byrd Creek offering many views of the lake and along wooded stream.

Featured Birds: water birds and woodland birds, woodpeckers, northern flicker, vireos, barred owl, Carolina chickadee, tufted-titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, belted kingfisher, northern cardinal, American crow, blue jay, brown thrasher, and song sparrow.

Cumberland Plateau Nature Trail Loop: 35.90058, -84.99936

1.0 Mile - Natural Surface - Moderate, Spring, Summer, Fall

This trail begins by the dam across the road from the restaurant dropping below the dam and following Byrd Creek before looping back to the start through the forest.

Featured Birds: woodland birds, woodpeckers, northern flicker, vireos, barred owl, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, blue jay, white-breasted nuthatch, eastern phoebe, brown thrasher, and Carolina wren.

Byrd Creek Trail: 35.90069, -84.99708

2.5 Miles - Natural Surface - Moderate - Spring, Summer, Fall

This forested trail begins at the park office, travels along the east side of Byrd Creek, crosses the creek on an old roadbed, returns to the dam on the west side of Byrd Creek via the Cumberland Plateau Nature Trail and ends with a short road walk to the park office.

Featured Birds: woodland birds, woodpeckers, vireos, northern flicker, barred owl, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, blue jay, white-breasted nuthatch, eastern phoebe, brown thrasher, and Carolina wren.

Nearby Birding Locations

Cumberland Trail: Black Mountain Parking Area: 35.868152, -84.887509

www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cumberland-trail - 423-566-2229 - Spring, Summer, Fall

Black Mountain is 2,800 feet in elevation, high enough for bird species preferring moderately high elevation, with a loop hiking trail passing through oak-hickory-pine forest and leading to spectacular sandstone outcrop overlooks into the Grassy Cove Karst National Natural Landmark. Sixty species of birds identified.

Featured Birds: warblers, vireos, thrushes, owls, American redstart, eastern whip-poor-will, Carolina chickadee, and tufted titmouse.

Catoosa Wildlife Management Area: Oak Savanna Restoration: 36.06253, -84.87952

www.tn.gov/twra/topic/wildlife-management-area-wma-maps - 931-456-2479 - Spring, Summer, Fall (Hunting Area)

Catoosa WMA contains extensive oak-hickory forest, gravel roads and an actively managed oak savanna restoration area to maintain open woodlands and native grass systems that historically occurred in the region before fire was removed from the system and forests dominated the area. Ninety species of birds identified.

Featured Birds: red-headed woodpecker, prairie warbler, yellow-breasted chat, white-eyed vireo, common yellowthroat, ovenbird, northern bobwhite.

Yuchi Wildlife Refuge: Observation Platform: 35.55253, -84.80499

www.tn.gov/twra/topic/wildlife-management-area-wma-maps - 423-365-9166 - Winter, Spring, Summer, (Hunting Area)

Yuchi Refuge encompasses 2,500-acre on the Tennessee River, with three miles of riverfront, 1,000 acres of wetland, 1,500 acres of upland forest, and extensive grasslands providing habitat for shrubland and grassland birds. Over 155 species of birds identified.

Featured Birds: warblers, thrushes, vireos, flycatchers, owls, sandhill crane, sedge wren, marsh wren, spotted sandpiper, pectoral sandpiper, solitary sandpiper, least sandpiper, greater yellowlegs, lesser yellowlegs, northern bobwhite, wild turkey and Cooper's hawk.