



# Birds of Hiwassee/Ocoee State Park

404 Spring Creek Road, Delano, TN 37325 / 423-263-0050

The Hiwassee/Ocoee Scenic River State Park is internationally recognized for its excellent white water recreation opportunities. The rivers are also an excellent place to spot great blue herons fishing amongst the river rocks. Picnic areas bursting with wildflowers bring out an excellent variety of woodland birds as they dine on seeds, insects and invertebrates. Bald eagles are also now occurring with greater frequency. Over 100 species of birds have been observed at the park.



Great Blue Heron

## **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](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**

Cumberland Mountain – Cabins, Campground, Golf Course, Restaurant – Crossville, TN / 931-484-6138  
[www.tnstateparks.com/parks/cumberland-mountain](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/cumberland-mountain)

Fall Creek Falls – Cabins, Campground – Spencer, TN / 423-881-5298  
[www.tnstateparks.com/parks/fall-creek-falls](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/fall-creek-falls)

Harrison Bay – Campground, Group Camp, Camping, Golf Course – Harrison, TN / 423-344-7966  
[www.tnstateparks.com/parks/harrison-bay](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/harrison-bay)

Seven Islands – Hiking, Fishing, Birding – Kodak, TN / 865-407-8335  
[www.tnstateparks.com/parks/seven-islands](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/seven-islands)

# Birding Locations In and Around Hiwassee / Ocoee State Park

A hiking trail map and checklist to the Birds of Hiwassee/Ocoee are available at the park.

**Gee Creek Trail:** 35.24687, -84.54034 – Spring, Fall

1.00 Miles - Natural Surface - Easy

This trail crosses hemlock and rhododendron lined streams and ends at a waterfall complete with a plunge pool.

**Featured Birds:** warblers, cliff swallow, northern parula, indigo bunting, chimney swift, American redstart, scarlet tanager, Swainson's thrush, cedar waxwing, rose-breasted grosbeak.

**Hiwassee River Road (Powerhouse Road): Big Bend Overlook to Appalachian Powerhouse:** 35.20074, -84.46711

2.10 Miles – Paved Surface – Easy - Spring, Fall

This section of Powerhouse Road borders a portion of the Hiwassee River with several islands and rapids.

**Featured Birds:** great blue heron, belted kingfisher, swallows, tufted titmouse, Carolina chickadee, and woodpeckers.

**Lake Ocoee (Parksville Lake): Ocoee Scenic Byway from Sugarloaf Mtn. Park to Mac Point Beach:** 35.09589, -84.65113

4.7 Miles – Paved Surface – Easy

This section of scenic byway skirts along the edge of Parksville Lake and Lake Ocoee. It is navigable by car.

**Featured Birds:** ring-billed gull, Canada goose, mallard, wood duck, herons, northern mockingbird, northern cardinal, northern rough-winged swallow, tree swallow, and barn swallows.

**Ocoee Whitewater Center: Rhododendron Trail:** 35.06649, -84.46133 –

1.00 Miles – Natural – Easy - Seasons Spring, Summer, Fall

Short trail along the Olympic course section of the Ocoee River.

**Featured Birds:** herons, turkey vulture, black vulture, American gold finch, tufted titmouse, purple finch, northern cardinal, mourning dove, northern mockingbird, indigo bunting, ruby-throated hummingbird, and woodpeckers.

## Nearby Birding Locations

**Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge: Observation platform:** 35.39996, -84.98998 – Winter, Spring, Fall

[www.tn.gov/twra/topic/wildlife-management-area-wma-maps](http://www.tn.gov/twra/topic/wildlife-management-area-wma-maps) , 423-614-3018

A 6,000-acre refuge at the confluence of the Hiwassee and Tennessee Rivers which supports a large flock of sandhill cranes every winter. On rare occasions golden eagles have been observed here. 191 species of birds identified.

**Featured Birds:** sandhill crane, bald eagle, osprey, American white pelican, waterfowl, swallows, sparrows, purple martin, cedar waxwing, and double-crested cormorants.

**Ft. Loudon State Park: Observation Pier:** 35.59605, -84.20770 – Year-round

[www.tnstateparks.com/parks/fort-loudoun](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/fort-loudoun) , 423-884-6217

Fort Loudoun is surrounded by Tellico Lake and is a good place for shorebirds, osprey, and bald eagles. A varied landscape of forest and fields provides diverse habitats for migratory birds. The fields are being converted to native grasses and provide an excellent habitat for northern bobwhite and other birds of open land. 78 species of birds identified.

**Featured Birds:** waterfowl, shorebirds, herons, osprey, woodpeckers, common nighthawk, and northern bobwhite.

**Cherokee National Forest: Whigg Meadow:** 35.32476, -84.03255 – Spring, Summer, Fall

[www.cherohala.org/](http://www.cherohala.org/) and [www.fs.usda.gov/main/cherokee/home](http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/cherokee/home) , 423-253-8010 or 423-253-8400

The hike from Mud Gap to Whigg Meadow on the Benton MacKaye Trail offers great high-elevation birding opportunities. 117 species of birds identified.

**Featured Birds:** Tennessee warbler, black-throated blue warbler, cape may warbler, palm warbler, blue-headed vireo, common nighthawk, purple martin, Swainson's thrush, American woodcock, broad-winged hawk.