



# Birds of Old Stone Fort State Archaeological Park

732 Stone Fort Drive, Manchester, Tennessee 37355 / 931-723-5073

A 50-acre grass-covered hilltop, embraced by the Enclosure Trail, is believed to have been used as a ceremonial site by Native Americans more than 2000 years ago. This area is maintained as grassland making it the perfect place to observe grassland bird species. Sit for a while on one of the benches that line the hilltop and listen to the songs of eastern meadowlarks. Northern parula and red-eyed vireo can be heard or seen throughout the summer as well as the occasional wood duck, which was observed and revered by the Native Americans who occupied this site long ago.



Carolina Wren

## 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

Montgomery Bell – Cabins, Campground, Inn, Restaurant - Burns, TN 37029 / 615-797-9052  
[www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/montgomery-bell](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/montgomery-bell)

Mousetail Landing– Campground, Swimming, Trails - Linden, TN 37096 / 731-847-0841  
[www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/mousetail-landing](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/mousetail-landing)

Natchez Trace – Cabins, Campground, Inn, Restaurant - Wildersville, TN 38388 / 731-968-3742  
[www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/natchez-trace](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/natchez-trace)

Nathan Bedford Forrest– Cabins, Campground - Eva, TN / 731-584-6356  
[www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/nathan-bedford-forrest](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/nathan-bedford-forrest)

# Birding Locations In and Around Old Stone Fort State Archaeological Park

A hiking trail map of Old Stone Fort is available at the park.

## **Old Stone Fort Enclosure Trail:** 35.486081, -86.102824

1.3 Miles - Natural Surface - Easy - Year-round

The enclosure trail surrounds a unique geological feature that was used by Woodland Indians 2,000 years ago. It offers views of the park's three largest waterfalls - Step Falls, Blue Hole Falls, and Big Falls.

**Featured Birds:** turkey vulture, eastern bluebird, Carolina wren, white-throated sparrow, white-crowned sparrow, American goldfinch, cliff swallow, eastern meadowlark, red-tailed hawk, Cooper's hawk, and broad-winged hawk.

## **Nature Trail:** 35.492296, -86.106761

1.0 Miles - Natural Surface - Easy - Year-round

This one-mile trail encircles the campground and is a great place to see and hear woodland bird species.

**Featured Birds:** American crow, Carolina chickadee, American robin, pileated woodpecker, blue jay, common grackle, mourning dove, northern mockingbird, northern cardinal, brown thrasher, eastern phoebe, and eastern kingbird.

## **Little Duck River Trail:** 35.480244, -86.109527

1.5 Miles - Natural Surface - Moderate - Year-round

This trail winds down the forested hillside and skirts along the riverside of the Little Duck River before heading back up Backbone Ridge.

**Featured Birds:** great blue heron, red-winged blackbird, yellow-rumped warbler, yellow-billed cuckoo, cedar waxwing, Baltimore oriole, golden-crowned kinglet, ruby-crowned kinglet, and blue-gray gnatcatcher.

## **Forks of the River Trail:** 35.480244, -86.109527

0.4 Miles - Natural Surface - Easy - Year-round

This trail is nestled in bottomland hardwood forest and offers a view of the river where it splits into the Duck and Little Duck Rivers.

**Featured Birds:** green heron, great blue heron, pied-billed grebe, barred owl, northern parula, a variety of woodpeckers and warblers.

## Nearby Birding Locations

### **May Prairie State Natural Area: Trail Head:** 35.457026, -86.025582

[www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-May-Prairie](http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-May-Prairie), 615-532-0431 - Summer, Fall

May Prairie is a 492-acre natural area in Coffee County near Manchester. The most impressive feature at May Prairie is the open grassland community that protrudes into the surrounding oak forest where the oak barrens begin. In all, 89 species of birds identified.

**Featured Birds:** magnolia warbler, eastern wood-pewee, red-bellied woodpecker, common yellowthroat, yellow-rumped warbler, black-throated green warbler, yellow-breasted chat, hooded warbler, summer tanager, and eastern meadowlark.

### **Bark Camp Barrens WMA: Parking Area:** 35.507840, -85.997060

[www.tn.gov/twra/topic/wildlife-management-area-wma-maps](http://www.tn.gov/twra/topic/wildlife-management-area-wma-maps), 931-967-6101, Spring, Summer, Fall

This wildlife management area is located in Coffee County and consists of 2,800 acres of mature woodlands and open fields. In all, 167 species of birds identified.

**Featured Birds:** northern bobwhite, wild turkey, turkey vulture, northern harrier, red-shouldered hawk, red-tailed hawk, kestrel, sandpipers, woodpeckers, eastern meadowlark, horned lark, barn swallow, blue grosbeak, sparrows, and indigo bunting.

### **Normandy Lake: Barton Spring Public Use Area:** 35.454128, -86.218545

<http://barton-springs.com/day-use/> 931-857-3777 - Winter, Spring

This public use area overlooks Normandy TVA Reservoir. Exposed mud flats and a sandy beach offer an excellent viewing location for waterfowl. More than 130 species of birds have been identified.

**Featured Birds:** redhead, bufflehead, white-winged scoter, mallard, Canada goose, common loon, pied-billed grebe, horned grebe, great blue heron, killdeer, Bonaparte's gull, and ring-billed gull.