



Birds of Panther Creek State Park

2010 Panther Creek Park Road, Morristown, TN 37814 / 423-587-7046

The shores and islands of Cherokee Lake at Panther Creek State Park offer great opportunities for seeing wintering waterfowl, osprey, and eagles. The forest has a good resident population of songbirds as well. Over 125 species of birds have been observed.



Great Egret

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

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

David Crockett Birthplace – Campground / Limestone, TN 37681 – 423-257-2167
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/david-crockett-birthplace

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

Seven Islands – Hiking, Fishing, Birding – Kodak, TN / 865-407-8335
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/seven-islands

Birding Locations In and Around Panther Creek State Park

A hiking trail map is available at the park.

Panther Path Trail: 36.21407, -83.40497 – Year-round

0.90 Miles - Natural Surface – Easy

This is a short trail that follows Panther Creek through open fields and forest.

Featured Birds: wild turkey, herons, hawks, yellow-billed cuckoo, American robin, eastern meadowlark, red-winged blackbird, indigo bunting, American kestrel, belted kingfisher, finches and sparrows.

Spoone Recreation Area: Seven Sinkholes Trail: 36.21625, -83.40562 – Spring, Fall

0.60 Miles – Natural Surface – Easy

This trail meanders past seven distinct sink holes before dipping into a lush valley of cedars and pines.

Featured Birds: woodpeckers, eastern wood-pewee, eastern phoebe, cedar waxwing, northern cardinal, northern mockingbird, northern flicker, common yellowthroat and warblers.

Smallman Area: Overlook: 36.21137, -83.42154 – Winter, Spring

0.10 Miles - Paved Surface – Easy

This is a scenic overlook offering a great view of Cherokee Lake.

Featured Birds: Bonaparte's gull, grebes, loons, double-crested cormorant, Canada goose, mallard, turkey vulture, black vulture, bald eagle, and killdeer.

Maple Arch Trail by way of Horse Connector Trail: 36.21381, -83.40962 – Spring, Summer, Fall

4.20 Miles - Natural Surface – Moderately Difficult

This trail is named for the red and silver maple trees that line its path.

Featured Birds: wood duck, wood thrush, warblers, common nighthawk, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, barn swallow, tree swallow, American crow, and blue jay.

Nearby Birding Locations

Mossy Creek Wildlife Viewing Area: 36.12802, -83.50172 – Winter, Spring, Fall

www.jeffcitytn.com/parksandrecreation.htm / 865-475-9071

This 23-acre wetland preserve is a refuge for turtles, otters, beavers, and birds alike. 134 species of birds identified.

Featured Birds: black-crowned night heron, little blue heron, great blue heron, belted kingfishers, great egrets, cedar waxwings, grassland birds and sparrows.

Rankin Bottoms WMA: Observation Area: 36.077511, -83.23835 – Spring, Summer, Fall

www.tn.gov/twra/gis-maps/wildlife-management-area--wma--maps.html / 423-235-4882

This is one of the best sites in East Tennessee for warm season waterbirds. 220 species of birds identified.

Featured Birds: double-crested cormorant, great egrets, herons, killdeer, plovers, least sandpipers, greater yellowlegs, lesser yellowlegs, short-billed dowitcher, white ibis (rare), sandhill cranes, bald eagles and peregrine falcons.

Lick Creek Bottoms WMA: 36.15684, -83.08731 – Year-round

www.tn.gov/twra/gis-maps/wildlife-management-area--wma--maps.html / 423-235-4882

This marshy bottomland is a great place to view waterbirds and song birds.

83 species of birds identified.

Featured Birds: Wilson's snipe, blue-winged teal, mallard, wood duck, northern harrier, eastern meadowlark, common grackle, red-winged blackbird, swamp sparrow, song sparrow, savannah sparrow, vultures, and woodpeckers.