



# Birds of Radnor Lake State Park

1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37220 / 615-373-3467

Radnor Lake State Park and Natural Area is 1,402 acres; it provides seven plus miles of trails and roadway that meander through oak-hickory forest and lake shore with 211 bird species reported in the State Natural Area. During the spring and fall, migration is substantial with warblers [37 species have been reported], vireos, and flycatchers allowing for superb chances to see many non-resident species. Winter months provide outstanding opportunities to see waterfowl [24 species have been reported] with the lake being a stopover location for migrating ducks.



## 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](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

Cedars of Lebanon – Cabins, Campground - Lebanon, TN 37090 / 800-713-5180  
[www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cedars-of-lebanon](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cedars-of-lebanon)

Harpeth River – Day Use, Picnicking, Trails - Kingston Springs, Tennessee 37082 / 615-952-2099  
[www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/harpeth-river](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/harpeth-river)

Henry Horton – Inn, Cabins, Campground, Restaurant – Chapel Hill, TN 37034 / 931-364-2222  
[www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/henry-horton](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/henry-horton)

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

# Birding Locations In and Around Radnor Lake State Park

A hiking trail map and checklist is available at the park.

## **Spillway Bridge:** 36.063489, -86.806993

0.27 Miles – Wooden Bridge/ Gravel Surface – Easy – Spring and Fall

Lake spillway is located on the western end of the lake and consists of early successional shrubs that are adjacent to oak-hickory forest. The bridge is excellent for seeing neotropical migrants for it allows you to view them from above.

**Featured Birds:** yellow warbler, swallows, Canada geese, great blue heron, great-crested flycatcher, eastern phoebe, eastern wood-pewee.

## **Ganier Ridge Trail:** 36.064146, -86.790674

1.55 Miles – Natural Surface – Difficult – Year-round

This trail traverses through an open ridge forest consisting of chestnut oak and shagbark hickory making it excellent for seeing early migrants during the spring. During the summer months, the area is filled with red-eyed vireos and tanagers.

**Featured Birds:** cerulean warbler, common hooded warbler, pileated woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch, hermit thrush, white-throated sparrow, scarlet and summer tanager, red-eyed vireo.

## **Lake Trail:** 36.065038, -86.799123

1.32 Miles – Mulch/Natural Surface – Easy – Year-round

The Lake Trail navigates through oak-hickory forest and delivers outstanding opportunities to get close to the lake fringe. This is a favorite with local birders for it allows you to see a vast majority of the bird species in the area.

**Featured Birds:** bay-breasted warbler, blackpoll warbler, wood thrush, Swainson's thrush, red-eyed vireo, summer tanager, red-bellied woodpecker, barred owl, wild turkey.

## **Otter Creek Road Observation Platforms:** 36.056683, -86.798638

1.2 Miles - Paved Surface – Easy – Spring, Winter

The observation platforms are heavily used during the winter by photographers and birders. The platforms are excellent for observing waterfowl and other water-dependent species. During migration, the lake provides a place to rest for migrating waterfowl and other water birds.

**Featured Birds:** waterfowl, belted kingfisher, double-crested cormorant, horned grebe, spotted sandpiper, swallows, eastern kingbird, great blue heron, prothonotary warbler.

## Nearby Birding Locations

### **Metro Warner Parks Nature Center:** 36.09468, -86.54309

[www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/long-hunter](http://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/long-hunter) - 615-885-2422 - Year-round

The paved 2.1-mile trail traverses open oak-hickory and successional cedar glade woods, with overlooks onto the 85-acre Couchville Lake. Couchville Lake has had 125 species observed.

**Featured Birds:** black and turkey vulture, red-bellied and pileated woodpeckers, prothonotary and yellow warblers, occasional osprey, purple martin, northern rough-winged swallow, ring-billed gull and hooded merganser in winter.

### **Old Hickory Dam, "Snow Bunting" Peninsula: Old Hickory Beach:** 36.28756, -86.65756

[www.lrn.usace.army.mil/Locations/Lakes/Old-Hickory-Lake/Recreation Areas](http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/Locations/Lakes/Old-Hickory-Lake/Recreation%20Areas) - Winter, Spring, Fall

A large part of Old Hickory Lake can be scanned from this area, with cormorants, grebes, gulls and many winter ducks observed, and occasional sightings of rare species. Large breeding colonies of wading birds are found on the lake. Over 185 species have been observed.

**Featured Birds:** great blue heron, double-crested cormorant, cattle egret, osprey, killdeer, horned lark, swamp, white-throated and song sparrow.

### **Bells Bend Park: Nature Center:** 36.153955, -86.920214

[www.nashville.gov/Parks-and-Recreation/Nature-Centers-and-Natural-Areas](http://www.nashville.gov/Parks-and-Recreation/Nature-Centers-and-Natural-Areas) - Year-round

This 880-acre park lies within a bend of the Cumberland River and consists of weedy fields, reclaimed pastures and riparian woodlands, with several miles of paved and mulched trails. Bells Bend has had 188 species observed.

**Featured Birds:** indigo bunting, common yellowthroat, yellow warbler, blue grosbeak, white-throated, grasshopper, small population of Henslow's sparrow.