



Birds of Rock Island State Park

82 Beach Road, Rock Island, Tennessee 38581 / 800 714-6065

Birds such as osprey, black vulture, belted kingfisher, black-crowned night-heron and yellow-crowned night-heron can be seen along with great blue heron which have a rookery nearby. Over 90 species of birds have been seen and heard, especially in late spring. Acadian flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo, eastern wood-pewee, eastern kingbird, eastern phoebe, tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, Carolina wren, blue-gray gnatcatcher, summer tanager, orchard oriole, indigo bunting, American goldfinch, vireos, and warblers may all be observed.



Red-bellied Woodpecker

Responsible Birding

- Do not endanger the welfare of birds.
- Do not harm the natural environment.
- Tread lightly and respect bird habitat.
- Silence is golden.
- Take extra care when in a nesting area.
- Always respect the law and the rights of others.
- 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
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

Cumberland Mountain- Cabins, Campground, Restaurant – Crossville, TN 38555 / 931-484-6138
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cumberland-mountain

Edgar Evins – Cabins, Campground – 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

Old Stone Fort – Campground – Manchester, TN 37355 / 931-723-5073
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/old-stone-fort

Birding Locations In and Around Rock Island State Park

A hiking trail map of and checklist of the Birds of Rock Island are available at the park.

Collins River Nature Trail: 35.80519, -85.63467 - 2.7 Miles - Natural Surface - Moderate - Spring, Fall

This wooded loop trail follows along the outer edge of the Collins River peninsula winding beside the riverbank and gives the hiker a chance to view a variety of wildlife and wildflowers.

Featured Birds: herons, ducks, red-tailed hawk, Acadian flycatcher, yellow-rumped warbler and white-throated sparrow.

Beach: 35.81583, -85.64800 - 0.5 Mile - Natural Surface - Easy - Year-round

Across from the natural sand beach are high cliffs and views up and down the Caney Fork River.

Featured Birds: black vulture, herons wood duck, belted kingfisher, northern rough-winged swallow, chimney swift and prothonotary warbler.

Eagle Trail: 35.81615, -85.64400 - 1.4 Miles [roundtrip] - Natural Surface - Moderate - Spring, Fall

This trail runs from the Blue Hole picnic area to the Badger Flat picnic area near the park's natural sand beach on Center Hill Lake and is naturally stocked with an abundant array of wildflowers and songbirds.

Featured Birds: Carolina chickadee, vireos, belted kingfisher, yellow-throated and black and white warbler and osprey.

Bluff Trail: 35.81159, -85.64758 - 1.7 Miles - Natural Surface - Moderate - Spring, Fall

Hikers and bikers are permitted on this wooded, lollipop trail that begins at the tennis court parking area including a short side spur blazed in blue which brings hikers to a bench overlooking Center Hill Lake below.

Featured Birds: wild turkey, barred owl, chipping sparrow, indigo bunting, American goldfinch, great-crested flycatcher, white-breasted nuthatch.

Nearby Birding Locations

Burgess Falls State Park and Natural Area: Visitor Center: 36.0440, -85.59453

www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/burgess-falls - 931-432-5312 - Spring, Fall

Sheer bluffs, scenic views, waterfalls, narrow ridges and abundant mixed forest characterize this natural area on the eastern edge of the Highland Rim. Over 90 species of birds identified.

Featured Birds: warblers, vireos, thrushes, flycatchers, eastern whip-poor-will, sandhill cranes, eastern towhee, barred owl, eastern screech-owl, Cooper's hawk, killdeer, red-tailed hawk, cedar waxwing, and American robin.

Bark Camp Barrens Wildlife Management Area: Barn: 35.47485, -85.97550

www.tn.gov/twra/topic/wildlife-management-area-wma-maps - 931-967-6101 - Year-round

The wildlife management area is comprised of 2,800-acres, the majority being in mature hardwood forest. There are 150 acres of native warm season grasses and old fields found on the south side of the WMA, behind the red barn. Nearly 160 species of bird have been identified.

Featured Birds: sparrows, eastern kingbird, prairie warbler, yellow-breasted chat, blue grosbeak, northern bobwhite, dickcissel, bobolink, mourning warbler, scarlet tanager, summer tanager, green heron, eastern wood-pewee, willow flycatcher, American woodcock, northern harriers, eastern meadowlark, horned lark, killdeer and eastern towhee.

Bridgestone Firestone Centennial Wilderness: Entrance: 35.87984, -85.27229

www.tn.gov/twra/topic/wildlife-management-area-wma-maps - 931-935-3280 - Spring, Summer and Fall

Seven hundred acres of native warm season grass occurs near the main entrance but most of the area is forested with hardwoods and various stages of pine plantation. Over 90 species of birds identified.

Featured birds: bay-breasted warbler, blackburnian warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, worm-eating warbler, eastern whip-poor-will, northern bobwhite, dickcissel, blue grosbeak, red-winged blackbird, common yellowthroat, Henslow's sparrow and hawks.