



Birds of South Cumberland State Park

11745 US 41, Monteagle, TN 37356 / 931-924-2980

Open country birds such as indigo buntings, field sparrows and eastern bluebirds are among the many species seen here. Birding of the deciduous forest canopy during migration is facilitated from some of the Savage Gulf unit's spectacular bluff line overlooks. Warm air rising gives lift to turkey vultures as they soar above the massive gorge. 42 species of bird have been observed here.



Turkey Vulture

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

Booker T. Washington – Group Camp, Group Lodge – Chattanooga, TN / 423-894-4955
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/booker-t-washington

Fall Creek Falls – Cabins, Camping – Spencer, TN / 423-881-5298
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/fall-creek-falls

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

Tims Ford – Camping, Cabins, Golf Course, Marina – Winchester, TN / 931-962-1183
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/tims-ford

Birding Locations In and Around South Cumberland State Park

A hiking trail map and checklist to the Birds of South Cumberland State Park are available at the park.

Visitor Center: Meadow Trail: 35.254866, -85.790758 - Year-round

1.30 Miles - Natural - Easy

This trail starts directly behind the visitor center and traverses a variety of habitats including grass meadows, hardwood forest, and wetlands.

Featured Birds: Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, northern cardinal, eastern bluebird, blue jay, brown thrasher, ovenbird, indigo bunting, dark-eyed junco, cedar waxwing, house finch, and wild turkey.

Stone Door Trail: 35.446570, -85.656030 - Spring, Summer, Winter

2.00 Miles - Natural - Easy

An out-and-back hike with views of a fantastic rock formation known as the Stone Door.

Featured Birds: golden-crowned kinglet, ruby-crowned kinglet, hooded warbler, Kentucky warbler, ovenbird, turkey vulture, and a variety of woodpeckers.

Grundy Lake Day Loop: 35.268818, -85.716782 - Spring, Summer

2.00-Miles - Natural - Moderate

This 2-mile round-trip hike encompasses the northernmost section of the Fiery Gizzard Trail. The majority of the trail follows Fiery Gizzard and Little Gizzard Creeks, offering multiple swimming holes and waterfalls.

Featured Birds: black vulture, turkey vulture, broad-winged hawk, American crow, American robin, white-breasted nuthatch, and red-bellied woodpeckers.

Foster Falls: Viewing Platform: 35.18231, - 85.67392 - Spring, Summer, Fall - 0.25 Miles - Gravel/Plank - Easy

This handicapped-accessible platform is located one quarter of a mile from the parking area and offers views of the park's tallest waterfall, Foster Falls.

Featured Birds: golden-crowned kinglet, yellow-rumped warbler, eastern phoebe, blue-headed vireo, northern rough-winged swallow, black-and-white warbler, and blue-gray gnatcatchers.

Nearby Birding Locations

A.E.D.C. Woods Reservoir: Elk River Dam: 35.29519, -86.09511 - Winter, Spring

www.tn.gov/twra/topic/wildlife-management-area-wma-maps / 615-781-6622

This reservoir boasts an abundant variety of waterfowl species. This site holds a Tennessee Rare Bird Record for the first parasitic jaeger observed in the state in 1978. 184 species of birds identified.

Featured Birds: a variety of waterfowl, egrets, herons, hawks, woodpeckers, wild turkey, warblers, and cedar waxwings.

Sewanee University: Elliott Park: 35.20173, -85.92090 - Winter, Spring, Fall

www.sewanee.edu/ / 931-598-1000

This private university sits on 13,000 acres atop the Cumberland Plateau. 79 species of birds identified.

Featured Birds: winter wren, Carolina wren, Carolina chickadee, golden-crowned kinglet, eastern towhee, wood thrush, sparrows, swallows, and woodpeckers.

Nickajack Dam: Boat Ramp: 35.00799, -85.61887 - Winter, Spring

<https://www.tva.gov/Energy/Our-Power-System/Hydroelectric/Nickajack-Reservoir> / 865-632-2101

Located on the Tennessee River, the Nickajack Dam is a great place to view waterfowl in the winter months. 184 species of birds identified.

Featured Birds: waterfowl, woodpeckers, swallows, osprey, great blue heron, double-crested cormorant, American goldfinch, Carolina wren, eastern bluebird, northern cardinal, and American robins.