



Birds of Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park

1651 West Elk Avenue, Elizabethton, Tennessee 37643 423-543-5808

Birding at Sycamore Shoals is good throughout the year, but best during the spring and fall migrations. The Patriots Path is popular for spotting yellow crowned night herons, various waterfowl, and migratory warblers along the river. During early May and October, the Lee and Lois Herndon Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society leads Saturday morning bird walks at the park. The walks are a great opportunity for experienced birders and new enthusiasts to meet other birders and naturalists and view the park's wildlife.



Yellow-crowned Night-heron

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

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

Roan Mountain – Campground, Cabins - Roan Mountain, TN 37687 / 423-772-0190
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/roan-mountain

Rocky Fork – Hiking, Fishing - Flag Pond, TN / 423-271-1233
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/rocky-fork

Warriors' Path – Campground, Golfing, Biking - Kingsport, TN 37663 / 423-239-8531
www.tnstateparks.com/parks/about/warriors-path

Birding Locations In and Around Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park

A hiking trail map is available at the park.

Patriots Path: Downstream Trail: 36.34458, -82.25299 1.0 Miles - Chat Surface - Easy - Year-round

Patriots Path: Upstream Trail: 36.34513, -82.25438 0.5 Miles - Natural Surface - Easy - Year-round

This woodland, river bottom trail traverses along the Watauga River. Along the trail be sure to visit the Butterfly Gardens and Monarch Waystation.

Featured Birds: wood duck, mallards, bufflehead, great blue heron, osprey, red-tailed hawk, belted kingfisher, red-bellied woodpecker, downy woodpecker, northern flicker, Carolina chickadee, Carolina wren, eastern bluebird, golden-crowned kinglet, ruby-crowned kinglet, yellow-rumped warbler, and white-throated sparrow.

Longhunter Loop: 36.34772, -82.25191 1.0 Miles - Natural Surface - Easy - Spring, Summer, Fall

A wonderful transitional habitat ranging from open field to shrubs and saplings.

Featured Birds: yellow crowned night heron, yellow-billed cuckoo, chimney swift, ruby-throated hummingbird, red-eyed vireo, eastern phoebe, blue-gray gnatcatcher, cedar waxwing, indigo bunting, Cooper's hawk, spotted sandpiper, eastern wood-peewee, great crested flycatcher, white-eyed vireo, and several warbler species.

Sycamore Shoals Arboretum: Parking Lot: 36.34347, -82.25217

Variable Mileage - Paved/Natural - Surface - Easy - Spring, Summer, Fall

A minimum of 36 species of native trees, along with varied shrub species surround the parking area in front of the visitor's center.

Featured Birds: brown thrasher, Carolina wren, Cooper's hawk, blue jay, woodpeckers, tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, cedar waxwing, house finch, American goldfinch, ruby-throated hummingbird, and northern cardinal.

Carter Mansion: 36.35357, -82.20415 0.25 Miles - Natural Surface - Easy - Spring, Summer

The Carter Mansion sits on a four-acre wooded lot adjacent to the Watauga River.

Featured Birds: woodland birds, turkey vulture, eastern bluebird, American robin, red-tailed hawk, wild turkey, eastern screech-owl, great horned owl, pileated woodpecker, and hairy woodpecker.

Nearby Birding Locations

Elizabethton Linear Trail: Parking Area: 36.35524, -82.23216

www.elizabethton.org/departments/the_linear_path.php/ 423-547-6441 - Spring, Fall

Located on the banks of the Watauga River this linear trail offers a variety of habitat types. This site is at its best during the Spring and fall migration. So far, 152 species of birds have been identified.

Featured Birds: great blue heron, great egret, bufflehead, blue-winged teal, red-winged blackbird, Canada goose, cedar waxwing, sparrows, indigo bunting, orchard oriole, American goldfinch, a variety of warblers, swallows, and vireos.

Winged Deer Park: Parking Area: 36.38989, -82.36079

www.johnsoncitytn.org/parksrec/facilities - 423-283-5815 - Spring, Summer, Fall

A 200-acre district park with 0.5-mile walking trail through mature hardwoods as well as river front habitat excellent for observing waterfowl. One-hundred and twenty-nine species of birds identified.

Featured Birds: cliff swallow, Tennessee warbler, cedar waxwing, red-eyed vireo, northern flicker, red-tailed hawk, eastern bluebird, Carolina wren, mallard, ring-billed gull, and Canada goose.

Fort Patrick Henry Dam: Parking Area: 36.49969, -82.50827

www.tva.com/, 856-632-2101 - Winter, Spring, Summer

Located on Patrick Henry Lake and the South Fork Holston River, this site offers great waterfowl habitat. Check out the great blue heron rookery downstream from the dam. So far, 114 species of birds identified.

Featured Birds: great blue heron, black-crowned night-heron, yellow-crowned night-heron, ring-billed gull, belted kingfisher, red-bellied woodpecker, eastern bluebird, blue jay, cedar waxwing, American goldfinch, and northern cardinal.