

**BIRDING AREAS OF INTEREST  
FOR JOHN SELLARS TOS  
WILSON CO TN**

**Information Gathered from Internet & Experience-  
Wildlife Management Areas  
Tennessee Wildlife Viewing Areas**

# Region II Wildlife Management Areas

## Cedar Hill Swamp WMA

In Robertson County. 200 acres. Small WMA, but open with statewide seasons. Sometimes holds ducks. See [hunting guide](#) for more information.

Directions: From Springfield, take Highway 41 ten miles to the town of Cedar Hill. Turn left and go one mile through town. Turn left onto Goodman Road. Goodman Road ends on the WMA.

Manager: Randy Cromer (615) 792-4510

## MTSU WMA

In Hickman County. 995 acres. Open with statewide seasons. Lots of standing hardwoods. See [hunting guide](#) for more information.

Directions: From Centerville, take Hwy 50 five miles across an old iron bridge. Go 100 yards past the bridge and turn right. Go to the top of the hill and turn left. Go three miles to the WMA.

Manager: Pam McDonald (931) 762-5749

## Old Hickory WMA (Units 1-3)

Sumner, Wilson, and Trousdale Counties. 6,000 acres. Big and small game hunting allowed here, but area is heavily managed for waterfowl hunting. It is important to view map to understand layout of Old Hickory. Much hunting is only accessible by boat. Wheelchair bound waterfowl blind is included in blinds provided to hunters. [Hunting guide](#) should be read for complete understanding of hunting use.

Directions: The WMA is the Corps of Engineers property around Old Hickory Lake. The WMA is divided into three units plus a refuge. No check station. Access is from various points around the lake, but much of the WMA is accessible primarily by water.

Manager: Dan Lavacot (615) 444-6673

## Old Hickory Lock 5 Refuge

In Trousdale and Wilson Counties. 900 acres. Open to some hunting, that includes squirrel and turkey with statewide seasons. Some deer hunting allowed. See [hunting guide](#) for more information.

<http://tn.gov/twra/region2/region2wmas.html>

## Birding Sites in Middle Tennessee -

[Bells Bend](#) - A large pastoral park near Nashville with extensive open fields, fencerows, and hiking trails featuring grassland and shrubland species such as Henslow's Sparrow and Willow Flycatcher.

[Radnor Lake](#) - One of the premier sites in the Nashville area, featuring waterfowl and woodland birds.

[Warner Parks](#) - A historic birding and ornithological research site, offering forests and fields in the state's largest municipal parks.

[Shelby Park and Bottoms](#) - Another top spot at Nashville with fields, woodlands, and riverbank habitats.

[Ellington Agricultural Center](#) - A park-like campus in the urban Nashville area offering a variety of field, fencerow, streamside and woodlot habitats.

[Beaman Park](#) - An area near Nashville featuring woodland thrushes, warblers, and tanagers.

<http://www.tnbirds.org/birdfinding/M-TNbirding.htm>

### **Bells Bend DAVIDSON COUNTY**

Bells Bend Outdoor Center is an 808-acre pastoral park bordered by the Cumberland River on the west side of Nashville. It is a mix of open fields, fencerows, and scattered hardwood forests. It is one of few easily accessible sites for Henslow's Sparrows in Tennessee. It supports a large number of other nesting grassland and brushland birds including Northern Bobwhite, Willow Flycatcher, Dickcissel, and Blue Grosbeak.

Bells Bend Park is a recent addition to the Nashville/Davidson County Metro Parks system and was opened to the public in 2007. It features a nature center and several miles of hiking trails and old farm roads. The park offers a three-fold experience: cultivating knowledge of the natural world, developing outdoor recreation skills, and understanding cultural impacts upon the land.

#### **DIRECTIONS**

Bells Bend is located on the west side of Nashville. From west-bound I-40, take exit 204B for TN 155 - White Bridge Pike/Robertson Avenue. Turn right at the fork and follow signs for TN 155 N which becomes Briley Parkway. From east-bound I-40, take exit 204 for TN 155 - White Bridge Pike/Robertson Avenue. At the end of the exit ramp, turn left onto TN 155 N which becomes Briley Parkway. From I-24, take exit 43 onto Briley Parkway west.

Continue on Briley Parkway to the Highway 12/Ashland City exit and take Highway 12 west towards Ashland City. After 2.7 miles, turn left (south) onto Old Hickory Boulevard. Go 4 miles to the park entrances on the right. Take the second park entrance on the right to get to the nature center. The park is open seven days a week. The nature center is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays and offers a variety of programs throughout the year.

For a Google map and directions to the nature center, enter either your full starting address including town and state OR your zip code:

### **RADNOR LAKE NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON COUNTY**

Radnor Lake State Natural Area is one of the crown jewels of Tennessee's state park system. The park consists of the 85-acre lake itself, plus the surrounding woodland area. Few major cities in this country can boast of such a pristine environment right in the heart of the city. For birders, Radnor Lake offers one of the best opportunities in the state to observe an incredible variety of species in every season in a very relaxed environment. Of particular interest is the large number of migrant wood-warblers in spring in fall, where lucky observers routinely report upwards of twenty-five species in one morning. Furthermore, Radnor Lake is almost without question the best place in the state to see two of the more elusive warblers during migration - Connecticut and Mourning.

#### **DIRECTIONS**

Radnor Lake State Natural Area is located in south central Nashville (Davidson County) along Otter Creek Road between Granny White Pike on the west and Franklin Pike on the east. A road map is available [here](#). Note that the portion of Otter Creek Road between the West Parking Lot and the East Parking Lot is closed to vehicle traffic. Most birders prefer to start from the West Parking Lot, which is accessible from Granny White Pike (address: 1160 Otter Creek Road, coordinates: 36.06343°N, 86.81345°W).

For a Google map and directions to the West Parking Lot, enter either your full starting address including town and state OR your zip code:

### **Warner Parks NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON COUNTY**

The Warner Parks are located in southwest Davidson County nine miles from downtown Nashville. They were established between 1927 and 1932 and have for decades been premier birding and bird study sites ([more on bird study below](#)). The two park units, Edwin Warner and Percy Warner Parks, span 2,684 acres of wooded hills and valleys, open meadows, and wet weather springs and streams. Located within the Nashville Basin, the parks' rugged hills and ridges rise 400 feet above the floodplain of the Little Harpeth River. This river and Willow Pond provide permanent water sources. The diverse habitats for birds include mature beech-maple and oak-hickory forests, secondary growth areas, shrubby thickets, and mowed and unmowed fields.

As the largest municipally administered parks in Tennessee, the Warner Parks preserve a unique natural area and provide citizens with outdoor recreation and environmental education opportunities. The Warner Park Nature Center (see below for directions) is a year-round facility where visitors may enjoy the local natural history museum, the library, an organic vegetable and herb garden, beehives, a wildflower garden, and more.

#### **DIRECTIONS**

The Warner Parks Nature Center at 7311 Highway 100- in Edwin Warner Park, is a good place to start a Warner Parks birding trip. From Nashville or Memphis, take I-40 exit 199 (Old Hickory Boulevard), turn left and follow Old Hickory Boulevard for 4 miles to Highway 100. Turn left and go 0.2 miles to the Edwin Warner Park entrance and turn right into the Park. Follow the Park drive to the left for 0.3 miles to the Nature Center (coordinates 36.06084 N, -86.91117).

Coming from the south or southeast via I-65, take the Old Hickory Boulevard West exit in Brentwood and follow Old Hickory Boulevard 7.5 miles to Highway 100. Turn left onto Highway 100 and go 0.3 miles to the Edwin Warner Park entrance and turn left into the Park. Follow the Park drive to the left for 0.3 miles to the Nature Center.

For a Google map and directions to the Nature Center, enter either your full starting address including town and state OR your zip code:

### **Shelby Park and Bottoms NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON COUNTY**

Shelby Park and Bottoms are among of the top birding spots in the Nashville area and unique components of the Metro Park and Greenway system. They are adjacent to the Cumberland River and a short distance north of downtown Nashville. Shelby Park is best known for migrant songbirds during the spring and fall, while the adjacent Shelby Bottoms is good year-round for a large variety of species found in woods, large fields, wetlands, and along the riverfront.

Shelby Park, one of the oldest parks in the city, was originally operated as a private amusement park until it went bankrupt in 1903. The park board began purchasing the land in 1909 and the park was opened to the public on July 4, 1912. Since then it has grown to 360 acres

Shelby Bottoms Greenway and Nature Park is an 810-acre area that extends for about 3.5 miles along north bank of Cumberland River. It is within the floodplain of the Cumberland River and therefore had little development other than farming over the years. It was purchased by the Metro Government in 1991 and developed as a greenway in three phases. It was opened to the public on October 25, 1997, and presently has

5 miles of paved multi-use trails, 5 miles of unpaved trails, as well as boardwalks, scenic overlooks, interpretive stations, and seven rustic bridges.

#### DIRECTIONS

##### Shelby Park:

From I-65/I-24, take Exit 49 (the first exit north of the Cumberland River) and go east on Shelby Avenue. Turn right (south) onto South 5th Street to the T-intersection with Davidson Street. Turn left (east) onto Davidson and follow it past the stone entrance columns into Shelby Park.

To get to the Mission Hill area of Shelby Park (see below), exit I-65/I-24 at Exit 49 and take Shelby Avenue east to the 4-way stop at South 19th Street. Go straight through the intersection and turn left (north) onto the next street, South 20th Street. Park in the paved community center lot on the right. The community center (coordinates 36.1705°N, 86.7357°W) address is South 20th at Shelby Avenue.

##### Shelby Bottoms:

The main trailhead and entrance is at the end of Davidson Street, just east of the railroad trestle separating Shelby Park and Shelby Bottoms. Follow the directions above for Shelby Park and continue on Davidson Street to the Shelby Bottoms Greenway parking area under the railroad bridge (coordinates 36.1668°N, 86.7258°W). Several signs mark the route to Shelby Bottoms.

The Cooper Creek trailhead is located at the northeast, upstream end of Shelby Bottoms. To get to the paved parking area for this trailhead from the main Shelby Bottoms entrance, turn right (north) after leaving the parking lot. Continue taking right turns until you cross back under the railroad trestle and intersect with Riverside Drive. Turn left (north) onto Riverside. After about a mile, turn right (east) onto Rosebank Avenue. Follow Rosebank through several curves to Welcome Lane, which is just past the larger intersection with Porter Road. Turn right (east) on Welcome Lane and then left (north) onto Forrest Green Drive. The parking area is at the end of Forrest Green (coordinates 36.1971°N, 86.7030°W).

For a Google map and directions to Shelby Bottoms Greenway parking area, enter either your full starting address including town and state OR your zip code:

#### **Ellington Agricultural Center NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON COUNTY**

Ellington Agricultural Center, a state-owned complex in south Nashville, is a fine urban birding site easily accessible for travelers there on business or conventions. Just two miles east of much used [Radnor Lake State Natural Area](#), Ellington is an oasis for solitary birding. With its 207 acres of diverse topography including woodlands, meadows and streams, it supports a wide range of birdlife throughout the year. In 2005, trails were built throughout the campus, making birding the area much easier. A total of 124 species of birds have been recorded since October 2005. These include 30 warbler species and 10 sparrow species, as well as nesting Red-tailed Hawks, Eastern Bluebirds, Purple Martins, Common Yellowthroats, and Red-winged Blackbirds.

Once a working farm, the Center is now the headquarters for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and a branch location for other agencies. The Center is listed as an Official Arboretum by the Nashville Tree Foundation and is home to the [Tennessee Bicentennial Iris Garden](#) maintained by the Middle Tennessee Iris Society. It is also the site of the [Tennessee Agricultural Museum](#), which has an extensive collection of home and farm artifacts from the 19th and early 20th centuries. Interpretive displays on the Center along trails and elsewhere on the Center grounds highlight various conservation practices.

#### DIRECTIONS

From I-65: Take Exit 78-A east on Harding Place. Turn right at the second light onto Trousdale Drive. Travel south on Trousdale for approximately 1.5 miles. Turn left onto Hogan Road at the four-way stop. Hogan Road

ends at the front gates of the Ellington Agricultural Center (address: 440 Hogan Road, coordinates: 36.06512°N, 86.74905°W).

From I-24: Take Exit 56 west on Harding Place to the Nolensville Road intersection. Turn left onto Nolensville Road and travel south 1/10 mile. Turn right onto Edmondson Pike. Travel 1.5 miles on Edmondson Pike to the east entrance to Ellington Agricultural Center on the right (coordinates 36.06330°N, 86.74127°W).

For a Google map and directions to the Edmondson Pike entrance, enter either your full starting address including town and state OR your zip code:

### **Beaman Park NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON COUNTY**

Located in northwest Davidson County on the edge of the Western Highland Rim, the 1500-acre Beaman Park offers residents and visitors a deep-woods birding experience somewhat different from that in the nearby Nashville Basin. With ridge tops and elevations just under 1000 feet, deep hollows and the clear waters of the Little Marrowbone, Henry, and Bull Creeks, the [park's flora](#) includes species not common in the Nashville Basin, such as mountain laurel, wild azalea, and blueberries. Wildflowers also abound. In addition to the usual Middle Tennessee beauties, one can find the rare lady's slipper orchid as well as Eggert's sunflower, formerly a federally-listed threatened species. The nesting bird population is equally interesting with numerous pairs of Worm-eating Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrushes, Ovenbirds, and Kentucky Warblers that can be heard throughout the breeding season from April into late June.

The Marrowbone Creek area in the vicinity of Beaman Park was regularly visited by early Nashville birders. The land comprising the park was purchased in the 1970s by a group of doctors who used it as a hunting preserve. In 1996, they sold it to the Metro Nashville government for half its appraised value. Funds for the purchase were donated by Mrs. Sally Beaman in honor of her husband Alvin, a prominent Nashville businessman and civic leader.

#### **DIRECTIONS**

Beaman Park is best accessible from Eatons Creek Road in western Davidson County. From I-40 west of Nashville, exit onto Briley Parkway (SR 155) north (Exit 204), or from I-24 north of Nashville, exit onto Briley Parkway west (Exit 43). Take Briley Parkway to Exit 24, Ashland City Highway/SR 12. Exit onto on Ashland City Highway south, away from Ashland City. After 0.4 miles, turn left at the flashing caution sign onto Eatons Creek Road. Go 4 miles to the intersection with Old Hickory Boulevard.

To get to the park nature center, turn left onto Old Hickory Boulevard and watch for the nature center on your right. To get to the trailhead parking area described below in the Birding Beaman Park section, continue northward on Eatons Creek Road for 0.9 miles past Old Hickory Boulevard, and turn left onto Little Marrowbone Road. The park entrance is 0.4 miles farther on the left at 4111 Little Marrowbone Road (coordinates 36.2735°N, 86.9018°W). Upon entering the gates, make an immediate left turn and continue to the Creekside Trailhead parking area.

For a Google map and directions to the park entrance, enter either your full starting address including town and state OR your zip code:

<http://www.tnwatchablewildlife.org/watcharea.cfm?statearea=Middle%20Tennessee>

### **Bledsoe Creek State Park**

**Site Directions:** Beginning in Gallatin at the intersection of Hwy 25 (Main Street) and Hwy 109 (Water Ave.) at the courthouse, take Hwy 25 east 0.6 miles and bear right staying on Hwy 25. Continue 4.4 miles turn right

and in .4 miles turn left into the state park.

**Entrance - Lat:** 36.37851°N **Long:** -86.36369°W

**Hours:** 7 a.m. - sunset

**Seasonality** year round

**Fees:** none

**Site Description:** A variety of mature deciduous and cedar forest, early successional habitat, and water access on Old Hickory Lake provide ample opportunities for recreation. Hiking, boating, fishing, birding, picnicking, and camping are available.

**Wildlife to Watch:** Common woodland birds of Tennessee can be expected. Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and White-breasted Nuthatch are found year round, while summer residents include Indigo Bunting, White-eyed Vireo, Chuck-will's-widow among others. Osprey may be seen on the lake in summer. Barred Owl and Great Horned Owl are present and vocal year round.

### **Bells Bend Park**

**Site Directions:** Bells Bend is located in northwest Nashville (Davidson County) and accessed via I-40, exit # 204. From that exit, go north on Briley Parkway. Take exit #24 and turn left onto State Rt. 12 toward Ashland City. Go over 2 miles and turn left at the stop light onto Old Hickory Blvd. Go 4 miles and the first entrance to Bells Bend Park is on your right. Go to the second park entrance for the Bells Bend Outdoor Center.

**Lat-Long:** 36.153955,-86.920214, entrance to the Nature Center

**Hours:** dawn to dusk (Outdoor Center is open weekdays 12 noon - 4pm, Saturdays from 9am - 4pm)

**Seasonality:** year round

**Fees:** none

**Site Description:** Bells Bend Park takes its name from a bend of the same name in the Cumberland River and consists of 880 acres of weedy fields, reclaimed pastures, and riparian woodlands. Several miles of paved and mulched hiking trails and old farm roads are accessible at both entrances into the Park. There is a campsite with primitive campsites (permit and small fee required). A visit to Bells Bend Park is a nice complement to a visit to nearby Beaman Park, due to the vastly different habitats supported by the two parks.

**Wildlife to Watch:** During spring and summer, Bells Bend Park supports sizeable populations of many species of birds that favor fields, secondary growth, and forest edges, including large numbers of Field Sparrows, Yellow-breasted Chats, Common Yellowthroats, Prairie Warblers, Indigo Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks, and Red-winged Blackbirds. Since 2008, the park has hosted a small population of Henslow's Sparrows. The park could potentially host breeding Willow Flycatchers and Grasshopper Sparrows; both have been reported in recent springs in appropriate habitat. The wooded and riparian areas host Yellow Warblers, Carolina Wrens, and occasionally Prothonotary Warblers. In spring and fall migration, the park can play host to almost any of the regions regular migrants, although species that favor mature forest tend to be casual. Shorebirds

are occasionally found in wet areas or seen passing by along the river; if plans for installing shorebird ponds come to fruition, the potential for wetland species is enormous. In winter, sparrows are abundant, including White-throated, White-crowned, Song, Swamp, and Field.

### **Cedars of Lebanon State Park, State Forest, and State Natural Area**

**Site Directions:** From I-40, take exit 238 and travel south on US 231 and turn left into the park in 6.5 miles. The park office is on your right in 0.3 miles. On US 231, a right hand turn opposite the State Park entrance leads to the State Forest lands.

**Lat-Long:** 36.093833, -86.335509, **intersection of US 231 and park entrance**

**Hours:** 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

**Seasonality:** year round

**Fees:** none

**Site Description:** The area of Cedars of Lebanon is designated as part State Park, part State Natural Area, and part State Forest. Each area has different resources and access. The majority of the Cedars of Lebanon area is forested with the eastern red cedar being the dominant tree species, which is abundant on very poor soils. The soil is very shallow in this area and exposed rock is common. These areas historically were subject to regular disturbance via fire and, at times, heavy grazing. The loss of these disturbances has caused extensive reforestation and loss of cedar glade habitats. Cedar glades support several rare and endangered plants that only occur in Wilson and neighboring counties in middle Tennessee.

Areas of mature hardwood forests provide nice hikes via trail systems within the State Park. Hidden Springs trail is an easy 5 mile, mostly flat, hike loops through hardwood forests and some cedar glades. A "hidden spring" is found about halfway through the loop.

**Wildlife to Watch:** Lark Sparrows were once common in this area, but with lack of disturbance to the forest and extensive regeneration of forests, they have been nearly extirpated. A few Lark Sparrows can be found in State Forest on the west side of US 231. Look for open areas with exposed rock and tufts of grass. They can be found in these areas with some luck in spring. Prairie Warbler and Summer Tanagers can be found along the main gravel road within State Forest lands. In mature hardwood forests, visitors can expect to find common woodland birds including White-breasted Nuthatch, Downy Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Carolina Chickadee year round. In summer, Wood Thrush, Kentucky Warbler, and Black-and-white Warblers, among others, can be found. Wild Turkey are present, as are White-tailed Deer

### **Old Hickory Dam, "Snow Bunting" Peninsula, Vicinity**

**Site Directions:**

**There are many places to access Old Hickory Lake for wildlife watching.** The following lists directions to

several popular locations for bird watching. See links below for more information. The directions below provide a route from south of the dam to north and east with a fairly easy path to follow for a day of birding.

Old Hickory Lake lies north of Nashville on the Cumberland River. Birding is best in the fall, winter, and spring. There are many access points, but most birding is done on the south side near the dam and along Drakes Creek on the north side.

**The Old Hickory Dam** area can be reached by taking the Old Hickory Blvd exit from I-65 north of the city. (Rt. 45). Head south on Rt. 45 across Gallatin Road and continue across the Cumberland River. Take the second left after crossing the bridge. This is Bridgeway Ave. Turn left onto Ensley Ave and continue across train tracks to a stop sign and make a left onto Swinging Bridge Road. Then take the first right (Burnett Road). Follow this road down to a gravel area which juts out into the lake. This is "Snow Bunting" Peninsula. There is a public swimming beach in the area as well, which is open in summer. The peninsula is known to birders as "**Snow Bunting**" Peninsula due to the presence of 2 Snow Buntings during the winter of 1969-70. Strangely enough, 30 years later, a Snow Bunting was present for a few days on this same peninsula, thus reinforcing the site's name.

#### **Old Hickory Lake Park and Snow Bunting Peninsula-**

**Lat-Long:** 36.28756, -86.65756

A large part of the lake can be scanned from Snow Bunting Peninsula, frequently yielding cormorants, grebes, ducks, herons and gulls. Recent rare and uncommon birds found on or seen from Snow Bunting Peninsula include "Western" Willets, Marbled Godwit, American Avocet, Buff-breasted Sandpiper (rare spring record for TN), Piping Plover (rare spring record for TN and there were 2 birds, one was banded 10 years earlier in Saskatchewan), Laughing Gull, Parasitic Jaeger, Magnificent Frigatebird, Red Knot, Dunlin, Pectoral Sandpiper, Peregrine Falcon, among other shorebirds, gulls, terns, and ducks. Caspian, Common, Forster's, and Black Terns were photographed together in 2011.

To get to the dam from the Peninsula, go back to Swinging Bridge Road, turn right and go to the next street on the right (Cinder Road). Follow this back to the water. A large parking area next to the beach provides another access point for scanning the lake. The road to the left leads to the dam. Bear left and continue down to the river below the dam. Black-crowned Night Heron are frequently seen along the bank and in the trees on either side of the river. Gulls are generally present near the spillway.

The Nature Trail is also located here.

**Nature Trail and Dam overlook- Lat:** 36.29598, -86.65932

The nature trail at the dam provides a nice mix of forest birds and is one of the few places in middle Tennessee to find Pine Warblers. Barred Owls are common in the forest along the dam trail. In winter, Red-breasted Nuthatches may be present. Lesser Black-backed Gull has been found at the dam in recent years.

To get to the north side of the dam, retrace your route back to Old Hickory Blvd. Turning right onto Old Hickory (Rt.45) go back to I-65 and head north. Take the Vietnam Veteran's Blvd exit. This is also a limited access highway. Continue to the interchange for Hwy 31 (Exit 3), Gallatin Rd. Head south to Gallatin Rd and then east making a right on Rockland Rd in only 0.1miles. Follow signs to Rockland Recreation Area (**Lat-Long:** 36.300064,-86.647809). Access the dam and open water from the park.

To continue towards the Drakes Creek area, first retrace your steps back to Rockland Rd and make a right towards Gallatin Rd. Make a right on Gallatin Rd (east) and follow to Sanders Ferry Rd. If you bypass the Rockland Recreation Area and are arriving from Vietnam Veterans Blvd, exit Vietnam Veterans Blvd at the New Shackle Island Road exit and turn south to Gallatin Pike (US 31). Take Gallatin Road towards Hendersonville to Drake's Creek, which will be on the right. The lake can be scanned from behind **Mallards Restaurant** (**Lat-Long:** 36.30423, -86.61529) on the corner of Gallatin Pike and Sanders Ferry Road. There are several access points along Sanders Ferry Road which provide good water views. There is a small parking lot, not marked, just north of a marina for viewing the **rookery on Drakes Creek** (**Lat-Long:** 36.26619, -86.60785).



Rookery at Drakes Creek.

Sanders Ferry Park is located at the end of the peninsula on Sanders Ferry Rd. (**Lat-Long:** 36.25331, -86.60381). The park is accessed by making a left at a stop sign to stay on Sanders Ferry Rd. There should be a sign marking the park. Sanders Ferry Park provides several lake views and fishing piers for viewing. Gulls, terns, loons, and waterfowl may be found, along with swallows, in season.

Continue on around the peninsula by retracing path to Sanders Ferry Rd at the 4-way stop sign, making a left and staying on Curtis Cross Road to a school and intersection with Walton Ferry Road that takes you back north. There are several access points off Walton Ferry Road, including an environmental area which has several large fields which are good for sparrows in the winter. Lock 3 Recreation area is off Walton Ferry Rd providing a good westward view of the lake (**Lat-Long:** 36.27719, -86.63128).

**Hours:** daylight hours, but camping is available at designated locations

**Seasonality:** year round

**Fees:** none

**Site Description:** There are patches of hardwood forest of oak, hickory, and maple, and riparian forest of Black Willow and sycamore along the shoreline of parts of the lake. Most of the habitat surrounding the lake is urban/suburban development including several recreation areas (noted above) with beaches, trails, picnic and camping facilities, including the nature trail at the dam. Public floodplain land has been allowed to be manicured and incorporated into yards by adjoining landowners over much of the area thus reducing wildlife

habitat.

**Wildlife to Watch:** The largest breeding colonies of wading birds in the Central Basin are located on Old Hickory Lake. Black-crowned Night Herons are abundant breeding birds, as are Great Blue Herons, Cattle Egret, and Great Egrets. Double-crested Cormorants are increasing in abundance annually. There are breeding Ospreys around the lake. Transient and wintering waterfowl, loons, grebes, gulls, terns, and swallows are also common in season. A variety of sparrows, including Field (year round), Swamp, White-throated, and Song Sparrows are found in grassy fields and field edges. Scan open sandy areas for Horned Larks and Killdeer and rarities that might stop in. In winter, large numbers of Bonaparte's and Ring-billed Gulls are often found around the dam and across the lake. Waterfowl can be abundant in winter, but also be sure to look for Common Loons and Red-breasted Mergansers.

Please see [Old Hickory WMA](#) and [Old Hickory Lake- Lock 5 Refuge](#) for other locations in the area.

[TENNESSEE WILDLIFE VIEWING TRAIL](#) » [Middle Tennessee](#)

**Old Hickory WMA**

**Site Directions:** Access is primarily via water, but a couple good areas can be accessed by vehicle. Barton Creek can be accessed from Denny Rd. The Headquarters area can be accessed via Canoe Branch Rd.

**Headquarters via Canoe Branch Rd-**

**Lat-Long:** 36.34462, -86.28169

**Barton Creek via Denny Rd -**

**Lat-Long:** 36.29860, -86.35861

**Hours:** daylight hours

**Seasonality:** year round

**Fees:** none

**Site Description:** Of the 6,000 acres of Old Hickory WMA, only 1,000 acres are accessible from public access locations. The remainder are accessible only by boat. There are patches of hardwood forest of oak, hickory, and maple, and riparian forest of Black Willow and sycamore along the shoreline of parts of the lake. These forested areas are mixed with cropland that is flooded for waterfowl in winter. Public access is via gravel roads, which can be driven or walked.

**Wildlife to Watch:** Waterfowl are abundant in winter. Early successional birds are common in summer, including Indigo Bunting, Northern Cardinal, Eastern Towhee, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Sparrows of various species may be seen throughout the winter. There are approximately a dozen heron rookeries around Old Hickory Lake.

See [Old Hickory-Lock 5 Refuge](#) and [Old Hickory Lake Dam and vicinity](#) and site details pages for other locations in the area.

**NOTE:** Please refer to [TWRA Hunting Guide](#) about hunting seasons and public access dates. Access dates vary by site.

## **Peeler Park**

**Site Directions:** From I-65, take exit 92 (Old Hickory Blvd.) east towards Hwy 31E (Gallatin Pike). Take Hwy 31E south and turn left onto Neelys Bend Rd and follow approximately 6 miles to the end of the road and the entrance to the park.

Peeler Park can be reached from Briley Parkway. Take Exit 14 and travel north on Hwy 31E (exit letter, A or B, depends on your direction of travel) to Neelys Bend Rd. Turn right on Neelys Bend Rd and follow to entrance to the park.

**Lat:** 36.19459°N **Long:** -86.66065°W

**Hours:** daylight hours

**Seasonality:** year round

**Fees:** none

**Site Description:** Peeler Park has several miles of paved greenway paths that travel along the Cumberland River, through mixed hardwood forests, and fields. The greenway attracts runners and walkers, but the variety of habitats make the park very interesting for bird watching.

**Wildlife to Watch:** A variety of common resident birds can be seen, including Northern Cardinals, Carolina Wrens, and Blue Jays. Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Winter Wrens can be found in winter. Bald Eagles are seen occasionally year round. A small Great Blue Heron rookery (2 nests in 2009) is along the river just off the greenway approximately 200m from the parking lot.

## **Shelby Bottoms Greenway and Nature Park**

### **Site Directions:**

From I-65/I-24, take Exit 49 (the first exit north of the Cumberland River) and go east on Shelby Avenue. Turn right (south) onto South 5th Street to the T-intersection with Davidson Street. Turn left (east) onto Davidson and follow it past the stone entrance columns into Shelby Park.

To get to the Mission Hill area of Shelby Park (see below), exit I-65/I-24 at Exit 49 and take Shelby Avenue east to the 4-way stop at South 19th Street. Go straight through the intersection and turn left (north) onto the

next street, South 20th Street. Park in the paved community center lot on the right.

The community center (**Lat:** 36.1705°N **Long:** -86.7357°W) address is South 20th at Shelby Avenue.

**Shelby Bottoms:** The main trailhead and entrance is at the end of Davidson Street, just east of the railroad trestle separating Shelby Park and Shelby Bottoms. Follow the directions above for Shelby Park and continue on Davidson Street to the Shelby Bottoms Greenway parking area under the railroad bridge. Several signs mark the route to Shelby Bottoms.

**Nature Center location - Lat:** 36.1668°N **Long:** -86.7258°W

**Hours:** day light hours

**Seasonality:** year round

**Fees:** none

**Site Description: Shelby Bottoms Greenway and Nature Park** is an 810-acre linear park approximately three miles long and one-half mile wide. Shelby Park marks the southern boundary, a residential area the western edge, the Cumberland River the east side, and Cooper Creek and another residential area define the northern boundary. The landscape is mostly flat alluvial floodplain with small upland areas and is drained by several deep ravines. Approximately 75% of the area is mowed or irregularly mowed fields that had been in agricultural use before the area became a park in 1994. The wooded area includes some upland forest with Shumard, Red, White and Bur oaks as well as hickories, hackberry, and elm. The bottomland habitat includes a variety of oaks and hickories with beech, ash, elm, and Sweetgum. Several large stands of native cane line the ravines. The aquatic features include an old beaver pond/wetland, a small pond/wetland with recent beaver activity on the north end, a small frog pond, two restored ponds, some natural wetland areas, and the Cumberland River. The Bottoms, which has a north and south entrance with parking areas and orientation signage, includes approximately eight miles of paved multiuse greenway trail and five miles of mulched trails, an observation platform, and river overlooks.

In 2008, a new Nature Center was opened to the public. In addition, a bridge was recently completed at the east end of the Greenway, which connects with the area near Opry Mills Mall.

**Wildlife to Watch:** This park is a migration trap for birds passing through in spring and fall. Nearly all warblers found in Tennessee have been documented. Marsh and open land birds such as American Bittern, Virginia Rail, Short-eared Owl, Willow Flycatcher, and Sedge Wren have been recorded here. More commonly, breeding Yellow-breasted Chat, White-eyed Vireo, Northern Mockingbird, American Woodcock, Eastern Kingbird, and Great Crested Flycatcher are found in summer. Warbling Vireos are often seen in the trees near the nature center. In winter, Northern Harrier, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Song Sparrow, among many others, can be found in grassy and overgrown areas.

## **Stones River Greenway**

**Site Directions:** Accessible at many trailheads in Murfreesboro. See link before for trailhead information with direction.

### **General Bragg Trailhead-**

**Lat:** 35.870099°N **Long:** -86.420286°W

### **Broad Street Trailhead-**

**Lat:** 35.875107°N **Long:** -86.423022 °W

**Hours:** daylight hours

**Seasonality:** year round, occasionally closed due to flooding of the Stones River

**Fees:** none

**Site Description:** The paved greenway is over 5 miles long with several spur trails. One large bridge over the Stones River is present with multiple fishing access areas. The trail connects to the [Stones River National Battlefield](#) and other parks and places of interest in the area. One can spend an entire day exploring the greenway and the adjacent National Battlefield.

**Wildlife to Watch:** Birds are the main attraction to the greenway. In spring and summer, Great Blue Herons and Yellow-crowned Night Herons may be seen. Eastern Kingbirds, Eastern Bluebirds, Song Sparrows (uncommon nesting bird in middle Tennessee), and Belted Kingfisher are present. In spring migration, a variety of birds may be seen or heard along the river, including Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red-eyed Vireo, and Summer Tanager. Explore all areas of the greenway as varying forest types and quality exist, which provides for different types of birds. The area on the northern end of the trail was damaged by a tornado in 2009, resulting in shrubby thickets that are pretty birdy (as of 2012).

## **Warner Parks**

**Site Directions:** From I-65, south of Nashville, take Old Hickory Blvd exit in Brentwood, TN. Proceed west approximately 8 miles to Hwy 100 and turn left (south) and the entrance to the Nature Center is on your left in approximately 0.4 miles.

### **Warner Park Nature Center-**

**Lat:** 36.06095°N **Long:** -86.90607°W

**Hours:** day light hours

**Seasonality:** year round

**Fees:** none

**Site Description:** Comprised primarily of wooded hills with mature deciduous forest. Small streams and drainages occur throughout the parks. Open grassy fields, picnic areas, a golf course, and a steeplechase are present. An 11 mile driving route passes through the parks north of Old Hickory Blvd and is accessible from Old Hickory Blvd, Chickering Rd, among other locations. Hiking trails span the entire park system. Horse trails

are present as well.

**Wildlife to Watch:** Wild Turkey are common to abundant, while deer are present. Barred Owls can be seen from the roadsides regularly, with some luck. Hairy Woodpeckers are found here in moderate numbers year round. In spring migration, Mourning Warblers can be found singing along with many other migrants including Kentucky Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, Hooded Warbler, Swainson's Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, Black-and-white Warbler, Eastern Wood Pewee, and Blackpoll Warbler. A large bluebird trail was establishing in the 1930's and is still maintained, thus Eastern Bluebirds are common in this magnificent urban park.

### **Vesta Cedar Glade SNA**

**Site Directions:** From Hwy 840 travel to exit 67, Couchville Pike, and head east. Couchville Pike will turn into Vesta Rd. Continue travelling east 2 miles to Moccasin Rd where you will make a left. Continue about 1 mile to a 90 degree right hand turn with parking lot and sign on the left.

From Murfreesboro/Lebanon on Hwy 231/10, travel to Vesta Rd and head west. Travel west until you reach Moccasin Rd where you will make a right. Continue about 1 mile to a 90 degree right hand turn with parking lot and sign on the left.

**Lat:** 36.07657°N **Long:** -86.39584°W

**Hours:** daylight hours

**Seasonality:** year round

**Fees:** none

**Site Description:** The 150 acre State Natural Area is small, but protects a beautiful example of a cedar glade, which is a rare habitat in middle Tennessee. From the parking lot visitors can hike a lovely 2 mile loop through cedar forest and into the cedar glade.

Spring and summer are the best time for wildflowers and birding, although ticks can be very bad. Be sure to protect yourself from ticks.

**Wildlife to Watch:** Wildflowers are the main draw to the site. Endangered Tennessee coneflower grows abundantly, especially within the 10 acre fenced area. Other threatened plants grow on site. The birds of cedar glades make a visit here in spring and summer special. One can find Field Sparrow, Prairie Warbler, Common Nighthawk, Eastern Bluebird, Indigo Bunting, and Eastern Towhee in the cedar glades. Summer Tanager, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Ovenbird can be found in the forests around the cedar glade. In May and June, Common Nighthawks may be flying around during the day, courting and displaying.

### **Stones River National Battlefield**

□

**Site Directions:**

**From Nashville (Interstate 24 East)** - Take Exit 76 and turn left onto Medical Center Parkway. Turn left onto Thompson Lane and travel 0.7 miles to a grand entrance to the park or continue past this entrance for 0.3 miles and turn right before you cross the large bridge. At the stop sign at the bottom of the slight hill, turn left and follow Old Nashville Hwy to the main entrance of the park and the Visitor's Center. The short Auto Tour ends at the Visitor's Center.

**From Chattanooga (Interstate 24 West)** - Take Exit 76 and turn right onto Medical Center Parkway. Follow above directions from Medical Center Parkway.

**Lat-Long (GPS) coordinates**

**Visitor's Center:** 35.880505, -86.434808

**Entrance off Thomson Lane:** 35.867891, -86.427902

**Hours:** 8am-5pm daily, check NP web site to confirm hours

**Seasonality:** year round

**Fees:** none

**Site Description:** This park has a variety of historic markers and tour stops to learn about the history of the battle that took place at the site. The driving loop has been reduced to a short route, but it travels through old field habitat with native grass and shrub cover, and mixed cedar-hardwood forests. Cedar glades are a rare habitat found only in middle Tennessee. There are several small glades at the battlefield, but they are off limits to foot traffic. Please obey signs about closed areas.

A tornado went through the park in spring 2009, causing extensive damage to the cedar forests in places, however this opened up dense unmanaged forest that was poor habitat for any wildlife and created nice early successional shrubby habitat. This area is being taken over by Chinese Privet and will only be decent habitat for so long without management. A new trail runs alongside the edge of the damaged area. Trails on the Battlefield connect with the [Stones River Greenway](#), which is over 12 miles in length including the spur trails. The Greenway can also be an excellent place to walk and see wildlife. A parking area for the Greenway is just one mile or so south of the Battlefield entrance.

**Wildlife to Watch:** Early successional birds such as Common Yellowthroat and Indigo Bunting are common in spring and summer. Deer are seen regularly in addition to resident Red-tailed Hawks. Wild Turkey may be seen in flocks of 20 birds. In spring migration, look for passerines in the mature forest on the trail at Tour Stop 2. Blackburnian Warbler, American Redstart among others may be found here. Northern Bobwhite also are occasionally seen along the wood edges and in the fields. In winter, the grassy fields support Song and Field Sparrows. Great Horned Owls are nesting residents and may be heard calling near Tour Stop 2 (January 2010).

From Thompson Lane entrance, the first tiny parking lot is your only parking on this side of the park, but is the access to the mature hardwoods on the park. From the small lot on your left at an intersection with an old road that's closed off, walk the road to the area where there are barriers. This blocked off area is the old Auto Tour and the road goes through nice forest that is often quite birdy in spring and fall. Additional trails in the area go into the mature woods.

Driving the park road, park at the next parking lot where the woods end and open into fields. There is a new mulch trail along the edge of the fields and woods, which is where the tornado created some fantastic habitat. Explore this area in all directions on foot.

Birding from around the Visitor's Center can be modest. There's a trail into the forest across the parking lot from the Visitor's Center.

The old 2 mile Auto Tour road can be walked or biked. Take snacks and water if you choose to walk the entire road. There is also a hiking trail that loops around the entire park.

## **Radnor Lake State Park**

**Site Directions:** Take I 65 to south of Nashville to Harding Place, Exit 78. Travel west on Harding Place (or Battery Lane) to Granny White Pike. Turn left and travel south to Otter Creek Road and turn left (across from Granny White Market).

Access is also available from Franklin Pike, going north from its intersection with Old Hickory Blvd just west of I-65. Franklin Pike intersects Otter Creek Rd and Hogan Rd at a light and Otter Creek Rd goes to the left (west). Follow until you reach the parking lot at the end of the open road.

**Lat-Long:** 36.063367,-86.810447, west entrance and visitors center

**Hours:** day light hours

**Seasonality:** year round

**Fees:** none

**Site Description:** Mature hardwood forest surrounds a large lake created nearly 100 years ago. Hiking trails, including some paved roads, are accessible to those on foot year round. Radnor Lake is a very popular urban park and can be very crowded when the weather is nice. Restrooms are available at the Nature Center (west entrance) and at the east entrance parking lot on Otter Creek Rd.

Wednesday mornings in spring and fall, the [Nashville chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society](#) runs birding trips to observe migrant birds.

**Wildlife to Watch:** Spring and fall migration is phenomenal. This is absolutely the best places for warbler and other songbird migration in the state. Warblers and vireos are common to abundant in spring and fall. You can find 20+ species of warbler in a good morning within a mile of trail. All warblers occurring in

Tennessee can be found here, while a few are more scarce than others. Philadelphia Vireos are uncommon, but always a local treat in spring and fall. Black-billed Cuckoo is rare annually. This is the best place in Tennessee to try to find Connecticut and Mourning Warblers in spring. The peak migration date for Connecticut Warbler is around May 15th, but anytime in early to mid-May these difficult species to observe may be found with Mourning Warbler being much more regularly detected. Uncommon migrants like Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Least Flycatcher can be seen in early to mid-May.

Louisiana Waterthrush return by March 20th and are commonly seen and heard through early May when they become very inconspicuous.

In the summer, Radnor Lake hosts a typical mix of eastern woodland breeding species, including Red-eyed and White-eyed Vireos, Scarlet Tanagers, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Kentucky Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrushes, and others. Of particular interest to birders is a pair of Prothonotary Warblers that nest along the dam.

One to two adult Bald Eagles are occasionally present in fall and winter.

In winter, many species of waterfowl can be seen including American Black Duck, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Wood Duck, Canvasback, Bufflehead, Gadwall, among others. Occasionally, large flocks of American Robins are found in the forests on the east side of the lake in winter. Common Goldeneye, although rare, does occur occasionally. A Surf Scoter was present in late 2011 for over a week. Common winter birds include both kinglets, Brown Creeper, White-throated Sparrow, among other sparrows and resident birds.

Rare Birds - MacGillivray Warbler (only state record), Limpkin, Bewick's Wren (now very rare in Tennessee), Mississippi Kite (very rare in middle TN).

### **Old Hickory Lake - Lock 5 Refuge**

**Site Directions:** Travel on Hwy 231 north from Lebanon and just after crossing the Cumberland River, there is an access road on the right (east side).

**Access on east side of Hwy 231-**

**Lat-Long:** 36.30374, -86.26255

**North Dickerson Chapel Rd access-**

**Lat-Long:** 36.30789, -86.23384

**South Dickerson Chapel Rd access-**

**Lat-Long:** 36.30298, -86.23336

**Hours:** daylight hours

**Seasonality:** Refuge is closed to all trespass from 15 November through the last day of February.

**Fees:** none

**Site Description:** Consists of tree-lined river and creek banks with cultivated fields that are subject to flooding in the winter. Main waterfowl area consists of five ponds totaling around 41 acres (1 acre, 1 acre, 7 acres, 12 acres, and 20 acres) on the north side of the Cumberland River at the Hunter's Point bridge. These ponds are planted in milo (millet if season is wet and planting is delayed) and flooded in the fall to provide a refuge for waterfowl in the winter. Some other areas have gates that can be closed to retain rainfall to provide other wet sites.

Gravel roads for driving and walking are available at these locations.

**Wildlife to Watch:** Waterfowl are abundant in winter with Mallards being the most common species. Mid-winter counts average >2000 individuals annually. American Coots are also very common in the area.

**NOTE:** Please refer to [TWRA Hunting Guide](#) about hunting seasons and public access dates. Access dates vary by site.

### **MTSU WMA**

**Site Directions:** From I-40, exit 148, travel south on Hwy 50 for 10.5 miles and make a left on S. Smithfield Rd. After turning onto S. Smithfield Rd, MTSU WMA begins after approximately 0.5 miles on the right side of the road. As you travel down the road, stay right when the road splits and at 2.3 miles there is an old logging road with small pull off as the road bends to the left. At 3.5 miles from Hwy 50, you find a large metal pavilion on the right with stream access.

**Lat-Long:** 35.80607, -87.57236. Logging road trail

**Lat-Long:** 35.80127, -87.55837, pavilion

**Hours:** day light hours

**Seasonality:** year round

**Fees:** none



Falls near the pavilion.



**Site Description:** Primarily second growth oak-hickory hardwood forests cover the 995 acres of MTSU WMA. Valleys have running water in wet times. The pavilion parking area is small, but provides access to a small stream that when flowing is quite lovely. When water levels are moderate, it is a quite a nice waterfall. The logging road trail travels downhill for several hundred meters into the valley. The hike is moderate on the way back uphill, but quite pleasant on cool days. Spring migration is a nice time to view migrant birds and some quiet woods. Quite a pleasant hike in April when wildflowers are blooming and the white dogwood is in flower.

**Wildlife to Watch:** Woodland birding is generally good across the WMA. Moderate amounts of midstory and understory vegetation provide habitat for ground and shrub nesting birds such as Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler and Kentucky Warbler. Other woodland birds that can be in season include Wood Thrush, Northern Parula, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Great Crested Flycatcher, and Summer Tanager. Cerulean Warbler maybe found as a migrant is mid- to late April. Field Sparrows are in the scrub under the powerline on the way to the WMA. Wildflowers abound in season in spring and can be seen from the logging road hiking trail.



Hiking trail, which is an old logging road.

### **Lytle Creek Road area, Murfreesboro**

**Site Directions:** From I-24, take exit 84, Joe B Jackson Pkwy, east to a “T” at Hwy 41. Turn left onto Hwy 41 and travel 0.9 miles and make a right on Dilton Mankin Rd. In 1.7 miles, cross a bridge over a creek and make a right onto Wilson Overall Rd. IN another 0.7 miles, turn right onto Lytle Creek Rd. **Lat-Long:** 35.786279, -86.314774 (north end of Lytle Creek Rd)

**Seasonality:** year round, however spring and summer (primarily April and May) are best.

**Site Description:** Lytle Creek Rd is the best place east of the Mississippi River to find eastern Bewick’s Wrens. Lytle Creek Rd is all private land, so be respectful of home and land owners. There is little traffic on this road, but be careful!

**Detailed directions:** The intersection of Wilson Overall Rd and Lytle Creek Rd (35.786279, -86.314774) is a long time location for Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. A pair frequents this intersection and the fences along Lytle Creek annually from mid-April through the summer and likely into early fall.

Drive slow along Lytle Creek Rd and at the 3<sup>rd</sup> 90 degree turn (this one is to the left), go straight onto Couch Rd. Along this deadend road is one of the few places to find Loggerhead Shrikes in the county. Red-headed Woodpeckers are sometimes found here as well. Up to 2 pairs of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers have been found here as well.

From the 4<sup>th</sup> 90 degree turn on Lytle Creek Rd and on up the “hill”, drive slow and listen for Bewick’s Wrens. At the top of the “hill” is a couple homes with several outbuildings, which is where a pair of Bewick’s Wrens have nested for several years and is one of very few semi-reliable places to find the species east of the Mississippi river.

**Wildlife to Watch:** Lytle Creek Rd is the best place east of the Mississippi River to find eastern Bewick’s Wrens. We also get a couple pairs of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers along the road, along with Grasshopper

Sparrows, Blue Grosbeak, Eastern Kingbirds, Dickcissels, Eastern Meadowlarks, American Kestrels, and Loggerhead Shrikes. Barn Swallows, Eastern Bluebirds, Bobolink (spring migration only), Orchard Orioles, Northern Bobwhite, Field Sparrows, and Prairie Warblers can all be found along Lytle Creek Rd.



### **Flat Rock Cedar Glades and Barrens State Natural Area**



**Site Directions:** From I-24 exit 81 B and go about one quarter mile on Church St. and turn right on S. Rutherford Blvd. and then proceed approximately five miles and turn right at Greenland and proceed three miles east on Halls Hill Pike, then turn right on Factory Rd. Follow Factory Rd for one mile to the parking lot on the right.

**Lat:** 35.861035°N **Long:** -86.298573°W (for access point/parking lot)

**Hours:** day light hours

**Seasonality:** year round

**Fees:** none

**Site Description:** Flat Rock supports a mosaic of forest types, oak barrens, open grassland barrens, and cedar glades, including federal and state listed plant species and glade endemic species. These glades are characterized by exposed limestone that is typically interspersed with cedar-oak-hickory forest that occurs in deeper soils. This limestone, with its many sinkholes, is a karst topography commonly associated with glades.

There is a hiking trail that loops around the natural area while passing through a variety of cedar glades and barrens.

**Wildlife to Watch:** Although not incredibly diverse in terms of birds, the glades provide excellent habitat for Prairie Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chats, and Chuck-wills-widows in summer. Year round you can find typical woodland birds, including Red-bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Chickadee, and Tufted Titmice.

### **Edgar Evins State Park and WMA**

**Site Directions:** The park is located in DeKalb County, 20 miles north of Smithville, 20 miles west of Cookeville and 60 miles east of Nashville. It is easily accessible from I-40 at exit 268 at State Hwy. 96 and Center Hill Lake.

**Lat:** 36.08763°N **Long:** -85.81287°W

**Hours:** 6am-10:30pm

**Seasonality:** year round

**Fees:** none, fees only for cabins and camping

**Site Description:** The largely forested 6,000 acre Edgar Evins State Park is located on the shores of Center Hill Lake in the steep, hilly Eastern Highland Rim. The park has ample recreational opportunities including fishing, boating, hiking, camping, and wildlife watching around every corner. An observation tower at the Visitor Center offers a spectacular view of Center Hill Lake and the surrounding hillsides.

**Wildlife to Watch:** Wildlife is abundant at nearly any time of the year. Visitors may find at least 3 species of owl, bald eagles, as well as many forest songbird species including Scarlet Tanager, Wood Thrush, Eastern Wood-pewee, Kentucky Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, and Cerulean Warbler. The Cerulean Warbler, a summer resident of the park's mixed hardwood forests, which include stands of Tulip Poplar, Oak, Hickory, Buckeye and Wild Cherry, is uncommon across most of Tennessee but is a common breeder at this park. The best opportunity for viewing this canopy top species is from the observation tower at the Visitor's Center. Bobcat may be seen by lucky visitors.

### **Couchville Cedar Glade State Natural Area**

#### **Site Directions:**

From I-40 exit on Highway 171 and go south on South Mount Juliet Rd. for about six miles then bear left onto South Mt Juliet Rd. The parking area is one half mile on the right.

From I-24, exit at Old Hickory (southeast Nashville near Hickory Hollow Mall) and proceed east for approximately 12 miles. Turn right at South Mt Juliet Rd about one and one half miles past the Long Hunter State Park entrance. The parking area is one half mile on the right.

**Lat:** 36.10122°N **Long:** -86.52944°W

**Hours:** daylight hours

**Seasonality:** year round

**Fees:** none



Sign at parking lot.      Information kiosk at trailhead for loop trail

**Site Description:** Couchville Cedar Glade SNA is a relatively small natural area (122 acres), however its beauty and diversity in wildlife makes the site a treat. A mile long hiking trail loops through one of the best examples of a cedar glade left in middle Tennessee. Extensive bare rock intermixed with grasses and wildflowers are the highlight at this site.

**Wildlife to Watch:** Summer wildflowers are the main attraction, especially the Federally Endangered Tennessee coneflower. In spring and summer, Prairie Warbler, Field Sparrow, Common Nighthawk, and Orchard Orioles are found breeding.

The glades are distributed where limestone outcropping and shallow soils limit growth of perennial plants and support annual species like leavenworthia, sporobolus, and sedum. The barrens species, that also includes Tennessee coneflower, occur where soils increase and grasses like little bluestem and side oats grama become dominant. The glades and barrens interface forming a complex. There are small woodland patches surrounding the glade-barrens complex with some shrubby vegetation present in the barrens. There are also some seasonal wet areas where small sedge openings occur and where an ephemeral stream habitat supports a small colony of the federally endangered leafy prairie clover.

### **Cedar Hill Swamp WMA**

**Site Directions:** From Nashville: Take I-24 W to exit 24 for Highway 49 (Ashland City/Springfield). Go toward Springfield and travel 10.4 miles to Kinney's Rd. Go left on Kinney's Road and travel 5.1 miles to Old Washington Road. Turn right on Old Washington Road and go approximately a half mile to Goodman Road (signage may be absent) and turn right. The entrance to the WMA and a small grassy parking area can be found about one third of a mile on the left alongside a small wooden shed.

**Lat-Long:** 36.54379, -86.99594

**Hours:** daylight hours

**Seasonality:** year round

**Fees:** none

**Site Description:** Early- to late successional hardwood forest dominated by pin oak and sweetgum dominate the 200 acres found at Cedar Hill Swamp WMA. A few acres of overgrown fields are found near the entrance. The only remaining swamp land is on private property adjacent to the WMA on the opposite side of the CSX railroad tracks.



**Wildlife to Watch:** Early successional bird species such as Yellow-breasted Chat, Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak and Field Sparrow can be found near the entrance in summer. The forested sections of the WMA are home to Kentucky Warbler, Summer Tanager, Red-eyed Vireo, Pileated Woodpecker and Barred Owl. The wetland (again, on private property) provides breeding territory for Wood Duck, Tree Swallow, Red-headed Woodpecker, American Kestrel, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Yellowthroat, Prothonotary Warbler and Green Heron. Loggerhead Shrikes winter on the farms around the swamp.



### **Beaman Park**

**Site Directions:** Beaman Park is best accessible from Eatons Creek Road in western Davidson County. From I-40 west of Nashville, exit onto Briley Parkway (SR 155) north (Exit 204), or from I-24 north of Nashville,

exit onto Briley Parkway west (Exit 43). Take Briley Parkway to Exit 24, Ashland City Highway/SR 12. Exit onto on Ashland City Highway south, away from Ashland City. After 0.4 miles, turn left at the flashing caution sign onto Eatons Creek Road. Go 4 miles to the intersection with Old Hickory Boulevard.

To get to the park nature center, turn left onto Old Hickory Boulevard and watch for the nature center on your right. To get to the trailhead parking area described below in the Birding Beaman Park section, continue northward on Eatons Creek Road for 0.9 miles past Old Hickory Boulevard, and turn left onto Little Marrowbone Road. The park entrance is 0.4 miles farther on the left at 4111 Little Marrowbone Road. Upon entering the gates, make an immediate left turn and continue to the Creekside Trailhead parking area.

**Lat-Long:** 36.262529,-86.893834, nature center parking lot

**Lat-Long:** 36.273653,-86.905998, entrance on Little Marrowbone Rd with trail head access.

**Hours:** daylight hours

**Seasonality:** year round

**Fees:** none

**Site Description:** Located in northwest Davidson County on the edge of the Western Highland Rim, the 1500-acre Beaman Park offers residents and visitors a deep-woods birding experience somewhat different from that in the nearby Nashville Basin. With ridge tops and elevations just under 1000 feet, deep hollows and the clear waters of the Little Marrowbone, Henry, and Bull Creeks, the parks flora includes species not common in the Nashville Basin, such as mountain laurel, wild azalea, and blueberries.

Birding at Beaman Park is best in spring throughout migration and into the breeding and nesting season. Most target species can be observed by following the white-blazed Henry Hollow Loop trail (2.1 miles, rated moderate for elevation change) from the Creekside Trailhead parking area. The Ridgetop Trail (2.2 miles, rated moderate for elevation change) follows old logging roads with view of hilltops and hickory forests.

**Wildlife to Watch:** Allow about 2 hours for birding the Henry Hollow Loop trail. Before departing on the trail, listen for Northern Parula and Yellow-throated Warbler in the parking area as they seem to be fairly faithful to this location in spring. Both Summer and Scarlet Tanager are also often heard from this area. Breeding populations of Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Ovenbird, and Kentucky Warbler occur throughout the breeding season from April into late June. Interspersed with their songs and calls will be those of Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatchers, Red-eyed Vireo, Wood Thrush, Summer and Scarlet Tanager, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and other forest birds common to Middle Tennessee.

Wildflowers also abound. In addition to the usual Middle Tennessee beauties, one can find the rare lady's slipper orchid as well as Eggert's sunflower, formerly a federally-listed threatened species.

## **Liberty Park and Marina**

**Site Directions:** Take Interstate 24 to exit 11, Hwy 76/41A/Ashland City Road. Turn left onto Hwy 76/41A/Ashland City Road and travel 9.0 miles to the intersection of Riverside Drive and Hwy 48/13. Turn

□

left onto Hwy 48/13. The Park will be in 0.2 miles on your right.

Address: 1190 Cumberland Drive (Hwy48/13), Clarksville, Tennessee

**Lat-Long:** 36.505048, -87.369731, main entrance on Hwy 48/13

**Hours:** Park – Dawn to Dust – 7 days a week

Marina and boat ramps open 24 hrs, 7days week

**Seasonality:** Year-round



**Fees:** none

**Site Description:** Liberty Park and Marina is a newly renovated multi-purpose-park in Montgomery County. Situated along the Cumberland River this location features a 10 acres fishing pond, wooden boardwalk, protected wetlands, 1.8 miles of walking trails, fenced dog park, multi-purpose sports fields, playground, pavilions, picnic tables over-looking the Cumberland River, rest-rooms, 4-lane boat ramp and a full service marina.

**Wildlife to Watch:** The Park's small pond and wetlands attracts Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Red-winged Blackbirds, Killdeer, Belted Kingfishers and other wetland species. Tree lined walking paths along the Cumberland River are great places to find fall and spring migrating warblers and swallows. Along the Cumberland River and the adjoining marina there is the possibility of spotting waterfowl, soaring raptors, Double-crested Cormorants and gulls. A White-winged Scoter was present for several weeks in winter 2010-11.