



North Carolina

# Birding Trail

mountains • piedmont • coast

Cleveland County

## 1 Crowders Mountain State Park

**Owner:** NC State Parks

522 Park Office Lane, Kings Mountain, NC 28086  
704-853-5375

Cleveland, Gaston Counties

[www.ncparks.gov](http://www.ncparks.gov)

**Site Description:** High atop Crowders Mountain, the highest point in Gaston County, views stretch for more than 20 miles. The state park boasts sheer vertical cliffs that drop 150 feet and many miles of trails. The gently rolling landscape of the North Carolina piedmont offers a variety of terrain. Visitors can hike through valleys, cross the foothills, and climb to the peaks at this state park. The ridge-top Piedmont Monadnock forest is unusual, as many tree species, especially Virginia pine, are dwarfs - growing only 3 to 6 feet in height. A few specimens of the blighted American chestnut still persist on the ridge. As you descend from the peaks, watch and listen for a variety of warblers, including Pine, Chestnut-sided, and Black-and-white Warblers. In the spring and summer, watch for the bright red feathers of a Summer or Scarlet Tanager. In the fall, migrating raptors, including Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-shouldered, and Broad-winged Hawks, can be seen overhead. A visit to the park's 9-acre lake provides an opportunity to observe a variety of waterbirds, ducks, and an occasional Osprey. Year-round residents include Black and Turkey Vultures, which roost on isolated rock outcrops near the mountain peaks. More than 160 species of birds have been recorded in the park. Stop in at the park office to pick up a bird checklist.

**Species of Interest:** Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Pine Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Scarlet Tanager

**Habitats:** Oak forest & mixed hardwoods/pine, early successional, rocky outcrop, river/stream

**Access & Parking:** The park is open from 8am to 6pm, November - February; 8am to 8pm, March, April, September, October; 8am to 9pm, May - August. The park office is open daily from 8am to 5pm.

**Directions:** Crowders Mountain State Park is located in Gaston and Cleveland counties, 30 miles west of Charlotte. Take I-85 Exit 13 (Edgewood Road), turn left and go to US 74 (Franklin Blvd.). Turn right and go about 3 miles to Sparrow Springs Road. Turn left and follow the park signs.

Coordinates: N 35° 12' 48" W 81° 17' 37"

DeLorme (NC Gazetteer) Page: 56





North Carolina

# Birding Trail

mountains • piedmont • coast

## Cleveland County

### 2 Broad River Greenway

**Owner:** Cleveland County, Town of Boiling Springs c/o Broad River Greenway

126 Broad River Drive, Boiling Springs, NC 28152  
704-434-0040

Cleveland County

[www.broadrivergreenway.com](http://www.broadrivergreenway.com)

**Site Description:** The Broad River Greenway is an extensive 1,500-acre mixed hardwood and pine forest along the beautiful Broad River. The trails on the property range from easy to moderate. While none are paved, almost 1,900 linear feet of the trail is handicap accessible. With almost 25 miles of trail to explore, there is something for everyone. Downstream is a mostly flat, easy walk along the river bank, with diverse populations of waterfowl, edge loving, and forest birds. Take the upstream trail to follow the path less traveled. Recently added bridges make this trail much more accessible than in years past. The upstream trail follows the river for a distance, then turns inland to the forest. Elevation changes making this trail a more moderate hike. Watch for the stray root or loose rock on the trail. Trail maps are available online at [www.broadrivergreenway.com](http://www.broadrivergreenway.com) or at the Ranger Station on site.

**Species of Interest:** Bald Eagle, Broad-winged Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Northern Parula, Prairie Warbler

**Habitats:** oak forest & mixed hardwoods/pine, floodplain forest, river/stream

**Access & Parking:** The greenway is open daily during daylight hours. The visitor center is open weekdays during spring, fall, and winter from 8am to 5pm.

**Directions:** From Charlotte, take I-85 South into South Carolina. Take Exit 95 and at the top of the exit ramp cross over and follow the service road south running parallel to I-85. At the first stop sign turn right on SC/NC 150. Continue north on SC 150, returning to North Carolina. Cross over the Broad River and the Greenway entrance is on the right.

Coordinates: N 35° 12' 19"

W 81° 39' 39"

DeLorme (NC Gazetteer) Page: 55

