



North Carolina

Birding Trail

mountains • piedmont • coast

Jordan Lake

1 Jordan Lake State Recreation Area – Ebenezer Church

Owner: NC State Parks

Beaver Creek Road, off US 64, west of Apex, NC
919-362-0586

Chatham County

www.ncparks.gov

Site Description: The Ebenezer Church Trail is an easy 1-mile loop that passes the site of historic Ebenezer Church, for which the area is named (an interpretive display marks the location). Parts of the path follow an abandoned roadbed and go around a large farm pond, which is an excellent place to observe waterfowl and wading birds. Songbirds are abundant around the old church site and adjacent overgrown fields. The trailhead is at the southeast corner of the beach parking lot. The Old Oak Trail is an easy 1-mile loop trail that begins at the parking lot in Ebenezer Picnic Area A. This trail can be cut to 0.5 miles by taking the short cut loop, making this a great trail for younger children. Hikers will see large hollow oaks, two small ponds, fencerows and clues of the farms that used to cover this area. Both trails are productive for Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Northern Parula, Ovenbird, Summer Tanager, and the occasional Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Species of Interest: Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Northern Parula, Ovenbird, Summer Tanager, Indigo Bunting

Habitats: oak forest & mixed hardwoods/pine, mesic forest, lake, small wetland communities

Access & Parking: The park is open 8am to 6pm, November – February; 8am to 7pm, March and October; 8am to 8pm, April and September; 8am to 9pm, May – August. The park visitor center is open 9am to 5pm, daily. From April – September, the weekend fee is \$5 per car, \$3 for senior citizens, and \$10 per bus. This fee is also charged on weekdays from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Separate fees are charged for picnic shelter reservations and campsites.

Directions: From Apex (or points east) take US 64 west toward Jordan Lake. At the Wilsonville stoplight, turn left on Beaver Creek Road. Ebenezer Church State Recreation Area is on the right, approximately 2.1 miles ahead.

Coordinates: N 35° 42' 28" W 79° 01' 35" DeLorme (NC Gazetteer) Page: 39





North Carolina

Birding Trail

mountains • piedmont • coast

Jordan Lake

2 Jordan Lake State Recreation Area – New Hope

Owner: NC State Parks

Pea Ridge Road, west of Apex, NC
919-362-0586

Chatham County

www.ncparks.gov

Site Description: New Hope Trail is the newest and most strenuous hiking trail at Jordan Lake. The trail begins near the bathrooms at the boat ramp. The 5.4-mile red loop and the 2.7-mile blue loop create a route studded with several challenging hills. Hikers will enjoy sweeping views of the lake, mature hardwood forests, groves of mountain laurel, lush creek crossings and a variety of wildflowers and ferns. Summer and Scarlet Tanagers and Yellow-billed Cuckoo can be spotted along the trail. There are several views of the main body of Jordan Lake which offer excellent opportunities to see gulls, terns, grebes and other diving ducks during winter. Wild Turkey are also frequently seen foraging through the forest. The beaver pond by the entrance station is an excellent spot to find woodpeckers, songbirds and waterfowl. The road connecting the ticket booth and the boat ramp is a good place to find breeding songbirds in the spring and summer.

Species of Interest: Wild Turkey, Northern Parula, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, wintering waterfowl

Habitats: oak forest & mixed hardwoods/pine, mesic forest, lake, small wetland communities

Access & Parking: The park is open 8am to 6pm, November – February; 8am to 7pm, March and October; 8am to 8pm, April and September; 8am to 9pm, May – August. The park visitor center is open 9am to 5pm, daily. From April – September, the weekend fee is \$5 per car, \$3 for senior citizens, and \$10 per bus. This fee is also charged on weekdays from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Separate fees are charged for picnic shelter reservations and campsites.

Directions: From Apex (or points east) take US 64 west toward Jordan Lake. At the Wilsonville stoplight, turn left on Beaver Creek Road. After crossing the lake, turn right on Pea Ridge Road. New Hope Overlook will be on the right, approximately 2.2 miles ahead.

Coordinates: N 35° 40' 56" W 79° 02' 52"

DeLorme (NC Gazetteer) Page: 39





North Carolina

Birding Trail

mountains • piedmont • coast

Jordan Lake

3 Jordan Lake State Recreation Area – Seaforth

Owner: NC State Parks

US 64, west of Apex, NC
919-362-0586

Chatham County

www.ncparks.gov

Site Description: Along the Pond Trail at Seaforth State Recreation Area hikers will enjoy glimpses of the lake while walking through loblolly pine forests, hardwood forests, old fields and past three ponds. The path, nearly a loop, is an easy 1.5-mile route that begins at the display case on the western side of the beach parking lot, and ends near Picnic Shelter 9. The ponds offer good chances to view wading birds hunting for food or Bald Eagle soaring overhead. The cleared field is an excellent area for Eastern Bluebird, Song Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting. A long boardwalk traverses a wetland teeming with buttonbush, black needle rush and other water loving vegetation.

Species of Interest: Bald Eagle, Wood Thrush, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, wading birds

Habitats: oak forest & mixed hardwoods/pine, mesic forest, small wetland communities, lake

Access & Parking: The park is open 8am to 6pm, November – February; 8am to 7pm, March and October; 8am to 8pm, April and September; 8am to 9pm, May – August. The park visitor center is open 9am to 5pm, daily. From April – September, the weekend fee is \$5 per car, \$3 for senior citizens, and \$10 per bus. This fee is also charged on weekdays from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Separate fees are charged for picnic shelter reservations and campsites.

Directions: From Apex (or points east) take US 64 west toward Jordan Lake. After crossing the lake, turn left at the signs for the Seaforth State Recreation Area.

Coordinates: N 35° 43' 34" W 79° 02' 06" DeLorme (NC Gazetteer) Page: 39





North Carolina

Birding Trail

mountains • piedmont • coast

Jordan Lake

4 Jordan Lake State Recreation Area – Parkers Creek

Owner: NC State Parks

US 64, west of Apex, NC
919-362-0586

Chatham County

www.ncparks.gov

Site Description: The Childrens Trail in Parkers Creek begins and ends in the parking lot near Picnic Shelter 3. This destination is located along the first road to the right, once you are inside the park. The short, 0.5-mile trail wanders through stands of loblolly pine and mixed hardwoods/pine forests. The trail crosses several abandoned roadbeds and winds around an old farm pond. Songbirds are plentiful along this trail, and waterfowl and wading birds can often be seen in the farm pond. Another good spot is located at the end of the first road on the left, once you enter Parkers Creek Recreation Area. A small path runs along the shore of the impoundment. The water of the impoundment teems with lily pads during summer and an osprey nesting platform is located at the north end of the pool. Great Crested Flycatcher and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher can be heard and seen along the beach parking lot. The impoundment is great for flatwater canoeing and kayaking.

Species of Interest: Great Crested Flycatcher, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, wintering waterfowl, wading birds

Habitats: oak forest & mixed hardwoods/pine, mesic forest, small wetland communities, lake

Access & Parking: The park is open 8am to 6pm, November – February; 8am to 7pm, March and October; 8am to 8pm, April and September; 8am to 9pm, May – August. The park visitor center is open 9am to 5pm, daily. From April – September, the weekend fee is \$5 per car, \$3 for senior citizens, and \$10 per bus. This fee is also charged on weekdays from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Separate fees are charged for picnic shelter reservations and campsites.

Directions: From Apex (or points east) take US 64 west toward Jordan Lake. After crossing the lake, turn right at the signs for the Parkers Creek State Recreation Area.

Coordinates: N 35° 44' 39" W 79° 02' 31" DeLorme (NC Gazetteer) Page: 39





North Carolina

Birding Trail

mountains • piedmont • coast

Jordan Lake

5 Jordan Lake Educational State Forest

Owner: NC Division of Forest Resources

2832 Big Woods Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919-542-1154

Chatham County

www.ncesf.org

Site Description: Jordan Lake Educational State Forest is one of the newest members to the Educational State Forest system. This 420-acre site is adjacent to Jordan Lake. Over 156 bird species have been documented at the forest or nearby lake. The site showcases mixed hardwoods/pine forest, wetlands and managed habitats for good birding year-round. Bird diversity in the woodlands, early successional and managed areas is complemented by excellent birding along the lake shoreline. Over 2 miles of trails traverse the property, include a forest demonstration loop. There is also a small pond on site. Summer neotropical migrants typically found include Osprey, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Kingbird, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, Yellow-throated, Prothonotary, and Hooded Warblers. The site is productive for migrating songbirds during spring and fall, and excellent opportunities exist for migrating and wintering waterfowl, gulls and terns along the shoreline. Bald Eagle can be seen any month of the year, but spring and summer are the best seasons. When the lake level is down during late summer or early fall, shorebird activity can be quite amazing on mudflats.

Species of Interest: Bald Eagle, Red-headed Woodpecker, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, wintering waterfowl

Habitats: dry coniferous woodlands, oak forest & mixed hardwoods/pine, lake

Access & Parking: The state forest is open from mid-March through Mid-November, 9am to 5pm, Monday – Friday; on weekends during Daylight Standard Time, 11am to 8pm; on weekends during Eastern Standard Time, 11am to 5pm. Park in one of the designated lots and follow the marked trails or the forest road system. Maps are available at the forest office.

Directions: From Apex (or points east) take US 64 west across Jordan Lake. Turn right on Big Woods Road and travel 3 miles to the forest entrance on the right.

Coordinates: N 35° 46' 26" W 79° 02' 30" DeLorme (NC Gazetteer) Page: 39





North Carolina

Birding Trail

mountains • piedmont • coast

Jordan Lake

6 Jordan Lake State Recreation Area – Vista Point

Owner: NC State Parks

Pea Ridge Road, west of Apex, NC
919-362-0586

Chatham County

www.ncparks.gov

Site Description: The Red Trail at Vista Point access is an easy 3-mile hike that begins near the shower house. It is nearly a loop trail, but requires walking on the road for about 100 yards to end up back at the shower house. Rest on a bench along a quiet lake cove and continue through some beautiful mixed hardwoods/pine forests. Red-eyed Vireo, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Summer and Scarlet Tanagers can often be seen along this trail. In winter, birders will enjoy an abundance of green from the numerous American holly trees, and in fall enjoy a field of sunflowers. The lake views offer excellent chances of spotting gulls, terns, waterfowl and Bald Eagle. The Blue Trail is a loop slightly over 1 mile in length that begins near the entrance gate. Hikers will pass by an old abandoned tobacco barn. Songbirds often frequent this area foraging and resting in the underbrush.

Species of Interest: Bald Eagle, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, wintering waterfowl, shorebirds

Habitats: oak forest & mixed hardwoods/pine, mesic forest, small wetland communities, lake

Access & Parking: The park is open 8am to 6pm, November – February; 8am to 7pm, March and October; 8am to 8pm, April and September; 8am to 9pm, May – August. The park visitor center is open 9am to 5pm, daily. From April – September, the weekend fee is \$5 per car, \$3 for senior citizens, and \$10 per bus. This fee is also charged on weekdays from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Separate fees are charged for picnic shelter reservations and campsites.

Directions: From Apex (or points east) take US 64 west toward Jordan Lake. After crossing the lake, turn left on Seaforth Road. Travel this road for 2 miles and turn left on Pea Ridge Road, which dead ends at the Vista Point access.

Coordinates: N 35° 42' 14" W 79° 02' 54" DeLorme (NC Gazetteer) Page: 39





North Carolina

Birding Trail

mountains • piedmont • coast

Jordan Lake

7 White Pines Nature Preserve

Owner: Triangle Land Conservancy

549 South Rocky River Road, Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-833-3662

Chatham County

www.tlc-nc.org

Site Description: Located at the confluence of the Deep and Rocky Rivers, White Pines Nature Preserve is home to several stands of white pine, one of the only populations in the eastern Piedmont. Fifty five bird species nest in this 275-acre preserve, among 200-year-old beeches, with steep, rocky terrain and bluffs surrounding the rivers. Listen for Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, and Scarlet Tanager as you walk down the White Pine Trail. At the fork in the trail, continue straight to the Overlook Trail toward the river bluffs, or turn left to follow the River Trail and short loop around the Schoolkids Trail, where you might see a Barred Owl or Prothonotary Warbler. During the summer expect to find Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Acadian Flycatcher, and Hooded Warbler. Belted Kingfisher and Great Blue Heron can be seen along the river. During winter Hermit Thrush, Winter Wren, kinglets, and Brown Creeper are often seen along the trails. Recently opened, the 1-mile Gilbert Yager Trail has been added to the trail system at White Pines. The trailhead is adjacent to the parking area.

Species of Interest: Broad-winged Hawk, Acadian Flycatcher, Prothonotary Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager

Habitats: dry coniferous woodlands, oak forest & mixed hardwood/pine, floodplain forest, river

Access & Parking: The preserve is open daily during daylight hours.

Directions: From the downtown Pittsboro circle, go south on US 15-501 for 8 miles. Turn left on River Fork Road (SR 1958), the first left after crossing the Rocky River bridge. On River Fork Road, turn right immediately and proceed for 1.7 miles. Turn right at the stop sign and continue 0.5 miles to the Triangle Land Conservancy Preserve sign. Turn left and drive 0.1 miles to the parking area on the right.

Coordinates: N 35° 36' 52" W 79° 09' 25" DeLorme (NC Gazetteer) Page: 61

