



North Carolina

## Birding Trail

mountains • piedmont • coast

### Northeast Piedmont

#### 1 Vance Game Land – Crooked Run Wildlife Management Area

**Owner:** US Army Corps of Engineers (managed by NC Wildlife Resources Commission)

NC 39, 3.5 miles north of Henderson, NC  
919-707-0050

Vance County

[www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org)

**Site Description:** Unlike other piedmont region reservoirs, Kerr Lake has very narrow forested buffers surrounding it, such that most of the public access areas around the lake contain few remote forested areas or fields. This 160-acre site is one of the best areas around Kerr Lake to find the typical breeding birds of the region, such as Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and Blue-headed Vireo. It is also a good location for Wood Duck and Mallard. The property has rich slopes that contain rare plants and is a good location for viewing butterflies. An excellent mix of natural communities can be found at Crooked Run, including a variety of upland hardwood types. After parking at the entrance gate, follow the dirt road onto the Game Land. This road winds through upland and lowland forests and alongside a handful of food-plot fields, for approximately 2 miles. The road parallels NC 39 for a few hundred yards, then veers west before crossing a small creek. A few hundred yards past the creek, it is recommended to take a left at the “T” to access field margins and the main part of the management area. At times, the narrow floodplains are inundated by high waters at the lake, but they are normally dry.

**Species of Interest:** Wood Duck, Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Scarlet Tanager

**Habitats:** dry coniferous woodlands, oak forest & mixed hardwoods/pine, early successional, small wetland communities

**Special Concern:** Hunting is allowed on Vance Game Land during certain times of the year. Birders should be aware of current hunting regulations and seasons, and take adequate safety precautions during those times. For more on hunting precautions, see the hunting season information at the beginning of this guide.

**Access & Parking:** The Game Land can be accessed daily during daylight hours. Parking is available at the gate; do not block the gate when parking.

**Directions:** From I-85 in Henderson, take the exit for NC 39 and follow it north for 3.5 miles. The site is on the left hand side of the road, marked by a gated dirt road entrance.

Coordinates: N 36° 23' 22" W 78° 25' 03" DeLorme (NC Gazetteer) Page: 21





North Carolina

## Birding Trail

mountains • piedmont • coast

### Northeast Piedmont

## 2 Kerr Lake State Recreation Area - Nutbush

**Owner:** NC State Parks

Jack Wade Farm Lane, Henderson, NC 27537  
252-438-7791

Vance County

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

**Site Description:** Nutbush State Recreation Area (SRA) is located along Nutbush Creek, on the west end of Nutbush Bridge. Nutbush Creek gets its name from the Hazelnut bushes that were common in the area before Kerr Reservoir was impounded. Hazelnut is still abundant in certain locations of Nutbush SRA. The majority of the recreation area is developed as a campground. The boat ramp at Area 1 provides a good view of the lake and potential birds that may be on or over the water. The boat ramp at Area 3 is located in a small cove where Prothonotary Warbler are often found during the spring and summer. This area is sometimes productive for waterfowl on dreary winter days. It is also a good place to launch a canoe or kayak to access Indian, Nutbush and Crooked Run Creeks for good birding outside of the NC State Park lease area.

**Species of Interest:** Bald Eagle, Common Loon, Prothonotary Warbler, wintering waterfowl

**Habitats:** dry coniferous woodlands, oak forest & mixed hardwoods/pine, small wetland communities, lake

**Access & Parking:** Area 1 Campground is open April – September; Areas 2 and 4 are open Memorial Day – Labor Day; Area 3 Campground is open year round. Nutbush day use areas provide access year round. A fee is charged per vehicle daily Memorial Day – Labor Day and on weekends April, May and September. The fee is \$5 per car, \$3 for senior citizens, and \$10 per bus. The entrance fee receipt can be used to enter other areas at Kerr Lake State Recreation Area during the same day for no additional fee. Separate fees are charged for picnic shelter reservations and campsites.

**Directions:** From Henderson, take I-85 to exit 214. Follow NC 39 approximately 4.5 miles north. Turn right on Nutbush Road and follow it for 1.5 miles. Areas 1 and 2 are on the left. Areas 3 and 4 are on the right.

Coordinates: N 36° 24' 46" W 78° 23' 42" DeLorme (NC Gazetteer) Page: 21





North Carolina

## Birding Trail

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### Northeast Piedmont

#### 3 Kerr Lake State Recreation Area - Hibernia

**Owner:** NC State Parks

2041 Hibernia Road, Henderson, NC 27537  
252-438-7791

Vance County

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

**Site Description:** Hibernia is located on the western shore of Kerr Lake's Nutbush arm. It contains 446 acres, about half of which is reserved for camping. It has a mix of hardwood, pine, shoreline and maintained open space. Most of the area can be birded by walking along the quiet park roads. The 0.5-mile Plantation Trail begins just past the entrance to Area 1 and leads to the former site of the Hibernia Plantation. The trail travels through pine and mixed pine/hardwood forests. The picnic area at the terminus of the park road provides good views of the lake to scan for water species such as Bald Eagle, Osprey, Common Loon, Great Blue Heron and gulls. When the lake level is low, birders can also explore the day use shoreline in search of birds.

**Species of Interest:** Bald Eagle, Common Loon, Red-tailed Hawk, Eastern Kingbird, wintering waterfowl

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

**Access & Parking:** The park is open April – October; 8am to 8pm, April and September; 8am to 9pm, May – August; 8am to 7pm, October. From November – March, the majority of the park is closed. However, there is a small overlook area that is open from 8am to 5pm. A fee per vehicle is charged daily Memorial Day – Labor Day and on weekends April, May and September. The fee is \$5 per car, \$3 for senior citizens, and \$10 per bus. The entrance fee receipt can be used to enter other areas at Kerr Lake State Recreation Area during the same day for no additional fee. Separate fees are charged for picnic shelter reservations and campsites.

**Directions:** From Henderson, take NC 39 north 12.5 miles from the I-85 intersection (exit 214). Turn right on Hibernia Road, which ends at the park. Follow the two-lane road to the end for parking.

Coordinates: N 36° 30' 38" W 78° 22' 29" DeLorme (NC Gazetteer) Page: 21





North Carolina

# Birding Trail

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## Northeast Piedmont

### 4 Kerr Lake State Recreation Area – Henderson Point

**Owner:** NC State Parks

1427 Reverend Henderson Road, Henderson, NC 27537  
252-438-7791

Vance County

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

**Site Description:** The 329-acre Henderson Point State Recreation Area is located on the western shore of Kerr Lake's Nutbush Creek. The majority of Henderson Point is reserved for camping. However, there is a day use area that offers good views of Kerr Lake to scan for species such as Bald Eagle, Osprey, Great Blue Heron, Common Loon and grebe species. The picnic shelters and beaches provide good views. Visitors also can walk down a short paved trail to the fishing pier for good lake viewing. The trail traverses a loblolly pine forest where species common to that habitat often are found.

**Species of Interest:** Bald Eagle, Osprey, Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe

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

**Access & Parking:** Day use areas are open April – October; 8am to 8pm, April and September; 8am to 9pm, May – August; 8am to 7pm, October. A fee per vehicle is charged daily Memorial Day – Labor Day and on weekends April, May and September. The fee is \$5 per car, \$3 for senior citizens, and \$10 per bus. The entrance fee receipt can be used to enter other areas at Kerr Lake State Recreation Area during the same day for no additional fee. Separate fees are charged for picnic shelter reservations and campsites.

**Directions:** From Henderson, take NC 39 north 13.5 miles from the I-85 intersection (exit 214). Turn right on Rock Spring Church Road, then right again on Reverend Henderson Road, which ends at the park.

Coordinates: N 36° 32' 05" W 78° 20' 44" DeLorme (NC Gazetteer) Page: 21





North Carolina

# Birding Trail

mountains • piedmont • coast

## Northeast Piedmont

### 5 Kerr Lake State Recreation Area – Satterwhite Point

**Owner:** NC State Parks

6254 Satterwhite Point Road, Henderson, NC 27537  
252-438-7791

Vance County

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

**Site Description:** Satterwhite Point State Recreation Area is located on the southeast end of Kerr Lake's Nubush arm and contains 282 acres. While much of Satterwhite Point is maintained open space, pine and hardwood forests also are found here. The area behind the office contains a short, paved, interpretive trail leading to an overlook and amphitheater. Great Blue Heron are common around the lakeshore. Woodland species such as Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler and Summer Tanager are common in the spring and summer. Access the day use portion of Satterwhite Point by leaving the visitor center and crossing Satterwhite Point Road. The northern tip of Satterwhite Point provides good views of Kerr Lake and can be a good staging point during spring and fall migrations. It is a good location to view Common Loon and various gull species during the fall and winter. It is also a good area to see Red-headed Woodpecker. Keep an eye out for Bald Eagle, which are fairly common at Kerr Lake in winter, and Osprey, which are frequently seen during the warmer months.

**Species of Interest:** Bald Eagle, Common Loon, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Parula, Prothonotary Warbler, Summer Tanager

**Habitats:** dry coniferous woodlands, oak forest & mixed hardwoods/pine, 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; 8am to 7pm, October. The visitor center is open weekdays, 8am to 5pm, September – April; weekdays, 8am to 6pm, May – August; weekends, 9am to 6pm, May - August. A fee is charged per vehicle daily Memorial Day – Labor Day and on weekends April, May and September. The fee is \$5 per car, \$3 for senior citizens, and \$10 per bus. The entrance fee receipt can be used to enter other areas at Kerr Lake State Recreation Area during the same day for no additional fee. Separate fees are charged for picnic shelter reservations and campsites. There is no fee to access the visitor center or the trail located behind it.

**Directions:** From Henderson, take I-85 north to exit 217. Travel north on Satterwhite Point Road for approximately 5 miles. The Kerr Lake Visitor Center is on the right and the entrance for day use and camping is on the left.

Coordinates: N 36° 26' 49" W 78° 22' 18" DeLorme (NC Gazetteer) Page: 21





North Carolina

## Birding Trail

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### Northeast Piedmont

#### 6 Kerr Lake State Recreation Area - Bullocksville

**Owner:** NC State Parks

3050 Bullocksville Park Road, Henderson, NC 27537  
252-438-7791

Vance County

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

**Site Description:** Bullocksville State Recreation Area is 445 acres in size. There are camping and day-use facilities with a fair amount of maintained open space, but much of this recreation area is undeveloped pine and hardwood forest. The 1-mile Ole Still Trail winds through a hardwood forest providing opportunities to see woodland species such as Summer and Scarlet Tanagers, Yellow-throated Warbler, Brown-headed and White-breasted Nuthatches and Pileated Woodpecker. The easily accessible shoreline and fishing pier are good locations to search the water for Common Loon and gulls in winter. Wild Turkey are frequently seen in the area. Barred and Eastern Screech-Owls are often heard near the park entrance.

**Species of Interest:** Common Loon, Bald Eagle, Wild Turkey, Eastern Kingbird, Orchard Oriole

**Habitats:** dry coniferous woodlands, oak forest & mixed hardwoods/pine, 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; 8am to 7pm, October. Campground is open April – September. A fee is charged per vehicle daily Memorial Day – Labor Day and on weekends April, May and September. The fee is \$5 per car, \$3 for senior citizens, and \$10 per bus. The receipt can be used to enter other areas at Kerr Lake State Recreation Area during the same day for no additional fee. The entrance fee receipt can be used to enter other areas at Kerr Lake State Recreation Area during the same day for no additional fee. Separate fees are charged for picnic shelter reservations and campsites.

**Directions:** From Henderson, take I-85 north to exit 223. Turn left on Manson Road and go approximately 3 miles to the Drewry Crossroads. Go straight at the crossroads onto Bullocksville Park Road, which dead ends at the State Recreation Area.

Coordinates: N 36° 27' 30" W 78° 21' 53" DeLorme (NC Gazetteer) Page: 21





North Carolina

# Birding Trail

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## Northeast Piedmont

### 7 Kerr Lake State Recreation Area – County Line

**Owner:** NC State Parks

200 County Line Park Road, Manson, NC 27553  
252-438-7791

Warren/Vance County line

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

**Site Description:** County Line State Recreation Area is located on the eastern shore of Kerr Lake's Nutbush Arm. Its 285 acres straddle the Vance/Warren County line. The majority of County Line State Recreation Area is designated for campers, however, there are two areas that can be productive for non-camping birders. One is at the end of County Line Road (SR 1361), which is outside the developed portion of the park. This area can be productive for woodland species, especially during spring migration, but there are no developed trails or restrooms. Reach it by turning left at the stop sign on County Line Road, instead of turning right (as indicated by the signs). Follow the road for about a mile to the dead end. Another area that can be good for viewing birds on and over the water is beside the NC Wildlife Resources Commission Boat Ramp, accessed by following the signs at the entrance area. There is a portable toilet near the boat ramp.

**Species of Interest:** Common Loon, Bald Eagle, Eastern Kingbird, Scarlet Tanager

**Habitats:** dry coniferous woodlands, oak forest & mixed hardwoods/pine, small wetland communities, lake

**Access & Parking:** The campground is open April – September; 8am to 8pm, April and September; 8am to 9pm, May – August. A fee is charged per vehicle daily Memorial Day – Labor Day and on weekends April, May and September. The fee is \$5 per car, \$3 for senior citizens, and \$10 per bus. The entrance fee receipt can be used to enter other areas at Kerr Lake State Recreation Area during the same day for no additional fee. Separate fees are charged for picnic shelter reservations and campsites. The birding areas recommended at this site are outside the gates and are not subject to entrance fees.

**Directions:** From Henderson, take I-85 north to exit 223. Turn left on Manson Road and go approximately 3 miles to the Drewry Crossroads. Turn right on Drewry-Virginia Line Road. Go approximately 3 miles and turn left on Buchanan Store Road, then right on County Line Road and right again on County Line Park Road. The road dead-ends at the State Recreation Area.

Coordinates: N 36° 31' 10" W 78° 19' 13" DeLorme (NC Gazetteer) Page: 21





North Carolina

## Birding Trail

mountains • piedmont • coast

### Northeast Piedmont

#### 8 Kerr Lake State Recreation Area – Kimball Point

**Owner:** NC State Parks

460 Kimball Point Road, northeast of Henderson, NC  
252-438-7791

Warren County

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

**Site Description:** Kimball Point is a narrow peninsula located on the eastern shore of Kerr Lake's Nutbush Creek arm, just south of the Virginia state line. This unit of Kerr Lake State Recreation Area is 93 acres in size and the majority of the site is designated for camping. Much of the area is maintained open space but there are also loblolly pine forests and some small pockets of hardwoods present. Kimball Point offers expansive views of the lake that allow birders to scan for birds such as gulls, swallows, Common Loon, and wintering waterfowl. The picnic shelter offers a good overlook for viewing. The short road to the picnic shelter is found approximately 300 yards past the entrance station on the right.

**Species of Interest:** Bald Eagle, Common Loon, Orchard Oriole, wintering waterfowl

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

**Access & Parking:** The park is open April – October; 8am to 8pm, April and September; 8am to 9pm, May - August; 8am to 7pm, October. A fee is charged per vehicle daily Memorial Day – Labor Day and on weekends April, May and September. The fee is \$5 per car, \$3 for senior citizens, and \$10 per bus. The entrance fee receipt can be used to enter other areas at Kerr Lake State Recreation Area during the same day for no additional fee. Separate fees are charged for picnic shelter reservations and campsites.

**Directions:** From Henderson, take I-85 north to exit 223. Turn left on Manson Road and go approximately 3 miles to the Drewry Crossroads. Turn right on Drewry-Virginia Line Road. Go approximately 4.5 miles and turn left on Kimball Point Road. The road dead-ends at the State Recreation Area.

Coordinates: N 36° 32' 20" W 78° 19' 00" DeLorme (NC Gazetteer) Page: 21





North Carolina

## Birding Trail

mountains • piedmont • coast

### Northeast Piedmont

#### 9 Newell Farms

**Owner:** Frank Newell

190 Newell Farms Road, Warrenton, NC 27589  
252-257-1754 or 252-257-5199

Warren County

**Site Description:** Birding at Newell Farms provides an opportunity to visit the remote areas of a working cattle farm, managed for natural resource conservation. Be aware that when entering the site at the first gate you will be crossing an active pasture with grazing cattle (they may be hidden from view). Following the signage, cross the open field to a wooded area and continue to a second gated field. Close the gate after passing and follow this marked loop trail to a large open meadow that borders Fishing Creek. Walk along the hillside to view the wetland/meadow restoration area for wintering waterfowl and Red-headed Woodpecker. Continuing on, the trail enters a hardwood forest that is home to songbirds, woodpeckers and owls. This is a good location to check for migration activity in fall and spring. The forest trail continues over the hill and comes out by a stream with a managed meadow alongside. Watch for Northern Bobwhite, Wild Turkey and signs of other wildlife in this quiet, secluded area. The trail continues to follow the stream where it reconnects with the entrance trail.

**Species of Interest:** Wood Duck, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Red-headed Woodpecker, Purple Martin, Eastern Bluebird

**Habitats:** pastureland, oak forest & mixed hardwoods/pine, small wetland communities, creek

**Special Feature/Concern:** Newell Farms is also the home of the Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group. Visit the Bluebird Workshop on NC 158, a few blocks west of US 401, in Louisburg, on Saturday or Sunday to purchase a bluebird house and learn more about the Group's operations. Limited hunting is allowed on the property. Birders should be aware of current hunting regulations and seasons, and take adequate safety precautions during those times. For more on hunting precautions, see the hunting season information at the beginning of this guide.

**Access & Parking:** The site is open daily during daylight hours. Limited parking is available at the access gate on SR 1001.

**Directions:** From Warrenton, at the intersection of US 401 and Franklin Street (SR1001 & Dr. King Boulevard), take Franklin Street 1 mile west toward Henderson and turn on Newell Farms Road. Continue for 0.5 miles to the third turn-off on the right for the marked entrance gate and parking.

Coordinates: N 36° 23' 45" W 78° 10' 22" DeLorme (NC Gazetteer) Page: 21





North Carolina

# Birding Trail

mountains • piedmont • coast

## Northeast Piedmont

### 10 Medoc Mountain State Park

**Owner:** NC State Parks

1541 Medoc State Park Road, Hollister, NC 27844  
252-586-6588

Halifax County

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

**Site Description:** Seven hiking trails cover more than 11 miles of terrain throughout Medoc Mountain State Park. Stop by the visitor center to obtain a detailed map of the trail system before heading out. The park's waterways attract Wood Duck, Green and Great Blue Heron and Belted Kingfisher. The calls of the Red-shouldered Hawk, Great Horned and Barred Owls add music to the forests. Northern Bobwhite, Wild Turkey and nesting songbirds such as Brown Thrasher, Eastern Towhee and Prairie Warbler thrive in the park's old fields and young forests. Birds attracted by the mature hardwood forests include Wood Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo and various woodpeckers. Other species of interest found within the park's 3,700 acres include the nocturnal southern flying squirrel, freshwater mussels, and a variety of reptiles and amphibians. There have been sightings of the Neuse River Waterdog in the park's Little Fishing Creek. This large salamander is found only in the Neuse and Tar River systems. Visitors may bring canoes to access Little Fishing Creek for an enjoyable 2.5-mile journey through the park. At times the creek may be dangerous for canoeing, so please check with park staff to determine water levels.

**Species of Interest:** Belted Kingfisher, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Northern Bobwhite, Prairie Warbler

**Habitats:** dry coniferous woodlands, oak forest & mixed hardwoods/pine, floodplain forest, creek

**Access & Parking:** The park is open from 8am to 6pm, November – February; 8am to 7pm, March and October; 8am to 8pm, April, May and September; 8am to 9pm, June – August. The visitor center is open 8am to 5pm, weekdays; hours vary on weekends.

**Directions:** Medoc Mountain State Park is 21 miles southwest of Roanoke Rapids, 23 miles north of Rocky Mount, and 26 miles northeast of Louisburg. From I-95, take exit 160 at NC 561 west and travel 9 miles to the park. Turn left on SR 1322, which will lead to the park office, on the right.

Coordinates: N 36° 15' 53" W 77° 53' 15" DeLorme (NC Gazetteer) Page: 22





North Carolina

# Birding Trail

mountains • piedmont • coast

## Northeast Piedmont

### 11 Franklin County Nature Preserve

**Owner:** Allen DeHart

3585 US 401 South, Louisburg, NC 27549  
919-496-4771

Franklin County

**Site Description:** This 88-acre preserve is more reminiscent of the mountains than the eastern piedmont, with numerous large outcrops of granite. The lake and waterfall sections each have 1.8 miles of inviting trails for birding. The lake section features plants from across North Carolina. Enter this section by crossing the small footbridge at the parking lot. The switchback trail meanders along the hillside before coming out on top of a large granite outcrop that provides a view of the small lake. Continue across the lake passing a cut over area where the trail enters the forest along a stream before going uphill to loop back to the lake. Continue on the trail past the dam to return to the parking lot. The waterfall area trailhead is on the north side of the parking lot. This section remains a natural habitat with entirely native plants. The trail passes through a power line right-of-way and then reenters the forest where it crosses a stream several times. It eventually leads to a small waterfall that flows over a granite outcrop and into a small, shallow lake. Continuing on, the trail loops back to follow the power line and return to the parking lot.

**Species of Interest:** Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Indigo Bunting

**Habitats:** dry coniferous woodlands, oak forest & mixed hardwoods/pine, early successional, lake and stream

**Access & Parking:** The site is open only on weekends (Saturday and Sunday). Visitors must register at the gazebo before hiking the trails. Trail maps are available at the gazebo. Contact the site manager for hours of operation and possible restrictions.

**Directions:** From the intersection of US 401 and NC 56 in Louisburg, travel south on US 401 for 4.75 miles. The entrance and parking area is on the left.

Coordinates: N 36° 01' 26" W 78° 21' 14" DeLorme (NC Gazetteer) Page: 41

