

WILDLIFE VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES

On Tennessee's Wildlife Management Areas



The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency manages public lands across the state that provide excellent wildlife viewing opportunities. All the locations listed within this pamphlet have designated viewing areas, hiking trails, and are simply great places to see many forms of wildlife, from eagles, songbirds, and wading birds to deer and turkeys.

Visit the Tennessee Watchable Wildlife Web site for more information and directions to these sites and others:

www.tnwatchablewildlife.org



TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY

13) Hickory Flat WMA

A short hiking trail through the WMA to May Prairie State Natural Area travels through woodlands and open barrens. Check access dates.

14) Bark Camp Barrens WMA

No designated trails or viewing areas, but accessing the WMA on Hickerson Rd or from the "barn" in spring and summer is productive for grassland birds, including Henslow's Sparrow. Check access dates.

15) Bear Hollow Mountain WMA

Several miles of hiking trails through ridgetop forests and down the slope to the Walls of Jericho in Alabama provide stunning views of the valley and forest birds and other wildlife. Check access dates as some trails may be closed during hunting seasons.

16) Edgar Evins State Park and WMA

Observation tower is open year round, but viewing is best in spring when Cerulean Warblers are present. Eleven miles of hiking trails are open and best in spring and summer. Check access dates.

17) Bridgestone-Firestone Centennial Wilderness

Miles of hiking trails through thousands of acres of upland hardwoods and gorges. Large areas of native warm season grasses and early successional habitat restoration are available for exploration. Check access dates.

18) The Boils WMA

The site is mostly floodplain habitat along Roaring River and is a good location to walk on a gravel bar in the river, take in some scenery, and look for waterbirds. Check access dates.

19) Jackson Swamp WMA

The WMA has old field habitat, with some farmed land, and a flooded "swamp," which is bottomland hardwood forest. Check access dates.

20) North Cumberland WMA

Observation tower for viewing elk. Miles of hiking trails and roads provide access to thousands of acres of hardwood forests. Check access dates.

21) Mt. Roosevelt WMA

A viewing area at the top of the mountain provides ample opportunity to view the valley below and migrating raptors. Check access dates.

22) Yuchi Refuge

An observation tower is open year round and overlooks a floodplain, the river, and bluffs. Grassland and mixed forests with improvised trails are available. Check access dates.

23) Hiwassee Refuge

The observation area is the best place in the state to see thousands of Sandhill Cranes in winter. Observation area is open year round. Check access dates for other areas.

24) Kyker Bottoms Refuge

An observation tower overlooks wetlands. There is a levee that can be walked much of the year and is especially interesting during spring and fall migration. Observation area is open year round. Check access dates for other areas.

25) Forks of the River WMA

A greenway is accessible that wanders along the river and through fields and forests. Greenway is open year round, but check access dates.

26) Buffalo Springs WMA

A scenic drive to a small waterfall is a focus of this area.

27) Henderson Island Refuge

The refuge is an island that provides unique water views. When water levels are low, the road to the island can be driven.

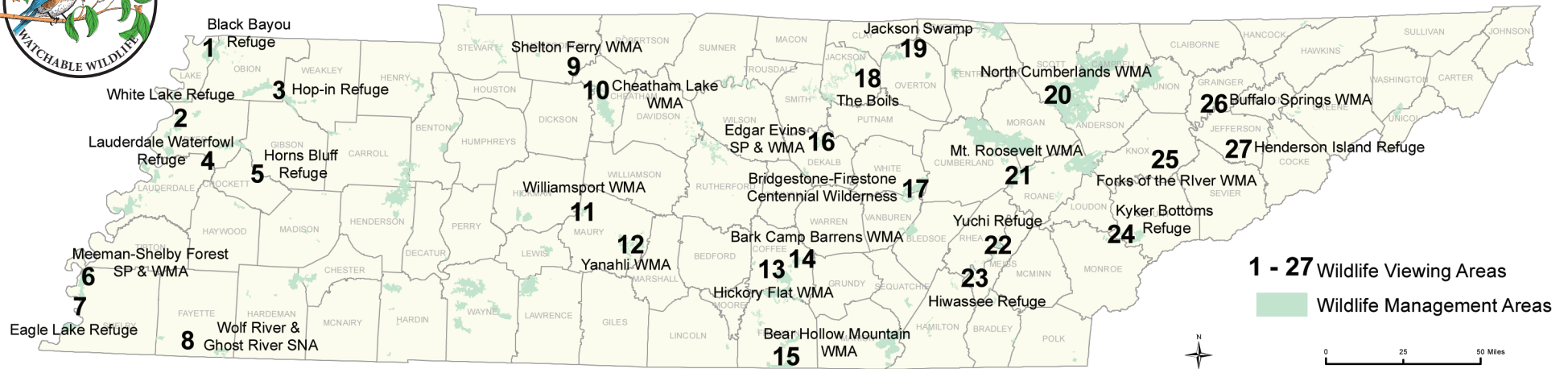
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For directions to these sites and many more, go to www.tnwatchablewildlife.org.

Please check with the TWRA Hunting and Waterfowl Guides at www.tnwildlife.org for access dates during big game and waterfowl hunts.

 Observation Tower  Hiking Trails

1) Black Bayou Refuge

Observation tower is open year round. Look for waterfowl in winter and shorebirds in spring and fall migration.

2) White Lake Refuge

Short hiking trail (0.5 mi) is open year round and leads to small viewing platform. Roads provide access to shorebirds, waterbirds, and waterfowl. Some areas closed in winter. Check access dates.

3) Hop-In Refuge

Viewing is limited to the roadsides and gate entrances during winter when site is closed, but large numbers of waterfowl and Sandhill Cranes can be seen in winter. Check access dates.

4) Lauderdale Waterfowl Refuge

A tall observation tower provides viewing of waterfowl and possibly Bald Eagles in winter. Late fall, winter, and early spring are best viewing times.

5) Horns Bluff Refuge

Observation tower provides views of wetlands and flooded forests. Wood ducks and other waterfowl may be present in winter. Spring and fall are good for songbird migration. Some areas closed in winter. Check access dates.

6) Meeman-Shelby Forest WMA and State Park

Several miles of hiking trails through the bluffs and bottomland hardwood forests are present. In spring, look and listen for Cerulean Warblers. Trails open year round, but some areas are closed at times.

7) Eagle Lake Refuge

Viewing tower provides views of shorebirds in spring and fall and waterfowl in winter. Check access dates and times.

8) Wolf River WMA (and Ghost River SNA)

Mineral Slough Boardwalk through floodplain forest is open year round. Spring and fall are best times for songbirds. Check access dates.

9) Shelton Ferry WMA

A recently built boardwalk travels through a wetland, providing opportunities for viewing a variety of wildlife. Check access dates.

10) Cheatham Lake WMA

The Bicentennial Trail, a 3.7 mile mostly paved trail, runs along the edge of the WMA providing access to wooded hillsides and flooded swamps is open year round. Other WMA access points include Dyson Ditch and Pardue Pond, which can be good shorebird spots. Bald Eagles are seen year round. Check access dates.

11) Williamsport WMA

No designated trails or viewing areas, but the area has several ponds and open fields that provide great opportunities for viewing waterbirds, waterfowl, Bald Eagles, and other wildlife. Check access dates.

12) Yanahli WMA

Hiking/horse trails are present (check access dates with hunting seasons). Early successional habitat provides for Field Sparrows, Northern Bobwhite, and other "open land" species. Check access dates.