

Bear Creek Lake State Park

Nestled in the heart of the Cumberland State Forest in central Virginia, Bear Creek Lake is 329 acres of hardwood and pine forests, riparian areas, vernal pools, creeks and old fields. Such a wide range of habitat support a diverse array of bird species.

Different seasons bring different birds to the park. Some birds are referred to as “residents” meaning they can be seen throughout the year. Others can be seen as they migrate from the north to the south for warmer climates. In the spring, southern species migrate north to take advantage of the food resources as insects emerge from winter dormancy. Depending on the season and species of birds, some may nest and raise their young in the park while others are just passing through.

This checklist was developed from inventories and observations conducted in the park. Through conservation and management efforts to protect habitats, birds will have a place to call home at Bear Creek Lake State Park. As park managers continue to adapt programs to benefit the coexistence of people and birds, we can expect to see a diversity of birds flying over for visitors and future visitors to see and enjoy.



**For all those Jr. Rangers,
check out the bird
behavior scavenger hunt
on the back of this guide.**

Bird Watching

Whether you are a veteran bird watcher or just an observer during a walk through the park, you can see many birds in action building nests and searching for food. Look for birds flying overhead or within the forests and fields. Don't just use your eyes, listen out for the unique calls and songs. Happy birding.

It is also important to keep in mind, if you are out hiking and come upon a bird's nest, you shouldn't collect, touch, or disturb the birds or their nests. It is also prohibited to collect feathers.

Please take only picture and leave it for others to enjoy.

Bird Behavior Scavenger Hunt

- Singing or calling
- Flying
- Perched
- Swimming
- Climbing the trunk of a tree
- Hanging upside down from a branch
- Feeding
- A group of birds, also called a flock
- Preening (sometimes looks as if it is nibbling or combing its feathers with its beak)
- Walking or hopping across the ground



Bear Creek Lake State Park
22 Bear Creek Lake Road
Cumberland, VA 23040
Phone 804-492-4410

Bear Creek Lake State Park

**Common Birds
of Central Virginia
and
Bear Creek Lake
State Park**

Check List Guide



Year-round Species

- Canada goose
- Wood duck
- Mallard
- Wild turkey
- Great blue heron
- Black vulture
- Turkey vulture
- Red-shouldered hawk
- Red-tailed hawk
- Barred Owl
- Eastern screech owl
- Great horned owl
- Mourning dove
- Belted kingfisher
- Red-bellied woodpecker
- Red-headed woodpecker
- Downy woodpecker
- Northern flicker
- Pileated woodpecker
- Eastern phoebe
- Blue jay
- American crow
- Carolina chickadee
- Tufted titmouse
- White-breasted nuthatch
- Carolina wren
- Eastern bluebird
- American robin
- Cedar waxwing
- Northern mockingbird
- Song sparrow
- Northern cardinal
- House finch
- American goldfinch
- Bald eagle

Summer Species

- Green heron
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Killdeer
- Osprey
- Yellow-billed cuckoo
- Chimney swift
- Ruby-throated hummingbird
- Eastern wood-pewee
- Acadian flycatcher
- Great-crested flycatcher
- Eastern kingbird
- White-eyed vireo
- Red-eyed vireo
- Tree swallow
- Barn swallow
- Blue-gray gnatcatcher
- Gray catbird
- Wood thrush
- Ovenbird
- Common yellowthroat
- Summer tanager
- Scarlet tanager
- Indigo bunting
- Orchard oriole
- Chipping sparrow
- Louisiana waterthrush
- Pine warbler
- Northern parula
- Black-and-white warbler
- Yellow-throated warbler
- Hooded warbler
- Meadowlark
- Eastern towhee (rufous-sided towhee)
- Brown-headed cowbird
- Eastern Whip-poor-will

Winter Species

- Bufflehead
- Hooded merganser
- Ruddy duck
- Pied-billed grebe
- Horned grebe
- American coot
- Ring-billed gull
- Sharp-shinned hawk
- American kestrel
- Yellow-bellied sapsucker
- Brown creeper
- Winter wren
- House wren
- Golden-crowned kinglet
- Ruby-crowned kinglet
- Hermit thrush
- Yellow-rumped warbler
- Swamp sparrow
- White-throated sparrow
- Dark-eyed junco
- Purple finch

Alien-Invasive Species

- Rock pigeon
- European starling
- House sparrow

Even if you visit the park during a slower birding period, don't forget that exciting and rare birds can turn up any time.

** NOTE: All bird species are listed under their common names.*