



# ALABAMA BIRDING TRAILS

Teacher Resource Guide



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With over 430 bird species documented in Alabama, there is more to see here than you can imagine. Watching a Bald Eagle feeding babies in the nest near Guntersville State Park? Check! Sitting quietly as dozens of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks literally crash-land into the nearest tree on Dauphin Island? Absolutely! These are just two of the stops along this series of eight trails and 270 stops.

Over 10 years in the making, the system of eight trails highlights the best public locations available to watch birds year-round. Alabama provides critical habitat for hundreds of bird species, from the Endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker to the now flourishing Bald Eagle. Interest in wildlife observation continues to grow, and more and more people want to explore a number of species of plants and animals. The Birding Trails project provides a major attraction for nature-loving tourists, while offering exciting birding opportunities for Alabama's school groups, families, and seasoned birders.

The eight Alabama Birding Trails unify existing and potential birding sites into a series of cohesive trails and loops that are collectively marketed as a part of a statewide system. Thousands of birders and other visitors are already using many of the sites along the various trails annually.

Alabama's Birding Trails offers the public a chain of eight geographic regions known as the following: North Alabama, West Alabama, Appalachian Highlands, Piedmont Plateau, Black Belt Nature and Heritage, Pineywoods, Wiregrass, and Alabama Coastal Birding Trail.

This is a collaborative project. The Alabama Tourism Department has provided much of the funding for this project; The University of Alabama Center for Economic Development is providing the leadership role of facilitation and project scope; The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is providing their depth of knowledge relative to wildlife habitat, birding and previous birding trails experience; The Birmingham Audubon Society has provided experience that only deeply knowledgeable birders could. Chambers of Commerce across the state have taken great pride in this project, as have our Federal partners, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Forest Service, and others.

# Teachers,

Welcome to your **Alabama Birding Trails Resource Guide** to assist you in exploring the great outdoors with your students through birding.

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## How does this fit into my teaching plan?

Use evidence and scientific reasoning to explain characteristic animal behaviors such as building nests to protect young from cold, herding to protect young from predators, attracting mated for breeding by producing special sounds and displaying colorful plumage, transferring pollen or seeds to create conditions for seed germination and growth.

Specialized plant structures such as flower brightness, nectar and odor attract bids that transfer pollen.

The hard outer shell on seeds providing protection prior to germination, affects the probability of successful reproductions of both animals and plants.

## Additional resources you might find helpful:

Contact Audubon's Outreach Director: (205) 719-3678 [birminghamaudubon.org/staff/](http://birminghamaudubon.org/staff/)

**The Audubon Bird Guide** is a free and complete field guide to over 800 species of North American birds, right in your pocket. Built for all experience levels, it will help you identify the birds around you, keep track of the birds you have seen, and get outside to find new birds near you. [aubudon.org/app](http://aubudon.org/app)

**Merlin by Cornell University** is a free app that offers instant bird identification help for 2,000+ North, Central and South American, and European birds. [merlin.allaboutbirds.org](http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org)

**Birding Trails Teacher Workshops:** Want to know when teacher workshops are offered? Fill out this form: [alabamabirdingtrails.com/workshops/](http://alabamabirdingtrails.com/workshops/)

# STATE & NATIONAL RESOURCES







# State & National Resources

Below is a list of resources to help you enjoy Alabama's birder-friendly natural environment.

## Alabama Resources

**The Alabama Department of Conservation:** The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is an executive and administrative department of the State of Alabama created by statute. The Commissioner, appointed by the Governor as a member of his cabinet, advises the Governor and Legislature on management of freshwater fish, wildlife, marine resources, waterway safety, state lands, state parks, and other natural resources. [outdooralabama.com/wildlife/birds](http://outdooralabama.com/wildlife/birds)

**AL Birds:** For the discussion of wild birds, birdwatching and birding related issues (conservation, field trips, etc.) in Alabama. This email/online list serve as an excellent resource for finding out where birds are being seen right now, along with beautiful photos and entertaining commentary. [birding.aba.org/maillist/AL](http://birding.aba.org/maillist/AL)

**Birmingham Audubon Society:** The mission of Birmingham Audubon is to promote conservation and a greater knowledge of birds, their habitat, and the natural world. Birmingham Audubon leads trips across the region and throughout Alabama. They have beginner bird walks, classes to help you become a better birder and lead short and full day trips looking for great birding. [birminghamaudubon.org](http://birminghamaudubon.org)

**Alabama Ornithological Society:** The Alabama Ornithological Society (AOS) is involved in many worthwhile activities. Check out their website to learn more about AOS and the efforts they're currently involved with to promote ethical birding and the conservation of Alabama's natural resources. [aosbirds.org](http://aosbirds.org).

## National Resources

**National Audubon Society:** Protecting waterbird populations has been part of Audubon's mission even before the official establishment of the National Audubon Society. Outrage over the slaughter of millions of waterbirds, particularly egrets and other waders, for the millinery trade led to the foundation of the Massachusetts Audubon Society in 1896. [audubon.org](http://audubon.org)

**eBird:** A real-time, online checklist program, eBird has revolutionized the way that the birding community reports and accesses information about birds. Launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, eBird provides rich data sources for basic information on bird abundance and distribution at a variety of spatial and temporal scales. [ebird.org](http://ebird.org)

**Cornell Lab of Ornithology:** The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a world leader in the study, appreciation, and conservation of birds. Their hallmarks are scientific excellence and technological innovation to advance the understanding of nature and to engage people of all ages in learning about birds and protecting the planet. [birds.cornell.edu](http://birds.cornell.edu)

**All About Birds:** Your online guide to birds and bird watching: [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org).



# OUTDOOR CLASSROOM RESOURCES





# Outdoor Classroom Sites on Alabama's Birding Trails

The Alabama Birding Trails ([alabamabirdingtrails.com](http://alabamabirdingtrails.com)) and the Environmental Educators Association of Alabama (EEAA) are teaming up together with a new and exciting project to bring the classroom to the outdoors! This stimulating project will help to provide young birders with the hands-on tools and information needed to learn and improve birding skills while teaching about Alabama's environment and our abundant natural resources.

The project allows teachers to enhance their teaching tools of incorporating environmental topics into the curricula while actually experiencing the outdoors; this makes learning much more rewarding. The Alabama Birding Trails include over 270 sites from the mountains to the gulf to visit, learn and watch the birds.

The eight regional birding trails throughout Alabama are identified as: North Alabama, West Alabama, Appalachian Highlands, Piedmont Plateau, Black Belt Nature and Heritage, Pineywoods, Wiregrass, and Alabama Coastal Birding Trail. A preliminary total of 58 birding sites throughout these regions have been identified as Outdoor Classrooms. Each region has multiple locations that can be visited in a one-day trip. Visit the website to learn of upcoming events and plan an educational field trip.

Teachers are able to contact the designated outdoor classroom sites directly to make arrangements and develop an excursion suited to their needs. In most cases, a covered pavilion is provided where an outdoor teaching session or sack lunch could be enjoyed.

With over 430 bird species documented in Alabama, the learning experiences are endless. The overall Alabama Birding Trail project itself has been a ten-year long collaborative project: The Alabama Tourism Department has provided much of the funding for this project; The University of Alabama Center for Economic Development is providing the leadership role of facilitation and project scope; The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is providing their depth of knowledge relative to wildlife habitat, birding and previous birding trails experience; The Birmingham Audubon Society has provided experience that only deeply knowledgeable birders could. Chambers of Commerce across the state have taken great pride in this project, as have our Federal partners, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Forest Service, and others.

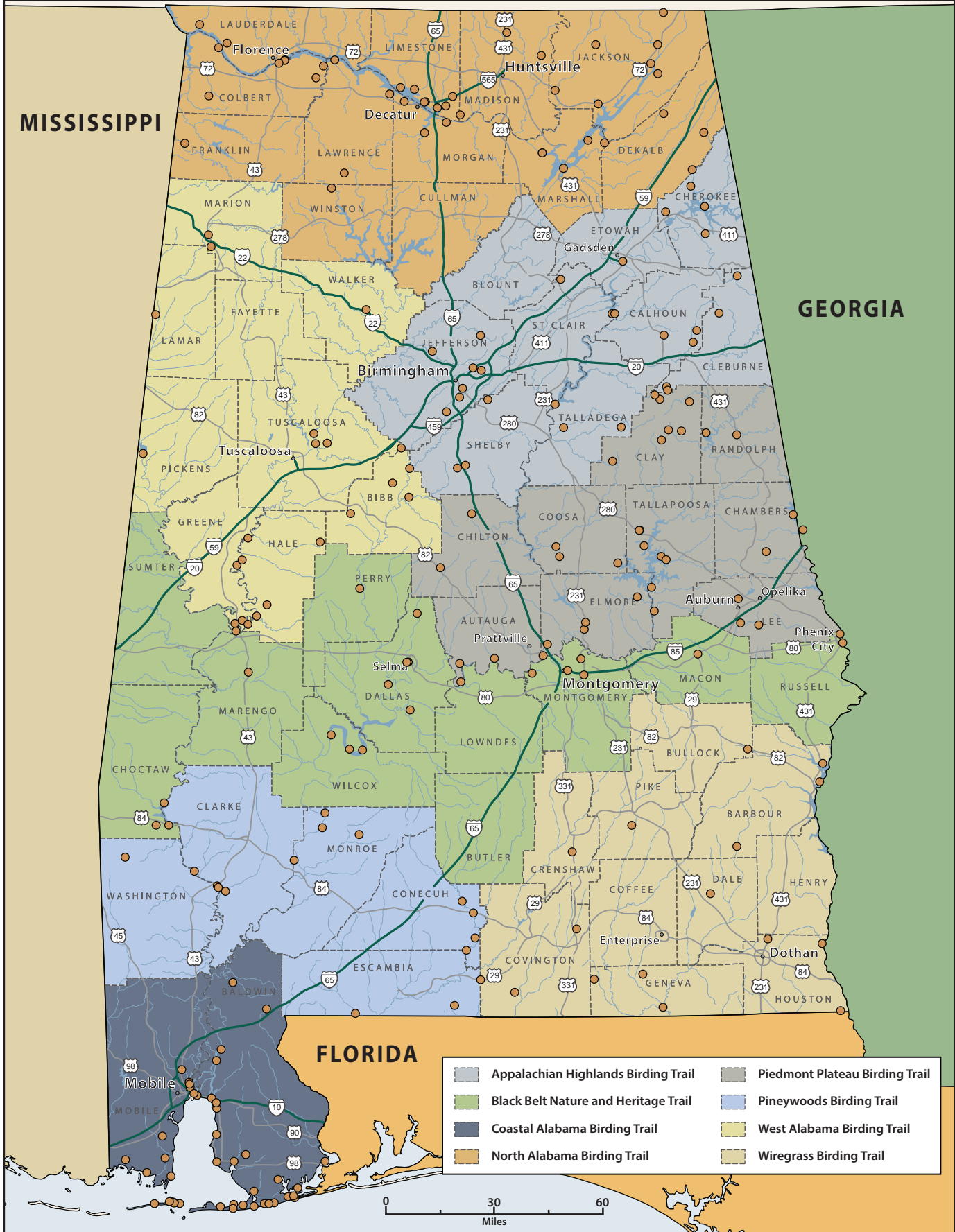


UA Center for Economic Development

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

# Alabama Birding Trails

## Birding Sites



Birding Trail Region	County	City	Outdoor Classroom Location
Coastal Alabama Birding Trail	Baldwin	Spanish Fort	5 Rivers Delta Resource Center
Coastal Alabama Birding Trail	Baldwin	Spanish Fort	Historic Blakely State Park
Coastal Alabama Birding Trail	Baldwin	Gulf Shores	Fort Morgan
Coastal Alabama Birding Trail	Baldwin	Orange Beach	Gulf State Park Nature Center / Education
Wiregrass Birding Trail	Barbour	Eufaula	Lakepoint Resort State Park
Wiregrass Birding Trail	Barbour	Eufaula	Yoholo Micco Park
West Alabama Birding Trail	Bibb	Brierfield	Brierfield Iron Works Historical State Park
West Alabama Birding Trail	Bibb	West Blocton	Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge
Appalachain Highlands Birding Trail	Blount	Oneonta	Horton Mill Covered Bridge
Appalachain Highlands Birding Trail	Blount	Oneonta	Palisades Park
Wiregrass Birding Trail	Bullock	Midway	Wehle
Black Belt Nature and Heritage Trail	Butler	Greenville	Sherling Lake Park
Appalachain Highlands Birding Trail	Calhoun	Anniston	Mountain Longleaf National Wildlife Refuge
Appalachain Highlands Birding Trail	Cherokee	Fort Payne	Little River Canyon Center
Piedmont Plateau Birding Trail	Chilton	Verbena	Confederate Memorial Park
Pineywoods Birding Trail	Clarke	Thomasville	Bashi Creek Public Use Area
Pineywoods Birding Trail	Clarke	Whatley	Silver Creek Park
Appalachain Highlands Birding Trail	Cleburne	Heflin	Talladega Mountains Natural Resource Center
Wiregrass Birding Trail	Covington	Floral	Floral Wetlands Park
North Alabama Birding Trail	Cullman	Vinemont	Hurricane Creek Park
Black Belt Nature and Heritage Trail	Dallas	Selma	Old Cahawba Archaeological Park
Piedmont Plateau Birding Trail	Elmore	Wetumpka	Fort Toulouse
Pineywoods Birding Trail	Escambia	Atmore	Little River State Forest
Appalachain Highlands Birding Trail	Etowah	Gadsden	James D. Martin Wildlife Park
Black Belt Nature and Heritage Trail	Greene	Demopolis	Forkland Campground
West Alabama Birding Trail	Hale	Moundville	Moundville Archeological Park
Wiregrass Birding Trail	Henry	Fort Gaines, GA	Walter F. George Dam
Wiregrass Birding Trail	Houston	Dothon	Landmark Park
North Alabama Birding Trail	Jackson	Scottsboro	Goose Pond Colony
Appalachain Highlands Birding Trail	Jefferson	Birmingham	Birmingham Zoo
Appalachain Highlands Birding Trail	Jefferson	Birmingham	Ruffner Mountain Nature Center and Preserve
Appalachain Highlands Birding Trail	Jefferson	McCalla	Tannehill Ironworks Historical Park
North Alabama Birding Trail	Lauderdale	Rogersville	Joe Wheeler State Park
North Alabama Birding Trail	Lauderdale	Florence	Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge
Piedmont Plateau Birding Trail	Lee	Opelika	Opelika Wood Duck Heritage Preserve and Siddique National Park
Black Belt Nature and Heritage Trail	Lowndes	Lowndesboro	Holy Ground Battlefield Park
Black Belt Nature and Heritage Trail	Lowndes	Lowndesboro	Prairie Creek Campground
Black Belt Nature and Heritage Trail	Lowndes	Selma	Robert F. Henry Lock and Dam
Black Belt Nature and Heritage Trail	Macon	Tuskegee	Tuskegee National Forest
North Alabama Birding Trail	Madison	Huntsville	Hays Nature Preserve
North Alabama Birding Trail	Madison	Huntsville	Monte Sano State Park
Black Belt Nature and Heritage Trail	Marengo	Demopolis	Foscoe Creek Park
Black Belt Nature and Heritage Trail	Marengo	Demopolis	Spillway Falls Park
North Alabama Birding Trail	Marshall	Guntersville	Guntersville State Park, Town Creek and
Coastal Alabama Birding Trail	Mobile	Dauphin Island	Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuary
Pineywoods Birding Trail	Monroe	Franklin	Claiborne Dam Site East Park
Pineywoods Birding Trail	Monroe	Franklin	Haines Island Park
Black Belt Nature and Heritage Trail	Montgomery	Montgomery	Montgomery Zoo
North Alabama Birding Trail	Morgan	Decatur	Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge
West Alabama Birding Trail	Pickens	Pickensville	Tom Bevill Lock and Dam Visitors Center
Piedmont Plateau Birding Trail	Randolph	Wadley	Southern Union State Community College
Appalachain Highlands Birding Trail	Shelby	Pelham	Oak Mountain State Park
Black Belt Nature and Heritage Trail	Sumter	Livingston	Lake Livingston and Trails
Piedmont Plateau Birding Trail	Tallapoosa	Daviston	Horseshoe Bend National Military Park
West Alabama Birding Trail	Tuscaloosa	Coker	Lake Lurleen State Pak
West Alabama Birding Trail	Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa	University of Alabama Arboretum
Pineywoods Birding Trail	Washington	St. Stephens	Old St. Stephens Historical Park
Black Belt Nature and Heritage Trail	Wilcox	Alberta	Chilatchee Creek Park



# Alabama Birding Trails



## Alabama Birding Trails Outdoor Classroom Information

<https://alabamabirdingtrails.com/>

### West Alabama Birding Trail:

**Brierfield Iron Works**, located in Brierfield in Bibb County. The facility is a State Historical Park. Contact to schedule an outdoor classroom experience is Teresa Acker, phone (205) 665-1856 or [brierfield@att.net](mailto:brierfield@att.net); staff is not available for educational programming. The facility is staffed and open from 5 am – 9 pm. The facility has restrooms, 4 covered pavilions, is suitable for grades 3-8; can hold up to 500, car or bus parking is available near the facility. Fees are \$3/ages 6 - 11; \$4/ages 12 - 61; Ages 5 and under free; snacks and drinks are available for purchase at the gift shop. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 33.0394444; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -86.9488889.**

**Cahaba River NWR**, located in Bibb County. Contact to schedule an outdoor classroom experience is Keith Westlake, phone (256)-848-6833 or [cahabariver@fws.gov](mailto:cahabariver@fws.gov). The facility is not staffed at all times, but educational programming can be scheduled by contacting Mr. Westlake. The facility is open from dawn to dusk. There are no restrooms, or covered pavilions, but is suitable for grades 3-8. Car or bus parking is available near the facility. There is no fee, food or drink or gift shop. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 33.0931632; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -87.0593142**

**Forkland, AL**, located in Greene County. Contact to schedule an outdoor classroom experience is Mr. Chip Dixon with the Corps of Engineers; phone: 334-289-3540 or [Larry.e.dixon11@usace.army.mil](mailto:Larry.e.dixon11@usace.army.mil). The facility is staffed and open from 6 am – 10 pm. The facility has a restroom, a covered pavilion that can hold up to 30, is suitable for grades 3-8; car or bus parking is available. There is no food/drink or gift shop at the facility. Fee: there is no entry fee. Educational programming can be scheduled by contacting Mr. Dixon. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 32.6268205; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -87.883098**

**Lake Lurleen**, located in Coker Alabama in Tuscaloosa County. The facility is a State Park. Contact Dee White, phone: 205-339-1558 or [dee.white@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:dee.white@dcnr.alabama.gov) one month prior to event to schedule an outdoor classroom experience. The facility is staffed and open from 8 am – 4 pm. The facility has restrooms, 4 covered pavilions that hold 60 people each, is suitable for grades 3-8, car or bus parking is available. Fees: School rate - \$2 per person and age 0-3 are free; \$2/ages 4-11; \$4/ages 12 - 61; Contact the Office for group rates: Dee White: (205-339-1558). **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 33.2959514; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -87.676437**

**Moundville Archaeological Park**, located in Moundville, AL in Hale County. The facility is owned by The University of Alabama. Contact Kenric Minges [lkminges@ua.edu](mailto:lkminges@ua.edu); Kayla Scott [kcscott1@ua.edu](mailto:kcscott1@ua.edu) or Lisa Rasco [llrasco@ua.edu](mailto:llrasco@ua.edu) or 205-371-8732 to schedule an outdoor classroom experience and educational programming. The facility is staffed and open from 9 am – 4 pm. The facility has restrooms, covered pavilions, car and bus parking and is suitable for grades 3-8. Visit the on-site café for the purchase of drinks/muffins; students can bring a sack lunch; or contact Kayla/Lisa to arrange for catering, i.e. Subway, etc. Fee: Call Kayla or Lisa for group rates; \$6 per student; \$8 per adult; 1 Teacher free per 15 students; under 5 free. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 33.002722; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -87.628139**



**Tannehill State Historical Park**, located in McCalla, AL in Tuscaloosa County. The facility is a State Historical Park. Contact Debra Lustre (205) 477-5711 to schedule an outdoor classroom experience. **GPS Coordinate Latitude:33.24497; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -87.06907**

**Tom Bevill Lock & Dam**, located in Pickensville in Pickens County. The facility is managed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Contact Bill Campbell, phone: 662-245-5500 or [william.j.campbell@usace.army.mil](mailto:william.j.campbell@usace.army.mil) or the Park Ranger to schedule an outdoor classroom experience. The facility has restrooms, a covered pavilion and is suitable for grades 3-8. The facility is staffed and open 9 am – 5 pm. Bus parking is available. No gift shop or food is available on site, but can bring a sack lunch and drinks. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 33.2124955; GPS Coordinate Longitude: --88.2823793.**

**UA Arboretum**, located in Tuscaloosa, AL in Tuscaloosa County. The facility is managed by The University of Alabama. Contact Monica Watkins, phone: (205) 553-3278 or [mhmwatkins@ua.edu](mailto:mhmwatkins@ua.edu) to schedule an outdoor classroom experience. The facility has restrooms, a covered pavilion and is suitable for grades 3-8. The facility is open 8 am – sunset. Parking is limited; must contact Arboretum staff for special parking. Parking on grass or any area other than gravel/road is prohibited. Large groups are encouraged to park at the old golf course parking lot and walk to the Arboretum via the trails. Main visitor parking lot is located uphill from the Pavilion and greenhouses. A secondary small parking lot is available adjacent to the Children's Garden. Fee: no entry fee, however donations are appreciated. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 33.192138; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -87.478184.**

**Walker County Lake**, located in Jasper, AL. The facility is managed by Charlie Skalnik, Lake Manager. Phone : 205-221-1801 The facility has a gazebo and pavilion; the gazebo is near the nature trail head where concrete picnic tables are. The pavilion has 8 wooden picnic tables and is near a concession building where the restrooms are located. Central Alabama's destination for family-friendly outdoor fun. Our 163-acre lake provides recreational opportunities for every age and skill level, with new activities and amenities being added all the time. In our neck of the woods, the scenery is so remarkable, we've had a pair of bald eagles move in! Our current two-mile trail system will soon grow to five miles, giving guests more access to unique avian habitats. Before you go, visit [alabamabirdingtrails.com](http://alabamabirdingtrails.com) to see what you'll find on our section of the West Alabama Birding Trail. [www.walkercountylake.com](http://www.walkercountylake.com) Address: 4227 Walker County Lake Road, Jasper, AL 35501 **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 33.806270; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -87.234800.**

## Appalachian Highlands Birding Trail

**Birmingham Zoo**, located in Birmingham, Alabama in Jefferson County. The contact is Kathy Fournier, Schools Program Manager, 205-397-3862; [kfournier@birminghamzoo.com](mailto:kfournier@birminghamzoo.com). Other contacts are: Taylor Dillinger; (205) 870-5230 or [groups@birminghamzoo.com](mailto:groups@birminghamzoo.com); and Roger Torbert; 205-879-0409 or [rtorbert@birminghamzoo.com](mailto:rtorbert@birminghamzoo.com). The facility has restrooms, a covered pavilion for 200+ and is suitable for grades 3-8. The facility is staffed and open 9 am – 5 pm. Car and bus parking are available. Gift shops and food is available on site. There is a fee, for a fee schedule, contact Taylor Dillinger at (205) 870-5230 or [groups@birminghamzoo.com](mailto:groups@birminghamzoo.com). **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 33.48942; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -86.77877.**

**Horton Mill Covered Bridge**, located in Oneonta, Alabama in Blount County. The contact is John Bullard, 205-625-6868x 1 or [jbullard@blountcountyal.gov](mailto:jbullard@blountcountyal.gov). The facility is not staffed, does not have restrooms, food or drinks, a gift shop or a covered pavilion and does not have parking for a school bus, but is suitable for a teacher-guided tour for grades 3-8. The facility is open from dusk to dawn. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 34.007644 ; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -86.44863.**

**James D. Martin Park**, located in Gadsden, Alabama in Etowah County. The contact is Christina Richardson; 256-549-4663 or [crichardson@cityofgadsden.com](mailto:crichardson@cityofgadsden.com); a second contact is Jennifer Gipson; 256-549-4680 or

[jgipson@cityofgadsden.com](mailto:jgipson@cityofgadsden.com). The facility is not staffed, does not have restrooms, food or drink or a gift shop, but has a covered pavilion, bus parking, and is suitable for a teacher-guided tour for grades 3-8. The facility holds 500+ people, and is open from 8 am – 5 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 33.997351; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -86.008322.**

**Little River Canyon Center**, located in Fort Payne, Alabama in Dekalb and Cherokee Counties. The contact is Larry Beane; 256- 845-9605 or [larry\\_beane@nps.gov](mailto:larry_beane@nps.gov) of the National Park Service and is managed by Jacksonville State University. A second contact is Niki Parrot-Wayner at Jacksonville State University – 256-845-3548 or [jwayner@jsu.edu](mailto:jwayner@jsu.edu). The facility has restrooms, a covered pavilion for 40 – 100; drinks only – no food is available; has a gift shop and is suitable for grades 3-8. The facility is staffed and open 8 am – 4 pm. Car and bus parking are available. No fees are charged if reservations are made through Larry Beans; however if educational programming is requested, reservations must be made through Niki Parrot-Wayner at Jacksonville State University at 256-845-3548 or [jwayner@jsu.edu](mailto:jwayner@jsu.edu). **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 34.3987365 ; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -85.6343736.**

**Mountain Longleaf National Wildlife Refuge**, located in Anniston, Alabama in Calhoun County. Contact is Keith Westlake; 256-848-6833 or [Donald\\_westlake@fws.gov](mailto:Donald_westlake@fws.gov). The facility is managed by the U. S. Fish & Wildlife. The facility is staffed, does not have restrooms, food or drink; gift shop or a covered pavilion, but has an overlook. The site holds 50 people; offers no bus parking, and requires a 4-wheel drive vehicle, but is suitable for a grades 3 – 8. Contact Keith Westlake for educational programming at 256-848-6833 or [Donald\\_westlake@fws.gov](mailto:Donald_westlake@fws.gov). The facility is open from 7 am – 3:30 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 33.7184; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -85.7092.**

**Palisades Park**, located in Oneonta, Alabama in Blount County. The contact is John Bullard, 205-625-6868x 1 or [jbullard@blountcountyal.gov](mailto:jbullard@blountcountyal.gov). A second contact is the Park Manager, Jeff Todd at 205-274-0017 The facility is staffed, has restrooms, a covered pavilion that holds 200+, no food, drinks or a gift shop are available, but does have bus parking and is suitable for a teacher-guided tour for grades 3-8. Educational programming is available by contacting Jeff Todd, the Park Manager at 205-274-0017. The facility is open from 9 am – 5 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 33.996319; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -86.414852.**

**Oak Mountain State Park**, located in Pelham, Alabama in Shelby County. The contact is Scottie Jackson at the AL Wildlife Center; 205-663-7930 or [sjackson@awrc.org](mailto:sjackson@awrc.org). A second contact is David Frings at the Oak Mountain Interpretive Center; [dmfrings@samford.edu](mailto:dmfrings@samford.edu). The facility is managed by the Alabama Wildlife Center and the Oak Mountain Interpretive Center. The facility is staffed and has restrooms, a covered pavilion that holds 100+, a gift shop and is suitable a day trip grades 3 – 8. Bus and car parking are available; food and drinks are not available. The facility is open 9 am – 5 pm. Fees are required: to make reservations, contact Scottie Jackson: [sjackson@awrc.org](mailto:sjackson@awrc.org) or David Frings: [dmfrings@samford.edu](mailto:dmfrings@samford.edu) Fees: 3 and under free; 4 - 11 \$2; 12-61 \$5; 62 up \$2; David Frings: contact: [dmfrings@samford.edu](mailto:dmfrings@samford.edu). **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 33.322058; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -86.751468.**

**Ruffner Mountain**, located in Birmingham, Alabama in Jefferson County. The contact is Christine Johnston, 205-833-8264 or [Christine@ruffnermountain.org](mailto:Christine@ruffnermountain.org). The facility is privately funded and managed. The facility is staffed and has restrooms, and covered pavilions as well as an indoor classroom that holds 75 – 100; bus parking is available. No food/drink is available, but a small gift shop. For educational programming contact: Christine Johnston, 205-833-8264 or [Christine@ruffnermountain.org](mailto:Christine@ruffnermountain.org). The facility is open from 9 am – 5 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 33.558207; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -86.707493.**

**Talladega Mountain Natural Resource Center**, located in Heflin, Alabama in Cleburne County. The facility is managed by Jacksonville State University and the Talladega National Forest. The contact is Kim Brown, Interim Administrator; 256-463-3827. A second contact is Jean Hemby; 256- 463-3899. The facility is staffed, has restrooms, a covered pavilion that holds 100 and bus parking; NO food/drink or gift shop. For educational

programming contact Pete Conroy at Jacksonville State University; 256-282-5784 or [pconroy@jsu.edu](mailto:pconroy@jsu.edu). The facility is open from 9 am – 5 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 33.6691225; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -85.5612527.**

**AL/GA Land Trust: Renee Randy** [renee.raney@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:renee.raney@dcnr.alabama.gov)

## Piedmont Plateau Birding Trail

**Confederate Memorial Park**, located in Marbury, Alabama in Chilton County. The facility is a Historic Site. The contact is Bill Rambo; 205-755-1990; [alacmp@bellsouth.net](mailto:alacmp@bellsouth.net); A second contact is Calvin Chappelle, 205-755-1990; [Chappelle.cmp@gmail.com](mailto:Chappelle.cmp@gmail.com). The facility is staffed, has restrooms, covered pavilion that holds 200+, bus parking and is suitable for grades 3 – 8. There is no food/drinks, but does have a gift shop on site. Fees: \$2/per to tour Museum; outside events are free; contact Bill Rambo or Calvin Chappelle for reservations at 205-755-1990. The facility is open from 9 am – 4:30 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 32.7190089; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -86.473942.**

**Fort Toulouse** is located in Wetumpka, Alabama in Elmore County. The facility is a Historic site. The contact is Ove Jensen, 334-567-3002; [ove.jensenahc@gmail.com](mailto:ove.jensenahc@gmail.com). The facility is staffed, has restrooms, covered pavilion that holds 50 – 60; bus parking; and a small gift shop. There is no food and drink available on site. Fees: are \$1 per person; or educational programming and reservations, contact Ove Jensen; [ove.jensenahc@gmail.com](mailto:ove.jensenahc@gmail.com). The facility is open from 8 am – 5 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 32.5085368; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -86.2510403.**

**Horsheshoe Bend National Military Park**, is located in Daviston, Alabama in Tallapoosa County. The facility is a National Military Park. Contact is Eric Frey, 256-234-7111 or [eric\\_frey@nps.gov](mailto:eric_frey@nps.gov). The facility is staffed,, has restrooms, covered pavilion that holds 200+, has bus parking, and a gift shop. No food or drink are available. There is no entrance fee. For educational programming and to make reservations, contact Eric Frey, 256-234-7111 or [eric\\_frey@nps.gov](mailto:eric_frey@nps.gov). The facility is open from 9 am – 4:30 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 32.9795086; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -85.736777.**

**Opelika Wood Duck Heritage Preserve**, is located in Opelika, Alabama in Lee County. The facility is managed by the Wood Duck Heritage Preserve. The contact is Gene Hunter, 334-705-5560, [hunters56@earthlink.net](mailto:hunters56@earthlink.net). A second contact is Matt Battles; 334-705-5549; [mbattles@opelika-al.gov](mailto:mbattles@opelika-al.gov). The facility is not staffed, has portable restrooms; a covered pavilion that holds 50 – 100, bus parking and is suitable for grades 3 – 8. There is no entrance fee, no food or drink availability and no gift shop. For educational programming through the “Friends of Duck Park”, contact Matt Battles, 334-705-5547. The facility is open dawn to dusk. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 32.39231; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -85.25849.**

**Southern Union State Community College**, is located in Wadley, Alabama in Randolph County. The contact is Shondae Brown, 256-395-2211 or 334-756-4151 or [sbrown@suscc.edu](mailto:sbrown@suscc.edu). The facility is staffed, has restrooms, food and drink availability, parking for school bus and is appropriate for grades 3 – 8. There is no Fee. There is no pavilion for this site and no gift shop. The hours of the facility are 8 am – 4 pm Monday through Thursday. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 33.1265227; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -85.571199.**

## Black Belt Birding Trail

**Chilatchee Creek Park**, is located in Alberta, Alabama in Wilcox County. The facility is managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The contact is Frank McIntosh, 334-872-9554; [henry.f.mcintosh@usace.army.mil](mailto:henry.f.mcintosh@usace.army.mil). The facility is staffed, has restrooms, a covered pavilion that holds 100 and car and bus parking. There is no Fee, food/drink availability, or gift shop. The facility is appropriate for grades 3 – 8. For educational programming and to make a

reservation, contact Frank McIntosh, 334-872-9554; [henry.f.mcintosh@usace.army.mil](mailto:henry.f.mcintosh@usace.army.mil). The facility is open from 8 am – 4 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 32.143268; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -87.288635.**

**Holy Grounds Battlefield Park**, is located in Haneyville, Alabama in Lowndes County. The facility is managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The contact is Frank McIntosh, 334-872-9554; [henry.f.mcintosh@usace.army.mil](mailto:henry.f.mcintosh@usace.army.mil). The facility is not staffed, has restrooms, a covered pavilion that holds 250 and has car and bus parking. There is no Fee, and is appropriate for grades 3 – 8. There is no food/drink availability, or gift shop. For educational programming and to make a reservation, contact Frank McIntosh, 334-872-9554; [henry.f.mcintosh@usace.army.mil](mailto:henry.f.mcintosh@usace.army.mil). The facility is open from April 1 - Labor Day from 8 am – 4 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: N 32.345669; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -86.679904.**

**Foscue Creek Park**, is located in Demopolis, Alabama in Marengo County. The facility is managed by the U. S. Corps of Engineers. The contact is Chip Dixon, 334-289-3540 or [Larry.e.dixonII@usace.army.mil](mailto:Larry.e.dixonII@usace.army.mil). The facility is staffed, has restrooms, a covered pavilion that holds 200, bus parking and is suitable for grades 3 – 8. There is no Fee, food/drink availability or gift shop. For educational programming or to make a reservation contact: Chip Dixon, 334-289-3540 or [Larry.e.dixonII@usace.army.mil](mailto:Larry.e.dixonII@usace.army.mil). The facility is open from dusk to dawn. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 32.512838; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -87.87181.**

**Lake Livingston**, is located in Livingston, Alabama in Sumter County. The facility is managed by the University of West Alabama. The contact is Robby Limerick, 205-652-9266 or [Irr@uwa.edu](mailto:Irr@uwa.edu). A second contact is Tina Jones, 205-652-3833 or [tnj@uwa.edu](mailto:tnj@uwa.edu). The facility is staffed, has restrooms, a covered pavilion that holds 50, car and bus parking and is suitable for grades 3 – 8. There is no food/drink availability or gift shop. For a Fee schedule, to make reservations and schedule educational programming, contact: Robby Limerick, 205-652-9266 or Tina Jones, 205-652-3833. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 32.602958; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -88.189811.**

**Montgomery Zoo**, is located in Montgomery, Alabama in Montgomery County. The contact for school programming is Suzie Fontaine, 334-240-4904 or [sfontaine@montgomeryal.gov](mailto:sfontaine@montgomeryal.gov). For reservations, contact the Reservations Office at 334-625-4900. The facility is staffed, has restrooms, a covered pavilion that holds 80, food and drink availability and a gift shop. There is a Fee, e-mail [montgomeryzoo.com](http://montgomeryzoo.com) for fee schedule. For educational programming, contact: Suzie Fontaine, 334-240-4904 or [sfontaine@montgomeryal.gov](mailto:sfontaine@montgomeryal.gov). The facility is open from 9 am – 5 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: N 32.418986; GPS Coordinate Longitude: W -86.274955.**

**Old Cahawba**, is located in Orrville, Alabama in Dallas County. The organization is managed by Linda Derry, 334-872-8058. A second contact is Jonathan Matthews, Assistant Site Director, 334-872-8058; [cahawbaM@bellsouth.net](mailto:cahawbaM@bellsouth.net). The facility is staffed, has restrooms, covered pavilion, and has a wagon tour that holds 30. The facility has car and bus parking, vending machines and a small gift shop. Fee: Admission \$1 under 18; \$2 over 18; walking tours and step-on guide tours are \$8; Wagon tours available - minimum of \$150 – Contact Jonathan Matthews, Assistant Site Director, 334-872-8058; [cahawbaM@bellsouth.net](mailto:cahawbaM@bellsouth.net) for reservations and to schedule educational programming. The facility is open Thursday - Monday - 12 noon - 5 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: N 32.32963; GPS Coordinate Longitude: W 87.10463.**

**Sherling Lake Park**, is located in Greenville, Alabama in Butler County. The contact is Bill Smith, 334-382-3638 (Campground Park Number). A second contact is Mike Watson, 334-382-3638. The facility is staffed, has restrooms, covered pavilion that holds 40 – 50; has car and bus parking. No educational programming is available, no food/drink availability and no gift shop. Fee for the pavilion is \$60, reservations must be confirmed with Bill Smith or Mike Watson at 334-382-3638 (Campground Park Number). The facility is open 7 am – 4:30 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: N 31.896729; GPS Coordinate Longitude: W -86.67264.**

**Spillway Falls Park**, is located in Demopolis, Alabama in Marengo County. The facility is managed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. The contact is Chip Dixon, 334-289-3540 or [Larry.e.dixonII@usace.army.mil](mailto:Larry.e.dixonII@usace.army.mil). The facility

is staffed, has restrooms, covered pavilion that holds 125+. There is no Fee, food/drink availability or gift shop. For educational programming or to make a reservation contact: Chip Dixon, 334-289-3540 or [Larry.e.dixonII@usace.army.mil](mailto:Larry.e.dixonII@usace.army.mil) or the Park Manager. The facility is open from 6 am – 10 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: N 32.52032; GPS Coordinate Longitude: W -87.884865.**

**Tuskegee National Forest**, is located in Tuskegee, Alabama in Macon County. The facility is a National Forest. The contact is Drew Brown, 334-727-2652 or [andrewbrown@fs.fed.us](mailto:andrewbrown@fs.fed.us). A second contact is Cameron Seals, 334-727-2652. The facility is staffed, has restrooms, a covered pavilion that holds 100, car and bus parking, and is suitable for grades 3 – 8. To inquire about educational programming, contact Drew Brown, 334-727-2652 or [andrewbrown@fs.fed.us](mailto:andrewbrown@fs.fed.us). There is no gift shop, food/drink availability. The hours of the facility are: 9 am – 5 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 32.46835; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -85.57703.**

## Pineywoods Birding Trail

**Bashi Creek**, is located in Morvin, Alabama in Clarke County. The facility is managed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. The contact is Chip Dixon, 334-289-3540 or [Larry.e.dixonII@usace.army.mil](mailto:Larry.e.dixonII@usace.army.mil). The facility does not have, a covered pavilion, no bus parking, no food/drink availability or gift shop. For educational programming or to make a reservation contact: Chip Dixon, 334-289-3540 or [Larry.e.dixonII@usace.army.mil](mailto:Larry.e.dixonII@usace.army.mil) or the Park Manager. The facility is open from 9 am – 5 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: N 32.46835; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -85.57703.**

**Claiborne Dam East**, is located in Monroeville, Alabama in Monroe County. The facility is managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The contact is Frank McIntosh, 334-872-9554; [henry.f.mcintosh@usace.army.mil](mailto:henry.f.mcintosh@usace.army.mil). The facility is staffed, has restrooms, a covered pavilion that holds 200 and has car and bus parking. There is no Fee, and is appropriate for grades 3 – 8. There is no food/drink availability, or gift shop. For educational programming and to make a reservation, contact Frank McIntosh, 334-872-9554; [henry.f.mcintosh@usace.army.mil](mailto:henry.f.mcintosh@usace.army.mil). The facility is open 8 am – 4 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: N 31° 36.960; GPS Coordinate Longitude: W 87° 32.445.**

**Haines Island Park**, is located in Monroeville, Alabama in Monroe County. The facility is managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The contact is Frank McIntosh, 334-872-9554; [henry.f.mcintosh@usace.army.mil](mailto:henry.f.mcintosh@usace.army.mil). The facility is not staffed, has restrooms, no covered pavilion, and has car and bus parking on a dirt road. There is no Fee, and is appropriate for grades 3 – 8. There is no food/drink availability, or gift shop. For educational programming and to make a reservation, contact Frank McIntosh, 334-872-9554; [henry.f.mcintosh@usace.army.mil](mailto:henry.f.mcintosh@usace.army.mil). The facility is open 8 am – 4 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: N 31° 43.248; GPS Coordinate Longitude: W 87° 27.791.**

**Little River State Forest**, is located in Atmore, Alabama in Escambia County. The facility is managed by Alabama Forestry Commission. The contact is Pamela Bradley, 251-743-2350 or [pamela.bradley@forestry.alabama.gov](mailto:pamela.bradley@forestry.alabama.gov). The facility is not staffed, has restrooms, a covered pavilion that holds 100+and has car and bus parking. There is a Fee, contact Pamela Bradley, 251-743-2350 or [pamela.bradley@forestry.alabama.gov](mailto:pamela.bradley@forestry.alabama.gov) to make a reservation. The facility is appropriate for grades 3 – 8. There is no food/drink availability, or gift shop. The facility is open from 8 am – 5 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: N 31° 15.488; GPS Coordinate Longitude: W 87°29.234'.**

**Old St. Stephens**, is located in St. Stephens, Alabama in Washington County. The facility is a historical site. The contact is Jennifer Faith, Park Director, 251-247-2622, [jenniferfaith@att.net](mailto:jenniferfaith@att.net). The facility is staffed, has restrooms, a covered pavilion that holds 50 – 200, and has car and bus parking. There is a Fee, adult \$3; children 11 and under \$2 contact Jennifer Faith, Park Director, 251-247-2622, [jenniferfaith@att.net](mailto:jenniferfaith@att.net) to make a reservation. The facility is appropriate for grades 3 – 8. There are vending machines and a gift shop. The facility is open from 9 am – 5 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 31.33068; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -88.03058.**

**Silver Creek Park**, is located in Grove Hill, Alabama in Clarke County. The facility is managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The contact is Frank McIntosh, 334-872-9554; [henry.f.mcintosh@usace.army.mil](mailto:henry.f.mcintosh@usace.army.mil). The facility is not staffed, has restrooms, a covered pavilion that holds 100, and has car and bus parking. There is no Fee, and is appropriate for grades 3 – 8. There is no food/drink availability, or gift shop. For educational programming and to make a reservation, contact Frank McIntosh, 334-872-9554; [henry.f.mcintosh@usace.army.mil](mailto:henry.f.mcintosh@usace.army.mil). The facility is open 8 am – 4 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: N 31° 39.760’; GPS Coordinate Longitude: W 87° 34.729’.**

## Wiregrass Birding Trail

**Floral Wetlands Park**, is located in Floral, Alabama in Covington County. The contact is Wade Masters, Park Manager, 334-858-6425 or [lakejacksonrv@gmail.com](mailto:lakejacksonrv@gmail.com). The facility is staffed, has restrooms, a covered pavilion that holds 30+ and has car and bus parking. There is no Fee, and is appropriate for grades 3 – 8. There is no food/drink availability, or gift shop and no educational programming. To make a reservation, contact Wade Masters, Park Manager, 334-858-6425 or [lakejacksonrv@gmail.com](mailto:lakejacksonrv@gmail.com). The facility is open daylight to dawn. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 31.0027462; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -86.3262676.**

**Lakepoint State Park Resort**, is located in Eufaula, Alabama in Barbour County. The facility is an Alabama State Park. The contact is Sone Kornegay, Sales Director, 800-544-5253 or [sone.kornegay@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:sone.kornegay@dcnr.alabama.gov). A second contact is Rhonda Rachel 1-800-544-5253. The facility is staffed, has restrooms, a covered pavilion that holds 50 – 100 and has car and bus parking. There is a Fee, contact: Sone Kornegay, Sales Director, 800-544-5253 or [sone.kornegay@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:sone.kornegay@dcnr.alabama.gov) to make reservations and schedule educational programming. There is food/drink availability, and a gift shop. The facility is open from 9 am – 5 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 31.985877; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -85.1087675.**

**Landmark Park**, is located in Dothan, Alabama in Houston County. The facility is privately owned. The contact is Anna Holman, Education Director, 334-794-3452, [anna@landmarkparkdothan.com](mailto:anna@landmarkparkdothan.com). A second contact is William Holman, [wmholman@landmarkparkdothan.com](mailto:wmholman@landmarkparkdothan.com). The facility is staffed, has restrooms, a covered pavilion that holds 10 – 500 and has car and bus parking. There is a Fee, and is appropriate for grades 3 – 8. Contact Anna Holman, Education Director, 334-794-3452, [anna@landmarkparkdothan.com](mailto:anna@landmarkparkdothan.com) for a fee schedule, to make reservations and schedule educational programming. There is food/drink availability and a gift shop. The facility is open from 9 am – 5 pm. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 31.2903269; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -85.367728.**

**Walter F. George Dam**, is located in Abbeville, Alabama in Henry County. The facility is managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The contact is Ranger Shannon Schaefer, 229-768-2516, [shannon.L.schaefer@usace.army.mil](mailto:shannon.L.schaefer@usace.army.mil). A second contact is: Sara Jernigan, Natural Resource Manager, Fort Gaines, GA 229-768-2516, [Sara.G.Jernigan@usace.army.mil](mailto:Sara.G.Jernigan@usace.army.mil). The facility at Highland Park Gatehouse is staffed weekends April through Thanksgiving weekend. The Main office is staffed weekdays, except major holidays year round; Weekends May – September. The facility has restrooms, a covered pavilion at Highland Park (must be reserved) that holds 100, and has car and bus parking. There is no entrance fee, however, call ahead to make arrangements (at Highland Park, for most events there is a shelter rental fee of \$75.00 for the day; this fee may be waived by special arrangement for school groups when the shelter is available. There is also a park use fee at Highland Park, which may be waived with prior arrangements for school groups. No fees at the Powerhouse and dam location. The facility is appropriate for grades 3 – 8, however use caution at dam and powerhouse location as high banks are not fenced. To make reservations for pavilion and educational programming, contact Ranger Shannon Schaefer, 229-768-2516, [shannon.L.schaefer@usace.army.mil](mailto:shannon.L.schaefer@usace.army.mil). The hours for the viewing locations at the powerhouse and Highland Park do not close; the shelter area at Highland closes December- March. Our Main Office is located in Ft. Gaines, GA (across the river), hours are 8:00-4:30 M-F, and summer weekends May – Sept 9:30-6:00 ET. Please inquire for

special arrangements with Ranger Schaefer.

**GPS Coordinate Latitude: 31.627452; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -85.098022.**

**Wehle Nature Center**, is located in Midway, Alabama in Bullock County. The Facility is managed by the Wehle Land Conservation Center. The contact is Eric Soehren, 334-529-3003 or [eric.soehren@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:eric.soehren@dcnr.alabama.gov). A second contact is John Trent; 334-529-3003; [john.trent@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:john.trent@dcnr.alabama.gov). The facility is staffed, has restrooms, a covered pavilion that holds 80, car and bus parking, No food/drink availability and no gift shop. There is no entrance fee, or fee for reserving pavilion, however there is a fee for reserving the Nature Center, and dining hall; Visit the website for information on rental fees: <http://www.alabamaforeverwild.com/wehle-facilities-and-rental-fees>. Contact Eric Soehren 334-529-3003 for information on educational programming. For hours of the facility: visit the website: <http://www.alabamaforeverwild.com> for a schedule of facility hours. Alternatively, the Wehle Tract is open to the public daily at the trailhead. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 30.032148; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -85.456321**

**Yoholo Micco Park**, is located in Eufaula, Alabama in Barbour County. The facility is owned and managed by the City of Eufaula, Alabama. The contact is Sherry Burchett, Horticulturist - City of Eufaula, 334-695-1718 (cell), or [sburchett@eufaula.rr.com](mailto:sburchett@eufaula.rr.com). The facility is not staffed, but arrangements can be made for tours and educational programming by contacting Ms. Burchett. The facility does not have restrooms, but are located just across the street. The facility does not have a covered pavilion, but one is available near the park. The park is in the middle of town, so food/drink and shopping are available within easy walking distance. There is no fee, and the park is open dusk to dawn. **GPS Coordinate Latitude: 31.8932043; GPS Coordinate Longitude: -85.1402794.**

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*The Alabama Birding Trails is a partnership of the Alabama Birding Trails, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, The University of Alabama Center for Economic Development, and Birmingham Audubon. This project was made possible in part by the Alabama Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils, the Alabama Tourism Department and many volunteers across Alabama. To learn more about the Alabama Birding Trails program, please contact The University of Alabama Center for Economic Development, 205-348-7058 or visit the website: <http://www.alabamabirdingtrails.com/>*



# ECONOMIC IMPACT OF BIRDING





**280** Sites + **8** Trails  
 in **65** Counties  
 =  
**Great Alabama Birding**



Over 15 years in the making, the system of eight trails highlights the best public locations available to watch birds year-round. Interest in wildlife observation continues to grow, and more and more people want to explore our amazing biodiversity, which makes us second only to Florida in the Eastern U.S. in total number of species of plants and animals. The Birding Trails project provides a major attraction for nature-loving tourists, while offering exciting birding opportunities for Alabama's school groups, families, and seasoned birders.

The eight Alabama Birding Trails unify existing and potential birding sites into a series of cohesive trails and loops that are collectively marketed as part of a state-wide system. Many of the sites along the various trails are already being used by thousands of birders and other visitors annually.

The University of Alabama Center for Economic Development (UCED) is providing the leadership role of facilitation and project scope; The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is providing their depth of knowledge relative to wildlife habitat, birding and previous birding trails experience; The Birmingham Audubon Society has provided experience that only deeply knowledgeable birders could. The Alabama Tourism Department and the Alabama Association of RC&D Councils and UCED have provided funding for the project; Chambers of Commerce across the state have taken great pride in the project, as have our Federal partners, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Forest Service and others.

## Economic Impact of Alabama Birding Trails

**\$734 million** in state expenditures on wildlife watching by residents

**\$813 million** total expenditures on wildlife watching by residents

## Economic Impact of Birding Nationally

**46.7 million** bird-observers nationwide

**\$17.27 million** trip-related expenditures nationwide

\*Source U.S. Fish and Wildlife 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation

**The South in general has substantially more interest in birding than the rest of the country with 34% overall interest, followed by the Midwest at 24%.**



## Birding Partners

Alabama Association of RC&D Councils  
 Alabama Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources  
 Alabama Cooperative Extension System  
 Alabama Dept. of Economic & Community Affairs  
 Alabama Historical Commission  
 Alabama Tourism Department  
 Alabama Forestry Commission  
 Alabama Mountain Lakes  
 Alabama Ornithological Society  
 Alabama State Parks  
 Auburn University  
 Birmingham Audubon Society

Birmingham-Southern College  
 Central Alabama Community College  
 Chambers of Commerce  
 County Parks  
 Jacksonville State University, Field School  
 Moundville Archaeological Park  
 The University of Alabama  
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
 U.S. Department of Interior  
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife  
 U.S. Forest Service



# ALABAMA BIRD POSTERS





# Birds of Alabama



Alabama's habitat diversity is nearly unmatched, providing critical habitat for over four hundred species of birds, including the birds pictured above, which are all fairly abundant in Alabama. Some of the birds shown above can be found throughout Alabama; others only on the coast, north Alabama or in the middle of the state. Interest in wildlife observation continues to grow, and more people nationwide are discovering Alabama's amazing biodiversity, which is second only to Florida in the Eastern U.S. in total number of species of plants and animals.

Over 10 years in the making with over 250 sites around Alabama, the Alabama Birding Trails project highlights the best public locations available to watch birds year-round. Learn more about birds and birding by visiting our website.

[alabamabirdingtrails.com](http://alabamabirdingtrails.com)

Photographs courtesy of Roger Clay, Lisa Comer, Jennifer Dial, Paul H. Franklin, Greg Harber, Kathy Hicks, Janice Neitzel, Tena Marie Southern, Joe Watts, & Harriet Wright

**Seasonality Key**  
Some birds live in Alabama year-round, others are here only part of the year.

- WI** Winter  
December-February
- SP** Spring  
March-May
- SU** Summer  
June-August
- FA** Fall  
September-November

in partnership with

UA Center for Economic Development  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA**

Sweet Home Alabama  
[www.AlabamaTravel.com](http://www.AlabamaTravel.com)

ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF RCD & COUNCILS

BIRMINGHAM AUDUBON  
[birmingham.audubon.org](http://birmingham.audubon.org)

BIRDCAST

# Alabama's Birds of Prey



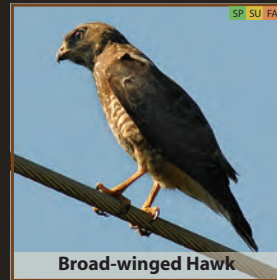
Red-shouldered Hawk



Red-tailed Hawk



Barn Owl



Broad-winged Hawk



American Kestrel



Northern Harrier



Osprey



Eastern Screech Owl



Bald Eagle



Swallow-tailed Kite



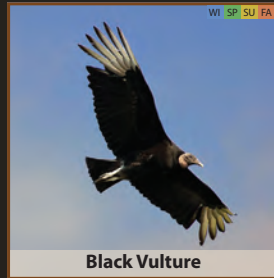
Barred Owl



Mississippi Kite



Turkey Vulture



Black Vulture



Cooper's Hawk



Golden Eagle



Peregrine Falcon



Great Horned Owl



Sharp-shinned Hawk



Merlin



Raptors hunt other animals, including small mammals, fish, and other birds, for food. Raptors are often called birds of prey, and have sharp talons and hooked bills that they use to capture and eat. Raptors are typically larger than common songbirds, but there are exceptions. In addition to the hunting species, two species of carrion eaters, the vultures, are also included as raptors.

Over 10 years in the making with over 250 sites around Alabama, the Alabama Birding Trails project highlights the best public locations available to watch birds year-round. Learn more about birds and birding by visiting our website.

Seasonality Key

WI	Winter	SU	Summer
SP	Spring	FA	Fall

[alabamabirdingtrails.com](http://alabamabirdingtrails.com)



Photographs courtesy of Paul H. Franklin, Charles Grisham, Greg Harber, Maranda Mink, Janice Neitzel, Carrie Threadgill, and Joe Watts

in partnership with





# Alabama's Wading Birds



Wood Stork



Great Egret



Great Blue Heron



Green Heron



White-faced Ibis



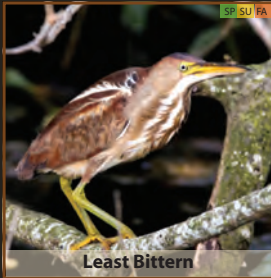
Black-crowned Night-Heron



Snowy Egret



White Ibis



Least Bittern



American Bittern



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron



Little Blue Heron



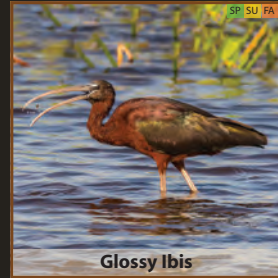
Cattle Egret



Tri-colored Heron



Reddish Egret



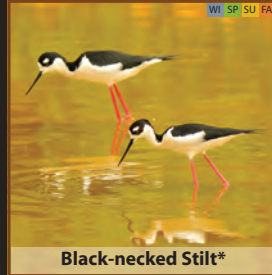
Glossy Ibis



Roseate Spoonbill



American Oystercatcher\*



Black-necked Stilt\*



American Avocet\*

Photographs courtesy of Benjamin Cash, Paul H. Franklin, Greg Harber, Kathy Hicks, Janice Neitzel, Patsy Harris Russo, Carrie Threadgill, and Joe Watts



Seasonality Key  
 WI Winter SU Summer  
 SP Spring FA Fall

Wading birds are usually found in marshes, swamps, and shallow bodies of water. All of them use their long legs and bills to probe in the water and soft mud for food, but their preferred foods are very different. The Roseate Spoonbill eats very small crustaceans, frogs and fish that most waders would ignore, while the Great Blue Heron eats anything that will fit down its throat! This poster includes the 17 birds commonly known as wading birds. Three of Alabama's larger shorebirds are denoted with an asterisk (\*). While not in the wading bird family, these birds do forage by wading in marshes and along shorelines.

Over 10 years in the making with over 250 sites around Alabama, the Alabama Birding Trails project highlights the best public locations available to watch birds year-round. Learn more about birds and birding by visiting our website.

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# COMMON ALABAMA BIRDS FLASH CARDS







WI SP SU FA

## Killdeer

Killdeer are one of the best known American shorebirds. Sexes are outwardly alike and about the same size. They are 9 to 11 inches long with a wingspan of 19 to 21 inches. They are gray-brown above with white below distinguished by two black bands across the chest. They are distinguished by their loud cry of kill-dee kill-deer or kill-deeah.

**FUN FACT:** Killdeer are known for their broken-wing display, an attempt to lure predators away from a nest by feigning injury.



WI FA

## White-throated Sparrow

White-throated Sparrows measure 6 to 7.5 inches in length with a wingspan of 9 inches. They have white throat markings and yellow lores (the surface on either side of the head between the eye and the upper base of the beak). You can usually find them foraging on the ground under or near thickets or in low vegetation. They mainly eat seeds, insects and berries, and are attracted to bird feeders.

**FUN FACT:** Some research suggests they use star patterns as one means of navigation.



WI SP SU FA

## Eastern Bluebird

Common in all seasons and regions.

The Eastern bluebird is a small thrush size bird standing six to eight inches tall and weighs about 1 ounce. They have a wingspan of 10 to 13 inches with no noticeable size difference between sexes. Males have a dark blue tail and wings with a bright reddish colored chest. Females are drab gray-blue with a duller reddish chest.

**FUN FACT:** A bluebird can spot caterpillars & insects in tall grass over 50 yards away.





WI SP SU FA

## Laughing Gull

The Laughing Gull is a smallish gull. It's black head is very noticeable in the breeding adult. Laughing Gulls are common along the gulf coast, and rare inland. They are adept in human-altered habitats and can be found scavenging in parking lots and dumpsters.

**FUN FACT:** Laughing Gulls form colonies up to 25,000 pairs in size. Sometimes they are joined by species such as terns, larger gulls, Black Skimmers, and American Oystercatchers.



WI SP SU FA

## Northern Flicker

The northern flicker is Alabama's state bird, often referred to as the "Yellow-hammer."

Northern Flickers have a conspicuous white rump that can be seen when the bird is in its deeply undulating flight. The yellow-shafted flicker has a red patch on the nape of the neck. Under the tail and wings, a bright yellow can be seen giving the flicker the name yellow-shafted.

**FUN FACT:** The males have a black mustache or line at the base of the bill.



WI SP SU FA

## Brown Pelican

The brown pelican is a fairly large water bird weighing up to eight pounds and can have a wing span of over seven feet. The adult is dark gray to silver in coloration, with a white and brown head and a light yellow crown. Pelicans have long bills with an expandable pouch that is three times the size of their stomach, short legs and webbed feet.

**FUN FACT:** Brown Pelicans make their spectacular dives into the water from as high as 65 feet.





WI SP SU FA

## Red-tailed Hawk

The red-tailed is the largest hawk in Alabama, averaging between two and four pounds. Females are larger than the males. The wingspan of an adult bird can be four to four and one-half feet. Adults are identified by their rusty or rufous colored tail feathers. Immature birds lack this colored tail until the second year when rusty feathers molt into place.

**FUN FACT:** Red-tailed hawks often mate for life. The pair builds a stick nest high above the ground, typically in a tree.



WI SP SU FA

## Northern Cardinal

Northern cardinals are a medium-sized songbird well known for their brilliant red coloration and beautiful songs. Males are nearly all brilliant red in color with a coral red, conical shaped bill that is surrounded by a black mask. Cardinals also have a long tail and a distinctive crest of feathers atop their heads. The female cardinal is a buff brown with red on their crest, wings, and tail.

**FUN FACT:** Both male and female Cardinals sing. When a female Cardinal sings from the nest, it usually means she's telling the male she needs more food.



WI SP SU FA

## Northern Mockingbird

The northern mockingbird is a medium-sized songbird with long legs, a long tail, and a slightly curved bill. The grayish-brown color, two parallel white wing bars and broad white wing patch, which are easily seen in flight, distinguish this bird from its cousins the brown thrasher and the catbird.

**FUN FACT:** A Northern Mockingbird may sing over 200 different songs. It continues to learn new songs throughout its nearly 10 year life-span.





WI SP SU FA

## Carolina Wren

The Carolina wren is a small bird approximately five and one-half inches in length with a deep rusty-brown colored back, buff colored underside, light colored throat and prominent white stripe above and beyond the eye. A Carolina wren's call is a loud melodious whistled "TEA-kettle TEA-kettle TEA-kettle" or "cherry cherry cherry."

**FUN FACT:** Carolina wrens do not pair only during breeding season but form bonds anytime of the year. After finding a partner the two birds are paired for life.



SP SU FA

## Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are 3 to 3 3/4 inches long with a wingspread of 4 to 4 3/4 inches. Both sexes are metallic green above and grayish underneath. Adult males have throat feathers that appear black but flash fiery red or orange in the sun. Males have a slightly forked tail. Females have white throat patches and their tails are not forked.

**FUN FACT:** Ruby-throated Hummingbirds prefer to feed on red or orange flowers (but don't color the sugar water you put in a hummingbird feeder).



WI SP SU FA

## Eastern Towhee

The adult male Eastern Towhee has a black head, throat, upper chest, and back. The tail is also black with conspicuous white patches at the tips of the outside tail feathers. Most of the breast and the abdomen is white. The sides and beneath the tail area are rufous (rust-colored) giving rise to the bird's former name the Rufous-Sided Towhee. The adult female is colored similar to the male but has shades of brown where the male is black.

**FUN FACT:** Towhees are ground feeders and use a hop-and-scratch foraging method.







WI SP SU FA

## Bald Eagle

The Bald Eagle is one of North America's largest raptors with adult females reaching weights of 14 pounds and standing 42 inches tall. Adult males are slightly smaller. The bright white head and tail contrasted against dark body feathers are key characteristics used to identify the bald eagle. However, these white feathers as well as the yellow color of the bill do not develop until the eagles reach about five years of age.

**FUN FACT:** Bald eagles build very large nests, sometimes weighing as much as a ton!



WI SP SU FA

## American Robin

The American Robin is a large thrush. Their wings and back are gray and its under parts are brick-red. The birds head is a dark gray. They are regularly seen hopping and running in lawns and fields. They are known for their worm-hunting skills.

**FUN FACT:** The diet of the American Robin consists of 40 percent small invertebrates (mainly insects), such as earthworms, beetle grubs, caterpillars and grasshoppers, and 60 percent wild and cultivated fruits and berries.



WI SP FA

## Cedar Waxwing

Cedar Waxwings are brown, gray, with bright red on their wing feathers and yellow along the tip of their tail. They also have a "mask" of black around their eye. They can be found in flocks of over 100 birds during winter months in trees and shrubs that produce fruits, such as hackberry, red mulberry, eastern red cedar, black cherry, and American holly.

**FUN FACT:** Cedar Waxwings are named for the waxy red tips on the end of their feathers. The number and size of the wax tips increase as the bird ages.





WI SP SU FA

## Brown Thrasher

The brown thrasher has a long tail, short wings, and a slender, somewhat curved bill. It is a rich rufous brown on its head, back, and tail, with heavy rufous streaking on a cream color underside. The wings are rufous brown with two white bars on each wing. It has yellow eyes. Adults are about 11.5 inches in length.

**FUN FACT:** Brown Thrashers are may sing over 1,100 different song types and include imitations of other birds, including Chuck-will's-widows and Northern Flickers.



WI SP SU FA

## Tufted Titmouse

The Tufted Titmouse is a little gray bird with a loud voice, the Tufted Titmouse is common in Alabama's forests and a regular visitor to feeders. With large black eyes, a small, round bill, and bushy crest, this bird is a perennial favorite. Their song is a fast-repeated, clear whistle: peter-peter-peter.

**FUN FACT:** The Tufted Titmouse is a hoarder of food in fall and winter, taking advantage of a bird feeder's bounty by storing many seeds, usually within 130 feet of the feeder.



WI SP SU FA

## Great Blue Heron

A large (four foot tall with six foot wingspan) lean, slate-gray colored heron with a white head and black stripe extending above the eye; a dagger-like bill and long legs. Breeding adults have ornate plumes on the head, neck and back. All herons fly with their neck folded. This distinguishes them from cranes, geese, ibises, and storks, which fly with neck extended.

**FUN FACT:** Great blue herons nest in colonies called heronries. Some colonies have more than 500 nests in them! The birds return to the same spots each year.





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Photography courtesy of Paul H. Franklin, Greg Harber, Janice Neitzel, Joe Watts, and Harriet Wright.



### Bird Watching Tips

- Respect wildlife homes—leave nests, nest boxes and their occupants as you found them.
- In no-hunt areas, blend in with your surroundings—wear neutral-colored clothing and move slowly and quietly.
- Share your lunch only with other humans.
- Limit the use of recordings, calls, or whistles to attract birds.
- Use binoculars or a spotting scope so you can view birds from a distance.
- Leave pets at home.
- Obtain permission before birding on private land.

#### Seasonality Key

WI Winter SP Spring SU Summer FA Fall



WI SP SU FA

### Red-bellied Woodpecker

The Red-bellied Woodpecker is the most common woodpecker in the southeast. As its name indicates, the belly is light red, but is often hard to see. Males also have red on the top of the head and neck. Females lack the red coloration on their head. The back is prominently striped horizontally with black and white barring.

**FUN FACT:** A Red-bellied Woodpecker can stick out its tongue nearly 2 inches past the end of its beak. The tip is barbed and the bird's spit is sticky, making it easier to snatch prey from deep crevices.





# REGIONAL TRAILS RACK CARDS





# Piney Woods Birding Trail



The Piney Woods Birding Trail links 22 outstanding birding sites in Washington, Clarke, Monroe, Conecuh, and Escambia Counties in southwest Alabama.

Soaring Swallow-tailed Kites share the skies each spring and summer with a variety of resident raptors. Waterfowl share our lakes and ponds each winter and Bald Eagles, herons and more live here year-round.

The bird habitat is as varied as the people: from a canoe trail along a lazy river to the ruins of the territorial capital of Alabama, an educational facility with longleaf forest and small, but productive lakes, the Piney Woods offers a glimpse into the heart of Alabama.

## Get out and explore!

### Don't miss these locations along the trail:

- J. Emmett Woods Public Fishing Lake (Washington County)
- Old St. Stephens Historical Park (Washington County)
- Monroe County Lake (Monroe County)
- Iron Bridge access to the Sepulga River Canoe Trail (Conecuh County)
- Old Lock 1 Park (Clarke County)
- Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center (Covington & Escambia Counties)



**22** Sites in **5** Counties  
= Great Alabama Birding



Funding provided by



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photos by Paul H. Franklin and Joe Watts

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# Black Belt Birding Trail



The Black Belt Birding Trail consists of 32 sites that stretch along a narrow swath of 11 counties across the south-central part of Alabama's rural farm country all the way from Georgia to Mississippi.

With locations as varied as boat ramps for launching a canoe to explore the deep recesses of one of Alabama's river systems, to state parks, National Wildlife Refuges and city parks, and even the grounds of a park dedicated to live theater, there is much to see and do.

Wood Storks and Mississippi and Swallow-tailed Kites dot the skies each summer. Warblers pass through each spring and fall along their migration routes. Bald Eagles, herons and so much more live here year-round.

## Get out and explore!

### Don't miss these locations along the trail:

- Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge (Choctaw County)
- Gee's Bend Park (Wilcox County)
- Holy Ground Battlefield Park (Lowndes County)
- Old Cahawba Archaeological Park (Dallas County)
- Lake Livingston (Sumter County)
- Perry Lakes Park (Perry County)
- Tuskegee National Forest (Macon County)
- Foscue Creek Park (Marengo County)
- Phenix City Riverwalk (Russell County)
- Sherling Lake Park (Butler County)
- Gunter Hill Park (Montgomery County)



**32** Sites in **11** Counties  
= Great Alabama Birding

find detailed descriptions & maps online



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

# Appalachian Highlands Birding Trail



From the forested hills of the Ridge and Valley region to the rich pastures and farmlands of its river-carved valleys, the Appalachian Highlands Birding Trail provides a wide diversity of habitats for birds, including the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Especially noteworthy for bird-lovers are the many rivers that flow through this region, including the Black Warrior, the Cahaba, the Coosa, and the Tallapoosa.

Soaring Bald Eagles share the rolling terrain with a variety of hawks and owls. Colorful warblers and other migrating songbirds pass through each spring and fall, many staying to nest during the summer. Waterfowl are plentiful on our lakes and ponds each winter, and wading herons and egrets can be found year-round.

With Alabama's highest mountain and the deepest gorge east of the Mississippi, the Appalachian Highlands Birding Trail is noted for its scenic beauty. Rich hardwood forests, abundant rivers and lakes, lush meadows framed by steep mountain ridges—you'll find them all here. And along the way, you'll find some amazing birding, as well!

## Get out and explore!



**34** Sites in **9** Counties  
= Great Alabama Birding

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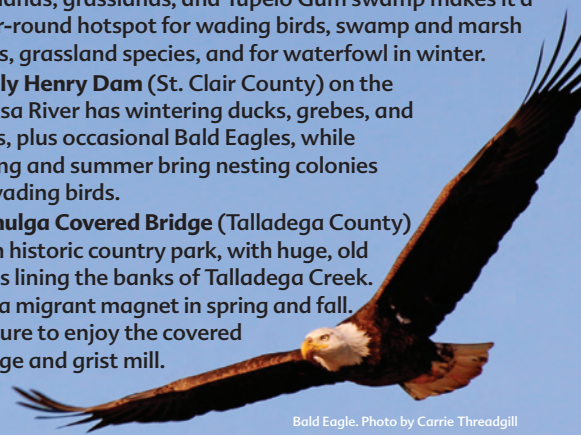


# Appalachian Highlands Birding Trail



## Don't miss these locations :

- **Palisades Park** (Blount County) sits atop a rocky ridge with sweeping views of countryside. The wooded park offers good birding year-round, and good views of migrating hawks each fall.
- **Mountain Longleaf National Wildlife Refuge's** (Calhoun County) 9,000 acres have resident Brown-headed Nuthatches and Bachman's Sparrows in woodlands dominated by Longleaf Pines.
- **Cherokee Rock Village** (Cherokee County) Scarlet Tanagers are frequent here through migration and breeding season. Raptors are regulars to the ridgeline, and beautiful Weiss Lake below is a wading bird magnet.
- **Coleman Lake: Talladega National Forest** (Cleburne County) is a significant birding site in AL, and boasts roadside looks at endangered Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. Red Crossbills breed here each summer.
- **James D. Martin Wildlife Park's** (Etowah County) shoreline trail connects to boardwalks that lead out to several wooded islands in a 300-acre lake with views of wintering waterfowl and an active heron rookery each spring and summer.
- **Birmingham Botanical Gardens** (Jefferson County) has a scenery of rich and varied plant species that offers one of the best and most-visited sites for songbirds in the area, particularly in spring and fall migration.
- **Limestone Park's** (Shelby County) combination of wetlands, grasslands, and Tupelo Gum swamp makes it a year-round hotspot for wading birds, swamp and marsh birds, grassland species, and for waterfowl in winter.
- **Neely Henry Dam** (St. Clair County) on the Coosa River has wintering ducks, grebes, and gulls, plus occasional Bald Eagles, while spring and summer bring nesting colonies of wading birds.
- **Kymulga Covered Bridge** (Talladega County) is an historic country park, with huge, old trees lining the banks of Talladega Creek. It is a migrant magnet in spring and fall. Be sure to enjoy the covered bridge and grist mill.



Bald Eagle. Photo by Carrie Threadgill

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# Piedmont Plateau Birding Trail

Come explore this East Central Alabama birding trail found in Autauga, Chambers, Chilton, Clay, Coosa, Elmore, Lee, Randolph, Tallapoosa counties.



You may spot an endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker, a soaring Bald Eagle or a host of visiting warblers. The shorelines of our lakes are filled with herons, egrets and other waders. Our mountain vistas thrill with soaring raptors. Osprey and ducks enjoy our deep waters.

The Piedmont Plateau Birding Trail has 34 sites, from Cheaha State Park, atop Alabama's highest mountain, to the shores of Lake Martin, the state's first Treasured Alabama Lake.

The bird habitat found here is as varied as the scenery. From a paved walking trail in the middle of a city park to an adventurous float down a scenic river or exploring historic forts and battlefields, you'll find an activity that fits your interest.



## Get out and explore!

find detailed descriptions & maps online



34 Sites in 9 Counties = Great Alabama Birding

Funding provided by



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photos by Paul H. Franklin and Joe Watts

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# Piedmont Plateau Birding Trail



From the mountains in the north to the nearly endless lakes and rivers found throughout, discover East Alabama's many natural resources.



**Jones Bluff Powerhouse / Robert F. Henry Dam** (Autauga County) has surprisingly good birding due to the variety of habitats. This is excellent for wading birds, shorebirds, gulls and terns in the wetland areas.



**The Parks of West Point Dam** (Chambers County) offer panoramic lake views. Look for loons and other waterfowl in colder months, swallows & Purple Martins in summer. Bald Eagles & Ospreys nest nearby.



**Confederate Memorial Park** (Chilton County) is a secluded 102 acres with excellent diversity of bird life. The mature, open canopy of hardwood trees in the upper portion of the park rings with the songs of flycatchers and woodpeckers, including Pileateds and Red-heads. The cemetery area affords open sky views for soaring birds.



**Cheaha State Park** (Clay & Cleburne County) sits atop Mount Cheaha, Alabama's highest point, and is one of the southernmost locations to find some of the state's breeding birds, including Blue-headed Vireos, Cedar Waxwings, and Sharp-shinned Hawks. Located in the midst of Talladega National Forest, the park offers deep wilderness and stunning views.



**The Coosa Wildlife Management Area / Double Bridges** (Coosa County) on Hatchet Creek at Lake Mitchell includes an 11 mile trail. The thick woods have multiple opportunities to see songbirds, raptors & game birds.



**Fort Toulouse-Jackson National Historic Park** (Elmore County) preserves relics of over 6,000 years of human history in its 165 acres of woodlands & fields bordering two rivers. The park is a haven for spring & fall migrants.



**Chewacla State Park's** (Lee County) 696 scenic acres offer a 26-acre lake, swimming area, playgrounds, hiking trails, a modern campground, picnic areas with tables, grills and shelters, & newly renovated cabins. The woods in the park are good for a variety of woodland songbirds.



**Wedowee Kiwanis Park** (Randolph County) offers several distinctly different habitats in a relatively compact site. The park is heavily wooded, predominately in hardwoods.

**Wind Creek State Park** (Tallapoosa County) is on a wooded promontory overlooking Lake Martin. Ospreys and Bald Eagles nest on the lake and both species may be seen year round. The lake attracts rafts of wintering ducks, Warblers in spring and woodpeckers all year.

★ Find these & over 250 additional Alabama sites online

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# West Alabama Birding Trail

With 28 sites in a 9-county region in West Alabama, you'll find forests and prairies, big lakes and free-flowing rivers, where abundant year-round birds are joined by a flow of migrants that change with the seasons. From the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge to the campus of the University of Alabama, and including the ruins of two Civil War-era ironworks and the Talladega National Forest, prepare for the unexpected.

Any season can turn up great birds. The endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker can be found on the Longleaf Pine ridges of the Talladega National Forest, and many colorful warblers pass through the region each spring and fall. Waterfowl gather each winter on the region's rivers and lakes, where Bald Eagles can also be seen at any time of the year.

But this part of Alabama holds some particularly exciting finds during the summer months, when birding can be quiet in other parts of the state. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Swallow-tailed Kites and Wood Storks are commonly seen here during the hottest part of the year.

## Get out and explore!

**28** Sites in **9** Counties  
= Great Alabama Birding



find  
detailed  
descriptions  
maps  
online

Wood Stork. Photo by Greg Harber.

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# West Alabama Birding Trail

## Don't miss these locations:

- **Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge** (Bibb County) offers access to the longest free-flowing river in Alabama, with more fish species per mile than any other U.S. river. Many riparian wading birds, raptors and songbirds can be seen here.
- **Forkland Campground** (Greene County) is set in a beautiful wooded area on Demopolis Lake, the largest lake on the Black Warrior-Tombigbee Waterway. This Corps of Engineers site has a picnic area, boat ramp, and access to deep water. Expect riparian woodland songbirds, waders, and, in winter, waterfowl.
- **Moundville Archaeological Park** (Hale County) features large Mississippian-era American Indian mounds dotting open fields and marshy areas on the wooded banks of the Black Warrior River. Songbirds, herons and Bald Eagles may be seen here.
- **Lamar County Fishing Lake** (Lamar County) is a 68-acre lake best for songbirds and waders surrounded by open pine woods.
- **Marion County Lake** (Marion County) is a 37-acre lake bordered by pine grove habitat for the endemic Brown-headed Nuthatch. A quiet road through the mixed pine-hardwood forest around the lake offers easy walking.
- **Tom Bevill Lock and Dam Visitors Center** (Pickens County) provides access to good birding around Aliceville Lake. Explore the open, grassy areas and woodlands for songbirds. Look for gulls, eagles, and ducks in winter.
- **University of Alabama Arboretum** (Tuscaloosa County) is a "must-see" for birders. Best in spring and fall migration, it is also a valuable resource for wintering birds.
- **Walker County Fishing Lake** (Walker County) has nesting Tree Swallows and Purple Martins during summer. Yellow Warblers and other songbirds are present from April through October. Ducks can be found each winter.

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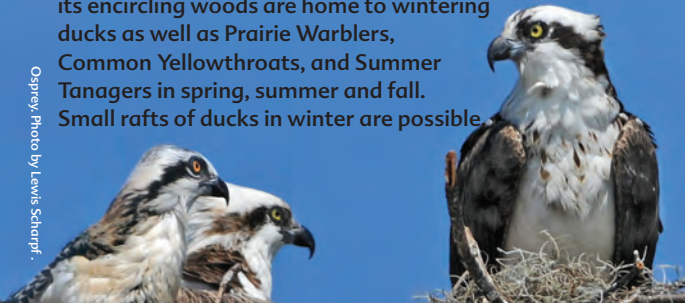
# Wiregrass Birding Trail



## Don't miss these locations:

- **Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge** (Barbour County) is a patchwork of open fields, marshes, and impoundments bounded by Lake Eufaula to one side and mixed woods on the other. The refuge is first-rate for wetland songbirds and waders, as well as many species of waterfowl in winter.
- **Conecuh National Forest** (Covington County) provides habitat for scores of Red-cockaded Woodpecker colonies and hundreds of Bachman's Sparrows within its 83,000 acres of forest.
- **Crenshaw County Public Lake** (Crenshaw County) is one of the state's little-known birding jewels, with extensive pine woods, edge, and deep-water lake habitats.
- **Ed Lisenby Public Fishing Lake** (Dale County) is a deep-water lake surrounded by spanish moss-draped woods. Look for songbirds and raptors in the woods and swallows and waders in the marshy inlets of the lake.
- **Fowler Park, City of Geneva** (Geneva County) overlooks the junction of the Choctawhatchee and Pea Rivers and offers a surprising variety of habitats as well as one of the oldest and largest Live Oaks in Alabama. It is the best site in the county for woodland songbirds, grassland species, and the possibility of Anhingas, Moorhens, and Purple Gallinules.
- **Walter F. George Dam** (Henry County) on Lake Eufaula offers a splendid sampler of southeast Alabama birding habitats at several different locations.
- **Landmark Park** (Houston County) is a 135-acre park built to preserve the area's natural and cultural heritage.
- **Pike County Public Fishing Lake** (Pike County) provides good birding throughout the year. Its 45-acre lake and its encircling woods are home to wintering ducks as well as Prairie Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, and Summer Tanagers in spring, summer and fall. Small rafts of ducks in winter are possible.

Osprey. Photo by Lewis Schurpf.



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# Wiregrass Birding Trail

20 Sites in 10 Counties  
= Great Alabama Birding



With sunny, open forests of Long-leaf Pine, extensive wetlands, and huge Live Oaks draped in spanish moss, the Wiregrass Birding Trail covers a ten-county region in southeastern Alabama. The Trail's twenty sites, located in national forests, state parks, and other public lands, display the haunting beauty of the southern landscape. From the deep waters and abundant birdlife of Lake Eufaula to the hardwood bottomlands of Dothan's Landmark Park, and the picturesque Cypress forests of Floral City Wetland Park, expect unusual birds and a landscape different from anywhere else in Alabama.

Any season can turn up great birds. Year round, the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker can be found among the tall pines of the Conecuh National Forest, while Osprey soar over the area's lakes and rivers.

Many colorful warblers pass through each spring and fall on migration. And the waterfowl that gather on the lakes and ponds each winter make the Wiregrass especially productive during colder weather.

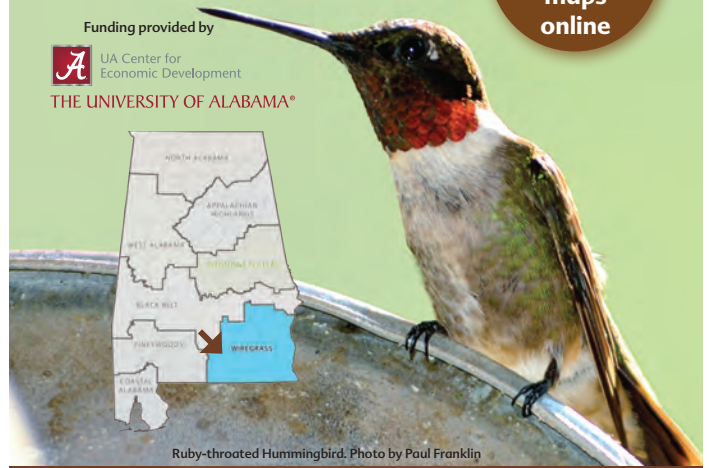
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## Get out and explore!

Funding provided by



Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Photo by Paul Franklin



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## Alabama Coastal Birding Trail

Alabama's Gulf Coast is a paradise not only for birders, but for visitors with many different outdoor interests. The Coastal Birding Trail features six birding loops in Baldwin and Mobile counties totaling over 200 miles. Each loop covers different ecological regions representative of the northern Gulf Coast and enables birders to experience different assemblages of bird species within each region.



[alabamabirdingtrails.com/trails/coastal](http://alabamabirdingtrails.com/trails/coastal)

## North Alabama Birding Trail

Landscapes in the region range from tupelo swamps to blazing fields of wildflowers, and towering forests of oak and hickory to vast sheets of open water replete with loafing waterfowl. As the habitats vary through the valley, so do the seasons. Spring is heralded by the return of neotropical songbirds that stop in while on their journey northward. Summer is filled with breeding woodland species such as flashy Pileated and Red-headed woodpeckers, boisterous Great-crested Flycatchers and Carolina Wrens, and skulking Kentucky and Swainson's warblers. In the fall, migrant waterfowl, Sandhill Cranes, and a variety of raptors return to spend the winter in the valley, or at least pass through on their way farther south. Once winter's chill is in the air, large roosts of Bald Eagles form and stragglers from farther north can be found with the abundant waterfowl and gulls.



[alabamabirdingtrails.com/trails/northalabama](http://alabamabirdingtrails.com/trails/northalabama)

# FIELD TRIP RESOURCES







# Visit West Alabama

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Visit West Alabama

TourWestAlabama.com

## The Experience

From the storied halls of The University of Alabama to the ancient burial mounds of Moundville; from the free-flowing Cahaba River to the Ironworks of Brierfield and Tannehill State Parks; from barbeque to sweet coconut pie, West Alabama awaits.



Moundville Archaeological Park was once the site of a **powerful prehistoric community** that was America's **largest city** north of Mexico. The park preserves 326 acres where Mississippian Indians constructed 28 massive **flat-topped earthen pyramids**, arranged carefully around a vast central plaza. The mounds served as elevated platforms for civic and ceremonial structures.

## Tour Highlights

- **Arts:** From the Kentuck Festival every fall to the public art of murals in Fayette, there are an abundance of artisans here.
- **History:** Antebellum homes, interesting architecture and fascinating history are waiting.
- **Outdoors:** Hiking, biking, horseback riding and wildlife-watching are just some of the things you'll find here!
- **Museums:** With ancient history, the civil war and civil rights at our doorstep, step inside to experience more!

**Everhope Plantation** was initially built in 1852 as a 667-acre cotton plantation. The **Antebellum** home is now a bed & breakfast, which has hosted a number of **international** guests.



The Aliceville POW Museum showcases artifacts about the **German POW's** and even an **original Coca-Cola** bottling plant!

## Include With Other Destinations

West Alabama is home to amazing history and southern culture. Combine that with Elvis' Graceland in Memphis, U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville and World of Coca-Cola in Atlanta and Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum of Birmingham, and you have a tour that highlights Southern culture and history.

**Historic Downtown Northport** is a must see. Settled in the early 19th century, the area boasts a collection of art galleries, stores, museums, and quaint restaurants. Tourists will find the brick street, ornate lighting, landscaping, and other amenities **picturesque**.



You could try the **best BBQ ribs** in Alabama! **Dreamland BBQ** in Tuscaloosa, **Sam's Smokehouse** in Fayette, and **Archibald's BBQ** in Northport, have all been named to the top 15 BBQ restaurants in the state.



# Visit West Alabama

## Outdoor recreation photo bank

<https://tinyurl.com/WestAlabamaOutdoor>



## Arts and culture photo bank

<https://tinyurl.com/WestAlabamaArt>



## Historic sites photo bank

<https://tinyurl.com/WestAlabamaCulture>



## Distances from Tuscaloosa

- Birmingham: 1 hour
- Nashville: 3.5 hours
- Huntsville: 2.5 hours
- Memphis: 4 hours
- New Orleans: 5 hours
- Atlanta: 3 hours

For more information on West Alabama, custom & preformed itineraries, a step-on guide, receptive services or complete tour planning, contact **Tina Jones** at 205.246.1320 or [experience.llc.13@gmail.com](mailto:experience.llc.13@gmail.com)





## Great Escapes in West Alabama

Outdoor Recreation

**Brierfield Ironworks State Park** **Brierfield, Bibb**  
Attractions and activities include the historic ruins of the Bibb Naval Furnaces, major confederate ironworks, pioneer style homes, J. Henry Jones Country Store, hiking trails, camping and swimming.

**Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge** **Brierfield, Bibb**  
Established in 2002, the refuge helps to protect the biological heart of the Cahaba River. Thirteen federally threatened or endangered species occur within the refuge boundaries. Over 20,000 people visit the refuge annually to enjoy fishing, hunting, wildlife observation and other compatible wildlife dependent activities. An annual highlight occurs from mid-May through very early June, when the Cahaba lilies bloom. There is an annual festival in West Blocton on the last Saturday in May in honor of these stunning flowers. The festival includes guided tours to the lily shoals.

**Talladega National Forest, Oakmulgee Division** **Brent, Bibb/Hale**  
Miles of backwood roads await the hunter, camper, hiker, naturalist and horseback rider. The forest is considered a destination for both large and small game hunting. Hunting activity is often prevalent during the fall and spring. Hosts the state's largest population of Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers.

**Fayette Aquatic Center** **Fayette, Fayette**  
Features include an outdoor pool, multiple water slides and drop slides on a 35 ft. tower, diving board, four 25-yd. lap lanes, spray pad integration, umbrella tables.

**Bird's Hay Bale Art Farm** **Forkland, Greene**  
Bird's Farm is a large field beside Highway 43 that contains many amusing and imaginative creations, most of which were made with large bales of hay.

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

Call ahead for hours and availability.  
Pictured above: Blooming Cahaba lilies



Pictured above: Lake Nicol in Tuscaloosa County

Outdoor Recreation

**Jennings Ferry Campground** **Akron, Hale**  
Jennings Ferry has 51 sites and borders the Black Warrior River. All sites have a fire ring, picnic table, grill, water and 50 amp electric hookup. The campground has a playground area, bathhouse and laundry area.

**Quail Valley Hunting Preserve** **Vernon, Lamar**  
Enjoy quail hunting as it used to be. Lodging or camper hook-ups are available and feel free to bring your own dog.

**Pickensville Recreation Area** **Pickensville, Pickens**  
This is an extensive recreation area that stretches from a picnic area and small boardwalk to a campground complex 2.5 miles down the road. Visitors can follow the road a few more miles to reach the west side of the Beville Lock and Dam. This facility offers 176 campsites that provide picnic tables, campfire rings with grills, electric and water hookups and plenty of shade. There are accessible sites and restrooms.

**Shark Tooth Creek Adventures** **Aliceville, Pickens**  
Learn why there are shark teeth 300 miles from the beach and see real shark teeth and fossils. Camping, fishing, swimming and canoeing are also available.

**Lake Nicol** **Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa**  
Lake Nicol is an attractive, easily accessible, well-maintained, and popular wooded park on a substantial lake. There's great birding in the area, so look for pine-woods birds all year, a few waders and shorebirds, migrant songbirds in spring and fall, and a few ducks and geese in winter.

**University of Alabama Arboretum** **Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa**  
The University of Alabama Arboretum maintains plant collections for botanical education and appreciation. The Arboretum features walking trails through a native woodland section, a wildflower garden, a collection of ornamental plants, an experimental garden, and a children's garden.



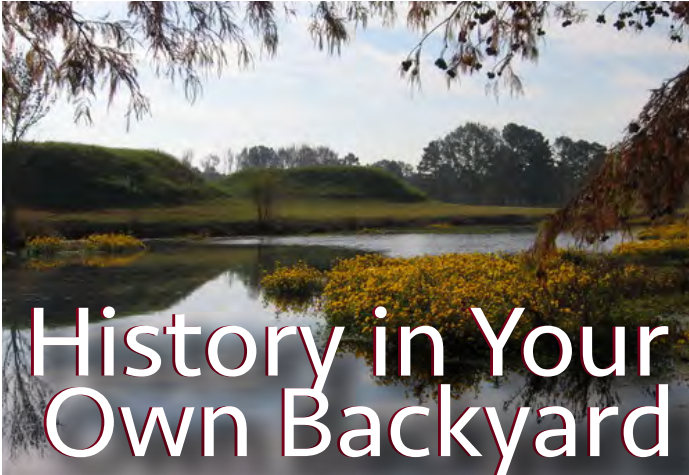
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# History in Your Own Backyard

## The Best Museums in West Alabama

### **Mercedes-Benz Visitor Center** Vance, Bibb/Tuscaloosa

Visit the newly redesigned Mercedes-Benz Visitor Center to experience the rich history and the exciting future of the automaker. For more than 20 years, Mercedes-Benz has been manufacturing some of its popular automobiles right here in Alabama, and the Visitor Center is an evolving, interactive tour through some of the legendary manufacturer's greatest innovations and most promising future concepts.

### **Fayette Art Museum** Fayette, Fayette

There are now over 4000 pieces in the permanent collection with over 500 running feet of display space on the main floor of the Civic Center and 6 folk art galleries downstairs, as well as a gallery used for the Director/Curator's office. The Fayette Art Museum was founded in 1969 by Fayette City Council and Jack Black, who was the Museum's Director for 35 years.

### **Kirkwood Mansion** Eutaw, Greene

Kirkwood was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 17, 1976, due to its architectural significance. The historic antebellum plantation mansion is a Greek Revival style house with Italianate influences.

### **Moundville Archaeological Park** Moundville, Hale

Called "The Big Apple of the 14th Century" by *National Geographic*, Moundville Archaeological Park was once the site of a powerful prehistoric community that, at its peak, was America's largest city north of Mexico. The park has a museum that combines the latest technology with more than 200 stunning artifacts to describe one of the most significant Native American archaeological sites in the United States.

Call ahead for hours and availability.  
[www.tourwestalabama.com](http://www.tourwestalabama.com)

*Pictured above: Moundville Archaeological Park*



*Pictured above: Kirkwood Mansion in Eutaw, Alabama.*

### **Safe House Museum** Greensboro, Hale

On the night of March 21, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. sought refuge from the Ku Klux Klan inside a small, shot gun-style home in the depot neighborhood of Greensboro, Alabama. Today, that house is known as The Safe House Black History Museum. It is a site of great significance to American history as well as the Civil Rights Movement.

### **Rural Studio** Newburn, Hale

Headquarters for Rural Studio Architectural Designs in Alabama's Black Belt. Established in 1993 by architects Samuel "Sambo" Mockbee and D. K. Ruth, the Rural Studio is a part of Auburn University's School of Architecture. Rural Studio students work directly with poor communities in west Alabama to improve living conditions. Students creatively design and construct their projects.

### **Aliceville Museum** Aliceville, Pickens

The Aliceville Museum has grown from a single room to a large facility encompassing three buildings, a courtyard, and a plaza area in downtown Aliceville. The museum has been in its current location since 1995. There are four exhibit rooms and a meeting space. Self-guided audio tours are available.

### **Alabama Museum of Natural History** Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa

The Alabama Museum of Natural History, with thousands of invaluable specimens from all lines of scientific research, is a lasting monument to the energy, labor and love exhibited by Dr. Eugene Allen Smith. He was appointed as state geologist in 1873 and spent nearly 40 years surveying, mapping and collecting scientific specimens throughout Alabama.

### **Tuscaloosa Museum of Art** Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa

The Tuscaloosa Museum of Art displays about 1000 works of fine and decorative art and it is considered to be one of the greatest private collections of American Art.



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

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Alabama Makers

**Metal & Lights**

**Bibb, Brent**

Metal & Lights is a family-owned, locally crafted business. Specializing in custom projects, the craftsmen work with copper, stainless steel, aluminum, brass and steel to create beautiful marquee letters and signs.  
<https://www.metalandlights.com/>

**Golden Eagle Syrup**

**Fayette, Fayette**

This syrup business was created in 1928 in Fayette County and has been a favorite of generations of families since then. Still produced in Fayette, Alabama, Golden Eagle Syrup offers enjoyable and affordable syrup unlike any other. Golden Eagle Syrup isn't just limited to pancakes and waffles; recipes for pecan pie, beans, barbecue sauce, caramel corn and cookies are listed on the website as well.  
<http://www.goldeneaglesyrup.com/>

**Eutaw Hardwood Dimension Co.**

**Greene, Eutaw**

For the perfect summer barbecue, stop by Eutaw Hardwood Dimension Co. It offers 100 percent Pure Hickory Sawdust, used for smoking meat and flavorful barbecue. Another option is the Hickory Chip Nuggets for a backyard barbecue. Family owned and operated in Eutaw since 1956, Eutaw Hardwood also ships all over.  
<http://www.eutawhardwood.com/>

**HERO**

**Hale, Greensboro**

In Hale County, HERO works as a catalyst for community development in the Alabama Black Belt to end rural poverty. HERO sells bamboo bikes, bike kits and offers workshops to learn how to build your own bike. While the bikes are a bit on the pricier side, you know that in addition to the benefits of shopping local, you're also directly contributing to ending poverty in your community. <https://www.herobike.org/>

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

*Pictured above: Golden Eagle Syrup, packaged in mason jars.*



Call ahead for hours and availability.  
*Pictured above: Handmade birdhouses at Makers Market*

Alabama Makers

**Left Hand Soap Company**

**Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa**

Made in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Left Hand Soap Company has 18 years of natural soap and skincare experience. Carried in stores across Alabama and even in New Orleans, Left Hand Soap Company has found major success.  
<http://shop.lefthandsoapcompany.com/>

**Makers Market**

**Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa**

Since opening in September 2012, the Makers Market has grown the strong sense of community. As West Alabama's largest craft mall, the Makers Market functions as an outlet for lively crafters and artists in the area, offering a fantastic shopping experience for a variety of wants and needs.  
<http://www.themakersmarketalabama.com/>

**SweetHomeChicago**

**Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa**

SweetHomeChicago is a professionally schooled and licensed business. It uses a natural pectin, resulting in less sugar in almost all of the jellies and jams. Use the unusual flavors to cook with, top your ice cream or lather inside a biscuit. SweetHomeChicago encourages you to "Think Outside The Biscuit."  
<https://www.facebook.com/SweetHomeChicago2Tuscaloosa/>

**Band of Brothers**

**Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa**

Band of Brothers is so named because it's a family affair – brothers Jeremy and Jeremiah Donald, along with close family friend Quintin Brown partnered on the brewery. The brothers' grandfather, Jimmie Lee James, who taught the brothers how to make muscadine wine on a farm in rural Choctaw Bluff, inspired the men on the journey to the brewery. With a variety of price points, Band of Brothers merchandise includes stickers, T-shirts, polo shirts, Goblet or pint glasses or hats. <http://www.bandofbrosbrewing.com/>



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

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# Tourism Websites

## [tourwestalabama.com](http://tourwestalabama.com)

West Alabama is home to amazing history and southern culture. From the storied halls of The University of Alabama to the ancient burial mounds of Moundville; from the free-flowing Cahaba River to the Ironworks of Brierfield and Tannehill State Parks; from barbeque to sweet coconut pie, West Alabama awaits.

## [alabamafrontporches.org](http://alabamafrontporches.org)

The Alabama Front Porches website highlights all of the incredible activities that are available in the Alabama – Tombigbee region of rural southwest Alabama. This site covers a 12-county region including Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas, Escambia, Lowndes, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Sumter, Washington and Wilcox Counties. These counties are home to hundreds of Alabama's famous small towns.

## [toureastalabama.com](http://toureastalabama.com)

From the mountains in the north to the nearly endless lakes and rivers found throughout, you'll discover natural resources like nowhere else. Outfitters in our area will gladly help you plan your own trip or take you to some of the most beautiful and hidden places in the region. Outfitters are also a great way to see if you are ready to go all in, get the equipment you need and become a nature fanatic! Hiking, canoeing, kayaking, mountain-biking, motorcycling...these are just a few of the possibilities you'll find in our area. While you are here, visit our historic downtowns, relax in one of the many bed and breakfasts, inns or more traditional hotels and enjoy some of our food, from old-fashioned Southern cooking and the best barbecue anywhere to fine dining.

## [northalabama.org](http://northalabama.org)

North Alabama, also known as the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association, formed in 1964 with the express purpose of developing North Alabama's travel industry and marketing the region to the traveling public. They now serve sixteen counties with an ever-expanding membership base representing progressive travel-regulated businesses and associations as well as various levels of government.

## [alabama.travel](http://alabama.travel)

Sweet Home Alabama is the official travel site of Alabama. This site offers everything you need to get your trip planning started. It's filled with must-do experiences, places to visit, sweet spots and visitor tips. There is also access to a free vacation guide and links to download several apps to use on your trip.

## [alabama200.org](http://alabama200.org)

The mission of ALABAMA 200 is to support, create, and execute events and activities that commemorate the stories of our people, place, and path to statehood. Between 2017 and 2019, ALABAMA 200 will engage residents and visitors in educational programs, community activities, and statewide initiatives that teach, inspire, and entertain.

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