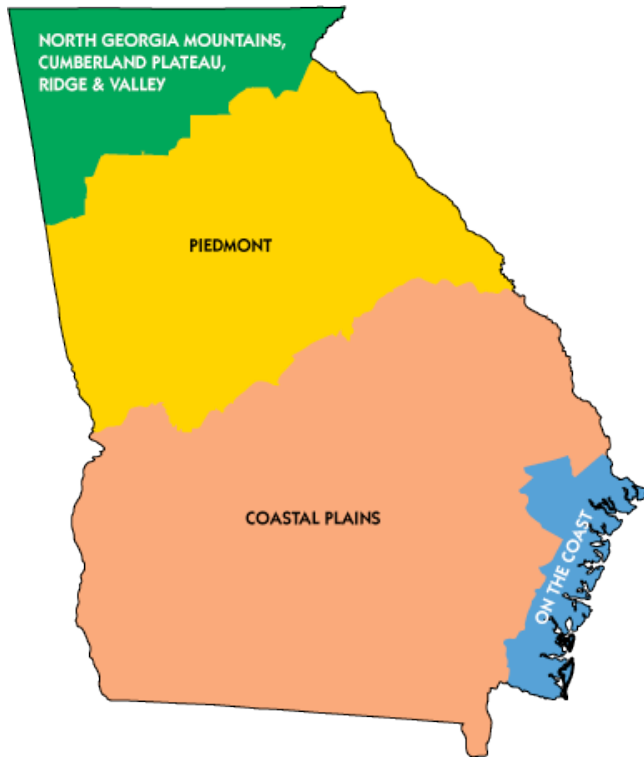


**STATE PARKS & HISTORIC SITES**



**Come stay with us  
while you explore Georgia's  
hot birding spots!**

Below is a summary of great birding sites (as described in *Birding Georgia* by Giff Beaton) that are located within 30 minutes of a State Park or State Historic Park that offers overnight accommodation in cottages and/or lodges.

## **North Georgia Mountains**

Near Amicalola Falls State Park

- Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area  
The city of Atlanta tract at Dawson Forest is a large area of second growth forest near the Etowah River. It is a good place to see breeding warblers and other neotropical migrants including: blue-winged warblers, yellow-throated warblers, Kentucky warblers, yellow-breasted chats, blue grosbeaks, ovenbird, scarlet tanagers, hooded warblers, Louisiana waterthrushes, and whip-poor-wills. Dawson Forest has been designated an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society.

Near Fort Mountain State Park

- Cohutta Wildlife Management Area  
The Lake Conasauga Songbird Trail in the Cohutta WMA is a great summer birding spot for Georgia mountain specialties including Blackburnian warblers, chestnut-sided warblers, black-

throated blue warblers, black-throated green warblers, hooded warblers, ovenbird, Eastern wood-peewee, scarlet tanager, blue-headed vireo and dark-eyed junco.

- Carter's Lake  
The Songbird Trail at Carter's Lake passes through wooded areas and marshy places that offer good year-round birding. This one of the few places in Georgia where tree swallows nest; common yellowthroats and northern rough-winged swallows nest here as well. Watch for bald eagles which have nested on the lake. In the winter you may also see waterfowl on the lake. The open areas provide good places to see sparrows in the winter as well as bobwhite quail. Carter's Lake has been designated an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society.

#### Near Vogel State Park

- Ivy Log Gap  
Birding at this site involves driving along Ivy Log Gap Road in the Chattahoochee National Forest. It is a good dirt road that runs through excellent upland hardwood habitat and is wide enough for you to stop and look along the way. Here you can see some of the higher elevation breeding birds including blackburnian warblers, black-throated green warblers, scarlet tanagers and blue-headed vireos as well as cerulean warblers. Others to be seen along the route include: American redstart, Kentucky warblers, chest-nut sided warbler and ovenbird.
- Brasstown Bald  
Brasstown Bald is the highest mountain in Georgia and provides good opportunities to see high elevation breeding birds plus incredible scenic vistas. You can drive up and bird along the way, see birds from the parking lot at the top and hike a trail from the parking lot. Here you can see common ravens, Canada warblers, black-throated blue warblers, rose-breasted grosbeak, veery, ruffed grouse, scarlet tanager and winter wren.
- Neel's Gap to Lake Winfield Scott  
This route takes you along good paved roads to spots where you can either stop along the road and bird or stop and take short hikes. In addition to breeding species you can also look for migrants in late spring and early fall. Highlights include: Canada warbler, blackburnian warbler, black-throated blue warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, American redstart, veery, scarlet tanager, rose-breasted grosbeak, blue-headed vireo and Acadian flycatcher.

#### Near Black Rock Mountain State Park

- Rabun Bald  
Rabun Bald is the second highest mountain in Georgia. You can stop and bird along the road on the way and hike to the summit along a two mile Forest Service trail. Key birds to look for include common raven, Canada warbler, black-throated blue warbler, scarlet tanager, veery, rose-breasted grosbeak and ruffed grouse.
- Burrell's Ford  
Burrell's Ford road located near the Chatooga River travels through some of the last stands of old growth hemlock-white pine forest in Georgia. Red-breasted nuthatches and golden-crowned kinglets have been found here in the summer and you can see many of Georgia's mountain breeding warblers as well. Birds to look for include Swainson's warbler, whip-poor-will, worm eating warbler, ovenbird and Louisiana waterthrush.

#### Near Red Top Mountain State Park

- Kennesaw Mountain

The Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield offers the best inland migration site in the state (and probably in the entire southeastern U.S.) for viewing warblers, vireos and other landbirds. It has been designated an Important Bird Area by the American Audubon Society. During the peak of migration it is not uncommon to see more than 20 species of warblers and is one of the best places in the eastern U.S. to see migrating Cerulean warblers.

- **Pine Log Wildlife Management Area**  
Pine Log offers excellent spring and summer birding for migrants and breeding birds in hardwood and mixed forest. Key birds to look for here include Bachman's sparrow, blue-winged warbler, Chuck-wills widow, whip-poor-will, grasshopper sparrow, bald eagle, cliff swallows, tree swallows, Louisiana waterthrush, Kentucky warbler and hooded warbler.

## **Piedmont**

Near Indian Springs State Park

- **Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge**  
This large wildlife refuge is one of the few sites on public lands where you can see the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. There is a self-guided wildlife drive and walking trails where you can see the woodpeckers as well as other interesting birds. Birds to look for include Bachman's sparrow, cliff swallows, great-crested flycatchers, Acadian flycatchers, Eastern wood-peewee, brown-headed nuthatch, wild turkey, blue-headed vireo, prairie warbler, hooded warbler and Kentucky warblers. Piedmont NWR has been designated an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society.

## **Southwest GA Coastal Plain**

Near George T. Bagby State Park and Florence Marina State Park

- **Eufala National Wildlife Refuge and Lake Walter F. George**  
Lake Walter F. George is a large lake on the Georgia/Alabama border. During migration it is a great place for waterfowl and rare gulls have been spotted here as well. In the winter large concentrations of gulls may be found below the spillway and the lake is good for ducks, especially diving birds like loons that prefer large bodies of water. The Bradley Unit of the Eufala National Wildlife refuge provides great fall and winter birding along two large ponds/diked impoundments. Key birds to look for include king rail, purple gallinule, prothonotary warbler, anhinga, least bittern, greater white-fronted goose and sparrows - including LaConte's.  
Eufala NWR has been designated an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society.

Meadowlinks Golf course located across the road from George T. Bagby State Park provides an opportunity to bird by golf cart and explore the only golf course known to be included on a birding trail. The scenic course offers birding along wetland areas as well as open forest edge.

Seminole State Park

- **Lake Seminole Wildlife Management Area**  
This large lake in the extreme southwestern corner of the state is fed by both the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers. Areas within the WMA along the rivers provide excellent birding opportunities for spring and fall migrants. Winter is a good time for viewing sparrows

and ducks on the lake. Some key birds to look for include canvasback, purple gallinule, bald eagle and Bachman's Sparrow. Lake Seminole has been designated an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society.

## **Southeast Georgia Coastal Plain**

Stephen C. Foster State Park

- Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge  
This large wildlife refuge can be accessed on the east side of the swamp via the Suwanee Canal Recreation area or on the west through Stephen C. Foster State Park. While the highlights here are the cypress swamp, marshes and open water there is plenty of dry land to explore as well. Birds to look for include prothonotary warblers and a variety of wading birds. Sandhill cranes and red-cockaded woodpeckers can be seen on the east side. The Okefenokee has been designated an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society.

## **Coastal Georgia**

Near Fort McAllister State Historic Park

- Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge  
You can explore this exceptional birding site along an auto tour loop through various habitats including a large rookery with wood storks and other wading birds. In the scrub you are likely to see painted buntings. The ponds are great for ducks, anhinga, herons, egrets, ibis – including glossy ibis, and common moorhens. Harris Neck has been designated an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society.
- Youman's Pond  
This little site is a swampy area with adjacent forest that is good for wading birds year-round. Birds to look for include wood stork, yellow-crowned night heron, black-crowned night heron and other herons, anhingas, white ibis and osprey.
- Savannah Ogeechee Canal  
This small park offers access to prime floodplain habitat with a short trail along the Ogeechee River. There you can see Swainson's warbler, prothonotary warbler, hooded warbler, yellow-throated warbler, Mississippi kite, Acadian flycatcher, yellow-throated vireo and barred owl.

Near Crooked River State Park

- Cumberland Island  
Cumberland is Georgia's largest barrier island and most of it is a national park. It offers great opportunities to see migrants in the spring and fall. The fall is a great time for migrating raptors including Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, peregrine falcons, merlins and American kestrel. The shorebirds migrate along the beaches and winter brings more gulls and offshore loons and ducks. Landbird migrants include northern parula warblers, white-eyed vireos, blue-gray gnatcatchers, black-throated blue warblers and American redstarts. Painted buntings can be found in the scrub and yellow-throated warblers nest here. Cumberland Island has been designated an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society.

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