

# Birding at Mammoth Cave National Park

Submitted by Steve Kistler

## Google Map coordinates

37.186997, -86.100788

## Habitats

- 53,000 acres of mostly undisturbed hardwood forest.
- Visitor center clearing area, consisting of mowed lawns, open trees, and brushy edges.
- Green River and Nolin River corridors.

## Birds and birder comments

Mammoth Cave is an excellent spot to find spring and fall passerines, including dozens of warbler species. Summer residents include the following warblers: worm-eating, hooded, cerulean, yellow-throated, northern parula, black-and-white, common yellowthroat, prothonotary, L. waterthrush, Kentucky, and ovenbird. Also summer and scarlet tanagers; red-eyed, white-eyed, and yellow-throated vireos; and wood thrushes. Bald eagles can be found in the river areas and below Nolin Lake Dam.

Park maps are available online and at the visitor center information desk. To access the national park website, click [here](#).

Good birding areas in the park include the visitor center clearing edges (try the big trees behind the train engine); Echo River Springs Trail area (37.179777, -86.110811); Flint Ridge Rd between Great Onyx Rd (37.197371, -86.079023) and the Mammoth Cave Baptist Church (37.197525, -86.073294); Joppa Ridge Motor Trail (a one-way road, starting at 37.177442, -86.105714); Turnhole Bend Nature Trail (parking lot at 37.162385, -86.158693); and the south side of the Green River at Houchins Ferry (37.201714, -86.237543); the ferry is not operational. On the north side of the river, try the stretch between Maple Springs campground (37.203854, -86.136149) and the parking lot (37.205905, -86.138917).

It is legal to park on road edges in the park, but be sure not to block access to gates and sides roads.