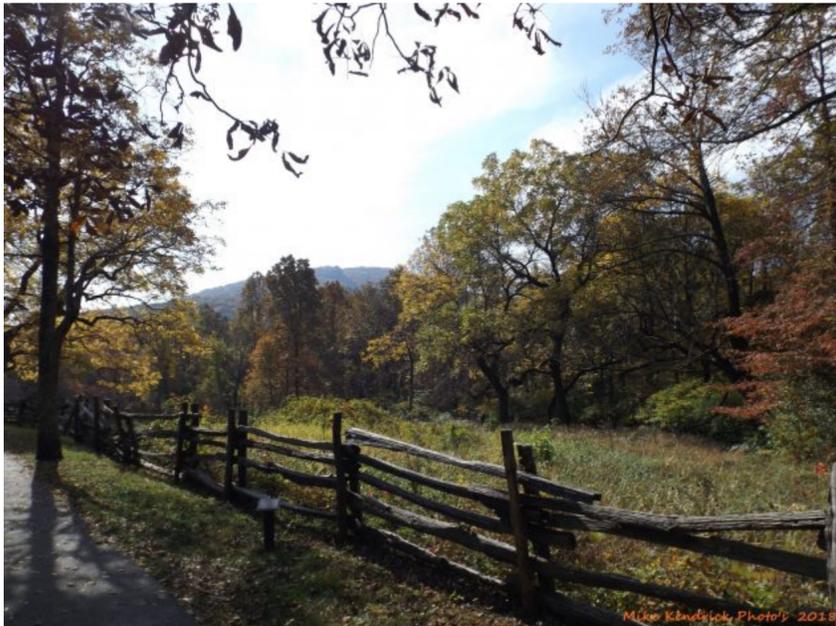


DESTINATIONS

56 Places to Avoid the Mall on Black Friday (in TN)

NOVEMBER 17, 2018 BY ANGELA MINOR NO COMMENTS



Outdoor-busters for 'Bird' Friday.

Even though you just heard from me last week, I'm jumping ahead with an idea on how to avoid 'black' Friday at the mall. If you live anywhere near Tennessee, the entire state park system is offering [free ranger-guided hikes](#) in all 56 state parks on Friday, November 23. There are 1,100 miles of trails, 36 campgrounds, and 372 cabins – perfect ingredients for a long holiday weekend of birding. And, you'll be nowhere near the retail buggy bash-and-dash fun at the mall! 😊

Since there are eight states around the border, chances are good you might be close to a TN state park if you live in the southeastern US.

Check [HERE](#) to find a Tennessee state park near you, and let's change 'black' Friday into 'bird' Friday!

Western TN state parks

Several parks enjoy the benefits of close proximity to the mighty Mississippi River.



Bald Eagle. Photo by © Mike Kendrick

Middle TN state parks

Parks in middle Tennessee reside in various landscapes of geological plateaus.

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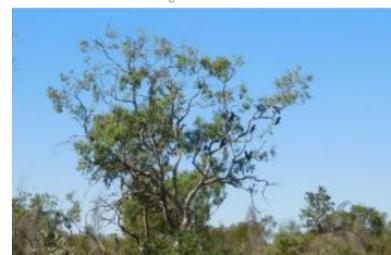
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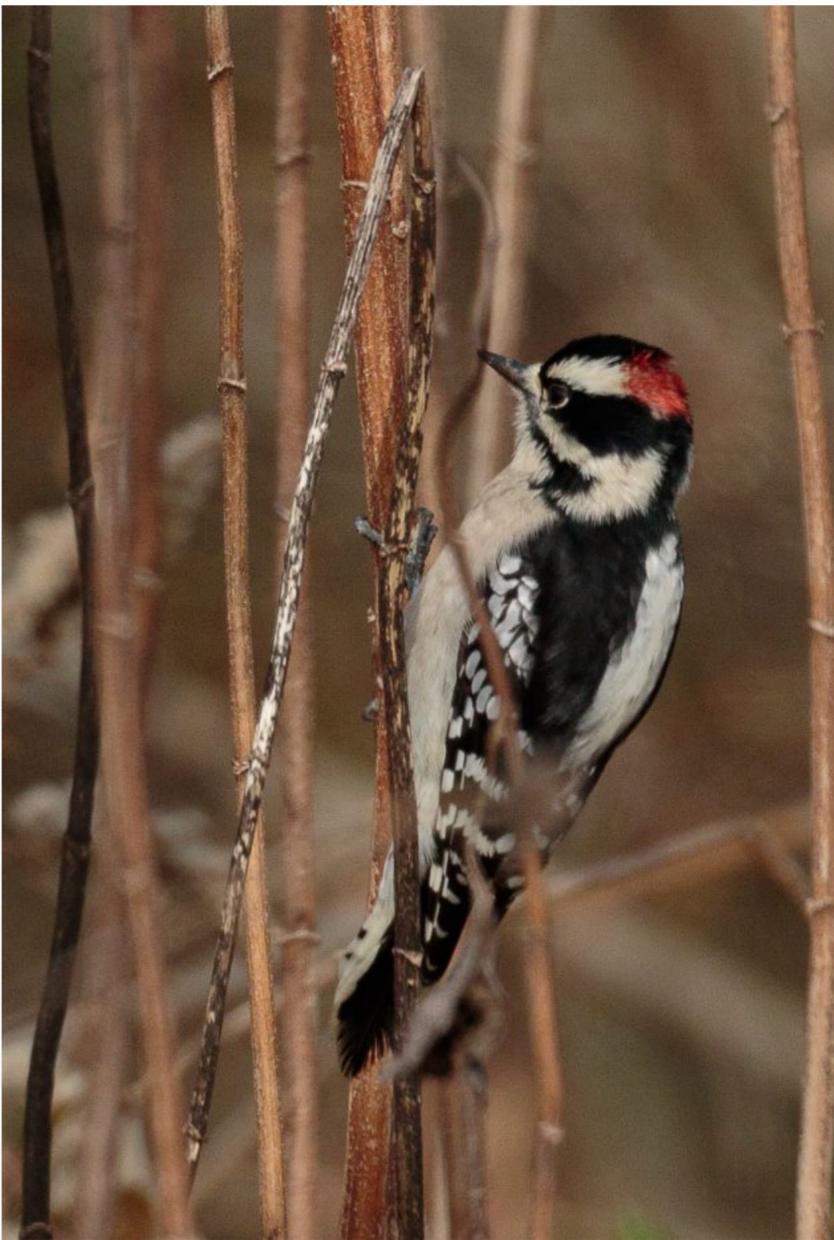


Warblers that Warble



"It's a good life": Donald Kroodsmas's Birdsong





Downy Woodpecker. Photo by © Mike Blevins

Eastern TN state parks

Our eastern state parks have valleys, ridges, and the Great Smoky Mountains. Also, the Sandhills are back for winter in the southeast!



Sandhill Crane. Photo by © Mike Blevins

Across the U.S. there are over 10,000 state parks (and 59 National Parks) just waiting for your boots and binoculars. So happy Bird Friday wherever you live!

(Featured image – Photo by © Mike Kendrick)

Red-tailed Black-
Cockatoos return to
Broome



Woodland for sale



The Longest (and Shortest)
Hour

**WRITTEN BY ANGELA MINOR**

Angela Minor's first avian adventure involved a 1000-mile road trip just to look at hummingbirds. As a lifelong vagabond, she has lived, traveled, and birded across the continental U.S., Alaska, the Caribbean, and seven European countries over the past three decades. Freelance travel writer is her third career, following teacher and small business owner. She's a regular contributor to several travel publications including Blue Ridge Country and Smoky Mountain Living, and writes feature articles for Ft. Myers Magazine, 3rd Act, and international cruise sites. She serves as a field editor with Birds & Blooms, the "Park Watch" Beat Writer for 10,000 Birds, and authors the state park birding series for Bird Watcher's Digest.

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