



15 Best Mountain State Parks for BIRDING

(And Other Stuff Too)

Spring travels from the south, and a tour of this set of state parks ideal for birding could be undertaken in the same manner.

by Angela Minor

One hundred years ago the National Audubon Society led the way to protect birds from harmful human activities. The end result was passage of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918, granting us the privilege in 2018 of watching, counting, listening to and admiring hundreds of species that might otherwise be lost.

While contemplating on how to celebrate this momentous centennial, I could see the Blue Ridge just on the horizon of my hometown. The following birding journey is now the plan. I'll begin in the south and touch 15 state parks across seven states in search of the next avian members for my life list. Join me, won't you!

▶ GEORGIA

UNICOI STATE PARK & LODGE

This small 1050-acre state park shares the north Georgia mountains with the vast Chattahoochee Wildlife Man-

agement Area. It offers all the fun of a larger park including fine programs on the culture, history, and natural surroundings of the area.

LIFE LISTERS: Rusty Blackbird / Willow Flycatcher / Brown-headed Nuthatch / Wood Thrush / Cerulean Warbler / Kentucky Warbler / Prairie Warbler / Red-headed Woodpecker

BIRD TRAILS: There are 12 miles of nature and hiking trails and a 53-acre lake; all excellent for birding.

WHERE TO STAY: Unicoi SP offers 105 tent, RV, and trailer campsites with 33 walk-in and 16 shelters; a 100-room Lodge; and 30 cottages (some pet friendly).

MUST-SEE: The quaint village of nearby Helen, Georgia: Bavarian charm in the midst of the southern Blue Ridge Mountains. Enjoy artisanal food and drink, walkable streets, and natural beauty in Georgia's third most-visited town.

CONTACT: explore.gastateparks.org/lodges/unicoi/default.aspx

Grandfather Mountain State Park opens the mountain's 2,456-acre back-country to spectacular hiking and birding. Grandfather Mountain, at 5,946 feet (1,812 m), it is the highest peak on the eastern escarpment of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

path along the Blue Ridge Escarpment wilderness, originates at Table Rock SP.

Join fellow birders for the Great Backyard Bird Count in February and the Hawk Watch program each fall.

WHERE TO STAY: Table Rock SP offers one-, two-, and three-bedroom cabins; trailside tent camping; primitive group tent camping; 69-site camping area near the entrance and additional 25-site camping area with water, electrical hookup, and picnic table (some accommodations for RVs up to 40 feet); and a primitive walk-in camping area with central water.

MUST-SEE: Come to Table Rock SP on the second Saturday of each month for the "Music on the Mountain" bluegrass program.

CONTACT: southcarolinaparks.com/table-rock

▶ NORTH CAROLINA

GORGES STATE PARK

This 7,500-acre park has a fascinating history of a broken dam, the Singer Sewing Machine Company, and a spot on the N.C. Registry of Natural Heritage Areas for its abundance of rare species. Be sure to visit the museum-quality visitor center on the way to plunging waterfalls, soaring vertical rock walls and breathtaking river gorges.

LIFE LISTERS: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (most critical nesting area in the Southern Appalachians) / Black-throated Blue Warbler / Golden-winged Warbler / Rose-breasted Grosbeak / Ruffed Grouse / Winter Wren / Red-breasted Nuthatch / Ovenbird / Golden-crowned Kinglet

BIRD TRAILS: The most popular trail is the Gorges SP portion of the Foothills Trail, a 76-mile National Recreation Trail winding through North and South Carolina. Nine other named trails offer access to woodland strolls for beginners, sweeping vistas, boardwalks, suspension bridges, picnic areas, primitive campsites, strenuous journeys with water crossings and powerful waterfalls, and abandoned lime kilns from the 1800s.

WHERE TO STAY: Gorges SP is known for its spectacular primitive camping backpack sites throughout the park. There are various amenities at each location. For other accommodations, consider a stay in nearby Sapphire, North, Carolina, or various cabin and chalet rentals in close proximity to the park.

MUST-SEE: Bearwallow Creek waterfall cascades with mountain water and mist has an easily accessible overlook platform from the Bearwallow Picnic Area parking lot. Follow the trail marked with blue circles, and enjoy benches along the way.

CONTACT: ncparks.gov/gorges-state-park

▶ SOUTH CAROLINA

TABLE ROCK STATE PARK

Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal Program, 3083-acre Table Rock SP is a top choice for mountain birding. With mixed pine and hardwood forests, extensive gneiss cliffs and outcroppings, streams and two man-made lakes, this is a birder favorite.

LIFE LISTERS: Peregrine Falcon (reintroduced in 1989 and successfully nesting each year in 1800- to 2800-foot cliffs) / Brown-headed Nuthatch / Dark-eyed Junco / Blackburnian Warbler / Chestnut-sided Warbler / Black-and-white Warbler / Worm-eating Warbler / Hooded Warbler / Swainson's Warbler / Black-throated Green Warbler / Black-throated Blue Warbler / Solitary Vireo / Scarlet Tanager / Red Crossbill / Wild Turkey / Broad-winged, Cooper's, and Sharp-shinned Hawks (fall migration) / Osprey and American Kestrel (fall migration)

BIRD TRAILS: Six main and connector park trails ranging in difficulty from easy to very strenuous. All well maintained, marked and rich with views and wildlife. You might even see black bear and gray fox.

The trailhead for the Foothills Trail, an 80-mile-long

GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

With several mountain peaks reaching over 5,000 feet into the sky, this area of North Carolina has the highest elevations in the Blue Ridge. With an abundance of hardwood and spruce-fir forests, coves, balds, and rocky outcrops, Grandfather Mountain SP boasts the second highest breeding bird diversity (118 species) in the country.

LIFE LISTERS: Northern Saw-whet Owl (key conservation site) / Sharp-shinned Hawk / Cooper's Hawk / Ruffed Grouse / Golden-crowned Kinglet / Yellow-bellied Sapsucker / Red-breasted Nuthatch / Brown Creeper / Canada Warbler / Warbling Vireo / Blue-headed Vireo / Black-throated Green Warbler

BIRD TRAILS: With eight trails totaling 12 miles, be prepared for challenging hikes to see the upper elevations. There are trail ladders and cables along the cliff edges and chutes that require hand-over-hand. Several trails offer views of Calloway Peak, the highest point in the Blue Ridge Range. For beginners, several trails start with ease and offer ample birding opportunities.

WHERE TO STAY: Grandfather Mountain SP offers 13 backpack campsites within the trail system. There are various regulations about parking, campfires, water availability and other information depending on the location of your site—check before you go. For hotel accommodations consider staying in Boone, Blowing Rock, or Linville, North Carolina.

MUST-SEE: Mile High Swinging Bridge: This 228-foot bridge is the highest suspension footbridge in the country, and offers panoramic views from the mountain.

CONTACT: ncparks.gov/grandfather-mountain-state-park

NEW RIVER STATE PARK

This 2,911-acre state park resides on the South Fork of The New River Corridor watershed—considered the oldest river system in North America. Audubon classifies this

narrow floodplain and adjacent slopes (though altered by development) as the best breeding area for warbling vireos and Baltimore orioles. Also, the first North Carolina breeding record for the tree swallow was along this river.

LIFE LISTERS: Warbling Vireo / Baltimore Oriole / Northern Oriole / Orchard Oriole / Yellow-throated Vireo / Blue-winged Warbler / Willow Flycatcher / Tree Swallow / Golden-winged Warbler / Yellow Warbler / Black-billed Cuckoo / Willow Flycatcher / Least Flycatcher / Spotted Sandpiper / Scarlet Tanager / American Goldfinch / Indigo Bunting / Osprey / Wild Turkey / Red-tailed Hawk / Wood Duck

BIRD TRAILS: Many of the 10 trails are accessible from U.S. 221, less than 1.5 miles each, and rate as easy or moderate. You can hike along the river's edge, through mountain meadows, hardwood forests, and pine and rhododendron thickets.

WHERE TO STAY: Three main camping areas total over 750 acres of space at this park. Amenities vary with location from hot-water showers and RV sites to walk-in/canoe-in primitive campsites.

MUST-SEE: Consider birding on the water at New River SP. This location is perfect for beginners with plenty of outfitters and guides.

CONTACT: ncparks.gov/new-river-state-park

▶ TENNESSEE

HIWASSEE OCOEE SCENIC RIVER STATE PARK

Located at the western edge of the southern Cherokee National Forest, this park was the first member of Tennessee's State Scenic River program. Surrounding the Hiwassee and Ocoee Rivers, with Class I – V rapids, are mountains, gorges, and high elevation clearings. The latter are visited by large numbers of fall migration song birds and even breeding numbers of Canadian zone birds.

LIFE LISTERS: Sharp-shinned Hawk / Swainson's Warbler



The rose-breasted grosbeak, or other grosbeaks, have the potential to be seen at Gorges, Hiwassee Ocoee, Rocky Fork and Roan Mountain state parks.

part of the Unicoi Bear Reserve. The land is primarily Appalachian cove forest with many unnamed streams and waterfalls, surrounded on three sides by the Cherokee National Forest (north).

LIFE LISTERS: Common Raven / Bald Eagle / Osprey / Peregrine Falcon / Broad-winged Hawk / Cooper's Hawk / Red-tailed Hawk / Sharp-shinned Hawk / Double-crested Cormorant / Barred Owl / Downy Woodpecker / Hairy Woodpecker / Pileated Woodpecker / Red-bellied Woodpecker / Acadian Flycatcher / Great Crested Flycatcher / Eastern Wood-Pewee / 11 species of Warbler / Ovenbird / Evening Grosbeak

BIRD TRAILS: Within the 2,037 acres, there are miles of old management and logging roads and nine moderate to strenuous hiking trails. Also, the Appalachian Trail is nearby.

WHERE TO STAY: This location was added to the Tennessee State Park system in fall of 2012 and remains undeveloped. Accommodations can be found in the nearby town of Erwin, TN or via private cabin, chalet, and resort rentals.

MUST-SEE: Flint Creek Trail: This route marks the historic battle and encampment locations between John Sevier and the Cherokee and Creek Indians.

CONTACT: tnstateparks.com/parks/about/rocky-fork

ROAN MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

The distinguishing feature is the dramatic elevation changes, creating diverse layers of habitat for lower-, middle- and higher-elevation bird species.

LIFE LISTERS: Lower (below 3,000'): Indigo Bunting / Golden-winged Warbler / Yellow Warbler / Black-and-white Warbler / Hooded Warbler / Ovenbird / Scarlet Tanager / Willow Flycatcher / Red-eyed Vireo / Wood Thrush. Middle (3,000'-5,000'): Rose-breasted Grosbeak / Canada Warbler / Blue-headed Warbler / Veery / Black-throated Green Warbler / Chestnut-sided Warbler. Higher elevation (5,000+'): Alder Flycatcher / Red-breasted Nuthatch / Winter Wren / Golden-crowned Kinglet / Hermit Thrush / Red Crossbill / Northern Saw-whet Owl

BIRD TRAILS: Hikers enjoy 12 miles of trails from easy to strenuous difficulty levels. Eleven maintained trails pass through a variety of landscapes including hardwood and spruce-fir forests, rhododendron gardens, grassy balds, river edges, and wildflower fields. There is even a trail named "Moonshiner's Run"—ask a ranger for the history.

WHERE TO STAY: Roan Mountain SP offers 30 cabins, complete with all amenities, and 107 campground sites for RV and tent camping with bathhouses, grills, and picnic tables.

MUST-SEE: Miller Farmstead: This historic farmhouse and buildings give a glimpse into the past of Appalachian-style subsistence living in the secluded mountains of the South. It is largely unchanged from its establishment in the early 1900s.

CONTACT: tnstateparks.com/parks/about/roan-mountain

/ Northern Saw-whet Owl / Common Raven / Northern Bobwhite / Yellow-bellied Sapsucker / Red-breasted Nuthatch / Brown Creeper / Winter Wren / Veery / Chestnut-sided Warbler / Black-throated Blue Warbler / Canada Warbler / Blackburnian Warbler / Rose-breasted Grosbeak

BIRD TRAILS: There are 600 miles of trails in the park and adjacent forests, including a portion of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Additionally, The John Muir State Scenic Trail is located in the nearby community of Reliance.

WHERE TO STAY: The Hiwassee Ocoee SP offers 47 individual and eight group campsites with tables, fire rings, and grills. Hot showers at the bathhouse and public water are available. In the surrounding area are 30 developed campgrounds along with 45 areas for day use. You can also find hotel accommodations in Benton, along with several private cabin rentals.

MUST-SEE: Ocoee Whitewater Center: Used for canoe and kayak slalom events in the 1996 Summer Olympic Games. Learn about history from knowledgeable staff; see 750-million-year-old rock formations; hike miles of trails; enjoy local crafts.

CONTACT: tnstateparks.com/parks/about/hiwassee-ocoe

ROCKY FORK STATE PARK

Rocky Fork SP contains top-ranking biological habitat diversity for the North American continent. There are wide varieties of species, both flora and fauna; and this area is



The pileated woodpecker (left) is a possible life lister at Rocky Fork and Cedar Creek state parks.

The wood duck (above) has a population at New River State Park.



Nuthatches, including this red-breasted, are at home in Unicoi, Table Rock, Gorges, Grandfather, Hiwassee-Ocoee, Roan Mountain, Grayson Highlands and North Bend state parks.

TODD CAMERON

▶ KENTUCKY

BREAKS INTERSTATE PARK

There are only two shared or bi-state state parks in the country; Breaks Interstate Park is one of them. Located near the southern borders of Kentucky and Virginia, this gem is known for extensive stream networks, rich cove forests of poplar, oaks, and hemlock, and lush understories of shrubby species.

LIFE LISTERS: 30+ warbler species including Swainson's Warbler / Kentucky Warbler / Worm-eating Warbler / Cerulean Warbler / Hooded Warbler / Wood Thrush / Eastern Wood-Pewee / Field Sparrow / Indigo Bunting / Gray Catbird / Eastern Phoebe / Eastern Towhee / 20+ duck species / Merlin / Loggerhead Shrike / 10+ flycatcher species / Golden Eagle / Bald Eagle

BIRD TRAILS: Hike over 25 miles of easy to difficult trails. Detailed maps are available at the Visitor Center, and guided hikes are available. Mountain biking, horseback riding, and geocaching are other options for trail exploration.

Breaks is part of the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail, and welcomes the public to join in the National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count. The Visitor Center posts a 'recent sighting list', and has a free birding checklist brochure.

WHERE TO STAY: Breaks Interstate Park offers a wide variety of accommodations. The Lodge has 81 hotel and suite rooms with an onsite restaurant. There are five lakefront cabins and four woodland cottages, with amenities. For campers, 138 campsites range from primitive tent to full RV hook-up spaces. You can also choose tree-covered, grassy areas, or book early and stay in the yurt.

MUST-SEE: Russell Fork Gorge: This Class V river area is reputed to be the largest gorge east of the Mississippi River.

CONTACT: parks.ky.gov/parks/recreationparks/breaks-interstate/

▶ VIRGINIA

GRAYSON HIGHLANDS STATE PARK

The habitat characteristics of Grayson Highlands SP support bird species rarely found elsewhere in Virginia. Mount Rogers and White Top Mountain are the highest points in the state. The area contains a 1,100-acre red spruce forest with trees over 150 years old; 200 acres of mountaintop bald; and 2,200 acres of high-elevation grassy habitat.

LIFE LISTERS: Appalachian Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (subspecies) / Red Crossbill / Northern Saw-whet Owl / Winter Wren / Hermit Thrush / Blackburnian Warbler / Golden-crowned Kinglet / Red-breasted Nuthatch / Wood Thrush

BIRD TRAILS: Grayson Highlands SP has 13 hiking trails with all but one path rated as moderate and difficult, and nine miles of bridle trails. A unique aspect here is the availability of scenic horse trails with horse camping, stalls and the necessary trailer parking. Access to the Appalachian Trail and Virginia Highlands Horse Trail year-round.

WHERE TO STAY: There are 96 mostly wooded campsites at Grayson Highlands SP with various amenities such as fire-rings, picnic tables, grills and bathhouses. Group camping is available, and the park has a basics-only camping lodge bunkhouse.

MUST-SEE: Boulders: While it may sound a bit odd, the geology in the park is unlike any other in the southeastern US. There are seven boulder fields with 700 climbing routes, aptly named 'problems'. People come from around the world for the 'bouldering' at Grayson Highlands SP.

CONTACT: dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/grayson-highlands#general_information

DOUTHAT STATE PARK

Since the construction of the park, dam, spillway, cabins, and other structures under President Roosevelt's CCC project, Douthat SP remains relatively unchanged. Located in the Alleghany Mountains with their folded ridges and extensive, linear valleys at higher elevations, this area is a critical flyway for neotropical migrants.

LIFE LISTERS: Golden-winged Warbler / Loggerhead Shrike / Eastern Meadowlark / Field Sparrow / Northern Bobwhite / Blue-winged Warbler / Prairie Warbler / Hooded Warbler / Brown Thrasher / Indigo Bunting / Eastern Towhee / Cerulean Warbler / Appalachian Winter Wren / Blue-gray Gnatcatcher / Bald Eagle / Louisiana Waterthrush / Northern Parula / Golden Eagle / Willow Flycatcher / Scarlet Tanager / Sharp-shinned Hawk

CONTACT: dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/douthat#general_information

SKY MEADOWS STATE PARK

At the base of the spine of the Blue Ridge escarpment you will find Sky Meadows SP, a 1,864-acre area of woodlands, pastures, and historic significance. This location has an abundance of avian diversity, and is one of Virginia's most important migration flyways. According to Audubon, thousands of raptors fly over each year, and thousands of passerines stop by during their migrations.

LIFE LISTERS: Acadian Flycatcher / Eastern Phoebe / American Woodcock / 12+ warbler species including Prothonotary Warbler / Black-and-white Warbler / Golden-winged Warbler / American Kestrel / Peregrine Falcon / Sharp-shinned Hawk / Broad-winged Hawk / Cooper's Hawk / Red-tailed Hawk / Northern Goshawk / Northern Harrier / Bald Eagle / Golden Eagle / American Kestrel / Osprey / Northern Bobwhite

BIRD TRAILS: Most trails in Sky Meadows SP are rated easy to moderate and cover an interesting variety of landscapes. From the Blue Ridge Trails you can access four spectacular scenic overlooks, a 5K trail, and a woodpecker viewing area near the historic section of the park. On the Lost Mountain Trails you can visit the migratory duck pond, as well as overlooks and open pastures. The Appalachian Trail crosses through the western edge of the park.

WHERE TO STAY: Sky Meadows SP has 18 walk-in campsites for individuals, families, and large groups (no vehicle access). Pit toilets, nonpotable water, and firewood available onsite. Hotel accommodations are 30+ minutes from the park.

MUST-SEE: Tour the historic homes; listen to ranger presentations; check the availability of guided bird tours.

CONTACT: dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/sky-meadows#general_information



The prothonotary warbler is a possible life lister at Sky Meadows State Park.

▶ WEST VIRGINIA

CEDAR CREEK STATE PARK

Within the 2,588-acre Cedar Creek SP there are three lakes, rolling hills, wide valleys, forestlands, and a treasure trove of lowland warbler species.

LIFE LISTERS: Cerulean Warbler / Louisiana Waterthrush / Yellow Warbler / Common Yellowthroat / Hooded Warbler / Kirtland's Warbler (with a little luck) / Golden-winged Warbler / Bald Eagle / Golden Eagle / Osprey

BIRD TRAILS: Fourteen miles of seven main trails.

WHERE TO STAY: You will find 65 standard campsites at this park, along with the option for group camping. The sites have running water, electricity, grills, picnic tables, and shared comfort stations with showers and laundry.

MUST-SEE: One-room schoolhouse: Step back in time in this historically accurate 1910 structure with its potbellied stove, old student and teacher desks, blackboard, and stocked bookcases. For more history, visit the Civil

BIRD TRAILS: Hikers can explore the entire park on a maze of crisscrossing trails. They range in length from .5 miles to 4+ miles, and the terrain can be steep and challenging. Easier trails can be found near the lake and across the road from the restaurant and conference center.

WHERE TO STAY: Douthat SP offers 87 campsites with grills, picnic tables, and bathhouses for tents and RVs at four different sites within the park. You may also choose from 35 permanent structure cabins of varying sizes and amenities.

MUST-SEE: Take a moment to notice the historic construction of the buildings, including original ironwork, fixtures, and latches; and ask the ranger about the long history here. Also, ask about guided birding adventures, or grab a "nature knapsack" and set out on the trails.

The indigo bunting (right) has been sighted at Breaks Interstate, Douthat, Fairfax Stone, New River and Roan Mountain state parks.

The bald eagle (below) is a possible presence at Rocky fork, Breaks Interstate, Douthat, Sky Meadows and Cedar Creek state parks.



PETER STRATMOEN



War history center, an 1861 church, and see costumed staff in nearby Bulltown, WV Historic Area.

CONTACT: wvstateparks.com/park/cedar-creek-state-park/#

NORTH BEND STATE PARK

Located in the north-eastern part of West Virginia, North Bend SP might be best known for its place along

the historic B&O Railroad Rail Trail. This famous 5,500-mile American Discovery Trail wilderness path crosses the US, passes over 36 bridges, and through 10 tunnels. In the West Virginia portion, travelers can make their way through a 2,297-foot tunnel and brave the haunted Silver Run Tunnel. Hardwood forests and dense understory support enviable populations of birds.

LIFE LISTERS: Cerulean Warbler / Pileated Woodpecker / Downy Woodpecker / Hairy Woodpecker / Red-bellied Sapsucker / Titmouse / Chickadee / Nuthatch / Eastern Towhee / Worm-eating Warbler / Hooded Warbler / Louisiana Thrush / Ovenbird

BIRD TRAILS: The North Bend Rail Trail 72-mile section is flat and offers leisurely strolls. Throughout the park, 14 hiking trails totaling 26 miles range from easy to difficult.

WHERE TO STAY: North Bend SP has a full-service 29-room lodge overlooking the river valley. There are also

nine deluxe vacation cabins and two campgrounds with a total of 77 sites for all types of camping.

MUST-SEE: 19th Century oil and gas wells: The park is in West Virginia's historic drilling region, and a few inactive wells still stand.

CONTACT: wvstateparks.com/park/north-bend-state-park/

FAIRFAX STONE STATE PARK

As one of the smallest state parks at only four acres, this is an avian hotspot. Birders and botanists alike love this area of mid-successional fields, open woodlands, and wetlands at the edge of the Monongahela National Forest. Elm, walnut, cherry, ash, and locust trees occupy the land along with spicebush and elderberry at the shrub levels – perfect birding habitats. The park's claim to fame is the 1700's boundary stone marking the historic dispute between the colonies of Maryland and Virginia.

LIFE LISTERS: Rusty Blackbird / Golden-winged Warbler / Olive-sided Flycatcher / Brown Thrasher / Eastern Towhee / Field Sparrow / Prairie Warbler / Indigo Bunting / Yellow-breasted Chat / Blue-winged Warbler / Black-throated Blue Warbler / Blackpoll Warbler / Cape May Warbler / Black-throated Green Warbler / Tennessee Warbler / Swainson's Thrush / Blackburnian Warbler / Ovenbird / Common Yellowthroat / Magnolia Warbler

BIRD TRAILS: The close proximity to the national forest and other West Virginia state parks opens the wilderness for birding hikes on dozens of trails. Twenty miles of trails in neighboring Blackwater Falls SP and 18 miles of trails in next-door Canaan Valley Resort SP are popular hiking areas for guided birding pilgrimages.

WHERE TO STAY: As a day-use park, the closest campgrounds can be found in Blackwater Falls State Park (65 tent and trailer sites) and Canaan Valley Resort State Park (34 paved, wooded sites with hookups).

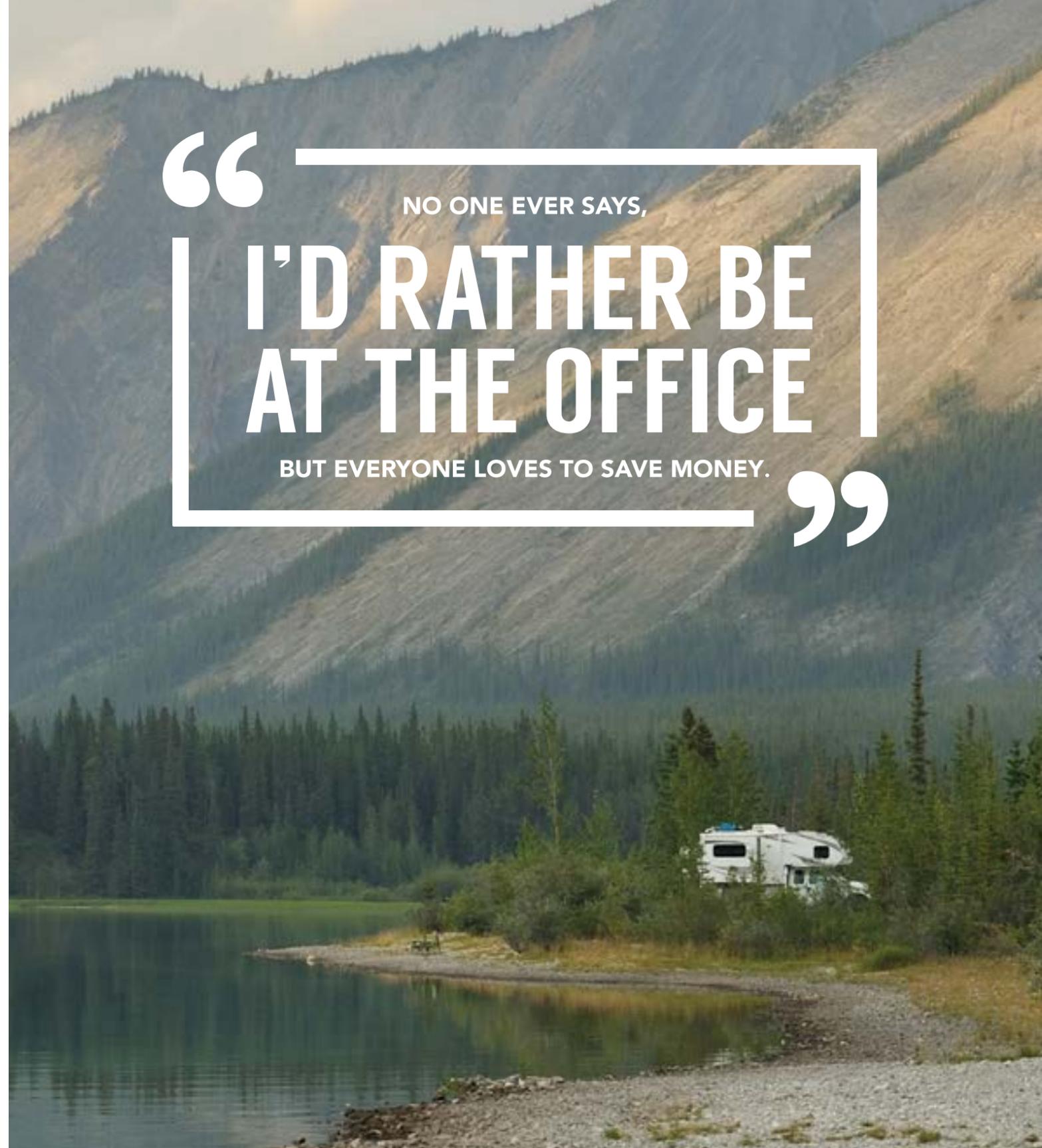
MUST-SEE: Allegheny Front Bird Migration Observatory: While in the area, be sure to visit the oldest, continuous Bird Banding Station on the continent in Dolly Sods, Monongahela National Forest (particularly from mid-August to mid-October). With a 40-year history of banding migratory species, they had the privilege of confirming a Kirtland's in 2014.

CONTACT: wvstateparks.com/park/fairfax-stone-state-park/

Where will you celebrate the 100th birthday of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act?

Each state park recommendation above is within or adjacent to an Audubon's Important Bird Area (IBA). This designation is designed to protect diverse habitats and the birds that need them. In partnership and collaboration with multiple organizations around the world, Audubon has "identified 2,758 IBAs covering 417 million acres of public and private lands in the United States" (audubon.org/important-bird-areas). Thank you to Audubon for a century of avian conservation. 🦅

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