



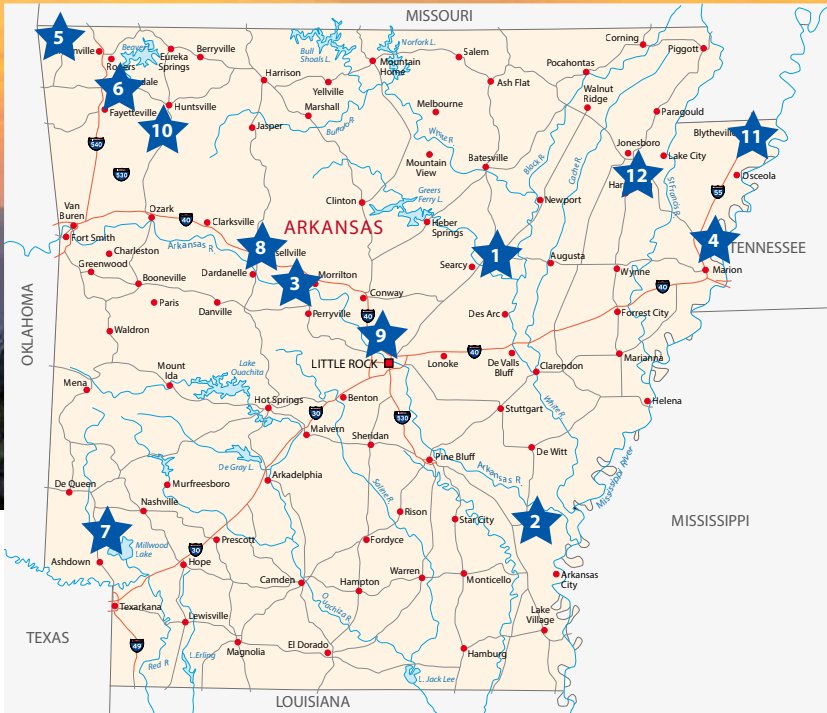
SPOTLIGHT ON ARKANSAS

In 2005, Arkansas made international headlines over a bird: The ivory-billed woodpecker, thought to be extinct for several decades, was allegedly seen and documented in the deep Big Woods. More than half of the land area of Arkansas is forested, and some of those woodlands are deep and dense. In fact, the state is home to a dozen designated wilderness areas, totaling 158,444 acres. Draw a diagonal line from the northeastern corner of Arkansas to the southwestern corner, and you'll approximate two distinct regions of the state. The northwestern half is mountainous, with the Ozarks to the north and the Ouchitas to the south; the southeastern half of the state is lowland. With Old Muddy as its main eastern border, Arkansas is at

the boundary of the Mississippi and Central flyways, so spring and fall are best bets for good birding. Rivers are abundant in the state, many interrupted with reservoirs. Unlike some states, Arkansas's birding hotspots, according to eBird, are distributed across the state.

Hotspots and Feasts of Birdin'

- 1. Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge (NWR); Bulldog Restaurant, 3614 AR 367, Bald Knob**
- 2. Camp Nine**
- 3. Holla Bend NWR; Feltner's Whata-Burger; 1410 N. Arkansas Ave., Russellville**
- 4. Wapanocca NWR; Atkin's City Café, 101 Parkin St., Parkin**
- 5. Charlie Craig State Fish Hatchery; El Pueblito, 300 E. Centerton Blvd., Centerton**



- 6. Lake Fayetteville
- 7. Millwood Lake (Hempstead County)
- 8. Lake Dardanelle
- 9. Two Rivers Park/Cook's Landing
- 10. Lake Sequoyah
- 11. Big Lake Wildlife Management Area
- 12. Craighead Forest Park

(Thanks to ARBIRD-L members for restaurant recommendations near hotspots.)

Resources

- Arkansas Audubon Society: arbirds.org

- Statewide email list: [ARBIRD-L listserv.ualr.edu/archives/arbird-l.html](mailto:ARBIRD-L.listserv.ualr.edu/archives/arbird-l.html)
- Arkansas Birder Facebook group: facebook.com/groups/arkansasbirders/
- Arkansas Bird Records Database: arbirds.org/aas_dbase.html
- State checklist: arbirds.org/2015%20Checklist.pdf
- Audubon Arkansas: ar.audubon.org
- Birds of Arkansas: birdsofarkansas.org

American white pelican.



Little blue heron.



Worm-eating warbler.



Brown-headed nuthatch.

Must-see birds

- Cackling and Ross's geese
- American white pelican
- Little blue heron
- Yellow-crowned night-heron
- Mississippi kite
- American woodcock
- Greater roadrunner
- Chuck-will's-widow
- Red-headed and red-cockaded woodpeckers
- Scissor-tailed flycatcher
- Fish crow
- Brown-headed nuthatch
- Worm-eating, prothonotary, Swainson's, blue-winged, and prairie warblers
- LeConte's and Nelson's sparrows
- Painted bunting

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