

Begin the birding loop at the H. L. Bonham Regional Tourist Information Center.

Nearby trails are listed under each site.

SKULL'S GAP OVERLOOK Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail

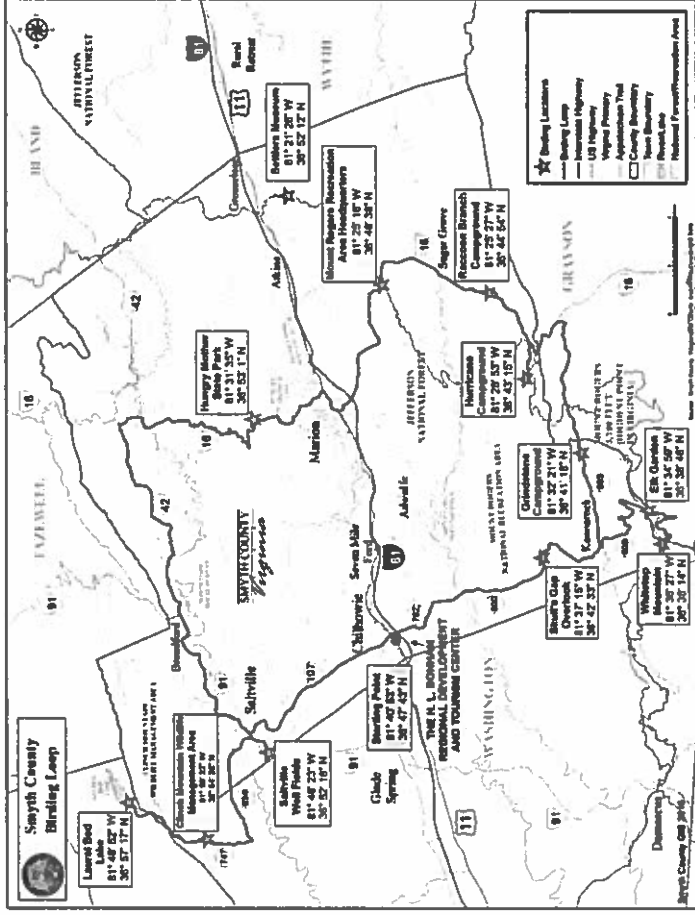
Turn right onto Co Rd 762/Whitetop Road. Continue onto Co Rd 600/St Clairs Creek Road onto Co Rd 762/Whitetop Road for 8 miles. Overlook is located on the right.

ELK GARDEN Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail Appalachian Trail

Continue onto Co Rd 600/Whitetop Road for 3 ½ miles. Turn left to stay on Co Rd 600/Whitetop Road for 5 miles. Parking is located on the right.

WHITETOP MOUNTAIN Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail Appalachian Trail

Turn right and continue on Co Rd 600/Whitetop Road. Turn right in 1.3 miles onto FR 89. Follow this road to top of the mountain.



GRINDSTONE CAMPGROUND Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail

Turn left onto Co Rd 600/Whitetop Road. Turn right on Co Rd 603/Laurel Valley Road and travel about 4 ½ miles. The campground is on the right.

HURRICANE CAMPGROUND Hurricane Knob Trail – 1.14 mile loop - Moderate

Turn right onto Co Rd 603/Laurel Valley Road; continue onto SR 603 Fairwood Road. Turn left at VA -16N. Turn left onto Co Rd 650/Comer's Creek Road; follow this road for 1 ½ miles to paved campground entrance.

RACON BRANCH CAMPGROUND Dickey Knob Trail – 4.8 mile – Moderate

Return to VA 16N/Sugar Grove Hwy. Continue for about 3 miles. Campground is located on the left.

MOUNT ROGERS RECREATION AREA HEADQUARTERS Appalachian Trail

Turn right onto VA 16N/Sugar Grove Hwy. Continue for about 6 miles. Entrance is on the left.

Continue on SR 16N to I-81, Exit 45, about 11 miles. The Northern part of the birding loop begins here.

HUNGRY MOTHER STATE PARK
Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail
13 miles of trails varying in length and difficulty. These include a trail around the lake and a trail that leads to Molly's Knob.

At Exit 45, follow N. Commerce St. and turn right at the light onto SR 11E/Main St. Turn left at the third light onto VA 16N/Park Blvd. The park entrance is 3.8 miles on the right.

SALTVILLE WELL FIELDS
Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail
Helen Williams Barbrow
Interpretive Trail - ½ mile, paved
The Salt Trail – 7 miles – Easy

Turn right onto VA 16N and follow it 9.5 miles. Turn left on SR 42 and follow it 9.7 miles to SR 91. Turn left onto SR 91S, traveling for 7 miles, then bear left on Palmer Avenue in Saltville. Continue on Palmer Avenue for 0.4 miles to Lake Drive. Turn right and follow this road to the entrance to the Saltville Well Fields.

(You may want to go back to the Tourist Information Center in Chilhowie by I- 81 and travel SR 107 to Saltville.)



SMYTH COUNTY BIRDING LOOP



The Smyth County birding loop begins and ends at the H. L. Bonham Regional Tourist Information Center located at I-81, Exit 35. The loop has exceptional birding locations including Whitetop Mountain, Virginia's second highest peak (elevation 5520'). Several birds seen at this elevation include the Magnolia Warbler, Red Crossbills, and the Golden-Crowned Kinglet. The Saltville Well fields have migrating waterfowl and shorebirds such as the Virginia Rail, Wilson's Plover, and the Great Blue Heron. Laurel Bed Lake is located in the Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area which is the second largest and most biologically diverse wildlife management area in Virginia. Beautiful, well maintained hiking trails are abundant in Smyth County. The famous Appalachian Trail crosses several of these locations listed below. Please enjoy our county and its many breathtaking sights as you find yet another bird!

CLINCH MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail

Return to SR 91 and follow it for 0.2 miles to Co Rd 634/Allison Gap Road. Turn left and go 1.3 miles to Co Rd 613/Poor Valley Road. Turn left and continue for another 3.8 miles to Co Rd 747/Tumbling Creek Road. Turn right, and proceed 2 miles to the headquarters.

LAUREL BED LAKE
Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail

Continue on Tumbling Creek Road for another 2 miles. At the fork in the road veer left onto a wooden bridge and travel 2 miles to reach the road to the dam.

Return to Saltville and SR 91. Turn right at the light onto SR 107S to the Tourist Information Center located on the right past the Chilhowie Red light.

For more information contact the Center at (276) 646-3306.