

## W. Kerr Scott Reservoir

<https://www.recreation.gov/camping/gateways/461>

**Location:** map with overview of reservoir facilities

[http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Portals/59/Users/097/89/1889/WK\\_Scott\\_Brochure\\_090617.pdf?ver=2017-12-05-120710-820](http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Portals/59/Users/097/89/1889/WK_Scott_Brochure_090617.pdf?ver=2017-12-05-120710-820)

Reservoir hotspots, starting with Visitor Center & going clockwise:

**Visitor Center:** 499 Reservoir Rd, Wilkesboro, NC 28697

(GPS 36.130699, -81.227364)

**Skyline Marina:** 4008 NC-268, Wilkesboro, NC 28697 (GPS 36.126421, -81.236142)

**Bandit's Roost CG:** 667 Jess Walsh Dr, Wilkesboro, NC 28697

(GPS 36.125127, -81.243517)

**Boomer Park:** 400 Boomer Rd, Boomer, NC 28606 (GPS 36.095541, -81.278089)

**Blood Creek Overlook:** NC 268, Boomer, NC 28697 (GPS 36.100174, -81.278623)

**Warrior Creek CG:** NC 268, Boomer, NC 28697 (GPS 36.104580, -81.283531)

Parking by fee, but free lot within walking distance at GPS 36.105853, -81.292877

**Mountain View Overlook:** 699 Schoolway Ln, Boomer, NC 28606

(GPS 36.105351, -81.304498)

**Marley's Ford WMA:** S. Marley Ford Rd, Ferguson, NC 28624 (GPS 36.109241, -81.307551)

**Fort Hamby Park:** 1534 Recreation Rd, Wilkesboro, NC 28697 (GPS 36.124554, -81.266648)

**Smithey's Creek Boat Ramp:** S Minton Rd, Wilkesboro, NC 28697

(GPS 36.125969, -81.261911)

### **Species of Interest**

#### **Summer**

Hairy Woodpecker

Pileated Woodpecker

Yellow-throated Vireo

Blue-headed Vireo

White-eyed Vireo

Red-eyed Vireo

White-breasted Nuthatch

Brown-headed Nuthatch

Yellow Warbler

Yellow-throated Warbler

Pine Warbler

Black-and White Warbler

American Redstart

Ovenbird

Louisiana Waterthrush

Common Yellowthroat

Hooded Warbler

Prothonotary Warbler

Worm-eating Warbler

Indigo Bunting

Scarlet Tanager

Blue Grosbeak

## Winter

Common Loon  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Horned Grebe  
Greater White-fronted Goose  
Snow Goose  
Redhead  
Lesser Scaup

Ring-necked Duck  
Greater Scaup  
Bufflehead  
Hooded Merganser  
Red-breasted Merganser  
Common Merganser  
Ring-billed Gull

## Migration

Double-crested Cormorant  
Greater Yellowlegs  
Lesser Yellowlegs  
Solitary Sandpiper  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Least Sandpiper  
Bonaparte's Gull

Herring Gull  
Black Tern  
Caspian Tern  
Common Tern  
Forster's Tern  
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher  
Nashville Warbler

## eBird Bar Charts:

Dam: <https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L358674&yr=all&m=>

Skyline Marina: <https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L358681&yr=all&m=>

Bandit's Roost: <https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L3487736&yr=all&m=>

Mountain View Overlook: <https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L1336054&yr=all&m=>

Marley's Ford: <https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L1172925&yr=all&m=>

Fort Hamby: <https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L2038986&yr=all&m=>

Smithey's Creek: <https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L2695201&yr=all&m=>

**Habitats:** river floodplain, wetland, pond, lake, wooded stream, grassland, deciduous forest, mixed forest

## Access and Parking

**Parking:** several hundred spots at over a dozen sites, mostly paved

**Drinking water:** at Visitor Center 8-4:30 weekdays

**Restrooms:** at Visitor Center 8-4:30 weekdays; portable toilets in some locations

**Accessibility:** Visitor Center & boat ramps, Skyline Marina, Smithey's Creek

## Site description

**Property ownership:** US Corps of Engineers; area maintained as a National Recreation Area and Wildlife Management Area

**Trails:** three hike/bike trail systems: Overmountain Victory, Dark Mountain, and Warrior Creek

**Trail surface and elevation gain:** dirt with substantial changes in elevation

## **Likely spots for species of interest**

**Visitor Center** - Brown-headed Nuthatch, Yellow Warbler, Orchard Oriole, and Blue Grosbeak); wintering waterfowl and migrating waterbirds on lake

**Marley Ford WMA** - wintering sparrows; breeding warblers including Prothonotary, Prairie, Hooded, Worm-eating, Yellow-throated, Louisiana Waterthrush and Ovenbird

**Bandit's Roost** - large numbers of waterfowl including the “bandit-looking” Hooded Mergansers with their black and white face pattern which roost on the lake nearby in substantial numbers in winter; only accessible by foot in winter and spring - park at campground entrance and walk past closed vehicle gate about a half mile down the paved road on the right for good views of lake

**Smithey's Creek Boat Ramp** - view of area's only documented Osprey nest (2018) at Fort Hamby

## **Special Considerations**

**Hunting:** numerous boats on lake and hunters along the shore during duck hunting season in late fall and early winter, especially early mornings on weekends, with gunshots filling the air; special care needed during deer season at Marley's Ford WMA which is managed especially for hunting

**Need for boots/waterproof footwear:** very helpful during high water or wet weather

**Other:** trails very popular with mountain bikers, hikers, and runners

**Directions:** from downtown Boone, go about 28 miles east on US 421 N to the traffic light where NC-16 goes north. At this intersection turn right (south) on New Browns Ford Road and go 1.5 miles to Old NC 268; turn right and go 0.1 miles to Ranger Rd. which has a “NO THRU ROAD” sign; turn left and go 0.4 miles to Reservoir Rd. Turn left and go about 100 yards to Visitor Center Rd; turn right into parking lot. (GPS 36.130699, -81.227364)