**W. Kerr Scott Reservoir**
[https://www.recreation.gov/camping/gateways/461](https://www.recreation.gov/camping/gateways/461)

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

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
- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bird Name</th>
<th>Bird Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common Loon</td>
<td>Ring-necked Duck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pied-billed Grebe</td>
<td>Greater Scaup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horned Grebe</td>
<td>Bufflehead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater White-fronted Goose</td>
<td>Hooded Merganser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow Goose</td>
<td>Red-breasted Merganser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redhead</td>
<td>Common Merganser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesser Scaup</td>
<td>Ring-billed Gull</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Migration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bird Name</th>
<th>Bird Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Double-crested Cormorant</td>
<td>Herring Gull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Yellowlegs</td>
<td>Black Tern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesser Yellowlegs</td>
<td>Caspian Tern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solitary Sandpiper</td>
<td>Common Tern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted Sandpiper</td>
<td>Forster's Tern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Least Sandpiper</td>
<td>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonaparte’s Gull</td>
<td>Nashville Warbler</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### eBird Bar Charts:

- Dam: [https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L358674&yr=all&m=](https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L358674&yr=all&m=)
- Skyline Marina: [https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L358681&yr=all&m=](https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L358681&yr=all&m=)
- Bandit's Roost: [https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L3487736&yr=all&m=](https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L3487736&yr=all&m=)
- Mountain View Overlook: [https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L1336054&yr=all&m=](https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L1336054&yr=all&m=)
- Marley’s Ford: [https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L1172925&yr=all&m=](https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L1172925&yr=all&m=)
- Fort Hamby: [https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L2038986&yr=all&m=](https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L2038986&yr=all&m=)
- Smithey’s Creek: [https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L2695201&yr=all&m=](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)