



# Explore the Peninsula



Guntersville Peninsula offers virtually 360-degree access to the reservoir's numerous bays and inlets.

## 1 Lake Guntersville Chamber of Commerce

The chamber of commerce offers parking from which to explore the peninsula and a great view of the lake. Check the pilings on the east side of US 431 for uncommon and vagrant gulls.

## 2 Kiwanis Pier

The Kiwanis Pier makes an excellent stop to check out the large numbers of Lesser Scaup and other diving ducks. Be sure to scan the numerous Horned Grebes for the much rarer Eared Grebe.



Common Loon in summer plumage/USFWS, Lee Karney

### Loons

Each winter Guntersville Reservoir is blessed with hundreds of Common Loons who choose the reservoir as their wintering homes. Sprinkled among them are a very small number of Red-throated and Pacific Loons. Careful observation (and a spotting scope) may produce one of these rare winter visitors.

## 3 Sunset Drive

As you continue southwest, Lurleen B. Wallace Drive turns onto Sunset Drive. A walking trail follows the shoreline providing ample opportunities to spot Bald Eagles.

## 4 Guntersville Pump Station

The pump station sits on the eastern side of the peninsula overlooking the mouth of Big Spring Creek. This is also the start of the TVA trail that follows a levee south for three miles along the creek.

## 5 Big Spring Creek

Big Spring Creek flows along the eastern side of the peninsula accompanied by a TVA Trail. The southern end of this trail is accessed from near the Holiday Inn on Gunter Avenue.



Horned Grebe/Terry Hartley

### Grebes

Pied-billed Grebes and Horned Grebes are found in abundance on the reservoir each winter and are sometimes joined by their rarer cousins from further north and west. Scan the numerous Horned Grebes for the slightly smaller and darker Eared Grebe which occurs in very low numbers each year.



Common Goldeneye/Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Mike Hopiak

### Rare Sea Ducks

Huge numbers of Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, and Bufflehead dominate the peninsula. However, each year these flocks support a few rarities more likely to be seen on the open sea than on an inland reservoir. Long-tailed Duck and all three scoter species are possible in addition to the more likely Greater Scaup.



Glaucous Gull/USFWS, Lee Karney

### Surprising Gulls

The suite of exotic winter vagrants that supplement the gull flocks include a range of possible surprises. There are usually a few surprises in the gull flocks that populate the piers and pilings around the peninsula. Recent celebrities have included Great and Lesser Black-backed, Glaucous, and California Gulls.