

HOT SPOTS FOR BIRDING in St. Johns County, FLORIDA



Guana River Wildlife Management Area (WMA)

<p>Description:</p>	<p>The Guana River Wildlife Management Area is located within the Guana-Tolomato-Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) oversees the Guana River WMA and manages it for both conservation and recreation. Active wildlife management is practiced in the WMA. The diversity of natural communities makes it an excellent place to view birds.</p> <p>During April and October, especially with a west wind or after a cold front, this is the best place in northeast Florida to see Peregrine Falcons . More than 3,000 migratory ducks, American Coots , Common Gallinules and Pied-billed Grebes winter at Guana Lake.</p> <p>White Pelicans (January and February), Ospreys and Bald Eagles often fish at the impounded lake. Look for Black-necked Stilts , Yellowlegs, Dowitchers and other shore birds at the lake’s north end when water levels are low.</p> <p>At Big Savannah and other ponds, especially May through September, you are likely to see Wood Storks, Roseate Spoonbills, and White and Glossy Ibis. The tower on Hammock Road is an excellent spot to observe birds.</p> <p>Vehicles are not usually permitted access within the WMA, except for certain Thursdays. Please view the website for more information.</p>
<p>Address:</p>	<p>Located on A1A in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082</p>
<p>Phone Number:</p>	<p>352-732-1225</p>
<p>Fee:</p>	<p>\$3 daily fee (annual pass \$50) to enter at the dam. There is no cost for WMA permit holders. Six mile boat ramp and Roscoe entrances are free.</p>
<p>Hours of Operation:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Guana Dam entrance is open 4am – 11pm 7 days a week • The Roscoe Boulevard Extension entrance is open for public access only from sunrise to sunset and closed during scouting, archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun, small game and spring turkey seasons.
<p>Handicap Accessibility:</p>	<p>The Guana River WMA is an undeveloped area with dirt trails. Vehicles are not usually permitted. Vehicles are allowed on certain Thursdays. Please check the website below for specific information regarding times.</p>
<p>Website:</p>	<p>http://myfwc.com/viewing/recreation/wmas/lead/guana-river/</p>
<p>Facilities Available:</p>	<p>The WMA area within the GTM NERR has no developed amenities, but there are restrooms and picnic tables in the adjacent GTM NERR.</p>

	<p>The 6 Mile Boat Ramp, on the east side of Guana Lake, has a boat launch and a portable toilet.</p> <p>Guana Outpost North rents kayaks and SUPS (904-373-0306) located on Micklers Road at the north end of Guana Lake (http://northguanaoutpost.com/)</p>
Types of Habitat:	Coastal strand, salt marsh, freshwater marsh, maritime hammock, and pond pine flatwoods
Other Information:	It is recommended to check the following website for regulations regarding access to the WMA http://myfwc.com/hunting/wma-brochures/ne/guana-river/
Level of Difficulty:	Trails can be wet and muddy during the rainy season and after wet weather. Bug spray and sunscreen are recommended.
Species:	241 species observed
Bird Checklist Available:	Yes (use bird checklist for the GTM NERR)