

# Tallahatchie

## National Wildlife Refuge



photo: Becky Rosamond



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### Refuge Facts

- Established in 1990.
- Size: 4,199 acres in Tallahatchie and Grenada counties, Mississippi
- Managed by the North Mississippi Refuges Complex in Grenada, MS.
- Location: located on Highway 8, nine miles west of Holcomb, MS.

### Natural History

- Nearly all refuge lands were agricultural lands at the time of acquisition. Since then, over 1,700 acres have been reforested with bottomland hardwood species.
- The most prominent natural feature on the refuge is Tippo Bayou, an unchannelized bayou dominated by cypress trees. The oxbows and low-lying fields along Tippo Bayou flood each year and provide feeding and roosting areas for over-wintering waterfowl.
- Approximately 250 acres of flooded standing crops and moist-soil vegetation are provided for wintering waterfowl annually.
- Over 200 acres are managed for grassland birds.

### Financial Impact of Refuge

- Approximately 11,300 visitors annually, primarily hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

### Refuge Objectives

- Provide habitat for migratory birds.
- Restore agricultural lands to bottomland hardwood forest, particularly along Tippo Bayou.

### Management Tools

- Water management (drawdowns, reflooding).
- Disking, mowing, and selective herbicide applications.
- Reforestation.
- Cooperative farming.
- Hunting.
- Law enforcement.

- Partnerships, particularly with research organizations, to use the best available science to meet goals and objectives.

### Public Use Opportunities

- Hunting – October–February. South of Hwy 8 only. Includes seasons for: deer, squirrel, rabbit, quail, waterfowl, and raccoon. Also includes youth hunts, following state seasons. Requires a refuge hunting/fishing annual permit. Please see the North MS Refuges Complex Hunting and Fishing Regulations for specific details. Regulations are published annually.
- Fishing – Year-round. South of Hwy 8 only. Boat ramps present on Tippo Bayou and Long Branch. Requires a refuge hunting/fishing annual permit. Please see the North MS Refuges Complex Hunting and Fishing Regulations for specific details. Regulations are published annually.
- Wildlife Viewing – Thirteen miles of roads and hiking trails provide access to various habitats on the refuge.
- Wildlife Photography – A photo blind is available for use. Contact the refuge office for details.
- Environmental Education/ Interpretation – Programs available upon request.

### Calendar of Events

**February – April:** Migrating shorebirds feed in drying farm fields. Wood ducks, hooded mergansers, and screech owls begin nesting in boxes and natural cavities.

**April – June:** Songbirds nest in forests and fields.

**July – August:** Post-breeding concentrations of wading birds use drying oxbows and ponds.

**November – February:** Waterfowl concentrate to feed in flooded farm fields and moist soil units. Tippo Bayou and associated oxbows heavily used. Northern harriers and other raptors are frequently seen hunting over fields and reforestation areas.