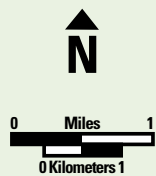


# Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge

**Legend**

- Refuge Boundary
- Freeway
- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road
- Walking Trail
- Office/Visitor Station
- Visitor Information
- Auto Tour Route
- Interpretive Foot Trail
- Lookout Tower
- Closed Area
- Red-cockaded Woodpecker Viewing Areas
- Enhanced Wildlife Observation Opportunities



## General Information

The refuge's paved **Visitors Drive** along with 100+ miles of sand, dirt and gravel roads provide access for wildlife observation and photography. These roads also provide access to numerous public use facilities including two observation towers, a photography blind, three designated hiking trails, and numerous fishing areas. All refuge roads are open to vehicular traffic except those marked "Authorized Vehicles Only" or those that have been blocked. All areas of the refuge are open to foot traffic except for the posted "Closed Area" near Martins Lake which provides protection for waterfowl and shorebirds.

## Enhanced Wildlife Observation Opportunities

This map includes several alphabetically and numerically designated locations within the refuge that provide enhanced wildlife observation opportunities. Alpha locations indicate general observation areas while numbered locations are some of the better locations for observing the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. A summary of these locations is provided below:

**A** *Longleaf Pine Interpretive Trail*—This 1/4 mile trail with interpretive brochure focuses on the longleaf pine ecosystem.

**B** *Woodland Pond Trail*—One mile; passes through wetlands, upland pine and small open area. Good area for songbirds, including the Bachman's sparrow.

**C** *Margins of Ponds and Lakes*—Are usually good for songbird observations (especially Pool D). These areas are also excellent areas to observe wading birds, beaver, otter and small mammals.

**D** *Black Creek and Ham Branch*—One of the best areas to see and hear neotropical birds. Follow the Visitors Drive past Pool D to the stop sign; turn right and proceed until this road intersects with Wire Road (there may be a gate there). Park your car and walk to your right to Ham Branch and to your left for Black Creek.

**E** *Open Fields*—Visitors often see small mammals, white-tailed deer, turkey, hawks, and other wildlife in several fields adjacent to refuge roads (especially along the Visitors Drive). Early morning and late afternoon are best times.

**F** *Tate's Trail*—3 miles in length, this trail runs parallel to Martins Lake and Pool D, making a loop around Lake 12 before culminating in the Lake Bee Recreation Area. Good view of diverse habitats including wetlands, bottomland hardwood areas, upland pine-scruboaks, and open areas.

**G** *Lake Bee Area*—Picnic shelters and tables, along with restrooms are available. The lake edge provides good birding and red-cockaded woodpeckers are usually always seen or heard here. Notable plants and animals found in this area include brown-headed nuthatches, several carnivorous plants and the rare pine barrens treefrogs. Nearby Pool H and Triple Lakes host wood ducks and other waterfowl in appropriate seasons.

**H** *Oxpen Area*—Home to white tailed deer, turkey, hawks, waterfowl and small mammals. It is also a popular fishing area and home to a variety of

wildflowers. The seepage bog near Oxpen Lake includes a large population of carnivorous plants. An observation tower provides a nice scenic view.

## Red-cockaded Woodpecker Viewing Areas

Every effort should be made to minimize disturbance to these endangered birds, especially at nesting and roosting sites. Visitors must stay at least 100 feet from cavity trees. If a bird comes to the cavity tree calling and acting distressed, please remove yourself from the cavity site until this behavior subsides. All known cavity trees are marked with a white band of paint at eye level. The best time of the year to observe these birds is April through early June when the birds are in the midst of their nesting activities.

**1** *Refuge Headquarters Area*—Cavity trees are located in front of the residence and to the left of the wildlife drive near the refuge shop area.

**2** *Past Pool G on the Visitors Drive*—Several cavity trees are found on the right side of the Visitors Drive 1/4 mile past Pool G (just before you reach the residence at Highway 145).

**3** *Entrance Road to Martins Lake*—Two cavity trees are located on the right side of this road just before the entrance to the Tate's Trail parking area. Several others can be found in the same area.

**4** *Lake Bee Area*—Cavities are located near the two shelters closest to the Visitors Drive and across the Visitors Drive from the picnic area. Very active cavity site.