

Eufaula

National Wildlife Refuge



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Refuge Facts

- Established: 1964.
- Acres: 11,184 (Alabama & Georgia) Corps of Engineers (COE) Project overlay.
- Located in Barbour and Russell counties, AL and Stewart and Quitman counties, GA.
- Other management: conservation easements—21 in 11 counties (AL and GA) totaling 1360 acres; fee title tracts—three in three counties (GA) totaling 591 acres.
- Most of Alabama portion of refuge lies within Eufaula city limits.
- Location: the refuge is located 5 miles north of Eufaula, AL on U.S. Hwy 431 then 1 and 1/2 miles on 165 north.

Natural History

- Refuge occupies the upper portion of the Corps of Engineers project Walter F. George Reservoir (Lake Eufaula).
 - Concentrations of ducks, geese, wood storks, sandhill cranes, raptors, wading birds, shorebirds and songbirds.
 - Several rookeries present along with bald eagle and osprey nests.
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| ■ Open water | 4000 acres |
| ■ Wetlands | 3000 acres |
| ■ Woodlands | 2000 acres |
| ■ Croplands | 1000 acres |
| ■ Grasslands | 1000 acres |

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Six-person staff.
- 325,000 visitors annually .
- Current budget (FY 00): \$408,400.
- Visitors generated \$6.7 million in expenditures in FY 95.

Refuge Objectives

- Provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and other birds.
- Provide habitat and protection for endangered species such as American alligator; bald eagle, and wood stork.
- Provide wildlife-dependent recreation and environmental education for the public.

Management Tools

- Water management.
- Cooperative farming.
- Timber management.
- Prescribed fire.
- Mechanical/chemical control of noxious plants.
- Public hunting.
- Education/interpretation.
- Law enforcement.
- Partnerships.

Public Use Opportunities

- Trails.
- Auto tour route.
- Fishing.
- Two observation towers.
- Wildlife observation.
- Photography.
- Hunting, including youth hunts.

Volunteer Opportunities

Two full-service hook up sights are available for camper volunteers (no charge). Duties usually include various maintenance and biological projects. Length of stay, season and duties are negotiable. Contact Refuge Manager.

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Calendar of Events

February: squirrel/rabbit hunting.

March: Watchable Wildlife Program.

May: Migratory Bird Day.

October: National Wildlife Refuge Week, dove hunting.

October-January: archery deer hunting (including youth gun hunts).

November-January: waterfowl hunting (including youth hunts).

Questions and Answers

Where can we go to see birds? (ducks, migrant songbirds, and other specialties)?

For waterfowl, generally November through February, we send visitors to the Upland Waterfowl Viewing Platform overlooking the Upland Impoundment. It is a covered, open-air pavilion, and the impoundment is a shallow water area managed specifically as a waterfowl resting and feeding area.

For wading and waterbirds, we direct visitors to one of four impoundments, three of which have active nesting colonies of several species. Access these areas by automobile, walking and biking.

For migratory songbirds, we suggest walks into wooded areas around the wildlife drive or other areas.

Many other wildlife species such as alligators, hawks, and deer can be seen along the 7-mile wildlife drive.

Do you allow hunting and fishing on the refuge?

Managed hunts are provided for dove, deer, waterfowl, squirrel, and rabbit. The youth deer hunt and the waterfowl hunts are quota hunts (limited to a given number of hunters). The dove, archery-deer, squirrel, and rabbit hunts are not limited.

Fishing in Lake Eufaula is very popular. The refuge provides year-round bank fishing or fishing by boat in waters within the refuge boundaries.

User fees apply only to the youth deer and waterfowl hunts.

Do you have a visitor center?

No, however, the refuge office has mounted animals, brochures and maps for visitor's use. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 am until 4:00 pm. There are no weekend staff members to meet the public.

What is the best time to visit the refuge? (Are you open on weekends?)

In general, the refuge is open to visitors during daylight hours, seven days a week. Brochures are available at all times at two locations. There are a 7-mile auto route, two viewing towers, and a walking trail.

The best time to observe most wildlife is the early morning or late afternoon hours. Some species can be observed during mid-day. We suggest that visitors stop by the office on their visit to inquire about specific interests.

Do you provide programs or tours for groups?

Refuge tours are provided for organized scout, school, and church groups or other organizations. Off-refuge programs are provided to civic groups, school classes, or any other organization.