

# News Release



**Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge  
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772/562-3909 Fax: 772/219-3101**

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## **New Guided Beginning Bird Watching Tours are Back at Pelican Island**

Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge will begin hosting guided Beginning Bird Watching Tours again starting on Saturday, October 20 from 8 – 11 am. The volunteer-guided tours will visit Bird's Impoundment Trail and the newly reopened Centennial Trail.

Participants will learn how to use binoculars and field guides and will begin exploring the rewarding recreation of bird watching. These new tours haven't been offered since 2004 and will resume on October 20 and every other Saturday thereafter through March 2008. The tours are free to the public and participants are asked to bring binoculars and a field guide (if they own them). Participants should meet at the Pelican Island Welcome and Orientation Area at 8 am located on north Historic Jungle Trail, off Highway A1A on Orchid Island (located 3.7 miles north of CR 510). Loaner binoculars will be available.

“There’s no better time to visit Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge than during the migratory bird season, October - March,” said Joanna Webb, Refuge Ranger at Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is most popular for its water birds, including all the heron and egret species, white pelicans, roseate spoonbills, wood storks, magnificent frigatebirds and even an occasional bald eagle. These birding tours will offer participants an opportunity to get outdoors, to learn how to identify different bird species, and to learn about our nation’s first bird refuge that spawned a national network of lands for wildlife, the National Wildlife Refuge System.”

Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge is open to the public daily from dawn to dusk. Public access to the refuge from Jungle Trail is managed in partnership with Indian River County and Indian River Mosquito Control District, and includes 6 miles of foot trails, including a universally accessible boardwalk and observation tower, giving visitors great opportunities for wildlife observation and photography and educational information. For more information please visit the refuge website at [fws.gov/pelicanisland/events](http://fws.gov/pelicanisland/events) or contact the Refuge at (772) 562-3909, ext 275.

#### Bird Watching Tour Schedule

Saturdays, 8 – 11 am

October 20

November 3 & 17

December 1 & 15 & 29

January 12 & 26

February 9 & 23

March 8 & 22

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 97-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 547 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 63 fish, wildlife management offices, and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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