

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Eufaula

National Wildlife Refuge



Established in 1964, Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge is located on both banks of the Chattahoochee River in southeast Alabama and southwest Georgia. Named after the city of Eufaula, the 11,184 acre refuge offers a variety of wetland and upland habitats for a diverse fauna. Prominent among the abundant wetlands is Walter F. George Reservoir (Lake Eufaula) and several tributaries. The refuge is located about seven miles north of Eufaula.

Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge



This blue goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become a symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Introduction

Eufaula NWR was established through community support and in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide habitat for wintering waterfowl and other migratory and resident species. It provides habitat and protection for endangered and threatened species such as the bald eagle, wood stork, American alligator and the occasional peregrine falcon. The refuge landscape offers a diverse contrast to adjacent land uses. A mixture of wetlands, croplands, woodlands and grasslands creates a mosaic of wildlife-rich habitats.



Eufaula NWR belongs to a system of over 560 refuges throughout the country, each providing a unique piece of puzzle securing the necessary habitats needed to protect plants and animals and providing outdoor recreational opportunities for people. Eufaula NWR provides fire-driven grasslands and



winter habitat for migrating waterfowl. Another valuable role in the system of national refuges, Eufaula NWR provides resting and nesting habitat for numerous neotropical migrant birds (song birds) that make their way to and from North, Central and South America.

Cover photo: great egrets, above: eastern bluebirds, below: Bidens

Photography courtesy of Quincy Banks.

Past to Present

Prior to settlers arriving, the Chattahoochee Valley was home to the Creek Indians. They hunted, fished and trapped along the old channels of the river, often settling along the shoreline in areas now inundated by Lake Eufaula. Evidences of this past history are still found throughout the area.

Settlers slowly cleared forests for agricultural purposes during the 1800s and well into the 1900s. Much of the cleared plantations were planted to short rotation pine after World War II as the timber business became a major industry in the South. Gone are the large tracts of grasslands and old-growth forest that once provided valuable habitat for many migrating songbirds.

Wildlife

Migratory Birds

Eufaula NWR lies on the western edge of the Atlantic Flyway and eastern edge of the Mississippi Flyway, two of four recognized major migration corridors in the U.S. Many species of waterfowl, waterbirds, shorebirds, neotropical songbirds and birds of prey follow these loosely defined corridors as they migrate through, over-winter or nest in the Chattahoochee Valley and on Eufaula NWR. Numerous species of waterfowl arrive in the fall and remain in the area into early spring. The spring and fall are busy times for neotropical migrant songbirds as they complete their long migration flights between North American and South America. Some of these species nest on the refuge and neighboring tracts of timber.



Woodstorks



Above: green heron,
below: eastern kingbird



Eufaula NWR manages wetland habitats for several rookeries where great blue herons, little blue herons, great egrets, snowy egrets and anhingas nest. Eufaula NWR also serves as the summer home to wood storks and a winter stop for sandhill cranes. The refuge bird list has almost 300 species documented.

Endangered Species

The southern bald eagle is commonly sighted throughout most of the year. Several nests are located in the area and the future for this magnificent national symbol appears to be good. The refuge staff cooperates with the Alabama and Georgia conservation agencies and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in monitoring the progress of the bald eagle in the Chattahoochee Valley.

The wood stork historically nested in south Alabama, but there are no current records of active nestings. Efforts are under way to provide optimum habitat for the less than 100 birds that visit Eufaula NWR June through September. Hopefully, these birds will some day nest on the refuge.









Alligators are commonly seen, especially on cool sunny days. Some 'gators may reach fourteen feet in length. Observe these creatures from a distance, watch your pets and do not feed alligators.

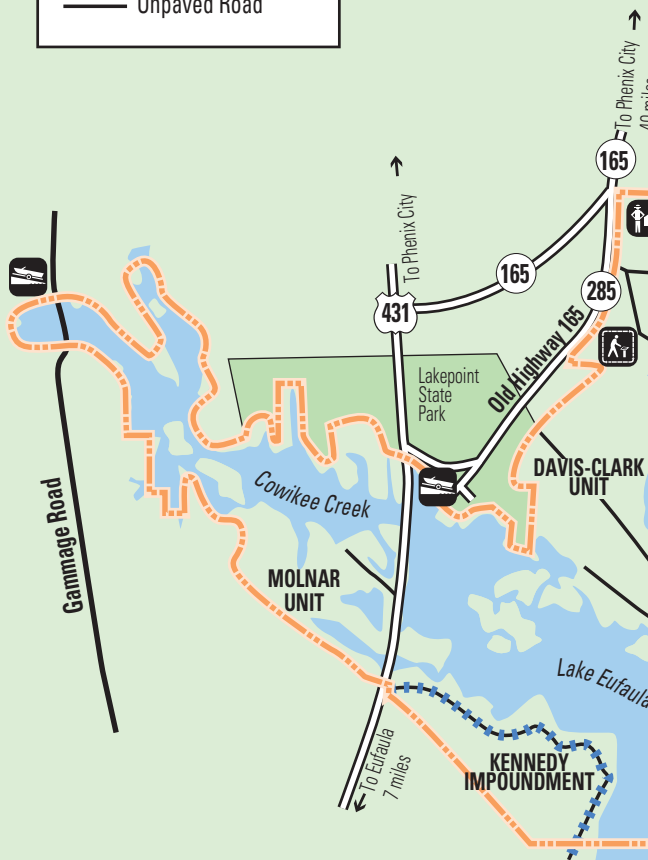
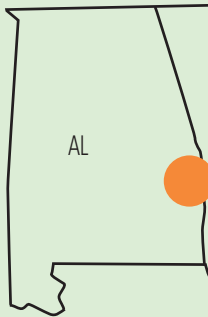
Other Wildlife

The refuge habitat provides for diverse and sometimes abundant populations of other species. A visitor's ability to observe wildlife depends on the time of year, time of day and duration of visit.

Eufaula

National Wildlife Refuge

-  Closed to All Entry
-  Refuge Headquarters
-  Observation Platform
-  Boat Ramp
-  Wildlife Drive
-  Walking Trail
-  Refuge Boundary
-  Paved Road
-  Road and Levee
-  Unpaved Road







In addition to the species already mentioned, a visitor could expect to see deer, turkey, quail, dove, hawks, owls, rabbits, armadillos, squirrel, raccoon, opossum, otter, coyotes, bobcats and beaver. There are numerous other species of shorebirds, waterbirds, wading birds, songbirds and resident mammals.



We cannot forget large populations of reptiles, amphibians, insects and fishes. Visitors should be aware of several species of venomous snakes and the seasonal irritation of mosquitos, horse-flies and deer flies.



Managing Habitat

Habitat management generally falls into four major habitat types—wetlands, croplands, woodlands, and grasslands.

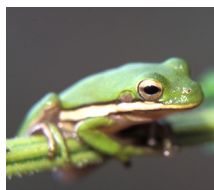
Top to bottom: Canada geese, American alligator, white-tailed deer



Management practices include enhancement of natural events including prescribed fire and seasonal flooding of vegetation to provide wetlands for waterfowl and other species. Agricultural practices also provide added wildlife food and habitat.



These practices are carried out with wildlife goals in mind, never as an economic benefit. Crops are left for wildlife.



Wetland management, other than the scheduled fluctuation of the reservoir by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, requires considerable effort to dewater impounded areas during spring and summer and to reflood them during late fall and winter. Intense control efforts for exotic plants and other undesirable woody species also requires special equipment and many hours.

Visitor Information

Headquarters



The refuge headquarters is located eight miles north of Eufaula, Alabama, approximately two miles east of U.S. Highway 431 on Alabama Highway 165. The office is staffed 8 am- 4:30 pm (central time), Monday through Friday. The refuge is open daily during daylight hours. For details on Refuge opportunities contact the refuge office at 334/687 4065.



Wildlife Drive/Observation

The Eufaula NWR is a year-round classroom for visitors. A seven-mile auto tour route, two observation platforms, a one-third mile walking trail and other areas of interest are available daily during daylight hours.

Top to bottom: Gulf fritillary, barred owl, green tree frog, box turtle, and sandhill cranes



Hunting

Hunting of dove, squirrel, rabbit, waterfowl and deer is provided. Permits are required.

Fishing

Fishing is allowed year-round. State regulations apply. Check with refuge office for regulations.



Boating

Special boating regulations apply to all refuge waters including those areas of Lake Eufaula within the refuge boundary. Contact the refuge office for detailed information. Boat ramps are available throughout the refuge vicinity.

Hiking

Several walking trails and dikes

are available for walking during daylight hours. Visitors interested in walking other areas are cautioned to check refuge hunting schedules for their safety.

Swimming

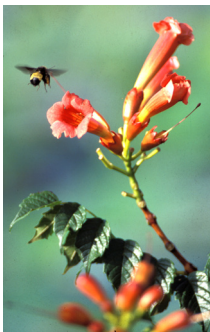
Swimming is not allowed in refuge waters.

Camping

Camping is not permitted on Eufaula NWR, but is available at nearby Lakepoint State Park (Alabama) and Florence Marina State Park (Georgia).

Fires

Fires are prohibited.



Top to bottom: violet, young fishermen with bluegill, trumpet creeper



Bicycles

Bicycles are permitted on graveled roads only. Visitors are encouraged to use bikes to gain access to remote areas.

Vehicles

All vehicles and drivers must be licensed, registered, and insured for highway use. ATVs, UTVs, and OHVs are prohibited.

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on NWRS lands must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may only use firearms in accordance with refuge regulations as provided in 50 CFR.

Other Refuge Regulations

Portions of Eufaula NWR are closed seasonally to public entry to provide wildlife sanctuary. These areas are signed.

Disturbing, feeding or collecting wildlife or plants is prohibited.

Pets on a leash are permitted.

Surface collecting or digging for archaeological, historical or Native American artifacts is prohibited.



Top to bottom: bobcat, eastern cottontail, wood ducks

Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge
367 Highway 165
Eufaula, AL 36027
334/687 4065 <http://eufaula.fws.gov>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

June 2022

