

Bond Swamp

National Wildlife Refuge



photo: R. Shell



photo: R. Ideniden



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photo: C. Shaw

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Refuge Facts

- Established: 1989.
- Acres: 6,290.
- Located in Bibb County and Twiggs County, GA.
- Location: refuge is located six miles south of Macon, GA on the Ocmulgee River.
- Administered by Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge.

Natural history

- 6,290 acres bottomland hardwoods and swamp forests.
- Interspersed throughout the area are creeks, tributaries, beaver swamps, and oxbow lakes.
- It offers habitat for a diversity of wildlife including bald eagles, wood ducks, migratory waterfowl, wading birds, song birds, white-tailed deer, turkeys, black bears, and alligators.

Financial Impact of Refuge

- The refuge opened to limited public use in October 2000.
- 1 full-time employee.
- 9,000 visitors annually.

Refuge Objectives

- Preserve and protect a diverse, threatened wetland ecosystem and its associated values.
- Preserve, protect, reestablish, and manage for endangered and threatened species of wildlife: bald eagle (threatened), swainson's warbler, prothonotary warbler, wood thrush (listed by state as species of special concern).
- Manage for migratory birds and resident wood ducks.
- Manage native wildlife species and their associated habitats.

- Provide compatible wildlife dependent recreational opportunities, interpretation, and environmental education to the public.

Management Tools

- Partnerships: active member of the Ocmulgee Heritage Greenway.
- Education/interpretation.
- Deer herd management and feral hog population control with public hunting.
- Law enforcement.

Public Use Opportunities

- Environment education.
- Walking trails.
- Fishing.
- Wildlife observation.
- Hunting.

Calendar of Events

December-February: Refuge quota deer and hog hunts, peak wintering waterfowl use.

February: nesting bald eagles.

March-October: Public fishing opens.

April-May: peak migration of neotropical songbirds.

June: nesting of neotropical songbirds including species of special concern such as swainson's warbler, prothonotary warbler, and wood thrush.

September: Deer/hog archery season opens.

October-November: Peak migration for neotropical songbirds.

Questions and Answers

Is the refuge open to the public?

Yes. The refuge opened to general public use on October 19, 2000. Opportunities include hiking, wildlife observation and photography, hunting, fishing and environmental education.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Do you allow hunting and fishing?

Yes. Public bank fishing is open from March 15 - October 15. Deer and hog archery hunt permits are issued by a quota drawing system. Please contact Piedmont NWR office for permit applications and regulations.

Do you allow canoeing and hiking?

Approximately four miles of walking trails are open to the public. Maps of the walking trails are provided at Piedmont NWR office and at the informational kiosks at the Stone Creek and Longleaf Pine Trail parking lots. Canoeing is currently not allowed, however, the refuge plans to allow it in the future, as funding becomes available.

Will the Ocmulgee Heritage Greenway affect the refuge and its adjacent landowners?

The proposed Greenway will include parts of the refuge along the Ocmulgee River. Refuge management is currently involved with Greenway planners to ensure quality recreational opportunities without infringement on wildlife resources or private property rights.