

SCAVENGER HUNT

These 12 signs can be found around the visitor center at Red River National Wildlife Refuge. Ten of these signs have a hidden acorn 🌰. Find all 10 acorns and circle their locations on this worksheet. These acorns are very small and come in many colors. Good Luck!

Not Wanted: Invasive Species!

These foreign plants and animals were brought into the United States and released or escaped into the wild. Having no natural predators, these non-native species begin to take over the land and water.

It is often called the "Asian tiger" for its wavy, white and orange stripes that run when wet. This tree grows fast, shading out native plants and can grow up to 100 feet in 100-200 years!

It is an invasive plant species across the country. It has no natural predators and can eat almost anything including oak and turkey oaks, hickories, and other trees.

It is a native plant from South America that is a shrub with red flowers in the southeast. Name is descriptive when the berries are bright red and the young vegetation leaves used for native wild plants.

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Red River National Wildlife Refuge

What can I do here?

Many national wildlife refuges provide hunting opportunities. Hunting is carefully managed to ensure that a healthy balance exists between wildlife populations and their habitats. When practiced responsibly, hunting is used as a population management tool. At Red River National Wildlife Refuge, hunters must carry a refuge permit which can be printed from our website or obtained at the Visitor Center.

Federal wildlife officers ensure the safety of visitors and hunters while enforcing wildlife laws.

By purchasing state and federal hunting licenses, hunters support the future of wildlife habitat conservation. Your Federal Duck Stamp money buys wetland habitat for wildlife.

Two girls enjoy the tradition of duck hunting at Red River National Wildlife Refuge's Youth Waterfowl Lottery Hunt.

Photo credits: Steve Hildebrand, Steve Kivett, Gary Ludlow, and Dennis Wain

Snakes Alive!

Louisiana has 40 species of nonvenomous snakes and only 6 venomous snakes. Living with venomous snakes is really no different than living with hornets or fire ants. If you disturb a hornet or fire ant nest, you will get stung! When you find a snake, take three large steps back and leave it alone. Eighty percent of all snake bites occur when a person tries to capture or kill a snake. All snakes are protected on the Refuge.

Photo credits: Clint Goodwin, Dave Poppo, James Beck, Jeff Baker, and Dennis Mann

Red River National Wildlife Refuge

Our Past

What was this property before it became a national wildlife refuge?

The land that you are standing on used to be a cotton farm, dairy farm, and pecan orchard. The Dickson family owned the land since the 1920s and the family rode horses, camped, climbed trees, gardened, hunted, fished, and flourished here.

The Family Booked - fished and passed the time, which is named after the Dickson family.

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What can I do here?

People of all ages volunteer! Some work weekly some seasonally, some for a few hours each month, and some for specific events. What can you do to help make the refuge a great place for wildlife and people?

Photo credits: Clint Goodwin, Dave Poppo, James Beck, Jeff Baker, and Dennis Mann

Red River National Wildlife Refuge

What can I do here?

National Wildlife Refuges are places filled with fantastic camera-friendly opportunities. Nature photography allows us to focus on our surroundings. Through our lenses we can capture the beauty and diversity of our natural world.

Nature Photography Tips

- Aim for feeling - capture a feeling you want to save as a memory
- Don't just stand - get level with the animal or plant
- Target eyes - animal's eyes capture our attention
- Frame it - reduce background clutter and focus on what matters
- Set the Mood - come out early or late in the day for best light

Sunsets and Sunrises

Landscapes, Patterns in Nature, Fauna, Flora

Photo credits: Steve Hildebrand, Steve Kivett, Gary Ludlow, and Dennis Wain

Can you spot the difference?

Over 150 species of butterfly have been observed in Louisiana, but sometimes the differences between species can be subtle!

Tap, Tap, Tap! Woodpeckers Love Trees!

Woodpeckers use trees for shelter, nesting, and foraging. The Refuge is home to five species of resident woodpeckers and one winter visitor. As you walk the trails, listen for woodpeckers tapping on a tree trunk or chipping bark off of a tree. Look for woodpeckers and their nesting cavities and sap wells on trees.

Photo credits: Steve Hildebrand, Steve Kivett, Gary Ludlow, and Dennis Wain

Dragons and Damsels of the Refuge

Dragonflies and damselflies may look similar, but at rest, the slim damselfly folds its wings upright over its back while the larger dragonfly holds its wings open. Louisiana has at least 100 dragonfly species and 20 damselfly species, while there are about 5,000 species of Odonata worldwide.

Flying predators, a single dragonfly can eat up to 100 mosquitoes per day.

The color of dragonfly bodies may differ depending on age and sex in many species.

Photo credits: Steve Hildebrand, Steve Kivett, Gary Ludlow, and Dennis Wain

Why is a Bald Cypress tree bald?

Bald Cypress is a deciduous conifer that drops its needles in the winter.

The cypress is called "bald" because it drops its needles.

Cypress Cones

- are small 1.25 inches in diameter
- range from green to purple-blue, then brown
- cones open with seeds in October
- seeds are eaten by squirrels, wild turkey, cardinals, grackles, and wood ducks

The bald cypress is known for its golden-red autumn color.

Louisiana designated bald cypress as the official state tree in 1983.

Bald cypress wood is durable, lightweight, and rot resistant. It is used for fence posts, flooring, bridges, shingles and building construction.

Photo credits: Steve Hildebrand, Steve Kivett, Gary Ludlow, and Dennis Wain

American alligators play an important role at the top of the food chain in Louisiana's freshwater ecosystems. Being a carnivore and scavenger, an alligator eats almost anything. At the refuge, always keep your pets leashed and out of the water. Never feed or harass alligators!

Temperature matters! The sex of unhatched alligators is determined by outside temperature: Eggs incubating at temperatures of 86°F or lower become females, 93°F or higher become males, and between 86-93°F the eggs hatch either male or female.

Is it a log? No, it's an alligator! When swimming or floating on the surface of the water, often all you can see of an alligator is its snout, eyes, and sometimes the back and tail.

Photo credits: Steve Hildebrand, Steve Kivett, Gary Ludlow, and Dennis Wain