


Birding Hotspots

St. Johns County, Florida



Gourd Island Conservation Area

<p>Description:</p> 	<p>The Florida Department of Transportation acquired this property in December 2010 and later donated it to the St. Johns River Water Management District. This conservation area provides significant water resource protection for Durbin and Sampson creeks, which border the property to the north.</p> <p>One of the special highlights of this property is the fantastic swamp that the trails bisect. The swamp forms a gourd-shaped island, giving Gourd Island its name. The center part of the property rises high above the swamp to provide some wonderful upland habitats. This center “island” area has been part of a sandhill restoration project since 2012.</p> <p>There are two main trails, a Red Blaze trail which is 2.5 miles round trip and a White Blaze trail which is .8-mile one way.</p>
<p>Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail:</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>Address:</p>	<p>10182 Russell Sampson Rd., St. Johns, FL 32259</p>
<p>Phone Number:</p>	<p>Call 911 in an emergency</p>
<p>Fee:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Hours of Operation:</p>	<p>Dawn to dusk</p>
<p>Handicap Accessibility:</p>	<p>Not great</p>
<p>Website:</p>	<p>https://www.sjrwmd.com/lands/recreation/gourd-island/</p>
<p>Facilities Available:</p>	<p>A parking area and trails.</p>
<p>Types of Habitat:</p>	<p>Floodplain swamp, basin swamp, dome swamp, depression marsh, wet flatwoods, mesic flatwoods, sandhill and xeric hammock.</p>
<p>Other Information:</p>	
<p>Level of Difficulty:</p>	<p>Easy to moderate.</p>
<p>Species:</p>	<p>120 species have been found here. Look for various herons, hawks, woodpeckers, vireos, chickadees, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Towhees, various warblers, Barred Owl, Great Crested Flycatcher, Hooded Merganser, Bufflehead, Swainson’s Thrush, and Bachman’s Sparrow.</p>
<p>Bird Checklist Available:</p>	<p>eBird: https://ebird.org/hotspot/L3786461/bird-list</p>