




Birding Hotspots

St. Johns County, Florida



Guana River Wildlife Management Area

<p>Description:</p>  <p>MAP</p> <p>Guana Dam access Gate</p>  <p>MAP</p> <p>GTM WMA kiosk location</p>  <p>MAP</p> <p>GTM Big Savannah location</p>	<p>This wildlife management area (WMA) is a fantastic birding spot. It offers 15 miles of hiking trails through flatwoods, oak hammocks, scrub, freshwater wetlands and brackish marshes. Two viewing towers, one on Capo Creek and one on Lake Ponte Vedra, provide good vantage to scan for wintering ducks, for which the area is known, as well as egrets and herons. In late summer, Roseate Spoonbills and Wood Storks can be located in the Big and Little Savannah impoundments (be sure to check the interpretive overlook at Big Savannah Pond).</p> <p>During seasonal hunts, visitors can drive in, (one day prior to hunt, usually on Thursdays. You must enter from the Guana Dam entrance) making the area significantly more accessible. Simply check in at the check station for a drive-in pass. At other times, visitors need to park at the dam and hike or bike in, veering right on the west side of the dam and heading north into the WMA.</p> <p>Watch for songbirds such as Eastern Kingbird, Red-eyed Vireo, and Wood Thrush in the hammocks during. 30 species of warblers have been recorded at the WMA including Cerulean, Bay-breasted and Nashville. From the bird blind at Diego Pond, look for ducks, shorebirds and wading birds.</p>
<p>Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail:</p>	<p>Yes. https://floridabirdingtrail.com/trail/trail-sections/east-section/guana-river-wma/</p>
<p>Address:</p>	<p>440 Guana River Rd., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082</p>
<p>Phone Number:</p>	<p>(352) 732-1225</p>
<p>Fee:</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Hours of Operation:</p>	<p>Dawn to dusk daily.</p>
<p>Handicap Accessibility:</p>	<p>Very limited.</p>
<p>Website:</p>	<p>https://myfwc.com/recreation/lead/guana-river/</p>
<p>Facilities Available:</p>	<p>Two viewing towers, restroom facilities near the Guana Dam.</p>
<p>Types of Habitat:</p>	<p>Flatwoods, oak hammocks, scrub, freshwater wetlands, and brackish marshes.</p>
<p>Other Information:</p>	<p>Seasonal hunting takes place at this site.</p>
<p>Level of Difficulty:</p>	<p>Moderate to difficult.</p>
<p>Species:</p>	<p>Over 257 species have been found. Look for wintering ducks, herons and egrets, Roseate Spoonbills, Wood Storks, Eastern Kingbird, various warblers, shorebirds and wading birds.</p>
<p>Checklist:</p>	<p>eBird: https://ebird.org/hotspot/L127293</p>