


Birding Hotspots

St. Johns County, Florida



Masters Track Stormwater Treatment Facility

<p>Description:</p> 	<p>In an effort to reduce high nutrient levels, specifically Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P) in the Lower St Johns River Basin and Deep Creek, The St. Johns River Water Management District designed and built a system of wetlands to drain and filter stormwater runoff from agricultural and residential areas. Situated near Deep Creek Conservation Area, St Johns County staff manage water levels in the wetland to mimic the natural wet and dry seasons. Numerous wading birds, sparrows, migrating warblers, and raptors can be seen at the wetlands.</p>
<p>Address:</p>	<p>7756 Hub Bailey Rd., Hastings, FL 32145</p>
<p>Phone Number:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Fee:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Hours of Operation:</p>	<p>Dawn to dusk</p>
<p>Handicap Accessibility:</p>	<p>Limited access</p>
<p>Website:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Facilities Available:</p>	<p>There is a small grassy parking area next to the kiosk. There are no bathroom facilities.</p>
<p>Types of Habitat:</p>	<p>Fresh water wetlands and forest edges. A series of settlement ponds and dikes. Also, a large 'Lake' on Rt 13. All drain into the Deep Creek. Across Hub Baily Rd is a grassy area where you can find sparrows.</p>
<p>Other Information:</p>	<p>Wear good walking shoes or low boots during wet weather. The main areas to birdwatch are around the retention ponds. Parking area can get muddy. In the summer it can be hot and there is limited shade.</p>
<p>Level of Difficulty:</p>	<p>Moderate</p>
<p>Species:</p>	<p>eBird has recorded 225 species in the past 10 years. Apple Snails abound and so do Limpkins and sometimes Snail Kites. You can find hundreds of waders, Wood Storks and Black-bellied Whistling Ducks. It is best in the winter when you can see many ducks like Blue and Green-winged Teals, Northern Shovelers and Mergansers. In the lake you may also find such rarities like Common Goldeneye and Bufflehead mixed in with the Greater and Lesser Scaup. Also look for Sora, Purple Gallinule, Bald Eagles and check the wires for Kestrel. Check the grassy area along the roadside for sparrows. In the summer you can find many species of swallows and Purple Martins, Swallow-tailed Kites, Meadowlarks, Orchard Orioles and Kingbirds as well as Indigo and Painted Buntings. If you listen you might hear the Bobwhites.</p>
<p>Checklist:</p>	<p>eBird: https://ebird.org/hotspot/L6364505?yr=curM</p>