


Birding Hotspots

Putnam County, Florida



Welaka National Fish Hatchery

<p>Description:</p> 	<p>Located in one of the prettiest areas of our Chapter footprint, the Welaka National Fish Hatchery was built in 1926 and was originally operated by the State of Florida. In 1938, the Hatchery was transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Hatchery has ponds at two locations along County Road 309 and is surrounded by the Welaka State Forest. Ponds near the Aquarium are called the Welaka Unit, and a second group of ponds about three miles south of the Welaka Unit is called the Beecher Unit. The Beecher Unit is named for the spring that serves as the water supply. Beecher Spring has a flow of 4,000 gallons per minute at a constant temperature of 72 degrees Fahrenheit. Water for the Welaka Unit is pumped from the St. Johns River.</p> <p>The Hatchery has an observation tower off CR 309 at the Beecher Unit, as well as a new nature trail. The trees at the Welaka Unit are good for viewing migrating warblers!</p>
Address:	1011 County Road 309, Crescent City, FL 32112
Phone Number:	(386) 467-2374
Fee:	None
Hours of Operation:	8:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday through Friday
Handicap Accessibility:	The Aquarium is ADA compliant.
Website:	https://www.fws.gov/fish-hatchery/welaka
Facilities Available:	There is a lovely aquarium where visitors can meet Lumpy, an Eastern Indigo Snake. Bathroom facilities are located at the aquarium as well.
Types of Habitat:	
Other Information:	Tours are available to see the hatchery operations.
Level of Difficulty:	Moderate.
Species:	<p>137 species have been seen.</p> <p>Bald Eagle, hawks, herons and egret, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Wood Stork, Roseate Spoonbill, Sandhill Crane, White-eyed Vireo, Northern Parula, Louisiana Waterthrush, Eastern Bluebird, Purple Martin, yellowlegs, Brown Pelican, Wild Turkey, various warblers and woodpeckers and other songbirds.</p>
Bird Checklist Available:	eBird: https://ebird.org/hotspot/L574347