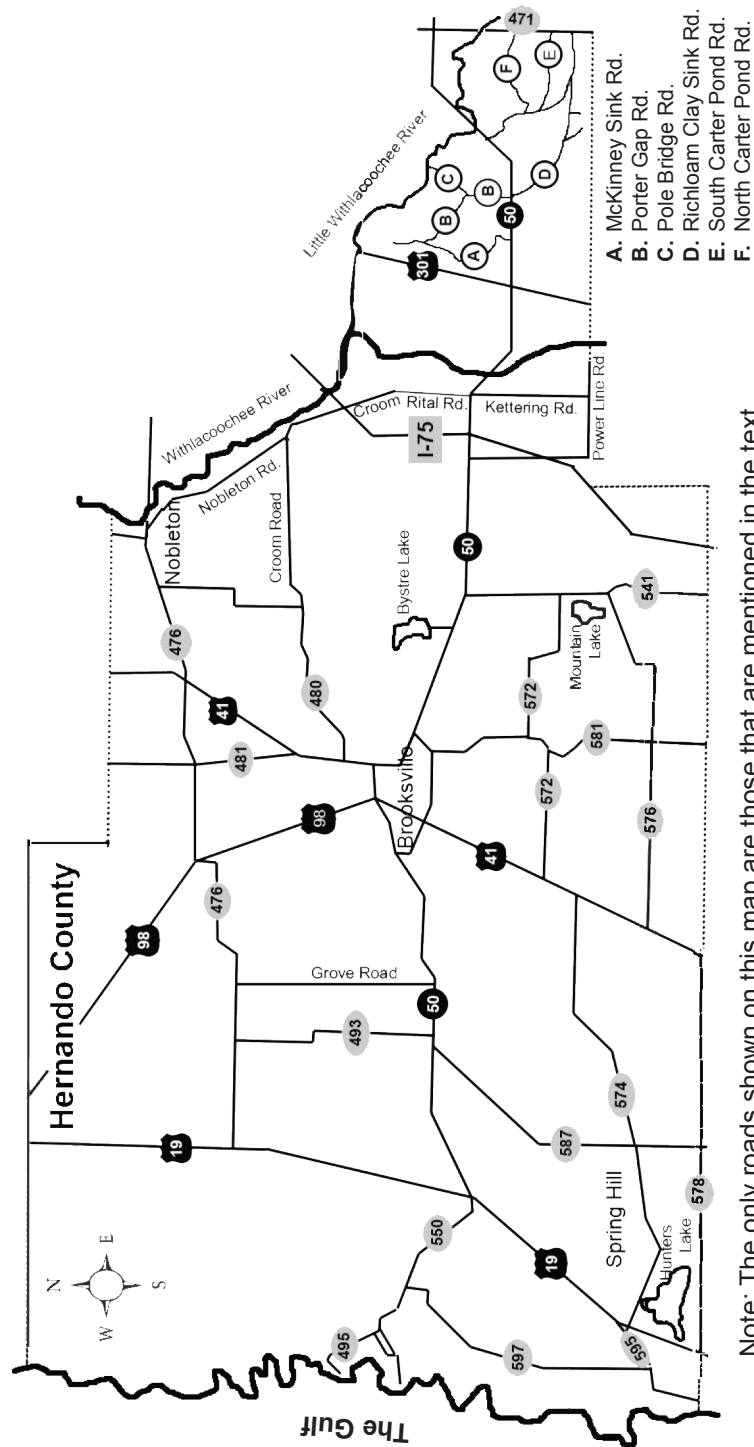


HERNANDO COUNTY

BIRDING



Birding Sites in Hernando County



BIRDING SITES IN HERNANDO COUNTY

This pamphlet is designed to help local and visiting birders by indicating the localities and times of year when birds are most likely to be found in Hernando County. The bird checklist at the back of this pamphlet indicates the seasonal distribution and the probability of finding each species in suitable habitat.

In addition to birds that live here year round, neotropical migrants pass through the area during the spring and fall, while other birds are resident here only in winter, and still other birds arrive for summer nesting. Spring migration begins in early March and lasts through May. Fall migration starts in August and continues through October. The best time to look for birds is during the relatively cool early morning hours, when most birds are actively feeding.



Pileated Woodpecker

Of the many locations for watching birds described in this pamphlet, the following are particularly recommended. **Pine Island** is the best area for birds that prefer saltwater. **Weekiwachee Preserve** attracts many resident birds, as well as spring and fall migrants. **Chinsegut Conservation Center** has an abundance of Red-headed Woodpeckers, as well as habitat for many resident and migratory birds. **Withlacoochee State Forest** has many resident birds, including Red-cockaded, Hairy, and Pileated woodpeckers, and Bachman's Sparrows. **Bystre Lake** draws a variety of waterfowl in the winter, and herons,

egrets, Osprey, Bald Eagles, and Barred Owls much of the year. When planning a birding trip, you may want to consider what birds you particularly want to see and plan to visit those sites early in the morning to maximize your chances of finding the desired birds.

If any unusual birds are sighted, please report them to eBird.org, with details about the species, location, and date of the sighting. Contact the Hernando Audubon Society at hernandoaudubonpresident@gmail.com or P.O. Box 1678, Brooksville, FL 34605. Visit the Hernando Audubon Society website: <http://www.hernandoaudubon.org/>, Facebook, and Instagram.

COASTAL SWAMP

Paralleling the Gulf and extending inland 4 to 6 miles are tidal marshes, including the Aripeka, Weeki Wachee, and Chassahowitzka swamps. Aside from the residential developments in Hernando Beach and along the Weeki Wachee River, much of the county's coastal area is sparsely populated and relatively wild, with few roads, making access for bird watching difficult. The area is underlain by limestone with elevations up to 10 feet, covered by tidal marshes, many small springs, and drainage runs. The vegetation is primarily salt marsh grasses, with palms, pines, cedars, and mixed hardwoods in hammocks.

For coastal birding from the intersection of US-19 and SR-50, go west on CR-550. Just before the Bayport junction, there is a small marsh on the left where Sandhill Cranes nest and waders and shorebirds feed seasonally. At the junction, veer right onto CR-495, Pine Island Drive. Unfortunately, there are very few places you can safely pull off this road, but as you drive, look and listen along the salt marsh for rails, waders, and shorebirds.

Alfred A. McKethan Pine Island Park, 10840 Pine Island Drive, is a 3-acre county park (open 8:30 a.m. to sunset; a daily or annual park fee is payable through ParkMobile). This is the only publicly accessible sand

beach with an open view of the gulf in the county. Birding is best early in the morning, as soon as the park opens, before the birds are flushed by sunbathers. Check for rails, shorebirds, gulls, terns, herons, and egrets, including an occasional Reddish Egret. American Oystercatchers may feed at very low tide. There are restrooms and picnic tables here.



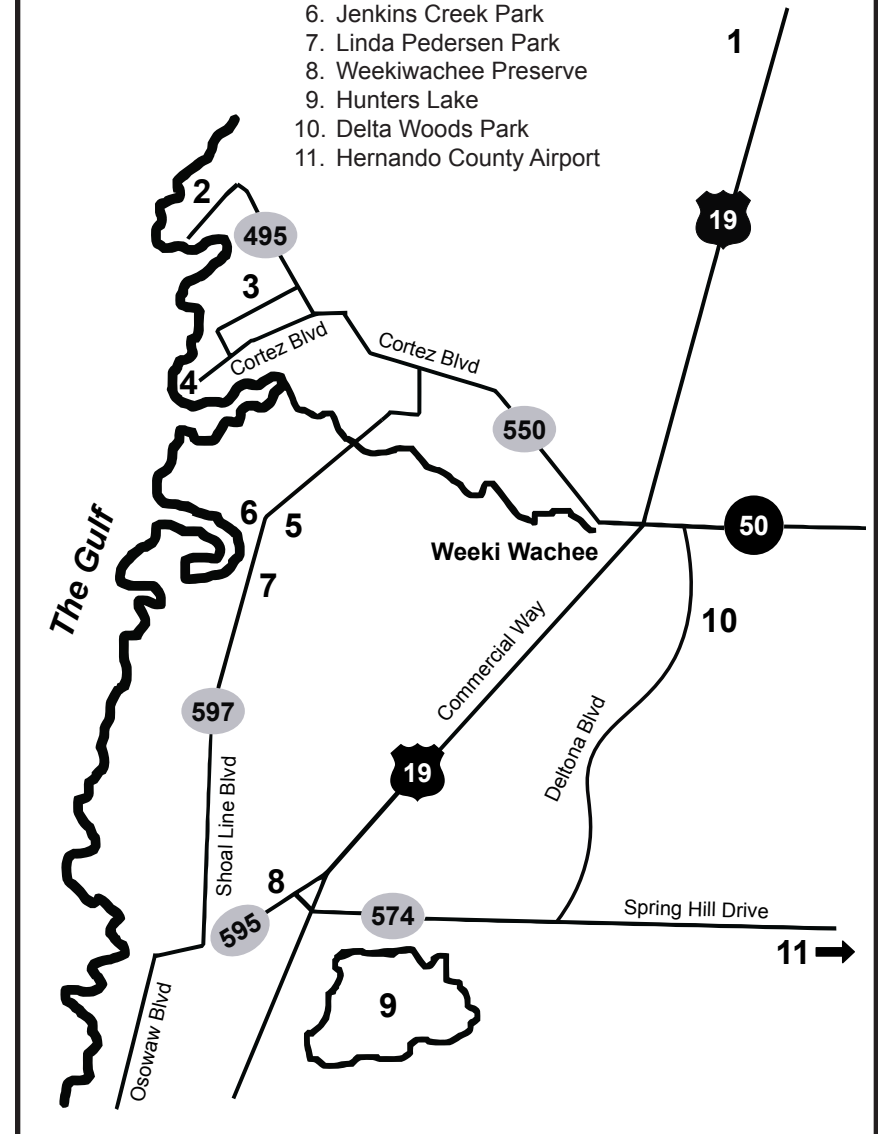
Reddish Egret

Reverse your route, and just before reaching the intersection with CR-550, turn right onto **Bayou Drive**, a one-mile loop that offers more views of salt marshes, before ending on CR-550. At dusk, Great Horned Owls sometimes perch on snags, and in daytime Bald Eagles or Ospreys are occasionally on the same snags. The wooded area on the left sometimes has migrants.

At the end of Bayou Drive, turn right onto CR-550 to **Bayport Park**, 4140 Cortez Boulevard. In winter and early spring, look for Common Loons, Horned Grebes, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Bufflehead. At low tide, American Oystercatchers are occasionally seen feeding on the distant

Western Hernando County

1. Chassahowitzka WMA
2. Pine Island
3. Bayou Drive
4. Bayport Park
5. Rogers Park
6. Jenkins Creek Park
7. Linda Pedersen Park
8. Weekiwachee Preserve
9. Hunters Lake
10. Delta Woods Park
11. Hernando County Airport



oyster bars. A Bald Eagle sometimes perches on the prominent snag across the river from the pier or in trees in the park. Songbirds are found in the wooded area. Occasionally manatees can be seen. There are restrooms and picnic tables in this 7-acre park. A daily or annual park fee is payable through ParkMobile.



American Oystercatcher

Rogers Park at 7244 Shoal Line Boulevard provides access to the Weeki Wachee River. The current is fast-running at 9 miles per hour, but it is possible to canoe or kayak 7.5 miles upstream close to its source in Weeki Wachee Springs. En route birds that may be seen are Ospreys, herons, egrets, and occasionally Wood Storks and Limpkins, as well as alligators, river otters, and manatees. A daily or annual park fee is payable through ParkMobile.

At three-acre **Jenkins Creek Park**, 6401 Shoal Line Boulevard, look for birds on both sides of the footbridge, and for waterfowl in the creek. There are restrooms and picnic tables. A daily or annual park fee is payable through ParkMobile.

Visit 135-acre **Linda Pedersen Park at Jenkins Creek** across the road, 6300 Shoal Line Boulevard. There is a second entrance to this park 0.2



Osprey

mile further south. At low tide in winter, rails are sometimes seen in the marsh grass to the east of the road, after the U-turn, but before reaching the parking lot with restrooms. The oaks in this park sometimes attract songbirds. On cold days, manatees may be seen in the canal west of the swimming area. Restrooms and picnic tables are available. From here you can canoe or kayak on the signed Coastal Paddling Trail

1.7 miles to Bayport Park. A daily or annual park fee is payable through ParkMobile.

GULF COASTAL LOWLANDS

The Gulf Coastal Lowlands are a discontinuous area between the Coastal Swamp and the Brooksville Ridge, with an elevation of between 10 and 50 feet. The area is mostly palmetto and pine flatwoods with numerous small ponds in areas of broad, grassy sloughs. There is some patchy development.

Southwest Florida Water Management District (known as Swiftmud) purchased over 11,000 acres west of US-19, known as **Weekiwachee Preserve**, 2345 Osowaw Boulevard. There is no charge to enter the preserve, which is open every day, sunrise to sunset, for hiking, biking, birding, and fishing. There is a 5.5-mile loop trail, as well as many trails through wooded areas. A trail map is posted inside the gate.

Since the preserve was purchased in 1995, 254 species of birds and 77 species of butterflies have been seen there. Because the lakes were created by mining, they are deep, with steep sides, and thus are not attractive to most birds.

The surrounding wooded areas attract songbirds, especially during spring and fall migration. The best birding is often found by walking the paved road and turning left on the first trail. The rarest bird found in the preserve was a Hooded Oriole on December 23-29, 2019. From 2008 through 2017, wintering sparrows, including Le Conte's, Henslow's, Grasshopper, and Swamp, were banded in the preserve. A small portion of these banded birds returned to the same site in subsequent years.



Swamp Sparrow

A second entrance to Weekiwachee Preserve is off Shoal Line Boulevard (CR-597), but no parking is provided. Hernando County has plans to build Weekiwachee Preserve Park on Shoal Line Boulevard with a parking lot, restrooms, picnic tables, and kayak launch.

The entrance to 25,000-acre **Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area**, 13243 Commercial Way, is 6.7 miles north of SR-50. There is a fee of \$3 per person or \$6 per vehicle, which is waived for those with a Florida Wildlife Management Area permit or a sportsman's, lifetime, or disabled license. There is a restroom and picnic tables at the entrance.



Barred Owl

It's possible to make a 6.6-mile driving loop by taking Rattlesnake Camp Road, turning right on Three Bridges Road, turning right on Thunder's Crossing Road, and right on Gopher Road to return to the entrance. From Three Bridges Road, a 440-foot boardwalk provides access to Buford Springs, which is a very large dive-able cavern. The diversity of habitat from swamps to upland pine forests and hardwoods attracts a wide range of resident and migrant birds. To date, 165 species have been found there. Other explorable side roads are south and north of those mentioned here.

There are two walking trails that can be reached by continuing east on Three Bridges Road, 0.3 mile after the intersection with Thunder's Crossing Road. Cypress Circle, a 1.5-mile walk that passes through a wetland, can attract a few migrants in the spring and fall. On Wild Turkey Trace, a three-quarter-mile loop trail, upland resident songbirds can be seen.

Caution: Various types of hunting occur in the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area from late September through early January and in late March.

BROOKSVILLE RIDGE

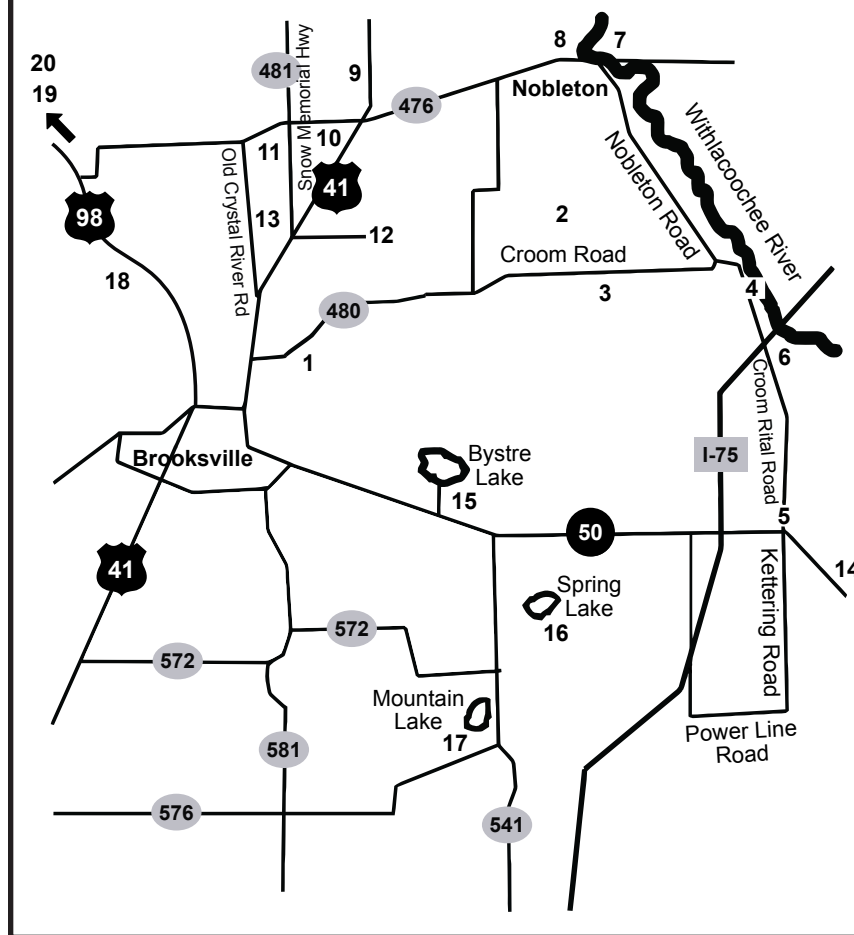
Most of the county is in the Brooksville Ridge, chiefly at an elevation 50 to 100 feet, with a portion climbing to 300 feet. It extends from US-19 eastward to US-301. This area is mostly rolling, deep, sandy ridges with numerous depressions and sinks. Natural vegetation is largely turkey oak, bluejack oak, post oak, scrub live oak, and scattered longleaf pines. In places there are sand-bottomed ponds. The highest areas support pine and hardwood stands, although portions have been cleared for crops and pastures. A large portion of this area is highly developed in two communities, Brooksville and Spring Hill.

While much habitat has been lost due to this development, a side effect has been the required construction of numerous retention areas to hold the runoff during heavy rains. The water level fluctuates in these many retention areas throughout the county, depending on the accumulated rainfall. These should be checked for ducks, waders, and shorebirds.

To reach the **Hunters Lake Boat Ramp**, take the first left on Kenlake Avenue, just south of Applegate Drive. Like all other lakes in the

Central Hernando County

1. Wallien Drive Pond
2. Croom Tract
3. Forest Road 7
4. Trail to River
5. Ridge Manor Trailhead
6. Silver Lake
7. Nobelton Wayside Park
8. Lake Townsen Regional Park
9. McKethan Lake
10. Chinsegut Conservation Center
11. Lake Lindsey
12. Perry Oldenburg W&E Area
13. Big Pine
14. Cypress Lake Preserve
15. Bystre Lake
16. Spring Lake
17. Mountain Lake
18. Ernie Wever Park
19. Skinner Lake
20. Northwest Waste Management





Purple Gallinule

county, this lake recedes greatly during periods of drought. Egrets and herons are here year round, and migratory ducks in winter. Water level permitting, a kayak can be launched to explore more of the lake. Then it might be possible to see Least Bitterns, Purple Gallinules and rails, as well as other species that can't be seen from land. A daily or annual park fee is payable through ParkMobile.

Twenty acres **Delta Woods Park** at 3400 Deltona Boulevard borders the prairie lake called Lake Teresa. Over 100 species of birds have been reported to eBird from this small park.

At the end of Downwind Way at the **Hernando County Airport Water Reclamation Facility** the settling ponds are filled in random order. As the water is absorbed into the ground and evaporates, shorebirds and gulls can often be seen. Some ponds are distant from the road, and a spotting scope is often essential for identifying the birds.

Skinner Lake is 10 miles north of Brooksville. There is no public access to this lake that in the winter attracts hundreds of American Coots, as well as a few other duck species. It can only be viewed from the private road to CEMEX (16301 Ponce de Leon Boulevard). The road to CEMEX is only open on weekdays from about 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Birders are tolerated if they park completely off the road. Since the road is quite distant from the lake, most of the birds can only be identified with a spotting scope.

At **Northwest Waste Management Facility** (14450 Landfill Road) tell the operator at the scale house that you are birdwatching and ask where you are permitted to bird. They are accommodating, but please don't interfere with their work, and avoid the heavy trucks and other equipment. Landfill birding is best in winter. Ring-necked Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Bufflehead,



Bald Eagle

Hooded Merganser, and other birds frequent the small retention pond then, and gulls, vultures, and Bald Eagles congregate around the garbage disposal area.

The 113-acre **Ernie Wever Youth Park** at 19473 Youth Drive in Brooksville attracts a variety of birds, but it's

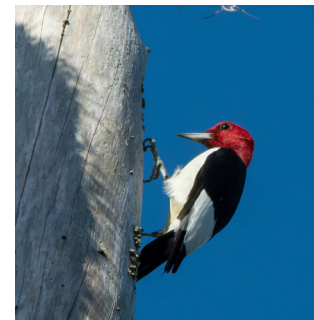
best to go there when youth sports are not scheduled.

At **Big Pine Tract**, 12060 Old Crystal River Road, several miles of trails bisect this second largest contiguous tract of old-growth longleaf pine in Florida, which includes some trees that are over 250 years old. Typical pine woodland resident birds can be found there, including Red-headed Woodpeckers. A trailhead for the Prairie-to-Pines Trail (discussed below) to Chinsegut Conservation Center is located at Big Pine.

Lake Lindsey Boat Ramp at 28011 Lake Lindsey Road provides a limited view of the lake. A very few Purple Gallinules are resident on this lake.

Chinsegut Conservation Center, 23212 Lake Lindsey Road, is a 408-acre tract managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The center is open to the public every Friday and Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is a nature trail through turkey oak, longleaf pine, and hardwood hammocks circling a prairie. As a result of efforts to restore to upland sandhill habitat, Red-headed Woodpeckers are seen here regularly. A 2-mile Prairie-to-Pines Trail links Chinsegut Conservation Center to nearby Big Pine (described above).

This trail is open every day during daylight hours. Trailheads are located at Chinsegut Conservation Center, Big Pine, and midway at the parking area at the junction of US-41 and Snow Memorial Highway. The public is invited to attend the scheduled activities and talks held at Chinsegut Conservation Center throughout the year. From September through April on the fourth Friday of each month Hernando Audubon conducts a Beginning Birding outing that starts at 8:00 am. For information about these events, call 352-754-6722, or check the website at: <https://myfwc.com/education/outdoor-skills/chinsegut/>



Red-headed Woodpecker

McKethan Lake, 15185 Broad Street, also called US-41, is open 8 a.m. to sunset. A \$2 park fee is payable at ReserveAmerica. A 2-mile nature trail winds through the woods, and a one-way paved road circles the lake. The combination of hardwood hammock, marsh, and open water provides good habitat for a variety of birds. Herons, egrets, ducks, and songbirds can be found here, though the water level fluctuates with rainfall, and this impacts what birds are present. There are picnic tables and restrooms.

To reach **Perry Oldenburg Wildlife and Environmental Area**, 13489



American Kestrel

Government Road, from US-41, turn on Deer Run Road and drive 1.2 miles to the intersection with Government Road. At this intersection keep right and follow the sign for the preserve. Both resident and migrant songbirds can be seen along the 1.5-mile loop trail winding through sandhills and hardwood hammocks. American Kestrels, Red-headed Woodpeckers, and Bachman's Sparrows reside here as well as passerines. There is a picnic table but no restrooms.

At **Lake Townsen Regional Park**, 28011 Lake Lindsey Road, the wooded area around the restrooms and picnic tables can be good for resident songbirds. The fishing pier and boat ramp provide a good view of a section of the Withlacoochee River where Limpkins are often seen. To view the river, pass the parking lot and continue right, crossing the bike trail, to the boat ramp parking area. A daily or annual park fee is payable through ParkMobile.

Two-acre **Nobleton Wayside Park**, 29061 Lamkin Drive, has a boat ramp and picnic tables. A pleasant birding experience is the 10-mile trip from Silver Lake downstream to Nobleton. A daily or annual park fee is payable through ParkMobile.

To reach a pasture that is often flooded near the Brooksville Country Club, drive east on Croom Road 1.7 miles. Turn right onto Dogwood Estates Drive, then in 0.1 mile, turn right onto **Wallien Drive**. In 0.1 mile pull off the road and view the pasture on the right that often attracts waders and shorebirds in winter or during migration, and Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in late summer.



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

At the western edge of the **Croom Tract of the Withlacoochee State Forest**, at Tucker Hill (26572 Croom Road) there are restrooms, trails, and picnic tables, but the parking area doesn't open until 8 a.m. The parking fee is \$2 per person.

Caution: there are many sand roads in the forest that get very soft when it hasn't rained for a while, or puddled after a rain. It is best to navigate these with a high-clearance or 4-wheel-drive vehicle to avoid getting stuck. "General gun" hunting occurs in Croom in

November. Inquire about the specific dates at the Withlacoochee Visitor Center, 15003 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34601; 352-797-4140.

In the 1990s, the Croom population of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker was in a steep decline, due to lack of controlled burning during the critical growing season. But with a renewed effort by staff of the Florida Forest Service, with assistance from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, to restore the habitat, and with the translocation of woodpeckers from other areas, the population is now healthy. In recognition of the significant advances that have been made, in 2005 this project received the prestigious federal Red-cockaded Woodpecker Recovery Program Award for management of the Croom Tract. In 2012 the Croom and Citrus tracts of the Withlacoochee State Forest were nominated by the National Audubon Society for Global Important Bird Area.

The Red-cockaded Woodpecker's active roosting cavity in a longleaf pine tree has clear fresh sap streams glistening near the cavity entrance. It is best to look for the woodpeckers at dawn, when the birds are just leaving their roosting trees, or an hour or two before dusk, when they are returning to those trees. Red-cockaded Woodpeckers usually leave the area soon after dawn to search for food, though they may still be located occasionally by listening for their soft call. Please take care not to disturb these woodpeckers during the April to July nesting season.



Red-cockaded Woodpecker

To look for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, 7 miles east of US-41, at the intersection of Croom Road with **Forest Road 7**, park in the parking area on the south side. Cross to the northwest corner of that intersection and look for the trail going north. Continue north when another trail crosses. Soon afterward, look for RCWs roosting in the trees marked with white paint.

Bachman's Sparrows can be found in areas with short vegetation. The sparrows sing from March to September. When singing, these sparrows are usually perched on a bare branch 6 to 15 feet above the ground, and are often closer than they sound, so approach them slowly. Other birds that nest in the Croom Tract include Swallow-tailed Kite, Wild Turkey, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Northern Parula, and Summer Tanager. All of the eastern woodpeckers can be found in the Croom Tract, including Hairy Woodpeckers which are partial to areas that have recently had a prescribed burn.

Drive 0.4 east of the intersection of Croom Road and Nobleton Road, for a walking trail that gives a view of the Withlacoochee River, with woodland



Bachman's Sparrow

birding along the way. Park near the power line and substation on the north side of the road. Walk along the power line east to the Withlacoochee River (0.4 mile). Limpkins have been found at this section of the river, as well as at other viewpoints along the river. Scan the sky here and at other river sites, looking for Swallow-tailed Kites and Short-tailed Hawks in the spring and summer.

At **Silver Lake Recreation Area** at 31475 Silver Lake Road there is a boat ramp and camping. The \$2 park fee is payable through ReserveAmerica. Drive through the entrance gate and go straight to the day use area to check the river for birds. Limpkins might be found here. The three separate campgrounds are restricted to registered campers, but there is a hiking trail along the edge of the river.

At 6410 Croom Rital Road, you will find the **Ridge Manor Trailhead**. There is a parking lot, picnic area, and restrooms for the 46-mile rails-to-trails paved biking trail called the Withlacoochee State Trail. There is also a hiking trail. To find the beginning of the hiking trail, walk past the picnic tables,



Limpkin

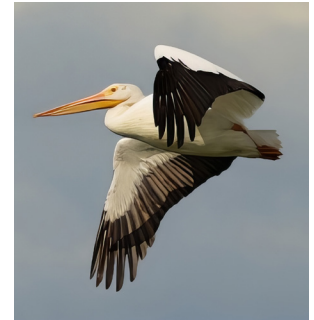
and through the gate. In the open pasture, Eastern Bluebirds, Red-headed Woodpeckers, and American Kestrels may be found. A flock of songbirds can occasionally be found in the woods as the trail follows alongside the Withlacoochee River.

The parking lot for **Cypress Lake Preserve** is at the intersection of Olancho Road and Ridge Manor Blvd. The cypress-lined lake attracts herons, egrets, and Limpkins, and the woods draw both migratory and resident songbirds, as well as Wild Turkey.

To reach **Bystre Lake**, turn north on Clayton Road from S.R. 50. (Sometimes the sink hole on the west side of Clayton Road fills with water and attracts wading birds, etc.) Drive 0.5 mile to the end of the road, and turn right into the grassy field. This small, undeveloped county property provides a view of a portion of the lake. The rest of the lakefront is private

property. Bystre Lake attracts waterfowl in winter, as well as American White Pelicans. Year-round residents include herons, egrets, both Ibis, Osprey, Barred Owl, and Limpkins. Roseate Spoonbills and Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks are occasionally seen here.

There is a one-mile drive around **Spring Lake** which provides a diversity of birds, with a view of houses and pastures on one side of the road and the lake on the other side. This is accessed from Old Spring Lake Road east of Spring Lake Highway.



American White Pelican

The small parking area at **Mountain Lake Boat Ramp**, 26091 Mountain Lake Road, provides a limited view of the lake, depending on the water level. Waders may be here year round.

Birds attracted to pastures can be found on the east side of Hernando County on Lockhart Road, Power Line Road, Myers Road, Church Road, and the vicinity, though some of the area is threatened by housing development.

EASTERN PORTION

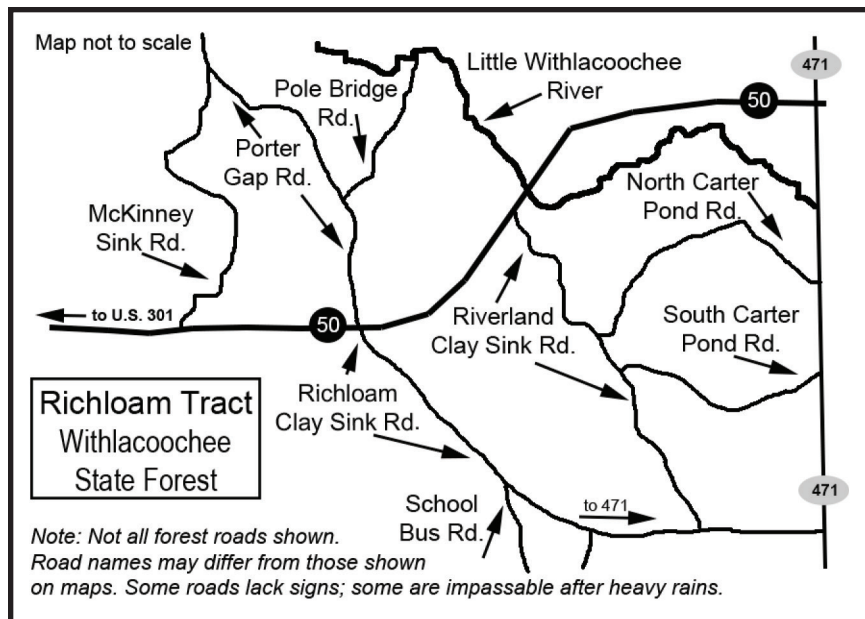
The portion of the county east of US-301 is a plain at an elevation of 75 to 85 feet, mostly covered by pine and palmetto flatwoods, with numerous ponds and depressions of broad, grassy sloughs. Most of the area is in natural vegetation and has been preserved for woodland and wildlife.



Swallow-tailed Kite

Caution should be taken when birding the **Richloam Tract of the Withlacoochee State Forest** because those roads that are not paved can be very muddy at times.

There is "general gun" hunting in Richloam from November to early January, and Wild Turkey hunting in mid-March to mid-April. Inquire about the specific dates at the Withlacoochee Visitor Center, 15003 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34601; 352-797-4140; www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Our-Forests/State-Forests/Withlacoochee-State-Forest



To make a loop route near the Little Withlacoochee River, which can be good during migration and year round for Brown-headed Nuthatches, from the intersection of SR-50 and US-301, head east on SR-50 1.4 miles to McKinney Sink Road on the left. Drive north on this road, parking and walking sections of the road that look promising. In 3.0 miles, turn right onto Porter Gap Road. In 1.8 miles, if the road appears passable, turn left onto Pole Bridge Road and drive 1.5 miles until the road ends at the Little Withlacoochee River. Return to Porter Gap Road, turn left, and drive 1.2 miles to the junction with SR-50.



Brown-headed Nuthatch

To reach more habitat for Brown-headed Nuthatches, cross SR-50 (this intersection is 3 miles east of US-301) and continue on Richloam Clay Sink Road. After 1 mile, this paved road becomes a good graded road. In another 0.9 mile, School Bus Road will be on your right. Nuthatch habitat begins across from School Bus Road, on the left side of Richloam Clay Sink Road. In another 1.9 miles, the road forks. Keep to the left fork (eastbound) looking for Nuthatches. This road ends at SR-471.

To search more for Nuthatches on South and North Carter Pond Roads, turn left (north) onto SR-471. Unmarked South Carter Pond Road is 1.4 miles north, on the left, and North Carter Pond Road is 0.7 mile further north, also on the left. At times both these sandy roads may not be passable without a high-clearance or 4-wheel-drive vehicle. SR-50 is 2.9 miles north of North Carter Pond Road.

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS FOR HERNANDO COUNTY

The checklist on the following pages lists 321 bird species seen in Hernando County. The list is arranged taxonomically, and includes only those species recognized as countable by the American Birding Association.

Many birds have strict habitat preferences, small local populations, and/or irregular migration patterns. The symbols used in this checklist are defined as follows:

Seasons:	SP	Spring	March-May
	SU	Summer	June-July
	FA	Fall	August-November
	WI	Winter	December-February

Probability of Sighting:

- C **Common:** These birds should be seen or heard in suitable habitat.
- U **Uncommon:** These birds are present, but not certain to be seen or heard, because of their low numbers, behavior, habitat, or distribution.
- O **Occasional:** These birds are only seen a few times in a season. Many of them are only in the county during migration.
- R **Rare:** These birds are not expected to be seen every year. They occur in low numbers and may be unreported for a number of years. Also included are erratics, those birds that are common some years and scarce or missing other years.
- X **Accidental:** These birds were seen outside of their normal range.
- * Indicates breeding in the county.

	SP	SU	FA	WI
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *	C	C	C	C
Fulvous Whistling-Duck		R		
Snow Goose	O		O	O
Ross's Goose				R
Greater White-fronted Goose	R	R		
Canada Goose	O	O		O
Egyptian Goose		R	R	R
Muscovy Duck *	U	U	U	U
Wood Duck *	U	U	U	U
Blue-winged Teal	C	O	C	C
Cinnamon Teal				R
Northern Shoveler	U		U	U
Gadwall	U		U	U
American Wigeon	U		U	U
Mallard *	U	U	U	U
Mottled Duck *	C	C	C	C
Northern Pintail			O	O
Green-winged Teal	C		C	C
Canvasback			O	O
Redhead	U		U	U
Ring-necked Duck	C	R	C	C
Greater Scaup	O		O	O
Lesser Scaup	C	O	C	C
Surf Scoter				R
Black Scoter			R	R
Long-tailed Duck				R
Bufflehead	C		C	C

	SP	SU	FA	WI
Common Goldeneye			O	O
Hooded Merganser	C	R	C	C
Common Merganser				R
Red-breasted Merganser	C		C	C
Ruddy Duck	U		U	U
Northern Bobwhite *	U	U	U	U
Wild Turkey *	C	C	C	C
Rock Pigeon *	U	U	U	U
Eurasian Collared-Dove *	C	C	C	C
Common Ground-Dove *	U	U	U	U
White-winged Dove *	U	U	U	U
Mourning Dove *	C	C	C	C
Yellow-billed Cuckoo *	U	U	U	
Black-billed Cuckoo	R		R	
Common Nighthawk *	U	U	U	
Chuck-will's-widow *	U	U	U	R
Eastern Whip-poor-will	U		U	U
Chimney Swift *	U	U	U	
Vaux's Swift				R
Ruby-throated Hummingbird *	C	C	C	O
Black-chinned Hummingbird	O		O	O
Rufous Hummingbird	O		O	O
Allen's Hummingbird				R
Buff-bellied Hummingbird	R			
King Rail *	U	U	U	U
Clapper Rail *	C	C	C	C
Virginia Rail	U		U	U

	SP	SU	FA	WI
Sora	U		U	U
Common Gallinule *	C	C	C	C
American Coot	C	O	C	C
Purple Gallinule *	U	U	U	U
Yellow Rail				R
Black Rail *	O	R		O
Limpkin *	C	C	C	C
Sandhill Crane *	C	C	C	C
Whooping Crane	R			
Black-necked Stilt *	C	C	C	R
American Avocet	R	R	U	U
American Oystercatcher *	U	U	U	U
Black-bellied Plover	O	R	U	U
American Golden-Plover			R	R
Killdeer *	C	C	C	C
Semipalmated Plover	U	R	U	U
Piping Plover			R	O
Wilson's Plover *	O	R	O	O
Snowy Plover	R		R	
Hudsonian Whimbrel	R		R	R
Bar-tailed Godwit			R	
Marbled Godwit	R	R	O	O
Short-billed Dowitcher	C	U	C	C
Long-billed Dowitcher	U	R	U	U
American Woodcock *	R		U	U
Wilson's Snipe	U		U	U
Wilson's Phalarope	O	O	O	

	SP	SU	FA	WI
Red-necked Phalarope				R
Spotted Sandpiper	U	U	U	U
Solitary Sandpiper	U	U	U	U
Lesser Yellowlegs	C	U	C	C
Willet *	C	C	C	C
Greater Yellowlegs	C	U	C	C
Ruddy Turnstone	C	U	C	C
Red Knot	O		O	O
Ruff				R
Stilt Sandpiper	U	R	U	U
Sanderling	C	C	C	C
Dunlin	U	R	U	U
Baird's Sandpiper			R	
White-rumped Sandpiper	O	O	O	
Least Sandpiper	C	C	C	C
Pectoral Sandpiper	O	R	O	
Western Sandpiper	U	U	U	U
Semipalmated Sandpiper	C	U	U	
Parasitic Jaeger				R
Pomarine Jaeger				R
Razorbill				R
Bonaparte's Gull	U		R	U
Laughing Gull	C	C	C	C
Franklin's Gull			O	R
Ring-billed Gull	C	O	C	C
American Herring Gull	U		U	U
Great Black-backed Gull	R			R

	SP	SU	FA	WI
Glaucous Gull	R			
Lesser Black-backed Gull			O	O
Black Skimmer	C	R	C	C
Brown Noddy			R	
Sooty Tern			R	
Least Tern	O	O	O	
Gull-billed Tern			R	O
Caspian Tern	U	U	U	U
Black Tern	R	R	U	
Forster's Tern	U	O	U	U
Common Tern	O	O	O	
Sandwich Tern	U	O	U	O
Royal Tern	C	C	C	C
American Flamingo			R	R
Pied-billed Grebe *	C	O	C	C
Horned Grebe	U	O	U	U
White-tailed Tropicbird			R	
Red-throated Loon				R
Common Loon	U	R	U	U
Wood Stork *	U	U	U	U
Magnificent Frigatebird	O	O	O	R
Northern Gannet	O	O		O
Anhinga *	C	C	C	C
Double-crested Cormorant *	C	C	C	C
White Ibis *	C	C	C	C
Glossy Ibis	C	C	C	C
White-faced Ibis	O	O		O

	SP	SU	FA	WI
Roseate Spoonbill	U	U	U	U
American Bittern	U		U	U
Least Bittern *	U	U	U	U
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *	U	U	U	U
Black-crowned Night-Heron *	U	U	U	U
Little Blue Heron *	C	C	C	C
Tricolored Heron *	C	C	C	C
Reddish Egret	U	U	U	U
Snowy Egret *	C	C	C	C
Green Heron *	U	U	U	U
Western Cattle Egret *	C	C	C	C
Great Egret *	C	C	C	C
Great Blue Heron *	C	C	C	C
American White Pelican	U	O	U	U
Brown Pelican *	C	C	C	C
Black Vulture *	C	C	C	C
Turkey Vulture *	C	C	C	C
Osprey *	U	U	U	U
White-tailed Kite			R	
Swallow-tailed Kite *	C	C	C	C
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	U
Cooper's Hawk *	U	U	U	U
Northern Harrier	U		U	U
Double-toothed Kite			X	
Bald Eagle *	U	U	U	U
Mississippi Kite *	U	U	U	
Snail Kite	O	O	O	O

	SP	SU	FA	WI
Broad-winged Hawk	R		O	R
Red-shouldered Hawk *	C	C	C	C
Short-tailed Hawk *	U	U	U	U
Swainson's Hawk			O	O
Red-tailed Hawk *	U	U	U	U
American Barn Owl *	U	U	U	U
Eastern Screech-Owl *	U	U	U	U
Great Horned Owl *	U	U	U	U
Barred Owl *	C	C	C	C
Belted Kingfisher	U	O	U	U
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U		U	U
Red-headed Woodpecker *	U	U	U	U
Red-bellied Woodpecker *	C	C	C	C
Downy Woodpecker *	C	C	C	C
Red-cockaded Woodpecker *	U	U	U	U
Hairy Woodpecker *	U	U	U	U
Pileated Woodpecker *	C	C	C	C
Northern Flicker *	U	U	U	U
Crested Caracara	R		R	R
American Kestrel *	U	U	U	U
Merlin	U		U	U
Peregrine Falcon	O		O	O
Eastern Wood-Pewee	O		C	
Acadian Flycatcher	R	R	U	
Least Flycatcher			R	
Eastern Phoebe	U		U	U
Say's Phoebe			R	R

	SP	SU	FA	WI
Vermilion Flycatcher			R	
Ash-throated Flycatcher			O	O
Great Crested Flycatcher *	C	C	C	R
Tropical Kingbird	R	R		
Western Kingbird	O	R	O	O
Eastern Kingbird *	U	U	U	
Gray Kingbird *	O	O	O	
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	O		O	O
White-eyed Vireo *	C	C	C	C
Yellow-throated Vireo *	U	U	U	U
Blue-headed Vireo	U		U	U
Philadelphia Vireo	O		O	
Warbling Vireo	R			
Red-eyed Vireo *	C	C	C	C
Loggerhead Shrike *	U	U	U	U
Blue Jay *	C	C	C	C
American Crow *	C	C	C	C
Fish Crow *	C	C	C	C
Carolina Chickadee *	C	C	C	C
Tufted Titmouse *	C	C	C	C
Bank Swallow	O	R	U	
Tree Swallow	C	R	C	C
Purple Martin *	C	C	U	O
N. Rough-winged Swallow *	U	U	U	R
Barn Swallow *	C	C	C	O
Cliff Swallow	R	R	O	
Cave Swallow			R	R

	SP	SU	FA	WI
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U		U	U
Golden-crowned Kinglet			O	O
White-breasted Nuthatch	R			R
Brown-headed Nuthatch *	U	U	U	U
Red-breasted Nuthatch	O		O	O
Brown Creeper				R
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *	C	C	C	C
Northern House Wren	C		C	C
Sedge Wren	U		U	U
Marsh Wren *	U	U	U	U
Carolina Wren *	C	C	C	C
European Starling *	C	C	C	C
Gray Catbird	C	O	C	C
Brown Thrasher *	U	U	U	U
Northern Mockingbird *	C	C	C	C
Eastern Bluebird *	C	C	C	C
Veery	U		U	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	O		O	
Swainson's Thrush	O		U	
Hermit Thrush	U		U	U
Wood Thrush	U		U	
American Robin	C		C	C
Cedar Waxwing	C	R	C	C
House Sparrow *	C	C	C	C
American Pipit	U		U	U
House Finch *	C	C	C	C
Purple Finch	O			O

	SP	SU	FA	WI
Pine Siskin	O			O
American Goldfinch	C		C	C
Bachman's Sparrow *	U	U	U	U
Grasshopper Sparrow	U		U	U
Chipping Sparrow	C		U	C
Clay-colored Sparrow	O		O	O
Field Sparrow	O		O	O
Lark Sparrow			R	
Dark-eyed Junco	R			R
White-crowned Sparrow	U		U	U
Harris's Sparrow	R			R
White-throated Sparrow	O			O
Vesper Sparrow	U		U	U
Le Conte's Sparrow	R			O
Seaside Sparrow *	U	U	U	U
Nelson's Sparrow	O		O	O
Saltmarsh Sparrow	R			
Savannah Sparrow	C		C	C
Henslow's Sparrow			R	O
Song Sparrow	U		U	U
Lincoln's Sparrow	O		O	O
Swamp Sparrow	C		C	C
Eastern Towhee *	C	C	C	C
Yellow-breasted Chat	R			
Yellow-headed Blackbird				R
Bobolink	O		O	O
Eastern Meadowlark *	C	C	C	C

	SP	SU	FA	WI
Orchard Oriole	O	R	R	
Hooded Oriole				X
Baltimore Oriole	U		U	U
Scott's Oriole				X
Red-winged Blackbird *	C	C	C	C
Brown-headed Cowbird *	U	U	U	U
Rusty Blackbird				O
Brewer's Blackbird	O		O	O
Common Grackle *	C	C	C	C
Boat-tailed Grackle *	C	C	C	C
Ovenbird	U	U	U	U
Worm-eating Warbler	U		U	
Louisiana Waterthrush	U	U	U	U
Northern Waterthrush	U		U	R
Golden-winged Warbler	R		U	
Blue-winged Warbler	R		O	
Black-and-white Warbler	U	U	U	U
Prothonotary Warbler	U	U	U	
Tennessee Warbler	U		U	
Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U	U
Nashville Warbler	O		O	O
Connecticut Warbler	R			
Kentucky Warbler	R		U	
Common Yellowthroat *	U	U	U	U
Hooded Warbler	U	O	U	
American Redstart	U	O	U	O
Cape May Warbler	C		U	R

	SP	SU	FA	WI
Cerulean Warbler	R		O	
Northern Parula *	C	C	C	C
Magnolia Warbler	U		U	
Bay-breasted Warbler	O		U	
Blackburnian Warbler	O		U	
Yellow Warbler	U	R	U	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	O		O	R
Blackpoll Warbler	U	R	R	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	C		U	
Palm Warbler	C		C	C
Pine Warbler *	C	C	C	C
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	C
Yellow-throated Warbler *	U	U	U	U
Prairie Warbler	U	U	U	U
Black-throated Gray Warbler				R
Black-throated Green Warbler	O		U	R
Canada Warbler			R	
Wilson's Warbler			R	
Summer Tanager *	C	C	C	U
Scarlet Tanager	U		O	
Western Tanager	R		R	R
Northern Cardinal *	C	C	C	C
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	U		U	
Blue Grosbeak *	U	U	U	
Indigo Bunting *	U	O	U	U
Painted Bunting	O		O	U
Dickcissel	O			O



Hernando Audubon Society, Inc.

Established 1959

501(c)(3) organization

Our mission is to promote an awareness and appreciation of nature, to preserve and protect wildlife and natural ecosystems, and to encourage responsible environmental stewardship.

Hernando Audubon organizes scheduled trips to local and regional birding sites, and holds regular meetings that feature experts who share information about birds, wildlife in general, and the habitats on which they depend. Meetings and field trips are open to the public.

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For more information about the Hernando Audubon Society, see the following:

www.hernandoaudubon.org

www.facebook.com/HernandoAudubonSociety/

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Photographs by Wally Handeland.

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(clockwise from top left)
Great Egret, Sandhill Crane, Wood Stork, Cape May Warbler,
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Eastern Bluebird



Anhinga

Photograph by Carole Knudson.

Birding Sites in Hernando County

This booklet is designed to help local and visiting birders by indicating the localities and times of year when birds are most likely to be found in Hernando County. The accompanying checklist indicates the seasonal distribution and probability of finding each species in suitable habitat.

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