

Welcome to Welaka State Forest located on the east bank of the St. Johns River in Putnam County. The river and its associated marshes and bottomland forest provide a haven for a variety of birds including a dense concentration of bald eagles. At the river’s edge, the cypress and gum trees are dotted with cormorants, egrets and herons. Perched aningas drying their wings are a dramatic silhouette up and down the riverbanks.

While hiking the Mud Springs Trail, you are likely to see ospreys flying overhead and visiting migratory waterfowl floating on the St. John’s River. Among the longleaf pine trees surrounding the Sandhill Trailhead species such as Bachman’s sparrow, brown-headed nuthatches, and red-headed woodpeckers are frequently spotted.

Another good site to visit is the abandoned fish hatchery on C.R. 309 near the forest office which attracts many birds, especially wood storks and other wading birds. Also, sandhill cranes are often seen wandering the grounds around the forest office. Nighttime forest visitors can listen to the call of the chuck-will’s-widow and the woodcock.

Trail maps for Welaka State Forest are available at each trailhead kiosk.

Seasons

These categories indicate the general periods in which to expect the various species.

Spring	(Sp)	March	April	May
Summer	(Su)	June	July	August
Fall	(F)	September	October	November
Winter	(W)	December	January	February

GREBES: Podicipedidae				
__Pied-billed Grebe		Sp	Su	

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae				
__Double-crested Cormorant		Sp	Su	F W

DARTERS: Anhingidae				
__Anhinga		Sp	Su	

BITTERNS & HERONS: Ardeidae				
__Least Bittern		Sp	Su	F
__Great Blue Heron		Sp	Su	F W
__Great Egret		Sp	Su	F W
__Snowy Egret		Sp	Su	F W
__Little Blue Heron		Sp	Su	F W

__Tricolored Heron	Sp	Su	F	W
__Cattle Egret	Sp	Su	F	W
__Green Heron	Sp	Su	F	
__Black-crowned Night-Heron	Sp		F	W



Black-crowned Night Heron

IBISES: Threskiornithidae				
__ White Ibis		Sp	Su	F W

STORKS: Ciconiidae				
__ Wood Stork		Sp	Su	F W

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae				
__Black Vulture		Sp	Su	F W
__Turkey Vulture		Sp	Su	F W

DUCKS & GEESE: Anatidae				
__Wood Duck		Sp	Su	F W
__American Black Duck				F W
__Mallard		Sp		W
__Mottled Duck		Sp	Su	F W
__Blue-wing Teal				F W
__Northern Pintail				F W
__Green-wing Teal				F W
__Hooded Merganser				F W

KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES: Accipitridae				
__Osprey		Sp	Su	F W
__Swallow-tailed Kite		Sp		
__Bald Eagle				F W
__Sharp-shinned Hawk		Sp		F W
__Cooper’s Hawk		Sp	Su	F W
__Red-shouldered Hawk		Sp	Su	F W
__Red-tailed Hawk		Sp	Su	F W

FALCONS: Falconidae				
__American Kestrel		Sp	Su	F
__Peregrine Falcon		Sp		F W

TURKEYS: Phasianidae				
__Wild Turkey		Sp	Su	F W

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odonotophoridae				
__Northern Bobwhite		Sp	Su	F W

RAILS & COOTS: Rallidae				
__Yellow Rail				W
__Clapper Rail		Sp	Su	F W
__Virginia Rail		Sp		F W
__Sora		Sp		F W
__Purple Gallinule		Sp	Su	F
__Common Moorhen		Sp	Su	F W
__American Coot		Sp	Su	F W

LIMPKINS: Aramidae				
__Limpkin		Sp	Su	F W

CRANES: Gruidae				
__Sandhill Crane		Sp	Su	F W

PLOVERS: Charadriidae				
__Killdeer		Sp	Su	F W

SANDPIPERS: Scolopacidae				
__Common Snipe		Sp		F W
__American Woodcock		Sp	Su	F W

GULLS: Laridae				
__Ring-billed Gull				W

PIGEONS & DOVES: Columbidae				
__Rock Dove		Sp	Su	F W
__Eurasian Collared-Dove		Sp	Su	F W
__Mourning Dove		Sp	Su	F W
__Common Ground-Dove		Sp	Su	F W

CUCKOOS: Cuculidae				
__Yellow-billed Cuckoo		Sp	Su	F

BARN OWLS: Tytonidae				
__Barn Owl		Sp	Su	F W



Wild Turkey

TYPICAL OWLS: Strigidae				
__Eastern Screech-Owl		Sp	Su	F W
__Great Horned Owl		Sp	Su	F W
__Barred Owl		Sp	Su	F W

GOATSUCKERS: Caprimulgidae				
__Common Nighthawk		Sp	Su	F
__Chuck-will’s-widow		Sp	Su	F
__Whip-poor-will		Sp	Su	F

SWIFTS: Apodidae				
__Chimney Swift		Sp	Su	F

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae				
__Ruby-throated Hummingbird		Sp		Su

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae				
__Belted Kingfisher		Sp	Su	F W

WOODPECKERS: Picidae				
__Red-headed Woodpecker		Sp	Su	F W
__Red-bellied Woodpecker		Sp	Su	F W
__Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		Sp		F W
__Downy Woodpecker		Sp	Su	F W
__Northern Flicker		Sp	Su	F W
__Pileated Woodpecker		Sp	Su	F W

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae				
__Eastern Wood-Pewee		Sp	Su	F
__Eastern Phoebe		Sp		F W
__Great Crested Flycatcher		Sp	u	F
__Eastern Kingbird		Sp	Su	

SHRIKES: Laniidae				
__Loggerhead Shrike		Sp	Su	F W

VIREOS: Vireonidae				
__White-eyed Vireo		Sp		F W
__Yellow-throated Vireo		Sp		F
__Blue-headed Vireo		Sp		F W
__Red-eyed Vireo		Sp		F



Yellow-throated Vireo