Observation Guidelines

Respect wildlife – Remember you are in their home.

At the J.N. "Ding" Darling NWR, we encourage visitors to respectfully enjoy wildlife at a safe distance. However, occasionally some visitors go to extra lengths to enhance their experience without regard to the health and safety of wildlife. This can result in the disturbance or harassment of wildlife. Disturbance or harassment of wildlife is defined as any activity that affects or changes the natural behavior of wildlife, which can be detrimental to the animal's health, safety, or productivity.

Types of activities that can cause disturbance or harassment are:

- · Getting too close to or chasing wildlife
- Using flash photography in close proximity to wildlife
- Playing recorded bird/wildlife calls
- · Moving or cutting vegetation near a nest
- Feeding wildlife
- · Throwing objects at wildlife

The disturbance or harassment of wildlife on a national wildlife refuge is unethical and illegal, and can result in hefty fines or arrest.

Witnesses to any of these types of violations are encouraged to report them immediately to Refuge Management at (239) 472-1100. Respect wildlife and other visitors when viewing, photographing wildlife.

For an enjoyable visit ...

Leave nothing but footprints; take nothing but pictures. To all who take pictures, use courtesy to fellow visitors and wildlife.

Wildlife Drive is one-way, 15mph road, Seatbelts Required. Cars make good observation blinds because the wildlife have become accustomed to them. For better observation of feeding, resting, and preening birds, minimize noise by turning down radios, closing doors quietly, and speaking softly. Park at the edge of the road, on the right hand side but not where birds are close to the road.

Please place all trash and recyclables in receptacles. otherwise, wildlife could ingest or become entangled in plastic and other trash. They often become ill and die.



Observe all speed zones and closed areas when boating. Manatees can be injured by boat propellers and birds can be disturbed when approached too closely.



Carry binoculars, water, sunscreen, and bugspray

Nature at your fingertips



Download the FREE Discover Ding Game & Wilflife Spotting App

Head out on Wildlife Drive and test your knowledge using the first of its kind-place-based nature trivia game that helps you see more (with Seymour)! Share photos & field tips, and see what others are posting even when you return home. Available for both iPhone and Android.

Stay Connected #dingdarlingnwr



@ J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge (official) You @ "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Society - Friends of the refuge



@ dingdarlingwildlifesociety

Over 1 3/4 miles of trails are located at the **Bailey Tract** on Tarpon Bay Road, where alligators, herons, egrets and other wildlife are found (see other side).

The 1/3 mile **Calusa Shell Mound Trail** has interpretive signs to inform visitors of Calusa Indian life history.

The 1/3 mile Wulfert Keys Trail takes visitors to an open view of the Pine Island Sound. at the Visitor/Education Center and at the Cross Dike. Visit the Wildlife ation Boardwalk and observation tower Boardwa Sanibel-Captiva Road

he 2-mile Indigo Trail //10 mile along the way isitors to see alligators, wading rds, and other wildlife. ducation The Indigo Trail enables

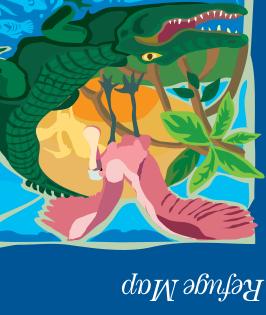


Sa Shell Mound Trail



Keys

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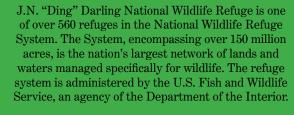
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<u>U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service</u>

J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge **1 Wildlife Drive** Sanibel, Florida 33957 www.fws.gov/dingdarling 239-472-1100



The National Wildlife Refuge System...





This blue goose, designed by Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling, is the a symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.



May 2015



WILDLIFE DRIVE **O ALL ACCESS ON FRIDAYS** CLOSED

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All visitors must exit refuge lands and waters no later than 1/2 hour after legal sunset.

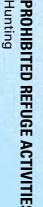
Sanibel Police Dept. (239) 472-3111

Entering Wildlife Drive from Wulfert Road Entering areas that are closed to public Crabbing with baited line or trap **EMERGENCY CALL 911** Biking against traffic flow on Wildlife Drive Using areas after sunset

Skating/rollerblading/skateboarding Drones Feeding or disturbing wildlife Camping Collecting Cast netting at water control structures Possession of unauthorized firearms Unleashed pets Bowfishing from land

PROHIBITED REFUGE ACTIVITIES

East Gulf Drive Beach





Dixie Beach Road



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Observation tower

Picnic areas

Canoe/kayak launch site at Education Center

Public beach access

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NEW! Tram pick-up/drop-off: January-April ONLY! Along Sanibel-Captiva Road.

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Fishing access - All refuge waters are open to fishing. Florida State fishing regulations apply. Crabbing regulations permitted, see specific crabbing

Tarpon Bay Recreation Area

Rentals: kayaks/canoes, bicycles, boats, stand-up paddle boards, Tarpon Bay Explorers

Guided tours: pontoon boat, kayak

Nature gift shop. (239) 472-8900 and fishing

Restrooms

Cross Dike Pavilion

Mangrove Overlook

Clinic for the Rehabilitation Of Wildlife Healing Winds Visitor Education Center

SCCF Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation - Nature Center

Museum Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum

Historical Village Sanibel Historical Museum and Village SAN CARLOS