

Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge

Birding Area Suggestions

1. Woodland Wildlife Trail

Located at the refuge's visitor center. This paved trail is only open during visitor center operation hours, Monday to Friday from 7 AM to 3:30 PM. You can call ahead to ensure that we are open. The paved trail loops around a pond along the edge between bottomland hardwood forest and upland pine forest. Woodpeckers, nuthatches, thrushes, and other perching birds are often seen or heard foraging and calling from the trees.

Route Type:
Loop

Length (mi):
0.5

Trail Difficulty:

Easy

Estimated Time:
30 mins

Other Refuge Activities and Suitability:



Kid-Friendly




Wheelchair-Friendly

2. Sand Prairie Trail

Located approximately 3 miles west of the visitor center. You can access this dirt trail from Pine Island Rd. A parking area is located at the trail entrance. There is a small prairie habitat at the beginning of the trail. Past the prairie, the trail goes deeper into bottomland hardwood forest and then loops back into upland pines. It can only be birded by foot. There are arrow trail markers to follow along the path. Trail may be more difficult seasonally – rain or snowfall makes the trail muddy and hold water. Parts of the trail may be closed at times due to flooding. Trail may begin to flood when water level approaches 70 feet. *

Route Type:
Loop

Length (mi):
2.2

Trail Difficulty:

Moderate

Estimated Time:
2.5 hours

Other Refuge Activities and Suitability:



Kid-Friendly

3. Shallow Lake Rd

Located approximately 7.5 miles west of the visitor center. Primarily upland pine forest with patches of bottomland hardwoods in the low areas, especially near the creek. Several clusters of red-cockaded woodpeckers live in this part of the refuge. The gravel road can be birded by car or by foot. There will be other vehicle traffic along the road, so be careful and pull off to the side if you need. Vehicle traffic will vary greatly depending on day of the week and season. There are a few dirt trails going deeper into the woods that can only be birded by foot. Parts of the road may be closed at times due to flooding. Road may begin to flood when water level approaches 72 feet. *

Route Type:
Out and Back

Length (mi):
2.5

Trail Difficulty:

Easy

Estimated Time:
4 hours
(if walking)

Other Refuge Activities and Suitability:



Camping



Fishing




Kid-Friendly

4. Ridge Road Trail

Located 1.3 miles south of Hwy 82 on Shallow Lake Rd. There is a grass area near the trail entrance that you can park on. This dirt trail follows the edge between bottomland hardwood forest and upland pine forest. It ends at the camping grounds in front of the Shallow Lake boat ramp. This dirt trail can only be birded by foot. Trail may be more difficult seasonally – rain or snowfall makes the trail muddy and hold water. Trail may be inaccessible if Shallow Lake Rd is flooded. *

Route Type:
Out and Back

Length (mi):
1.5

Trail Difficulty:

Moderate

Estimated Time:
3 hours

Other Refuge Activities and Suitability:



Camping



Kid-Friendly

5. Bolding House Rd

Located 3.3 miles south of Hwy 82 on Shallow Lake Rd. This gravel road is a shortcut from North Rd to Shallow Lake Rd. We recommend accessing Bolding House Rd from Shallow Lake Rd to avoid driving on the traffic-heavy North Rd. You can park next to the locked entrance gates at the beginning of the road. The gravel road follows the boundary between upland pine forest and bottomland hardwood forest. This gravel road is seasonally closed to vehicle traffic, so you may need to bird by foot. Parts of the road may be closed at times due to flooding. Road may begin to flood when water level approaches 75 feet. *

Route Type:
Out and Back

Length (mi):
2.6

Trail Difficulty:

Easy

Estimated Time:
4 hours

Other Refuge Activities and Suitability:



Kid-Friendly

6. Locust Ridge Rd

Located approximately 7.5 miles west of the visitor center. The gravel road goes through an upland pine forest that leads to an open field with a pond. Small perching birds and woodpeckers frequent the area. This gravel road is seasonally closed to vehicle traffic, so you may need to bird by foot. You can park in front of the road's locked entrance gate next to Hwy 82.

Route Type:
Out and Back

Length (mi):
0.8

Trail Difficulty:

Easy

Estimated Time:
1 hour

Other Refuge Activities and Suitability:



Kid-Friendly

7. Jones Lake Rd

Located approximately 15 miles west of the visitor center. You will need to turn off of Hwy 82 onto the North Rd near the western boundary of the refuge. After driving for 2.5 miles north on the North Rd, turn right onto Jones Lake Rd. You will pass by a few residential houses and will be inside the refuge boundary once you see the refuge brochure box.

Habitat along the southern part of the gravel road begins as open pine savannah and transitions into a dense forest as you travel north. This habitat variety is excellent at attracting many kinds of sparrows, warblers, and vireos. Owls are frequently heard calling from the forest edge at night. We suggest parking at the parking lot near the Jones Lake campgrounds. You can bird at your own leisure around the lake and back down the gravel road. Parts of the road may be closed at times due to flooding. Road may begin to flood when water level approaches 75 feet. *

Route Type:
Out and Back

Length (mi):
N/A

Trail Difficulty:

Easy

Estimated Time:
Leisurely

Other Refuge Activities and Suitability:



Camping



Fishing



Kid-Friendly

Notes

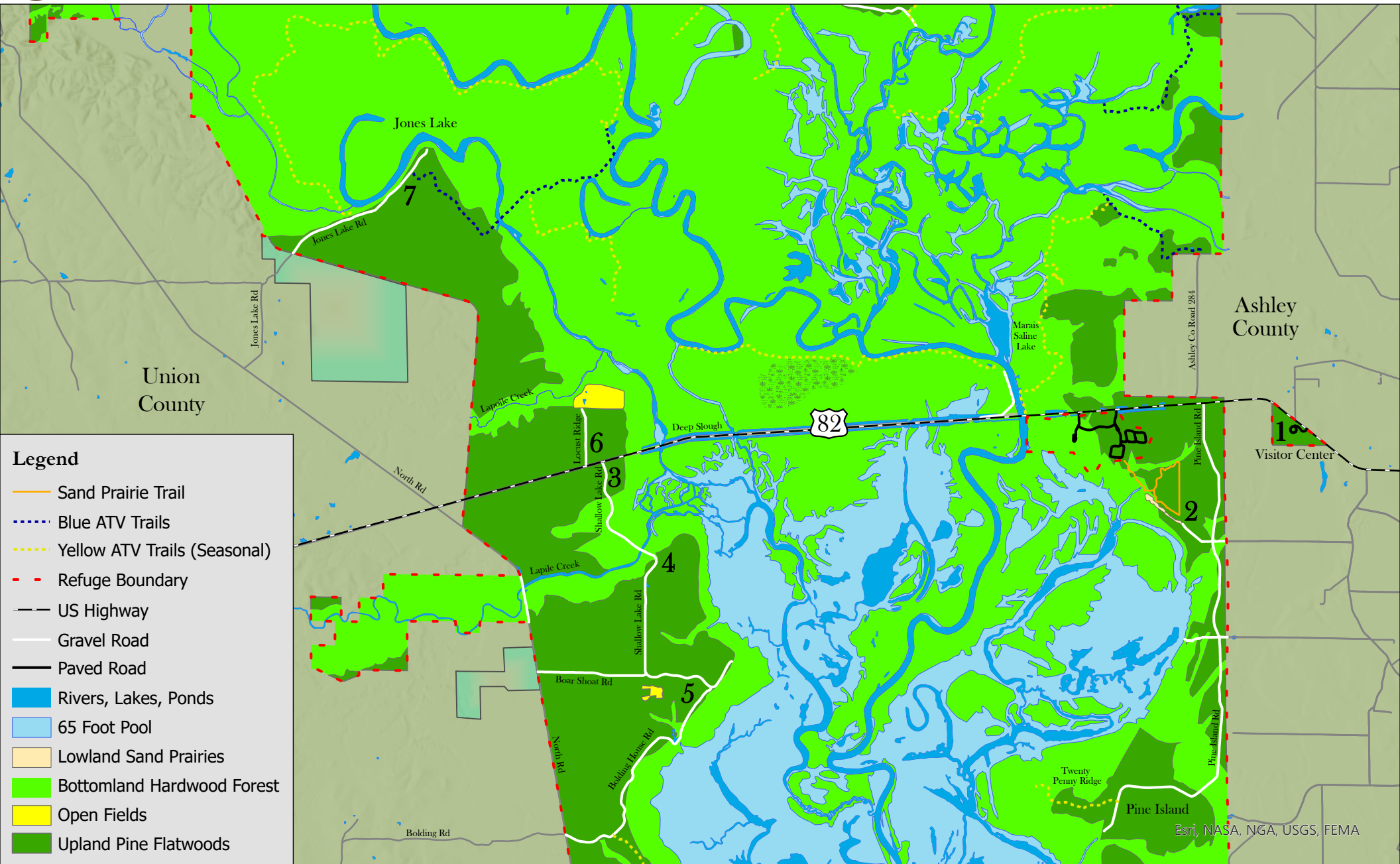
* To view current or predicted water levels on the refuge, you can check the National Weather Service's gauge for the Ouachita River at Felsenthal Lock and Dam using the following link: [National Weather Service's Gauge](#)

Cellphone service may be spotty in certain parts of the refuge, depending on your service provider. Be sure to let a friend or family member know ahead of time where you will be going and when you will be back.

If you have additional questions about trail accessibility or flooding, you can call the refuge headquarters at 870-364-3167 between 7 AM and 3:30 PM, from Monday to Friday.



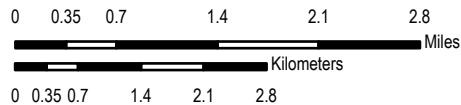
Birding Area Suggestions



Legend

- Sand Prairie Trail
- Blue ATV Trails
- Yellow ATV Trails (Seasonal)
- Refuge Boundary
- US Highway
- Gravel Road
- Paved Road
- Rivers, Lakes, Ponds
- 65 Foot Pool
- Lowland Sand Prairies
- Bottomland Hardwood Forest
- Open Fields
- Upland Pine Flatwoods

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NAD 83