

WAPANOCCA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Phone: (870) 343-8813

Park Entrance: 178 Hammond Ave, Turrell AR, GPS: @35.367102,-90.254799

Observation Platform GPS: @35.348491,-90.229163

Site Description

Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), located 20 miles northwest of Memphis, Tennessee, in Crittenden County, was established in 1961 to provide habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl. The refuge is located four miles west of the Mississippi River and is protected from the river by a levee. Prior to establishment, it was the site of the Wapanocca Outing Club, which formed in 1886. This was one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious hunting clubs.

Wapanocca NWR stands as a wildlife oasis in an agricultural sea. An excellent diversity of habitat exists including agricultural land, bottomland hardwood forest, early-stage reforested hardwoods, open water and flooded cypress/willow swamp. Thirty small impoundments totaling 190 acres have been developed for waterfowl in the agricultural area. Because of its strategic location in the heart of the Mississippi Flyway and the diverse habitats, the refuge is a prime wintering area for migratory waterfowl and a major stopping place for migrating songbirds.

Bald Eagle, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret and Anhinga nest on the refuge. However, the compelling reasons to visit Wapanocca NWR are the spring and fall warbler migrations. Mourning, Golden-winged, Black-throated Blue, Connecticut and Cape May Warbler are among the 36 wood-warbler species on the official bird list.

Due to loss of the major water source for the 600-acre Wapanocca Lake, fisheries have declined from historical levels, but the lake is still a major attraction for waterfowl and shorebirds. Wapanocca NWR became an Important Bird Area in September 2004.

Directions

From I-55 heading south, turn off at exit #23 (Turrell exit), travel southeast on AR 77 two miles, turn east on AR 42, go under the railroad overpass and turn right at the top of the hill (refuge entrance). From I-55 heading north, turn off at exit 21 (AR 42), travel east 1 ½ miles on AR 42, cross AR 77, go under the railroad overpass and turn right at the top of the hill (refuge entrance).

Maps and More Information

[Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge | Turrell, AR | Arkansas.com](#)
[Wildlife & Habitat - Wapanocca - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service \(fws.gov\)](#)

See below for full map

