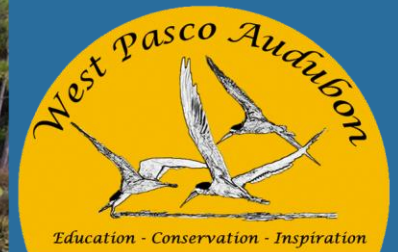


Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park



ABOUT

Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park is officially designated an Important Bird Area, and consists of 8,300 acres that are jointly managed by South West Florida Water Management District and Pasco County Parks and Recreation. West Pasco Audubon holds a monthly bird walk here on the first Saturday of every month, meeting in the education center parking lot at 8am (except July-September, when we begin at 7:30am). eBird lists the park as having 193 species sighted within it to date.

BIRDS

Wood Duck, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Common and Purple Gallinule, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Harrier, Short-tailed Hawk, Swallow-tailed Kite, Northern Bobwhite, Eastern Screech Owl, Barred Owl, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird, Summer Tanager, Pine Warbler, Ovenbird, Bachman's Sparrow, Indigo Bunting

eBird hotspot link:
<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L225456>

DIRECTIONS

From Highway SR 54 turn north on Starkey Blvd (5-6 miles east of US 19). In 4.4 miles turn right into Wilderness Park Blvd.

FACILITIES

Parking, restrooms, picnic pavilions, playground, camping, trails, and bird blind

<https://www.pascocountyfl.net/304/Jay-B-Starkey-Wilderness-Park>



TIPS

Walk the day-use area for warblers and other woodland birds, including the Barred Owl. Grassy Lake has a bird blind as a result of efforts from West Pasco Audubon, and this can be used to view many species in the lake (technically a marsh basin). The bird blind is itself an eBird hotspot with 121 species observed from it as of writing this publication. In order to find the Brown-headed Nuthatches you may want to park in parking lot 8 and head to the bike path, as they can be found close to this area. The Bobwhite and Bachman's Sparrow may require a long hike or bike ride out to the area beyond the power lines.



Check out nearby **Heartwood Preserve** on Starkey Boulevard located just a couple of miles down Starkey Boulevard from the entrance to Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park, and it borders the park. Heartwood is a combination of natural cemetery and preserve, including Pine Flatwoods and Cypress Wetlands. The preserve practices prescribed burning on a regular rotation, making it one of the easiest places to observe many woodland species including Brown-headed Nuthatch, Northern Bobwhite, Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak and sometimes a Great-horned Owl.

