

# Wassaw

## *National Wildlife Refuge*



*Fran Lapolla*

Wassaw NWR, one of seven refuges administered under the Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex, was established on October 20, 1969. It consists of 10,053 acres and is a barrier island off the Georgia Coast. Unlike many of Georgia's Golden Isles, little development and few management practices have modified Wassaw's primitive character.

Habitats of Wassaw NWR consist of rolling dunes, live oak and slash pine woodlands, vast salt marshes, several small hammocks, and sand beach.

The refuge is home to waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, songbirds, raptors, American alligators, white-tailed deer, and several endangered/threatened species including loggerhead sea turtles, peregrine falcons, piping plovers, and wood storks.

### **Visitor Opportunities**

- Hiking and biking trails
- Wildlife observation
- Wildlife photography
- Environmental education and interpretation
- Daytime beach use
- Saltwater kayaking
- Saltwater fishing
- Scheduled hunts

**Restrooms, drinking water,  
and shelter not available**

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

### Hours of Operation

7 days a week, sunrise to sunset (no overnight use)

### Fees

None

### Location

GPS Coordinates:

N 31° 52.712'

W 80° 58.940'

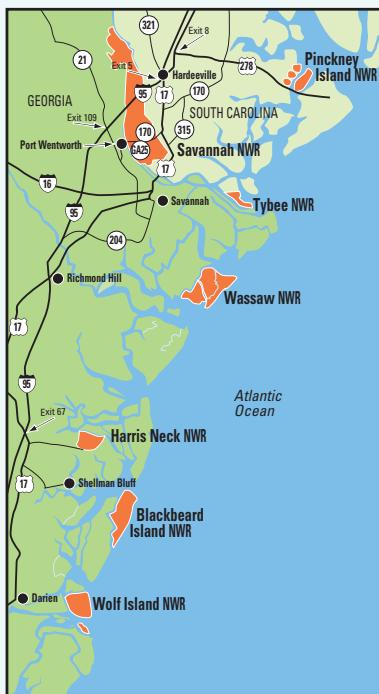
The only access to the refuge is by boat. U.S. Fish and Wildlife does not provide boat transportation, however, several commercial charter services provide day trips to the island. Visitors may also access the island by personal watercraft.

Refuge trail maps and public use information can be obtained online or by calling the Complex office.

**Wassaw NWR**  
**c/o Savannah Coastal**  
**Refuges Complex**  
**694 Beech Hill Lane**  
**Hardeeville, SC 29927**  
**Phone: 843/784 2468**  
**Fax: 843/784 2465**

**September 2011**

*The blue goose is the symbol for the National Wildlife Refuge System.*



*Kirk Rogers, Painted bunting*

**E-mail: [savannahcoastal@fws.gov](mailto:savannahcoastal@fws.gov)**  
**<http://www.fws.gov/wassaw>**