

Indrio Savannahs Preserve



(Anhinga anhinga)

Indrio Savannahs Preserve contains 297 acres of scrub, scrubby flatwoods, mesic flatwoods, depression marsh, basin marsh and lake. It is a proud part of the Great Florida Birding Trail System.



Wood stork (Mycteria Americana)



Pileated Woodpecker (dryocopus pileatus)



Sandhill Cranes (Grus canadensis)

Eastern Cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis) female

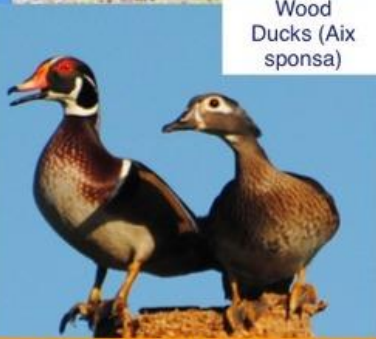


You can characterize the habitat as upland mesic, meaning an environment adapted to an occasional supply of moisture. It is a sub-tropical climate with seasonal rain.



Eastern Cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis) (male)

The lake is a by-product of a past sand mining operation. The lake and depression marsh are home to an assortment of birds, including Sandhill cranes, white ibis, and great egrets.



Wood Ducks (Aix sponsa)

Project undertaken for the Spring 2015 Florida Master Naturalist Program's Upland Systems course.

What makes this preserve a unique place is it is the result of prescribed burns which appear destructive but are handled in a way which is constructive. They mimic nature's wildfires. They destroy canopy trees like slash pines in order to open the pinewood floor (including 'scrub' oaks) to allow living plant growth to regenerate as well as the ground cover which withstands the heat.

There are three miles of nature trails. The trails link a variety of natural communities and offer a look at a variety of flowering plants and wildlife.





Some trees with serotinous cones will only drop their seeds and regenerate on the pine flatwoods floor if their cones are scorched. The sandy soil lacking in nutrients is replenished from the charred remains which enables living plant growth. How wildlife like the Gopher Tortoise and commensals or roommates like the Indigo snake can survive the heat in a gopher burrow is a mystery. The burrows can extend 10 feet in depth.

"I was no more than a few feet down Touzour Rd. when I saw a turtle sitting in the middle of the road facing the right shoulder. It wasn't a snapping turtle. I picked it up. A layer of green algae coated its carapace. I took pictures of it to ID it and laid it off the road in a grassy protected area leading to a scrub understory. It was a striped mud turtle."

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The site is a living example of the inter-relationship of flowering plants and wildlife. The gopher tortoise feeds on the fruit of the wildflowers and the resident animals and birds feed on the fruits of the trees.

You can habitat ~~and appreciate~~ ~~resources~~, meaning an environment adapted to an occasional supply of moisture. It is a sub-tropical climate with seasonal rain.

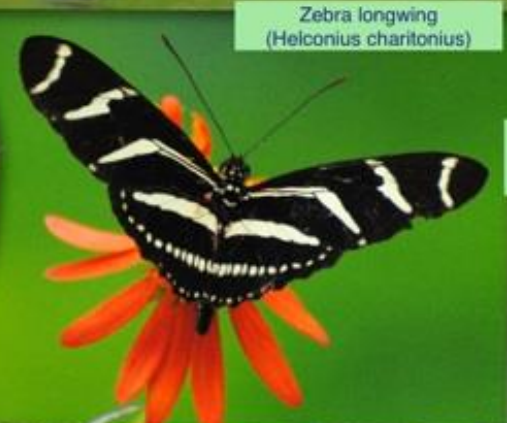
Vegetation includes: Irises (P), Prickly pear cactus, Paw Paw, inkberry, gallberry, milkweed, asters, tickseed, fetter bush, dune sunflower, lilies, ground orchids, and many more



Little Blue Heron (Egretta cerulean)



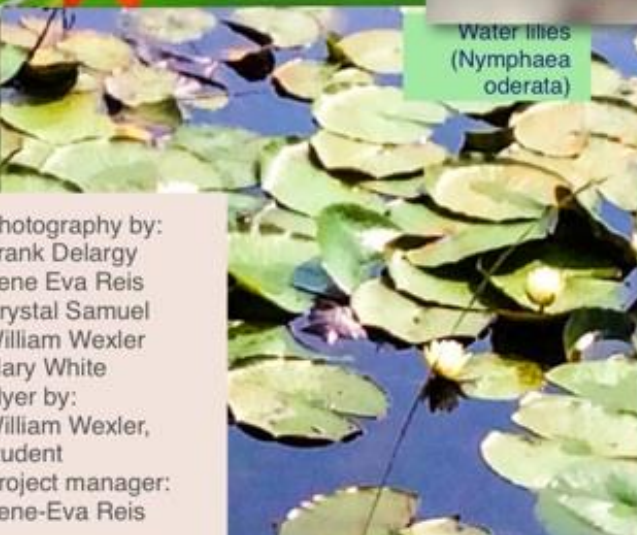
Red blanket lichen (Herpothallon rubrocinta)



Zebra longwing (Heliconius charitonius)



Great southern white (Ascia monuste)



Water lilies (Nymphaea odorata)

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