



J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge
 US Fish and Wildlife Service
Website:
www.fws.gov/refuge/JN_Ding_Darling/
Where: On Sanibel Island.
Get There: I-75 or US-41 to Sanibel Causeway (toll \$6). Right onto Periwinkle. At end of Periwinkle, right onto Tarpon Bay Rd, then left onto Sanibel-Captiva Road.


When: Daily except Fridays and national holidays.
Admission: \$10 per car to drive 4-mile Wildlife Drive. \$1 for hikers or bikers.
What: 6,400 acres of mangrove forest, submerged seagrass beds, marshes, and hardwood hammocks.
 One of America's largest undeveloped mangrove ecosystems.
 4 mile one-way drive with spectacular views of lakes and bays.



Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge

- Habitat of 245 bird species.
- Many birdwatching opportunities. Especially December through March.
- Home to raccoons, bobcats, river otters, alligators, and marsh rabbits.
- Hiking trails.
- Small exhibit building.

White Ibis




Ding Darling 4-mile Wildlife Drive



Wulfert Keys Trail
Calusa Shell Mound Observation Tower
Cross Dike Trail
Mangrove Overlook
Indigo Trail
Start of Drive

4-mile Wildlife Drive.
Drive on left (cars and bicycles).
You will see many places you want to stop.
Park anywhere on right.



Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge
Roseate Spoonbill Flying



Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge
Indigo Trail - Next to Entrance Kiosk
Lookout Tower



Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge
Indigo Trail - Night Herons Sleeping in Tree



Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge
Merganser Duck along Indigo Trail



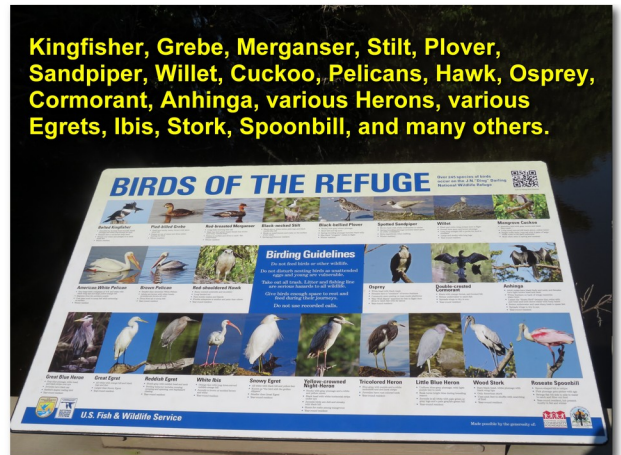
Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge



Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge
Ibis and Egrets - Salt Marsh



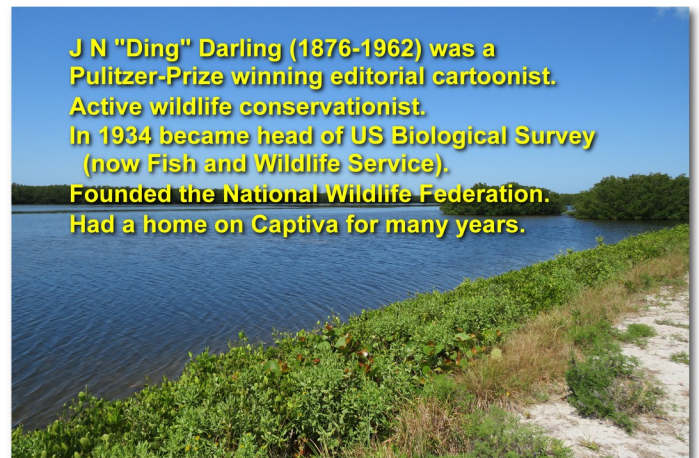
Kingfisher, Grebe, Merganser, Stilt, Plover,
Sandpiper, Willet, Cuckoo, Pelicans, Hawk, Osprey,
Cormorant, Anhinga, various Herons, various
Egrets, Ibis, Stork, Spoonbill, and many others.







Three types of mangrove:
Common to all: Grow in salt water. Roots filter out 90% to 97% of salt.
Red Mangrove. Grow right on the coast. Prop roots filter out salt before it reaches the leaves.
Black Mangrove. Grow slightly inland. Secrete salt through underside of leaves.
White Mangrove. Grow further inland. Get water only at highest tide. Secrete salt through leaves.



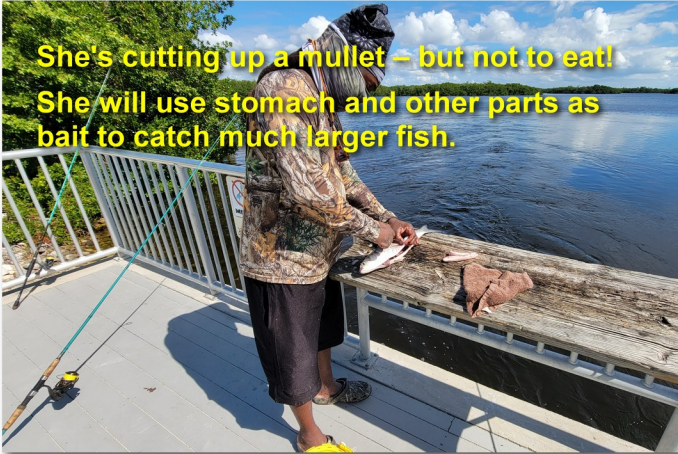
**Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge
Blue Crab**



**Mullet Swimming at Ding Darling NWR.
Fishing permitted with State license.**



**She's cutting up a mullet – but not to eat!
She will use stomach and other parts as
bait to catch much larger fish.**



**Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge
Cross-Dike Trail (Connects to Indigo Trail)**



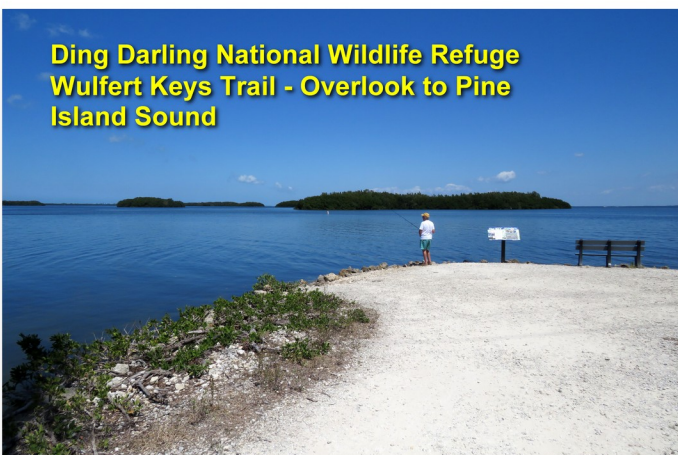
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**Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge
Wulfert Keys Trail - Overlook to Pine
Island Sound**



**Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge
Wulfert Keys Trail - Overlook to Pine
Island Sound**



**Power Line Across Pine Island
Sound to Mainland**



Calusa Indians:

- Native in SW Florida from at least 3,500 BC.
- 60 villages along SW Florida coasts.
- Est. 10,000 to 50,000 people.
- Powerful military.
- Fishing, trapping, sailing. Astute traders.
- Late 1700s wiped out by invading enemy Indian tribes from Georgia and Carolinas.

