

Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge

Located near the city of [Florence](#) in [Lauderdale County](#), Key Cave NWR was established in 1997 as an outpost of Wheeler NWR to protect critical habitat for the endangered [Alabama cavefish](#), a small, eyeless fish found nowhere else in the world. It is also an important brooding site for some 40,000 endangered gray bats. Two species of sightless crayfish also inhabit Key Cave. The refuge's 1,060 acres of hardwood forests and grasslands provide habitat for a variety of [birds](#), including northern harriers, grasshopper sparrows, dickcissels, short-eared owls, loggerhead shrikes, and northern bobwhites.