

## A BIRDERS' GUIDE TO MISSOURI PUBLIC LANDS

### **PRAIRIE HOME CONSERVATION AREA--UPDATED: 5/21/09**

**Edge Wade edgew AT mchsi.com**

**1,461 acres Cooper and Moniteau Co. DeLorme 37, D-8**

Directions: From the town of Prairie Home, go west on Rt. J, then south on Rt. W about 4 miles. Johnson Lake is reached from Prairie Rd., off Rt. W; most of the area is accessed via Cedron Rd., 1/4 mile further south on Rt. W. Alternate entrances/exits are Zey Rd. and the east end of Cedron Rd, both joining Rt. D southeast of the town of Prairie Home.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: Anytime. Fine opportunities for passerine migration sightings, especially along the creek. Winter birding good. Carolina Chickadees have been found here in winter (Black-capped are to be expected year-round). This is beyond the Carolina Chickadee range of 20 years ago. Additional sighting information is being sought.

Features of interest to birders: Gravel road through the area, 9 parking lots (numbers noted on the area map), and about 8 miles of trails, with access from the parking lots provide excellent access to the varied habitats. Three lakes--Johnson, the largest & only one reached directly by road, is at lot 1; Cattail is 100 yds. from parking lot 3; Church is 150 yds. from lot 7. Forest and woodland, stream access, glades (20 acres), savanna (20 acres) and native prairie (110 acres) provide a fine mix of habitats and a resulting excellent mix of expected species.

Toilets: 1 privy at Johnson Lake

Camping: 5 designated primitive areas.

Hazards/Limitations: Low water crossings along Cedron Rd. may be impassible when ice is present, or due to high water, especially in the spring.

Nearby Birding Sites: Overton Bottoms CA, Marion Bottoms CA, Marion Access