

A BIRDERS' GUIDE TO MISSOURI PUBLIC LANDS

PORT HUDSON LAKE CONSERVATION AREA

225 acres Franklin Co. DeLorme 39, H-9

MDC owned; for more information call 573-468-3335

Directions: From New Haven, go south on Rt. C; from US 50 between Gerald and Leslie, go north on Rt. C about 2 miles beyond the town of Port Hudson. From Rt. C, go west on Bald Hill Rd. to a parking area with a view of the dam, or continue a short distance west to the road leading to the paved lake parking area.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: Scrub and woods, lake, lakeshore and open areas provide a good habitat mix supporting a good variety of species in all seasons.

Features of interest to birders: The 55-acre lake may be seen well from several places and angles. Three parking lots allow viewing by birders with walking restrictions. A bonus not often found at similar impoundments is a marshy area within the curve of the lake access road. Water levels in this area may vary, but viewing from the road is excellent. A short trail through woods connects the small gravel parking lot and the large paved central (boat ramp) lot. From near the central lot, a branch of this trail leads along the lakeshore to the dam and connects with the parking area on Bald Hill Rd. Fishing paths provide access to the lakeshore from the pavilion.

Toilets: 1 privy near the boat ramp

Camping: No camping. A small picnic pavilion is near the boat ramp

Hazards/Limitations: None noted. May be very busy on warm weekends.

Nearby Birding Sites: Long Ridge CA, Wenkel Ford Access, Colter's Landing Access