

## A BIRDERS' GUIDE TO MISSOURI PUBLIC LANDS

### **MUSSEL FORK CONSERVATION AREA--Updated: 8/16/2008**

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**2,491 acres, Linn Co. & Macon Co., DeLorme 22, H-6**

Directions: 10 miles east of Brookfield on the south side of US 36 (provides access to north and west portions; east from Marceline on Rt. WW goes to south and east sides. Minor Rd. (becomes Noble Dr.) goes north from Rt. WW to access the heart of the area.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: Spring migration (along creek bottom); Late spring and summer for good variety of nesters; autumn/winter for wintering sparrows. Wild Turkey and Northern Bobwhite are present.

Features of interest to birders: Heronry in Mussel Creek bottoms

9 parking areas; 5 are well within the area, giving easy access for birding.

2 trails (two-track field roads) lead from parking areas (dead end), providing good variety of habitat with good viewing.

4 very small ponds can be viewed from parking areas

More than 250 acres of savanna and nearly 600 acres of non-prairie grassland (some gama grass stands)

Toilets: None

Camping: Primitive camping is allowed at all 9 parking areas (no toilets)

Hazards/Limitations: None known

Nearby Birding Sites: Old Marceline City Reservoir, Thomas Hill Reservoir, Long Branch SP