

A BIRDERS' GUIDE TO MISSOURI PUBLIC LANDS

SAINT STANISLAUS CONSERVATION AREA

Edge Wade: edgewATmchsi.com July, 2010

812 acres St. Louis Co. DeLorme 41, D-6

Leased from the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation; for information call 314-877-6014.

Directions: From 370: Exit 9, Earth City Expressway. South is the expressway; go north on Missouri Bottom Road. At an intersection at 1.3 miles from the exit, Missouri Bottom Rd. goes sharply right. Stay straight to continue on Aubuchon Rd.

At 3.5 miles from Exit 9, just beyond a high, bright yellow water level gauge, a parking area for Saint Stanislaus CA is on the left. This is at the point where Aubuchon Rd. becomes Charbonier Rd. To reach a second parking lot, continue .2 miles on Charbonier Rd. to the lot on the right.

Alternate route: From the intersection of Hwy. 67 (Lindbergh) and Charbonier Rd. in Florrisant, go 3.6 miles to the first parking lot (on the left) and an additional .2 miles to the lot on the right where Charbonier Rd. becomes Aubuchon Rd.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: This area has shown great results for winter birding as a site for the Christmas Bird Count. It is overlooked the rest of the year. Spring flooding may reduce access to the low areas. The upland portion off Charbonier Rd. should be very productive in migration.

This is an underbirded area. Spring, summer and autumn trips are likely to be very rewarding.

Features of interest to birders:

Habitat variety includes 530 acres of forest and woodland, 25 acres of wetlands, 30 acres of old fields, and 44 acres of non-prairie grassland, and 180 of cropland.

Two paved parking lots are along the 3.5 mile hiking trail. Internal loops may be followed to shorten total distance to explore bottomland and upland habitat on Charbonier Bluff.

The nearly one-half mile handicap accessible trail is reached from the lot on Aubuchon Rd.

Paths along Bryan Island Chute and Cowmire Creek provide good riparian corridor birding.

Toilets: 1 privy at the Aubuchon Rd. parking lot.

Camping: None. One picnic pavilion with 4 tables is at the Aubuchon Rd. lot.

Hazards/Limitations: Low lying portions of the area are subject to flooding, especially in the spring.

Charbonier Rd. bisects the area and crosses the hiking trail.

Missouri River frontage is accessible only from Bryan Island. Bryan Island, in the western portion of the area, is about 30% of the total area and can only be reached by boat across Bryan Island Chute.

Nearby Birding Sites: Riverwoods CA, Hickory Woods CA; Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary is 15.1 miles away

