

## A BIRDERS' GUIDE TO MISSOURI PUBLIC LANDS

### **FINGER LAKES STATE PARK--UPDATED: 8/16/2008**

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**1,129 acres Boone Co. DeLorme 30, I-5 See also: Rocky Fork Conservation Area (adjacent)**

Directions: US 63, 6 miles north of Columbia; half-mile east on Peabody Rd.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: Anytime, but weekdays preferable. Good, accessible warbler and thrush areas, especially in spring. Notably, a Cape May Warbler and Veeries have been seen here. Small numbers of a variety of waterfowl occur in winter. Pines and alders could be very good for crossbills and redpolls in invasion winters, as they were in 1980s-90s.

Features of interest to birders: Rugged strip-mined terrain with many narrow lakes and ponds. Primary park users are ORV (off-road vehicle)/ATV (all terrain vehicle) enthusiasts (see hazards).

Paved roads have several parking areas near lakes, some with short walking trails. Picnic area good for woodpeckers.

ORV trails provide access to interior areas of the park (see hazards).

Campgrounds good for warblers in spring.

Toilets: 3 pit toilets. A Modern restroom at campground may be closed off season.

Camping: 19 basic and 16 electric campsites.

Hazards/Limitations: With 70 miles of ORV and motorcycle trails (90% of the park area open to ORVs), activity can be deafening. If you visit on a weekend (not recommended), bird before 9:00 a.m. when ORVs rev up. Special events are held at the motocross track; even special mountain bike events held.

Nearby Birding Sites: Rocky Fork Lakes CA (adjacent), Lick Creek CA, Tri-City Community Lake