

A BIRDERS' GUIDE TO MISSOURI PUBLIC LANDS

MAINTZ WILDLIFE PRESERVE

Allen Gathman, June, 2012

804 acres Cape Girardeau Co. DeLorme 58, D-2

MDC owned; for more information call 573-290-5730

Directions: Northwest of Jackson, take Route B north, then County Road 472 west 1.5 miles, or Route BB west 1.9 miles. County Road 471 runs through the preserve, intersecting both County Road 472 and Route BB.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: Spring and Fall migrations for passerines. Woodpeckers, raptors, and sparrows year-round, but easiest to view in winter. Occasional waterfowl on the largest pond. Best for woodland, shrub, and grassland species.

Features of interest to birders: Maintz comprises land that was originally a number of small farms. It is managed by the MDC for hunting, particularly for Northern Bobwhite. There are extensive grassland areas and some cropland that provides wildlife feed. Approximately 1/3 of the land is wooded. There are 9 ponds stocked for fishing in the preserve, as well as numerous unstocked "water holes".

A Suggested Trip Through Maintz: Start on County Road 472 at parking area #2. There is a trail across the road going north that should be good for sparrows and some passerines. A small pond to the northeast, surrounded by brushy trees, is a good spot.

Continue west on 472 to the intersection with 471; turn south and go to parking area #4. Check the creek right by the parking area for warblers and vireos. Walk up the gravel road to the barn – a big dead tree is good for woodpeckers. Further west, the trail leads across the pond that forms pond #2, which at approximately 3 acres is the largest pond in the preserve. Occasional waterfowl can be seen here. Walk south through the grassland to Sandy Branch, and look for Wild Turkey and Northern Bobwhite. Double back to the dam and continue northwest on the trail through grassland along the south border of a large wooded area. From the northwest corner of the grassland, there are some poorly maintained trails into the woods, mostly useful in the winter. Woodpeckers are abundant in this area, especially red-headed and pileated.

Head back to the parking area and drive south on 471 to Route BB; turn right and head west to parking area #6. A small fishing pond is on a trail northeast of the parking area; to the east is a seasonal wetland. Brush in this area will have warblers, vireos, sparrows, and finches.

Just west of parking area 6, turn north on County Road 473 and go to parking area #7. Here you can walk east across a plowed field to the west side of the same woodland that can be reached from parking area #4. There is a better trail into the woods from this side, although it is still most accessible in the winter. Wood thrushes, resident warblers, and vireos are here in the summer. Woodpeckers are abundant year round.

Continue north on 473 to County Road 472 and turn right. Parking area #8 is worth a stop to check the fishing pond that is easily accessible just north of the road.

Continuing east on 472 will take you back out to Route B.

Toilets: None

Camping: Camping is permitted near the archery range at the intersection of County Roads 471 and 472 (parking area #3).

Hazards/Limitations: In tall grass and wooded areas, ticks and redbugs (chiggers) are abundant in the summer. The area is hunted, so wear orange in season.

Nearby Birding Sites: Apple Creek CA, Trail of Tears SP, Seventy-Six CA.