

A BIRDERS' GUIDE TO MISSOURI PUBLIC LANDS

DEER RIDGE CONSERVATION AREA--UPDATED: 8/16/2008

Edge Wade: edgew AT mchsi.com

6,956 acres Lewis Co. DeLorme 24, B-4

Directions: 3 tracts. Main tract is 5.5 miles north of Lewistown on Rt. H, and 2 miles northwest on Rt. Y. Rt. H passes through/by the 2 smaller tracts south of the junction with Rt. Y.

The southern portion of the main tract is accessed via Cottonwood, off Rt. Y, south of the main entrance on Chestnut.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: Anytime for Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant; Winter for raptors, Snow Geese, woodpeckers; early and mid summer for good variety of nesting flycatchers, vireos, warblers, tanagers and orioles, waders in wetland area. Black-billed Cuckoo and Upland Sandpiper have been seen here.

Features of interest to birders: An excellent network of gravel roads with several parking area and 19 miles of field trails (which intersect with roads and form loops) provide access by auto or foot to the entire area.

48-acre Deer Ridge Community Lake can be reached and viewed from road or field trail.

Nearly 5,000 acres are forest or woodland; 350 acres of savanna, more than 900 acres of old fields, nearly 100 acres of non-prairies grasslands, and more than 400 acres of cropland add up to a rich mix attractive to a variety of bird species.

Six wetland pools providing approximately 225 acres of wetland habitat at full pool can be viewed from trails or roads.

Toilets: 4 pit toilets

Camping: 8 designated areas; 4 improved, 4 primitive. Lake camping area has a shelter house.

Hazards/Limitations: Small rifle shooting range. Some of the trails have steep segments.

Nearby Birding Sites: Clark CA, LaBelle Lake CA, Tolona Access