HAMBURG FERRY ACCESS
Edge Wade, 2018
24.68 acres Pike Co. Delorme 33, 9-G
GPS 39.2281611,-90.7275555
MDC owned; for information call: 573-248-2530

This access to the Mississippi River is within the National Audubon Society’s Lincoln Alluvial Complex Important Bird Area.

Directions: From Elsberry at the junction of MO 79 and Rt. P, go east on Rt. P 5.60 miles. The access property begins at Pike County Rd. 203, where Rt. P ends and the road surface becomes concrete.

ADA Information: Birding can be done from or near a car along the slightly elevated concrete road and in the large concrete parking area. The privy is accessible.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: Reports from only 12 trip dates are available at this writing. Mid to late December visits show an excellent mix ranging from Snow Goose, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, and Hooded and Common Merganser, through Northern Harrier, Cooper’s Hawk and Bald Eagle, Barred Owl, 6 species of woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Tree, Field, Fox, White-crowned, Song and Swamp Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and Eurasian Tree Sparrow.

June and July reports show Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great-crested Flycatcher, American and Fish Crow, Northern Rough-winged and Cliff Swallow, Northern Parula, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat among the summer residents/probable breeders.

On a mid-September trip, a Spotted Sandpiper was tail-bobbing on the boat ramp.

The recorded trips certainly indicate that a visit here in winter is a good bet for some fine birding. The swamp, woods and river are so easily seen from the road and parking lot that birding the access will surely add many species if done in other seasons.

Features of interest to birders: The elevated concrete road provides a good vantage point to look and listen into the swamp on both sides on the way into the access/boat ramp lot. The lot, itself, is large and is a good place for birding the swamp and forest on the edges.

From the lot, the half-mile of Mississippi River is wide-open for viewing. Looking downstream, one can imagine the river as Mark Twain saw it.
Toilets: 1 privy

Camping: None

Hazards/Limitations: Flooding may limit access and/or leave debris and mud on the concrete area.

Nearby Birding Sites: Prairie Slough CA, B.K. Leach CA, Clarence Cannon NWR, Upper Mississippi CA (multiple sites), Cuivre River SP.