

## A BIRDERS' GUIDE TO MISSOURI PUBLIC LANDS

### **PLEASANT HOPE CONSERVATION AREA-UPDATED 12/16/08**

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**1,106 acres Polk Co. DeLorme 52, E-2**

Directions: From Springfield, go north on either MO 13 or US 65. The southern portion of the area (with a road into the interior) may be reached by turning onto Rt. CC, to the east off MO 13, to the west from US 65. At the intersection of Rt. CC and Rt. H, go north on Rt. H approximately 2 miles to CR E564. Take CR E564 to the west (left turn) for one mile to the area.

To reach the area's northwestern two parking lots, stay on Rt. H to Hwy. 215, go west on Hwy. 215 to a left (south) turn onto very poorly marked CR S182. There is no sign for Pleasant Hope Conservation Area until after the road turns west where it becomes CR E550, then south again as CR S180.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: Anytime. Oak-hickory interior forest species.

Features of interest to birders: Ninety percent of this area is comprised of regenerating oak-hickory forest. There are 15 acres of glades in several very small segments; and 97 acres of savanna, mostly on the west side.

The interior may be explored via several miles of looping multi-use trails. Access is best from the shooting range parking lot. One trail is reached from the southern parking lot on CR S182 (see Directions entry).

There are four parking lots, two reached from the CR E564 entrance off Rt. H, and two from CR S182 going south from Hwy. 215. A pull-off on the left about 1/2 mile south of Hwy. 215, where the road makes a turn to the west (small street sign says S182 and E550) gives access to a looping multi-use trail.

The shooting range, when not in use, offers the easiest area for observing a variety of species. A spring-fed creek is nearby.

Toilets: None

Camping: Walk-in, backpacking primitive. Seasonal closures (hunting) may apply.

Hazards/Limitations: Shooting range. Some of the trails are overgrown; ticks and chiggers should be expected in warm weather.

Nearby Birding Sites: Little Sac Woods CA, Sunset Park Access, La Petite Gemme Prairie CA