

A BIRDERS' GUIDE TO MISSOURI PUBLIC LANDS

GRAND PASS CONSERVATION AREA-UPDATED 12/16/08

Edge Wade: edgew AT mchsi.com

5,296 acres Saline Co. DeLorme 29, F-6/7

Directions: From Marshall, go 8 miles westerly on US 65, then 5 miles north on Rt. N.

From US 24 between Carrollton and Brunswick, go south on MO 41 a little more than 10 miles to Hwy. 122. Turn right (west). When Hwy. 122 turns north to go to Van Meter State Park, stay straight, continuing west on CR 406 to its junction with Rt. N (about 2.5 miles). Turn right onto Rt. N for another 2.5 miles.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: Anytime, but best when waterfowl are present (see limitations). A large array of waterfowl can be expected. Migration brings terns and shorebirds when habitat conditions are right. Sandhill Cranes are often seen in migration and at least one pair has nested in the northeast portion of the area.

Large numbers of Snow (and among them, Ross's) Geese and Greater White-fronted Geese stop over, often for an extensive period. The geese fly out to fields to feed and return to Grand Pass to rest at mid-day and evening.

A Snowy Owl spent at least one month on the east side of the area one winter.

Passerine migration can be enjoyed with a variety of species to be found along and near the Missouri River.

Features of interest to birders: Grand Pass Conservation Area is part of the Grand Pass/Baltimore Bend Important Bird Area (IBA).

Access to this area is seasonally severely limited, reducing its desirability as a destination for birders and hampering efforts to survey bird populations (see the limitations entry).

Nine pools and Lake Teteseau (an oxbow lake) provide varied water levels for waterfowl. Interior roads, when open, give good views of the pools. Twenty-three parking lots offer vantage points for viewing birds, but most are inaccessible during waterfowl hunting season.

There are 2,875 acres of wetlands, 1,600 acres in crops, 800 in forest and woodland, and 25 in lakes/ponds.

The observation tower at Lake Teteseau remains accessible during the hunting season. To reach it, turn right off Rt. N onto CR 402 at the junction at the headquarters. The view from the tower is limited due to vegetation. Check for Bell's Vireos near the tower in summer.

There are six miles of Missouri River frontage. A foot trail just west of the one-way road on the west side of the area gives good access to about a mile of the frontage.

Although not designated (therefore not signed), short trails, primarily in the southwest portion of the area provide access to Pool 2, some seasonal marsh, and a view of the river.

Toilets: 1 privy outside the headquarters

Camping: River accessible areas anywhere along the Missouri River; designated sites along the south perimeter.

Hazards/Limitations: From October 15 through January 15, the height of the presence of waterfowl, virtually all of this conservation area is closed to all but waterfowl hunters all the time. Only the southmost portion and a little on the west side are open to non-hunters and these do not give good views to waterfowl areas.

The road through the western portion (views of pools 1 and 2, a small marsh area, and along the Missouri River) is one-way, reached by going north from the headquarters or from the west fork of the interior road from the junction of pools 5, 6, and 8.

Nearby Birding Sites: Van Meter SP, Baltimore Bend CA, Miami Access, Swan Lake NWR