

EAST – CENTRAL INDIANA
WATERFOWL
BIRDING TOUR
1 OR 2 DAYS

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Please review ABA's "Principles of Birding Ethics".
If you are not on In-Bird-L, the State of Indiana's Wild Bird Discussion list and E-mail alert hotline, then you may pass along rare or unusual sightings to me at spancol@aol.com. I will then post your sightings to In-Bird-L.

Please do not trespass on private property

INTRODUCTION

A **scope is mandatory** when using this tour. The strategy of this tour is to maximize the possibility of an unusual or rare sighting by visiting as many sites as possible within a 24 hour period. This requires a great deal of driving. This loop was designed for use during the following months:

September – Some migrating Teal are beginning to arrive, mostly Blue-winged Teal.

October – Still a slow month, some early dabbling ducks are beginning to arrive.

November – A peak migratory month for waterfowl. The very best time to use this Tour.

December – Waterfowl numbers can still be decent if water remains open.

January – Waterfowl numbers will be quite low. Seek out those lakes and reservoirs which still have open water.

Ducks will concentrate in the small openings in the lake.

February – Search for over-wintering and early migrating

waterfowl.

March – A peak migratory month for waterfowl.

April (1-15) – late departing migratory waterfowl. A very slow period.

With this Tour you will be birding the following counties:
Henry, Delaware, Jay, Huntington, Wabash and Miami.

1. PROVINCE POND WETLAND

HENRY COUNTY

Indiana Delorme Map: Page 40, E-5

From I – 69 in Indianapolis, take I – 69 north to the Anderson exits. Go to the 2nd Anderson exit, which is Exit # 26 / S.R. 9 / S.R. 109 S. exit.

Take this exit and turn right (south) on S.R. 109 S..

Turn left (east) on S.R. 36.

You will pass through the town of Sulpher Springs.

When you reach C.R. 200 W., begin looking for the wetlands and a small gravel parking lot on the right (south) side of the road.

Turn right into this parking lot.

From the parking lot on S.R. 36, walk the dirt road south out onto the dike of the wetlands. Bird the marsh until you reach the end of the road (½ mile).

Hunting is allowed at this wetlands. You will need to move on if hunters are present.

2. SUMMIT LAKE STATE PARK **HENRY COUNTY**

Indiana Delorme Map: Page 40, E / F – 6

From Province Pond, turn right (east) onto S.R. 36.

Continue east past Mt. Summit and S.R. 3.

Look for a brown "Summit Lake State Park" sign on the right side of S.R. 36.

Turn left (north) on Messick Road.

Take Messick Road till it dead ends and enter the State Park.

Turn right (north) at the first stop sign (T-section).

Follow this road till it dead ends at the **Main Boat Launch**. Park near the heated restrooms (open year round), and scan the lake for waterfowl.

From the main Boat Launch, turn around and take the main park road south to the next road on the right (west) side of the road.

Turn right (west) into the Beach Parking Lot.

Park in the **Beach Parking Lot**. Scan the cove in front of the Beach.

Then, walk west from the Beach Parking Lot to the other side of the Beach Concession Stand. Walk past the Volleyball Court and scan the lake from the **Beach Overlook**.

From the Beach Parking Lot, turn right (south) onto the main park road.

Turn right at the very next road, which leads to **Sunset Shelter**. Park and scan the south end and middle sections of the lake from the shelter. Water inlets, or coves, border the north and south sides of Sunset Shelter. Walk down to both coves and scan them for waterfowl.

From Sunset Shelter, turn right (south) on the main park road.

Turn right at the very next road ("**Harvey Shelter-Boat Ramp-Boat Rental**" sign here).

Park and scan the cove on the left (south) and the lake to the north.

From Harvey Shelter-Small Boat Launch, turn left (north) onto the main park road.

Turn right at the "Park Entrance" road sign and exit the park.

At the 1st stop sign just outside the State Park Entrance, turn left (east) on C.R. 600 N..

Turn left (north) on C.R. 500 E..

Continue on C.R. 500 E. until you pass C.R. 700 N. and see an old barn on the right (east) side of the road.

The **Nature Area** is just beyond this, with Summit Lake on the left (west) and the Nature Area Ponds on the right (east).

Scan for waterfowl on both sides of C.R. 500 E..

The 2nd pond is in the northeast corner of the intersection of C.R. 500 E. and C.R. 750 N..

From the Nature Area, turn left (west) onto C.R. 750 N..

A ¼ mile down C.R. 750 N., scan the bay on the left (south) side of the road.

Continue west on C.R. 750 N.. It will turn into Rodgersville Road.

This road will elbow left (south) and will lead you to the

North - Lake Overlook. Park along side the road and scan the lake from this overlook.

Turn around and head back east on Rodgersville / C.R. 750 N..

Continue east to the intersection of C.R. 750 N. and C.R. 500 E..

Scan the pond in the northeast corner of this intersection.

Continue east on C.R. 750 N. about 1/8 mile to **Pintail Pond.,** which is on the left (north) side of the road.

Scan Pintail Pond on the left (north) and the **Nature Area Marsh** on the right (south) side of the road.

3. PRAIRIE CREEK RESERVOIR

Delaware County

Indiana Delorme Map: Page 40, B / C – 6

From the Summit Lake State Park Nature Area, continue east on C.R. 750 N..

At the stop sign (Buck Creek Pike), continue east on C.R. 750 N.. Turn left (north) onto Wilbur Wright Road (T-section, dead end). Turn left (west) on S.R. 35. There is no S.R. 35 sign here. This intersection will have a flashing red light with a white Co-Op barn in the northwest corner.

Turn right (north) on C.R. 532 E. (a brown "Prairie Creek Reservoir" sign will signal this road).

When you come to the **First Bridge / Overpass** of the reservoir,

park at the pull-off on the left (west) side of the road.

Scan the south end of the reservoir.

Continue north on C.R. 532 E. and turn left (west) into the **Beach Area Parking Lot.**

Take the road going west down to the boat docks.

Scan the central section of the reservoir.

Return to C.R. 532 E. and continue north.

Turn left (west) at **North Shore / Campgrounds.**

Follow this road to the boat docks and scan the north end of the reservoir.

Return to C.R. 532 E. and turn left (north).

Turn left (west) onto Windsor Road (first 4-way stop).

On the north side of Windsor Road you will see a **sod farm.**

At the southwest corner of this sod farm is a gravel pull off.

Stop briefly and search for shorebirds and waterfowl.

4. LOBLOLLY MARSH – D.N.R.

Jay County

Indiana Delorme Map: Page 35, D – 9

From the Prairie Creek Reservoir / sod farm, turn right (west) on Windsor Road.

Stay on this road going west as it quickly becomes Inlow Springs Road / C.R. 278 S..

Turn right (north) on Burlington Pike (T-section / Dead End).

Turn right (east) on Memorial Drive.

Turn left (north) onto S.R. 67 / 3 / 35 N..

Continue on this bypass around Muncie to the S.R. 67 / Portland exit.

Turn right (northeast) onto S.R. 67.

In the small town of Redkey, turn left (north) on S.R. 1.

Travel past S.R. 26 and through the town of Pennville.

In Fiat, turn right (east) on S.R. 18 (4-way stop / flashing red

light).

Turn left (north) on C.R. 250 W. (a brown "Loblolly Marsh Wetlands Preserve" sign will signal this road).

When you reach the marsh, park at the first pull off on the left (west) side of the road.

Scan the southern section of the marsh on both sides of the road.

Continue north on C.R. 250 W. to the paved parking lot on the left (west) side of the road (the Loblolly Marsh sign is here).

Park in the paved lot and walk west on the dirt truck road located in the northwest corner of the parking lot.

This dirt road leads you to the western section of the marsh.

Take the dirt road to an elevated area by the large oak tree in the northwest corner of the property. This serves as an overlook for the Northwest marsh. Scan the marsh from here.

Turn around and follow the road east back to the paved

parking lot.

On the east side of the road is Trail 1. Trail 1 leads to the northeast marsh. If the marsh on the east side of C.R. 250 W. is dry, don't bother walking Trail 1 unless you want to search the woods for passerines. When Trail 1 ends at the woods, continue on the truck trail which borders the southern edge of the woods. Looking to the south you will see the eastern most section of the northeast marsh. Scan it for waterfowl.

5. J. EDWARD ROUSH LAKE / HUNTINGTON RESERVOIR

Huntington County

Indiana Delorme Map: Page 28, G / H – 4 / 5

From Loblolly Marsh, turn right (south) on C.R. 250 W..

Turn right (west) onto S.R. 18.

Continue west on S.R. 18 to S.R. 3.

Turn right (north) on S.R. 3.

Turn left (west) on S.R. 218.

In downtown Warren, turn right (north) on S.R. 5 (flashing red light / 4-way stop).

Veer left and stay on S.R. 5 as it turns northeast at 4th Street. S.R. 5 will intersect I – 69. There are restaurants and lodging here (Ramada, Super 8, McDonalds, Subway and 2 family restaurants).

Continue north on S.R. 5 and cross the J. Edward Roush Dam.

Turn right into the **Observation Mound** (recreational area).

Scan the lake from the restrooms.

From the Observation Mound, turn left (south) onto S.R. 5.

Turn left (east) on Division Road.

Go past Meridian Road and veer left when the road splits (you will see a sign "boat ramp / picnic area").

Park in the **Little Turtle Boat Ramp** parking lot.

Walk down the ramp and scan the lake from the shore.
 Turn around and head back south to Division Road.
 At the stop sign, turn sharply left (east) onto Division Road.
 Turn right (south) onto C.R. 100 E..
 Turn left (east) onto C.R. 100 S..
 Turn left (north) onto C.R. 200 E..
 Park along side the road and scan the lake on both sides of
 the road. **Do Not** park on the bridge.
 Turn around and head back south on C.R. 200 E..
 Turn left (east) on C.R. 100 S..
 Turn left (north) on C.R. 300 E. (gravel Road).
 At the dead end / T-section, turn right (east).
 As you drive east, scan the lake on the left (north) side of
 the road.
 Go ½ mile east and then turn around, heading back west.

6. MAJENICA MARSH

HUNTINGTON COUNTY

Indiana Delorme Map: Page 28, H – 3

From J. Edward Roush Lake (Huntington Reservoir), turn
 left (south) onto C.R. 300 E. (no road sign – white "Unit 22"
 sign is at this T-section).
 Turn right (west) on C.R. 100 S..
 Take C.R. 100 S. west to S.R. 9 (watch for 4-way stops).
 Turn left (south) on S.R. 9.
 Pass a bridge with stick marsh on both sides of the road and
 turn right (west) on C.R. 400 S..
 Turn immediately right into the Majenica Marsh parking lot
 (a "Majenica Marsh" sign is here).
 Scan the marsh from the parking lot.

7. SALAMONIE LAKE

Huntington / Wabash Counties

Indiana Delorme Map: Page 28, H – 1 / 2 / 3

Page 34, A – 1 / 2 / 3

From Majenica Marsh, turn left (east) on C.R. 400 S..

Turn right (south) on S.R. 9.

Turn right (west) on S.R. 124 (flashing yellow signal – a brown Salamonie Lake sign is on the right (west) side of the road).

Go ¼ mile and turn right (north) on C.R. 700 W., into the

Mount Etna S.R.A..

Take C.R. 700 W. till it dead ends and park in the boaters parking lot.

Walk down the boat ramp and scan the lake.

Take C.R. 700 W. south back to S.R. 124.

Turn right (west) on S.R. 124.

Turn right (north) on S.R. 105 (4-way stop).

Look for Lost Bridge D.N.R. signs on both sides of the road.

There is no county road sign here.

Turn right (east) onto **Lost Bridge East Road.**

Follow this road as it eventually veers left (north) at the Wildlife Management Unit # S-5.

Turn right (east) into the boaters parking lot.

Continue east to the picnic area (Huntington County).

From this parking lot, there are bluffs to the east and northeast from which to scan the lake.

Don't get too close to the edge.

Follow Lost Bridge East Road back (west) to S.R. 105.

Cross S.R. 105 onto **Lost Bridge West Road.**

Continue west to the first 4-way stop and turn right (north) on New Holland Drive.

Go past the "Pirate Cove Marina" sign and veer left into

the **Modern Campground** (a brown "Modern Campground" sign is at this fork in the road).

Stay on this campground road till it dead ends in a loop.

Scan the northern part of the lake from Camp Site # 228.

Scan the southern part of the lake from Camp Site # 234.

Site numbers are painted on the road.

This campground is open to non-campers in the off season only (November thru March – Wabash County).

Follow the campground road back to New Holland Drive (main park road).

Turn left (north) at the yield sign and onto New Holland Drive.

Follow this road to the **Salamonie Beach**.

Park here and scan the lake.

From the beach, follow New Holland Drive south back to Lost Bridge West Road.

Turn left (east) on Lost Bridge West Road.

Turn left (north) on S.R. 105.

Once you cross the Salamonie Lake Bridge, look to your left (west) for the Wildlife Management Unit # 28 parking lot.

Turn left on the gravel road bordering the north side of the parking lot of Wildlife Management Unit # 28.

Follow this gravel road west to the **SNIPE MARSH** sign and park.

On the west side of the parking lot is a foot trail.

Follow the foot trail west up the hill to the marsh.

Approach the marsh slowly to prevent flushing the waterfowl in this tiny marsh (Huntington County).

Take the gravel road back east to S.R. 105.

Turn left (north) on S.R. 105.

At the first 2-way stop, continue north on C.R. 900 W..

Do not follow S.R. 105., which turns right.

At the dead end / T-section, turn left (west) on C.R. 100 S..

Follow C.R. 100 S. and turn left (south) on C.R. 750 E..

Turn right (west) into **Mount Hope S.R.A.**

Follow this road till it dead ends and park at the boaters parking lot.

Walk down the boat ramp and scan the lake.

Follow Mount Hope Road east back to C.R. 750 E..

Turn left (north) on C.R. 750 E..

Turn left (west) on C.R. 100 S..

Follow C.R. 100 S. west and cross the Salamonie Dam.

C.R. 100 S. will become Salamonie Dam Road and veer south after crossing the dam.

Turn left (east) on C.R. 250 S. (dead end / T-section).

Turn left (north) on C.R. 600 E., into the **Dora – New Holland S.R.A.** (Wabash County).

Follow this road till it dead ends and park in the boaters parking lot.

Walk down the boat ramp and scan the lake.

8. MISSISSINEWA LAKE

Wabash / Miami Counties

Indiana Delorme Map:Page 33, A / B-10, 11, 12

From the Dora – New Holland S.R.A. entrance, turn right (west) on C.R. 250 S..

Turn left (south) on America Road.

Turn right (west) on C.R. 600 S. / S.R. 124.

Continue west on S.R. 124 past both S.R. 15 and S.R. 13.

Turn left (south) on C.R. 750 W. (a brown "Mississinewa Campground" sign and Asherwood Environmental Science Center on the north side will signal this road).

Turn right (west) on C.R. 700 S. (T-section).

You will immediately pass the spillway on both sides of the road .

Turn left (south) into **Frances Slocum S.R.A.**

This road will dead end at the boater's parking lot.

Park here and walk down the boat ramp. Scan the northern section of the lake near the dam. Scan the islands to the south. You are standing in Wabash County. The other side of the lake is Miami County.

Take the Frances Slocum Road back to C.R. 700 S..

Turn left (west) on C.R. 700 S..

Right before you cross the dam, turn left (south) at the Observation Pavilion sign.

Follow this road south and park near the Observation Shelter.

From the **Observation Shelter** you get the closest view of waterfowl feeding around the dam. It also provides a clear view of the lake a mile or so south of the dam.

In the morning, the sun will be to your back for better viewing.

From the Observation Shelter, return north to C.R. 700 S..

Turn left (west) on C.R. 700 S..

Go across the dam and turn left (south) on C.R. 550 S.

(dead end / T-section).

Turn left (east) on C.R. 500 S. (a brown "Miami S.R.A." sign will signal this road).

Turn left (north) on C.R. 625 E., into the **Miami S.R.A.**

Turn right at the 1st road (following "Camping – Beach" sign).

Turn right at the 1st 4-way stop.

Follow this road till it dead ends at the Beach Parking Lot.

Scan the lake from the parking lot (Miami County).

From the beach, follow the road back west and turn left (south) at the 4-way stop.

Turn right (north) at the T-section (following the "Fishing Pier – Boat Ramp" signs).

Park and walk to the overlook, which is just north of the boat ramp. Scan the lake from the overlook (Miami County).

A good late afternoon location as the sun will be to your back.

From the Miami S.R.A. boat launch, follow the main park

road back south to the entrance of the Miami S.R.A..
Turn left (east) on C.R. 500 S..
When the road elbows right, you will be on C.R. 650 E.,
going south.
Turn left (east) on C.R. 550 S. (following the "Red Bridge
S.R.A." sign).
When the road veers right, you will then be on Old Trail
Road (Old Trail / C.R. 950 S. sign).
When you pass C.R. 700 W., the road then becomes Old
Slocum Trail.
Continue going southeast on Old Slocum Trail.
Turn left (north) on C.R. 600 W., into the **Red Bridge S.R.A.**
At the fork in the road, veer right.
Turn left (north) into the boater's parking lot.
Park at the north end of the parking lot.
From the northeast corner of the parking lot, walk past the
wooden posts and down the grass truck road north to

the lake (Wabash County).
Scan the lake from the old street lights near the shore.
Follow the Red Bridge S.R.A. road back south to Old
Slocum Trail.
To return home, continue southeast on Old Slocum Trail.
Keep turning south, and then east, until you come to
C.R. 1000 W..
Turn right (south) on C.R. 1000 W..
In the town of Converse you will come to S.R. 18.
Taking S.R. 18 west will lead you to S.R. 19, and then
to S.R. 31.
Taking S.R. 18 east will lead you to S.R. 13.

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