

**SALAMONIE RESERVOIR**  
**BIG DAY**  
**BIRDING TOUR**

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Please review ABA's "Principles of Birding Ethics" before starting this tour. Please do not trespass on private property.

If you are not on In-Bird-L or Bloomington-Birds-L List serves (Indiana's wild bird discussion lists and E-mail alert hotlines), then you may pass along rare bird sightings to me at [spancol@aol.com](mailto:spancol@aol.com) . I will post your sightings to In-Bird-L.

**TO SALAMONIE RESERVOIR:**

**Time:** 2 hours from Indianapolis.

**Directions:** From I-465 in Indianapolis, take I-69 north to S.R. 5.

Go north on S.R. 5 to S.R. 124.

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

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

**1. SALAMONIE RIVER STATE FOREST**

**Wabash County**

**Indiana Delorme Map: Page 28, H – 1**

**Time: 6:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M.**

**Habitat:** Mature deciduous woods, brush and river.

**Directions:** Continue north on S.R. 105.

Turn left on C.R. 100 S..

Go across the Salamonie Dam.

Turn right at Pefley Road.

Turn right at the T-section / Hominey Ridge sign.

Park at the Hominey Ridge Picnic Area.

**A. RIVERSIDE BLUFF – HOMINEY RIDGE**

**Time:** 6:00 A.M. to 7:30 A.M.

**Directions:** From the Hominey Ridge parking lot, proceed east to the Hominey Ridge Picnic Area. Turn left (north) right before the picnic area and cross the dike (small pond to the left (west)). Continue straight to the clearing. At the clearing, turn right and take Fire Lane # 9. Take this Fire Lane / Trail down to the river and back.

**B. FIRE LANE # 3 (if mowed)**

**Time:** 7:40 A.M. to 8:10 A.M.

**Directions:** From the Hominey Ridge parking lot, return to the main forest road. Turn right (north) on State Forest Road. Go past the primitive Campground. Fire Lane # 3 is on the right (east) side of the road.

**C. FIRE LANE # 2 (more accessible)**

**Time:** 8:20 A.M. to 9:00 A.M.

**Directions:** From Fire Lane # 3, simply continue north on State Forest Road. Fire Lane # 2 is roughly 100 yards north of Fire Lane # 3. Turn right (east) into the Fire Lane # 2 parking lot. Walk Fire Lane # 2 east for a ½ mile or so and then return to your vehicle.

## **2. DORA – NEW HOLLAND S.R.A.**

### **Wabash County**

**Indiana Delorme Map: Page 28, H-1**

**Time: 9:10 A.M. to 9:30 A.M.**

**Habitat:** Reservoir, open woodland, brush and grasslands.

**Directions:** From Fire Lane # 2, turn around and travel south on State Forest Road.

Turn right (south) on Salamonie Dam Road (Pefley Rd. entrance).

Turn left (east) at C.R. 250 S. (T-section).

Turn left (north) on C.R. 600 E., Dora New-Holland S.R.A..

Follow this road east to the boat launch and scan the reservoir.

One can work the brush and open woodland areas here for migrating passerines.

## **3. SPILLWAY – RAIL FIELDS (IF WET)**

### **Wabash County**

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

**Time: 9:40 A.M. to 10:20 A.M.**

**Habitat:** A short grass wetland area with a partial cattail marsh.

**Directions:** From Dora New – Holland S.R.A., turn right (west) on C.R. 250 S..

Turn right (north) on the very next county road, Salamonie Dam Road. Follow this road across the dam.

Turn left on C.R. 650 E..

Turn right on C.R. 50 S..

Park in the grass, with the spillway on both sides of the road.

Walk the spillway on the north side of the road first. Don't forget your hip waders or boots.

## **4. 5 PONDS AREA**

### **Wabash County**

**Indiana Delorme Map: Page 28, H-2**

**Time: 10:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.**

**Habitat:** Ponds, grasslands, woodland edge and brush.

**Directions:** From the Spillway / Rail Fields, continue east on C.R. 50 S..

Turn right at C.R. 750 E. (T-section).

When C.R. 750 E. meets with C.R. 200 S., go straight (south) on the gravel road.

This is Wildlife Management Unit # 29.

Take the gravel road south till it dead ends.

Park in the lot on the left (east) side of the road.

Walk the lane heading east of this parking lot, birding the ponds as you encounter them.

## **5. SNIPE MARSH**

### **Huntington County**

**Indiana Delorme Map: Page 28, H-2**

**Time: 11:40 A.M. to 12:01 P.M.**

**Habitat:** Small marsh, grasslands, woodland edge and brush.

**Directions:** From the 5 Ponds Area, take the gravel road back north to C.R. 200 S..

Turn right (east) on C.R. 200 S..

Turn right (south) on C.R. 900 W. (S.R. 105).

Turn right (west) on the unpaved road at Wildlife Management Unit # 28.

This is the first road north of the reservoir bridge, on the west side of the road.

Follow the unpaved road west and park at the Snipe Marsh sign.

Walk west up to the dike. Approach cautiously to avoid flushing

waterfowl and shorebirds from this tiny marsh.

## **6. SWITCHGRASS PONDS**

### **Huntington County**

**Indiana Delorme Map: Page 28, H – 2**

**Time: 12:10 P.M. to 1:10 P.M.**

**Habitat:** Many small ponds, brushy grasslands and pine stands.

**Directions:** From Snipe Marsh, proceed south on S.R. 105.

Go across the Salamonie Lake Bridge.

Turn right (west) at the Lost Bridge West sign.

Turn right (north) on New Holland Road.

Turn left (west) at the first road after the gate house.

Turn left (south) into the "Apple Orchard Primitive Campground".

Take the next immediate left (disobeying the one-way sign).

Take the next right which will take you by the campground outhouses.

Continue straight and park in the "Wildlife Viewing Area" parking lot.

**LUNCH: I – 69 at S.R. 5**

**Time: 1:20 P.M. to 2:20 P.M.**

**Time To Destination:** 15 minutes

**Directions:** From Lost Bridge West / Reservoir Office, take Lost Bridge West Road east to S.R. 105..

Turn right (south) on S.R. 105.

Turn left (east) on S.R. 124.

Turn right (south) on S.R. 5.

**Restaurants:** McDonald's, Subway, 2 Truck stop restaurants and a family restaurant.

**Motels:** Ramada Inn, Super 8 and Huggy Bear Motel.

For a wider selection of restaurants, follow S.R. 9 south to Marion. It takes 14 minutes to get to Marion. Sirloin Stockade, Ryan's, Chi Chi's and all fast food restaurants are on S.R. 9 here.

## **7. NATURE CENTER**

### **Huntington County**

**Indiana Delorme Map: Page 28, H-2**

**Time: 2:20 P.M. to 2:50 P.M.**

**Habitat:** Feeders, deciduous woods and marsh.

**Directions:** From Switchgrass Ponds, exit the Apple Orchard Primitive Campgrounds going east back to the main park road. Turn left (north) on the main park road, New Holland Road. Turn right (east) at the very next road, at the "Nature Center" sign. Bird the Nature Center feeders. Inquire about rare bird sightings and report your sightings to the naturalist.

Optional – Bird the **Turkey Cove Nature Trail (.25 miles long)** next to the Nature Center.

## **8. TREE TRAIL**

### **Huntington County**

**Indiana Delorme Map: Page 28, H – 2**

**Time: 3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

**Habitat:** Deciduous Woods.

**Directions:** From the Nature Center, follow the Nature Center Road west back out to the main park road. Turn right (north) on New Holland Road.

When New Holland Road splits into 2 roads, turn left (west) into the large parking lot.

**Tree Trail** starts at the east end of the parking lot.

## **9. MODERN CAMPGROUND BLUFF**

### **Huntington County**

**Indiana Delorme Map: Page 28, H – 2**

**Time: 4:10 P.M. to 4:25 P.M.**

**Habitat:** Reservoir Overlook. Off season only – November thru April.

**Directions:** From Tree Trail, turn left (north) out of the large parking lot.

Continue north on New Holland Road.

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 section of the lake from Camp Site # 228.

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

Site numbers are painted on the road.

## **10. LOST BRIDGE EAST**

### **Huntington County**

**Indiana Delorme Map: Page 28, H – 2**

**Time: 4:35 P.M. to 5:35 P.M.**

**Habitat:** Reservoir Overlook, deciduous woods, open woodland and pine stands.

**Directions:** From the Modern Campground inside the park, return to the main park road, New Holland Road.

Turn right (south) on New Holland Road.

Turn left (east) on Lost Bridge West Road.

Go east across S.R. 105.

You are now on Lost Bridge East Road.

Stay on Lost Bridge East Road till it dead ends at the boat launch parking lot.

Park at the picnic area shelter and walk east to the bluff. Scan the eastern section of the reservoir. Walk to the north bluff to scan the northern section of the lake. **Salamonie Trail** begins at the south end of the parking lot near the out houses. You can bird this trail for migrating passerines.

## **11. MOUNT ETNA S.R.A.**

### **Huntington County**

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

**Time: 5:45 P.M. to 6:05 P.M.**

**Habitat:** Reservoir Overlook.

**Directions:** From the Lost Bridge East Boat Launch, take Lost Bridge East Road back west to S.R. 105.

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

Turn left (east) on S.R. 124.

Turn left (north) into Mount Etna S.R.A..

Park to the right of the boat launch at the rest rooms.

Proceed east to the bluff, which overlooks the reservoir east to S.R. 9. Scan the lake for waterfowl and shorebirds.

## **12. MAJENICA MARSH**

### **Huntington County**

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

**Time: 6:15 P.M. to 6:35 P.M.**

**Habitat:** Marsh, grasslands and scattered pines.

**Directions:** From the Mount Etna S.R.A., follow the State Recreation Area road back south to S.R. 124.

Turn left (east) on S.R. 124.

Turn left (north) on S.R. 9.

Go across the Salamonie Bridge.

Turn left (west) on C.R. 400 S..

The marsh is at the very beginning of C.R. 400 S., on the right (north) side of the road.

Text Content: Steve Pancol

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