

Johnathan Creek Embayment

Located in southern Marshall County, Jonathan Creek Embayment can be an excellent location for shorebirds, gulls, terns, and waterfowl. Fall, winter, and early spring are the best times for this location and the site is dependent on low water levels on Kentucky Lake. Location of the embayment can be found on ebird as a hotspot

For this location have exposed mud flat, water levels on Kentucky Lake need to be near or at winter pool which is 354, mud flats start to show at a level of 356 and below. When this occurs, an expansive mudflat, composed largely of sandy mud develops, attracting birds. The shallow waters around the mud flat may contain American White Pelicans, waterfowl, gulls, & terns. A scope is necessary to fully enjoy this location.

Mudflat

To reach Jonathan Creek, take KY 402 west from Aurora in SE Marshall County. Follow KY 402 a few miles until you see a boat ramp to the left. Continue past the boat ramp turn & and bridge crossing the creek. Park on the highway shoulder just beyond the No Parking signs. Walk down the highway bank and through the thin wooded area to the mudflat. If conditions allow, walk the mudflat. Obviously, you should be prepared to get muddy and be aware that duck hunters use the area during season.

Pirate's Cove

From the embayment one can head east on KY 402 going toward Aurora about 1/2 mile the first left turn is "Pirate's Cove" This is a private community that consists of an airstrip, homes and campers. There are gates in several locations placed in recent years to keep 4 wheelers off the mud flat. If you come to a gate you can safely pull off and walk to the water's edge. You can scan for waterfowl, gulls, and terns. Birders have generally had no problem gaining access, you can ask for permission to bird at the office when you first enter the community. DO NOT drive on the airstrip or past the gates. Remember this is private property! Please be respectful. The owners have always been very welcoming to birders.

68 Bridge

From Aurora traveling north on highway 68 you will reach the US 68 Bridge crossing near the mouth of the Jonathan Creek Embayment. The lake can be productive for terns, gulls and waterfowl. A public boat ramps on both sides of the road provides ample parking.

-- Mark Bennett