

BIRCH RIDGE POND
T-A R11, Piscataquis Co.
U.S.G.S. Jo-Mary Mountain, Me.

Fishes

Brook trout (squaresail)

Minnows

Lake chub

Finescale dace

Physical Characteristics

Area - 14 acres

Temperatures

Surface - 72° F.

Maximum depth - 18 feet

17 feet - 50° F.

Principal Fishery - Brook trout

Birch Ridge Pond is the middle and largest of a series of three ponds that drain into Big Pleasant Pond. It is located on the south side of a forested ridge that rises 200 feet above the pond. Spruce, fir, and white pine now dominate the forested slopes of this ridge, not birch, as the name of the pond implies.

Large rocks are common both along the shore of the pond and submerged on the bottom. A very limited area of shallow water occurs along the shore and near the outlet. Around most of the pond the bottom drops off steeply very close to the shore.

The water quality of Birch Ridge Pond is excellent for the wild brook trout population that is present. Water at depths greater than 10 feet is cold and well oxygenated. Competition from other fish is limited to two minnow species, the lake chub and finescale dace. In the absence of serious competition such as suckers, the trout population is thriving.

There is only one tributary to Birch Ridge Pond. It originates in the upper pond, and flows underground through a spruce bog. The outlet flows under and around large rocks, with few gravelly riffle areas suitable for trout spawning. Therefore, the natural reproduction of brook trout is restricted to areas within the pond.

The upper pond is a bog pond, with a small area of open water surrounded by a floating mat of sphagnum moss and plants common to the bog environment. The bottom is covered with a thick deposit of flocculent organic muck. In the natural ecological succession of ponds it is in the final stages of filling in.

The lower pond in the series is located on the outlet 1/8 mile below Birch Ridge Pond. It is an old beaver flowage. The water is quite shallow, and emergent aquatic vegetation is present throughout the pond.

Birch Ridge Pond is accessible only by foot trail. A hike of more than 1/2 mile through an old burn, now forested by birch and poplar, is required to reach it. The pond will be managed for its wild brook trout population. The existing fly fishing only, five-fish daily bag limit restrictions should maintain the quality of the wild brook trout fishery in this remote pond.

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Maine

OUTLET



BIRCH RIDGE PONDS
TARII, PISCATAQUIS CO., MAINE
AREA 3-14-3 ACRES

0  1
ONE TENTH MILE

9 11
13 15
15 17
16 17
15 18
10 16
13 17
15 15
7

