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CREDITS

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INFO KEY

MAP ICONS

- Best seasons for birding (spring, summer, fall, winter)
- Developed camping available, including restrooms; fee required
- Restroom available at day-use site
- ADA restroom, and trail or viewing access
- Site located in an Important Bird Area
- Fee required. Passes best obtained prior to travel.

LOCAL SERVICES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Washington visitor information: www.experiencewashington.com
Vaux's Swift September migration, Monroe, WA: www.pilchuckaudubon.org
Cascadia Marine Trail: www.wwta.org/trails/CMT/index.asp
Sites 1-5; 9-17, 20: Seattle's Convention & Visitor's Bureau
  866-732-2695 www.visitseattle.org; www.kingcounty.gov
Sites 6-8: Vashon Maury Chamber of Commerce
  206-463-6217 www.vashonchamber.com
Site 18, 19, 22-26: Tacoma Regional Convention & Visitor Bureau
  800-272-2662 www.traveltacoma.com
Sites 27-32: Kitsap Peninsula Visitor & Convention Bureau
  800-337-0580 www.visitkitsap.com
Sites 33-39: Whidbey and Camano Islands Tourism
  www.whidbeycamanoislands.com
Sites 40-42: San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau
  888-468-3701 www.visitsanjuans.com
GENERAL INFORMATION

- Use Birding Trail map along with a state highway map.
- Driving directions may list mileage plus a fraction, e.g., “milepost 37.5”, which means continue 0.5 mile beyond milepost 37.0. Mileage markers are on east or south side of state highways; mileage goes south to north, and west to east.
- Disclaimer: Hiking and birding can be dangerous. Audubon does not warrant conditions or safety of any site, and assumes no liability for injuries suffered as a result of travel or other activities associated with this map.

1 Discovery Park

HABITAT: City’s 534 acres: forest, thickets, meadows, 3-mile shoreline.

BIRDING: Rich variety of habitats = rich variety of species: Pileated Woodpeckers, Pacific Wrens, Savannah Sparrows. Fall-spring: Red-breasted Mergansers; Red-throated, Common Loons; Western Grebes; Varied Thrushes. Spring-summer: Rufous Hummingbirds, Western Tanagers. Winter: Golden-, Ruby-crowned Kinglets; Fox, Lincoln, Golden-crowned Sparrows; Dark-eyed Juncos. Year-round: Cooper’s Hawks; Barn, Barred, Northern Saw-whet Owls; Anna’s Hummingbirds, Bushshits, Spotted Towhees, Song Sparrows.

VIEWING: Visitor-Environmental Learning Center has maps, interpretive exhibits. South Parking – Walk west on Loop Trail for meadows, forest edge, thickets. At 0.8 mile, veer left for 0.5-mile South Beach Trail to saltwater; or continue 3-mile circle. Wolf Tree Nature Trail – Take 0.3-mile deep forest loop for spring-summer warblers: Orange-crowned, Yellow, Black-throated Gray, Townsend’s, Wilson’s; plus Pacific-slope Flycatchers, Swainson’s Thrushes, Black-headed Grosbeaks. Bonus: Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center.

ACCESS: From I-5, take exit 169 (NE 45th St/NE 50th St). Turn west onto NE 45th. Drive 0.9 mile. Turn left onto Stone Way N. Drive 0.9 mile. Turn right onto NE 34th St. Drive 0.3 mile. Turn left onto Fremont Ave N. Drive 0.2 mile. Turn right onto Nickerson St/W Nickerson. Drive 1.3 miles. Stay left to Ballard Bridge/W Emerson. Drive 0.2 mile. Turn left to stay on W Nickerson. Drive 0.2 mile. Turn left onto W Emerson (Port of Seattle/Fisherman’s Terminal). Drive 0.5 mile. Turn right onto Gilman Ave W/Discovery Park Blvd. Drive 1.1 mile to park. Visitor Center. South Parking – From visitor center, return to park entrance. Turn right onto 36th Ave NW. Drive 0.3 mile. Turn right onto W Emerson St. Drive 0.4 mile.

2 Union Bay Natural Area (Montlake Fill)

HABITAT: U of WA’S 74 acres: reclaimed marsh, ponds, lakeshore.

BIRDING: Marvelous microhabitats attract migrants – Cinnamon Teal, Western Sandpipers, Common Yellowthroats, American Goldfinches – plus resident Pied-billed Grebes; Great Blue, Green Herons; Bald Eagles; Cooper’s, Red-tailed Hawks; Virginia Rails, Belted Kingfishers, Marsh Wrens. Spring-summer: Ospreys, Vaux’s Swifts; Tree, Violet-green, Northern Rough-winged, Cliff Swallows. Fall-spring: Cackling Geese, Northern Shovelers, Green-winged Teal, Hooded Mergansers.

VIEWING: Walk west through Botanic Gardens to meadow, trailhead kiosk (free maps). Take 0.8-mile circle of Wahkiakum, Loop trails. By South Pond, 0.1-mile path leads to view of mud island for Wood Ducks, Killdeer, Wilson’s Snipes. Also take 0.3-mile Yesler Swamp Trail from east end of parking. Bonus: beaver lodge.

ACCESS: From I-5, take exit 169 (NE 45th St/NE 50th St). Turn east onto NE 45th. Drive 1.1 miles. Turn left onto Montlake Blvd NE. Drive 0.2 mile. Veer right onto Mary Gates Memorial Dr/NE 41st St. Drive 0.3 mile. Turn right into Botanic Garden. Park in lot on left.

3 Magnuson Park

HABITAT: City’s 350 acres: ponds, marsh, trees, 1-mile lakeshore.

BIRDING: Lavish spring-summer singing and swooping: Western Wood- Pewees, Willow Flycatchers, Warbling Vireos; Tree, Violet-green, Barn Swallows; Bullock’s Orioles, American Goldfinches. Fall-spring: Gadwalls, Green-winged Teal, Common Goldeneyes, Common Mergansers; Mew, Ring-billed, California Gulls. Year-round: California Quail, Red-tailed Hawks, Barn Owls.

VIEWING: To east, take 0.3-mile trail through 16-acre wetland for Killdeer, Spotted Sandpipers, Wilson’s Snipes. Walk north 0.5 mile by trees, thickets for sparrows: Golden-crowned, Fox, Lincoln’s fall-spring. Walk Kite Hill for Northern Shrikes fall-winter, return 0.6 mile on ADA Lake Shore Promenade for Bald Eagles, waterbirds. Take 0.5-mile Promontory Point Trail for Sharp-shinned, Cooper’s Hawks (see also woodland birds of Discovery Park).

ACCESS: From I-5, take exit 169 (NE 45th St/NE 50th St). Cooper’s, Drive 1.1 miles. Turn left onto Montlake Blvd NE/NE 45th/Sand Point Wy. Drive 1.8 miles. Turn right onto NE 65th St. Drive 0.5 mile to boat ramp parking.

4 Seward Park Environmental & Audubon Center

HABITAT: City’s 277 acres old-growth, mixed forest, marsh, 2.5-mile lakeshore.

BIRDING: Ancient forest headliners: nesting Bald Eagles; Sharp-shinned, Cooper’s Hawks; Western Screech-, Barred Owls; Anna’s Hummingbirds, Pileated Woodpeckers. Spring-fall: Ospreys, Rufous Hummingbirds, Swainson’s Thrushes, Western Tanagers. Fall-spring: Common Mergansers; Western, Eared Grebes; Double-crested Cormorants, Varied Thrushes. Year-round: Pied-billed Grebes, Great

Audubon Washington

**VIEWING:** Follow paved 2.4-mile loop path along shore. Spine trail #1 leads 0.9 mile through woods, 8 side loops. Bonus: Seward Park Environmental & Audubon Center.

**ACCESS:** From I-5, take exit 163A (W Seattle Br/6th Ave S/Columbian Wy). Turn east onto S Columbian WY/15th Ave S. Drive 0.9 mile. Veer left onto S Columbian WY. Drive 0.4 mile. Turn right onto Beacon Ave S. Drive 0.6 mile. Turn left onto S Orca St. Drive 2.0 miles. At Y, veer right onto Lake Washington Blvd S. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn left into Seward Park.

**Birding:** Fall-winter wealth of waterbirds: Lesser Scaups, Surf Scoters; Common, Barrow’s Goldeneyes; Red-breasted Mergansers, Common Loons; Horned, Red-necked, Western Grebes; Pelagic, Double-crested Cormorants; Pigeon Guillemots, Rhinoceros Auklets.

**Habitat:** City’s family-friendly park lining 2-mile saltwater shore.


**Access:** From I-5 take exit 163A (W Seattle Br/6th Ave S/Columbian Wy). Drive 1.6 miles over bridge. Take exit to Harbor Ave SW/Avalon Wy. Turn right onto Harbor Ave SW/Alki Ave SW. Drive 1.6 miles. Park in waterside pullout on right across from Marshall Reserve sign. Continue 1.7 miles to Bathhouse. Continue 0.9 mile to Viewpoint. Continue 0.7 mile to Me-Kwa-Mooks.

**More birding:** Port of Seattle’s 15-acre Jack Block Park for Yellow-rumped Warblers, White-crowned Sparrows, American Goldfinches. From Alki Bathhouse, return 2.4 miles on Alki Ave SW/Harbor Ave SW. Turn left into entrance. Drive 0.2 mile to parking. Take 1.0-mile ADA loop to pier, 45-foot high observation platform.

**Habitat:** 3000-acre saltwater bay; shoreline, mudflats, mixed forest.

**Birding:** Concentration of wintering Western Grebes plus 35+ other marine species: Greater Scaups; Surf, Black, White-winged Scoters; Buffleheads; Common, Barrow’s Goldeneyes; Pacific, Common Loons; Horned, Eared, Red-necked Grebes; Brandt’s, Pelagic Cormorants. Gulls abound: Bonaparte’s, Mew, California. Fall-spring: Sanderlings. Bald Eagle. Osprey nests ring harbor.


**Access:** From north ferry dock, drive 9.6 miles south on Vashon Hwy SW. Outer Harbor – Park in waterside pullout by IBA sign. Portage – From Outer Harbor, drive north 1.7 miles on Vashon Hwy SW. Turn right onto SW Quartermaster Dr. Drive 1.3 miles. Park in waterside pullout by IBA sign. Raab’s Lagoon – From Portage, drive 0.1 mile further on SW Quartermaster Dr. At T, turn right onto Dockton Rd SW. Drive 0.3 mile. Turn right onto Kingsbury Rd SW. Drive 0.7 mile to parking at King County Natural Area.

**More birding:** Not to be missed! In fall see: Harlequin Ducks, Black Scoters, Common Terns, Pigeon Guillemots, Rhinoceros Auklets; plus Peregrine Falcons, Merlins. Spring brings Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Swainson’s Thrushes, Black-throated Gray Warblers. From Raab’s Lagoon, return on Kingsbury. Turn right onto Dockton Rd. Drive 0.3 mile. Continue straight onto SW Pt Robinson Rd. Drive 2.6 miles. At T, turn right staying on SW Pt. Robinson Rd. Drive 0.2 mile to lighthouse’s upper parking.

**Habitat:** Saltwater bay; shore of Vashon and Maury islands, mudflats.

**Birding:** Dependable spot for wintering flocks of American Wigeons, Greater Scaups; Common, Barrow’s Goldeneyes; Red-necked, Eared Grebes. Purple Martins nest spring-summer. Year-round: Bald Eagles. (See also birds of 6 Quartermaster Harbor.)

**Viewing:** Vashon Park District’s fishing pier. Also bird by ferry: W Seattle-Vashon.

**Access:** From north ferry dock, drive 6.3 miles south on Vashon Hwy SW. Turn east onto SW 204th St/SW Ellisport Rd. Drive 1.1 miles. At T, veer right onto Dockton Rd. Drive 0.3 mile. Park at fishing pier. (Continue 0.5 mile to 6 Quartermaster Harbor’s Portage on right.)

**More birding:** From pier return north 0.3 mile to T, park in waterside pullout for fall Brant, Semipalmated Plovers; Western, Least Sandpipers.

**Habitat:** Land trust-public 145 acres of mixed forest, pond, creek.

**Birding:** Serene forest surrounds pond with Wood Ducks, Northern Shovelers, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Ducks, Buffleheads, Hooded Mergansers. Spring; migrating Western Sandpipers. Spring-summer: Killdeers; Tree, Violet-green, Northern Rough-winged, Barn Swallows. Fall-spring: Townsend’s Warblers. Year-round: Pileated Woodpeckers, Hutton’s Vireos, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Brown creepers, Pacific Wrens.

**Viewing:** Take trail at meadow’s east edge. Right fork leads 0.2 mile to closest views of water, shore. Take left fork 0.2 mile to Fisher Pond Trail, covered overlook, and 0.8-mile forest loop. Also bird by ferry: W Seattle-Vashon.
ACCESS: From north ferry dock, drive 4.7 miles south on Vashon Hwy SW. Turn west onto SW Bank Rd. Drive 1.4 miles. Turn right into 12224 SW Bank Rd. Park on left.

MORE BIRDING: Fern Cove — Best at low or mid-tide for Spotted Sandpipers, Black Turnstones fall-spring; Western and Least Sandpipers during spring, fall migration; Solitary Sandpipers in fall. From Fisher Pond, turn right onto SW Bank Rd. Drive 0.4 mile. Veer left onto Thorsen Rd SW. Drive 0.6 mile. Turn right onto Westside Hwy. Drive 3.3 miles. Veer right onto SW Cedarhurst Rd. Drive 0.8 mile. Use caution turning left into roadside pullout at 11408 Cedarhurst Rd SW. Park; walk down driveway 0.1 mile to cove.

11 Marymoor Birdloop 🌼🌼🌼
HABITAT: County’s 640 acres of riparian, deciduous forest, marsh, grassland.

BIRDING: Blue Ribbon mornings offer 50+ species year round, even more spring and fall. Summer nesters: Wood Ducks, Green Herons, Ospreys, Bald Eagles, Rufous Hummingbirds, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Western Wood-Pewees, Willow Flycatchers, Swainson’s Thrushes, Yellow Warblers, Black-headed Grosbeaks. Winter: possible White-fronted, Snow Geese in large flocks of Cackling, Canada Geese; Fox, Lincoln’s, Golden-crowned Sparrows. Spring, fall: Warbling, Red-eyed Vireos; Wilson’s, Black-throated Gray Warblers; Western Tanagers, American Pipits in fall.

VIEWING: Take 1.7-mile Grassy Meadow trail clockwise for wintering Northern Shrikes, Western Meadowlarks; boardwalk for Virginia Rails; lake platform for Gadwalls, Green-winged Teal, Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes; Hooded, Common Sapsuckers; Pied-billed, Horned, Western Grebes. Bonus: river otters, summer dragonflies, fall migrating salmon.

ACCESS: From Hwy 520 take W Lake Sammamish Pkwy NE exit. Turn south onto W Lake Sammamish Pkwy NE. Drive 0.2 mile. Turn left onto NE Marymoor Wy. Drive 0.8 mile. Turn right to Lot G entrance. Drive 0.1 mile. Park in SE corner by birding kiosk.

12 Lake Sammamish State Park 🌼🌼🌼


VIEWING: Walk lakeshore north to point. Follow Issaquah Creek inland, cross footbridge, take Trail #6 Feb-April to heron colony at 0.2 mile. Take 0.6-mile Trail #5, 0.4-mile Trail #7 for Savannah Sparrows spring-fall; Fox, Golden-crowned fall-spring. On summer weekends, bird early mornings. Bonus: fall migrating salmon.

ACCESS: From I-90 take exit 15 (Hwy 900 W/17th Ave NW). Turn north onto 17th Ave NW. Drive 0.3 mile. Turn left onto NW Sammamish Rd. Drive 0.4 mile. Turn right into park. Drive 0.2 mile. Turn left to parking. Drive 0.1 mile to west end of lot.

13 Snoqualmie Valley Trail 🌼🌼🌼
(Parks only) $ (WDFW)
HABITAT: WDFW-cnty-city wetlands, fields, lakes, river by 31-mile trail.

BIRDING: Feathered treasures all year! Spring-summer: American Bitterns, Rufous Hummingbirds, Pacific-slope Flycatchers,

**VIEWING:** Bird by foot, bike, boat. **Three Forks Natural Area**
  - **Tolt-MacDonald Park** - Spring: Purple Finches, Evening Grosbeaks. Cross swinging bridge, turn right, walk 0.5 mile by river. Hike hillside. Take ADA trail. Check marsh. Walk under highway bridge to Tolt River for American Dippers. **Stillwater Unit** - Spring-summer: nesting Spotted Sandpipers, Bank Swallows. Walk 0.7 mile on east side trail to river.
  - **McCormick Park** - From Hwy 203 at milepost 8.9 turn right onto SE 256th St. Drive 0.9 mile. Turn right into parking.

**ACCESS:**
- **Three Forks** - From I-90 take exit 31 (Hwy 202/North Bend), turn north onto Hwy 202/Bendingo Blvd. Drive 1.4 miles. Turn right onto Boalch Ave NW/SE Park St. Drive 1.5 miles. Turn right into parking.
- **Tolt-MacDonald** - From Hwy 203 at milepost 8.9 turn left onto SE 256th St. Drive 0.9 mile. Turn right into parking.
- **Stillwater** - From Hwy 203 at milepost 14.7/Main St NE in town of Duvall, turn west into WDFW parking area.
- **McCormick** - From Hwy 203 at milepost 14.7/Main St NE in town of Duvall, turn west onto NE Stephens St. Drive 0.1 mile to parking.

**HABITAT:** 720 acres of mixed riparian woods, wetlands, fields.

**BIRDS:** Neotropical migrants fill woods with spring singing: Western Wood-Pewees; Olive-sided, Willow, Pacific-slope Flycatchers; Warbling Vireos, Swainson’s Thrushes; Orange-crowned, Black-throated Gray Warblers; Black-headed Grosbeaks. Spring-fall: Great Horned Owls, Common Yellowthroats. Year-round: Red-tailed Hawks, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Pileated Woodpeckers, Chestnut-backed Chickadees.

**VIEWING:** Bird by bike or foot: 6.2-mile ADA trail extends north, south. North: 0.5 mile through riparian to willow/cattail marsh at 2 miles. South: 100 yards to Great Blue Heron nests, 0.5 mile to forested wetlands. Bonus: fall salmon spawning.

**ACCESS:** From Hwy 167 at milepost 20.0, take Hwy 516/Willis/Des Moines exit. Turn east onto Hwy 516. Drive 4.8 miles (through town of Kent). Turn left onto 132nd Ave SE. Drive 0.9 mile. Turn right onto SE 256th St. Drive 0.9 mile. Turn left onto 148th Ave SE. Drive 0.4 mile. Turn right into parking.

**MORE BIRDING:** **Gary Grant Park** for eye-to-eye views of Hutton’s Vireos, Hairy Woodpeckers, Purple Finches. Turn right onto 148th Ave SE. Drive 0.3 mile. Veer left onto SE 240th St. Drive 0.1 mile. Veer right onto 148th Ave SE. Drive 2.2 miles. Turn left onto SE 208th St. Drive 0.2 mile to park.

**Flaming Geyser State Park**

**HABITAT:** 480 family-friendly acres, mixed forest, marsh, 3-mile river shoreline.

**BIRDING:** Feathers flash in spring, summer: Cassin’s, Warbling Vireos (Red-eyed possible); Swainson’s Thrushes, Pacific-slope Flycatchers, Western Tanagers, Vaux’s Swifts; Tree, Violet-green Swallows.
Spring-fall: Virginia Rails; Willow, Olive-sided Flycatchers; Common Yellowthroats. Year-round: Common Mergansers, Red-breasted Sapsuckers; Downy, Hairy Woodpeckers; Belted Kingfishers, American Dippers, Steller’s Jays, Common Ravens.

**VIEWING:** Mornings best. Walk meadow edges, perimeter loop, Salmon Interpretive Trail.

**ACCESS:** From Hwy 167 at milepost 6.0, take Hwy 18E/Auburn exit. Turn east onto Hwy 18. Drive 3.3 miles. Take Auburn-Black Diamond Rd exit. Turn right onto Auburn-Black Diamond Rd. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn right onto SE Green Valley Rd. Drive 8.2 miles. Turn right onto SE Flaming Geyser Rd. Drive 0.3 mile. Turn right. Drive 0.7 mile to picnic parking.

**Mt. Rainier National Park - Sunrise**

**HABITAT:** 6400-foot elevation meadows, subalpine old-growth forest.

**BIRDING:** Visit northeast side of Mt. Rainier during snow-free August-September for prize species: White-tailed Ptarmigan, Sooty Grouse, Northern Saw-whet Owls, Mountain Bluebirds; Gray-crowned Rosy-, Cassin’s Finches; Red Crossbills – plus Vaux’s Swifts, Rufous Hummingbirds.


**ACCESS:** At intersection of highways 167 and 410, turn east onto Hwy 410. Drive 5.8 miles. Turn right onto Mt. Rainier exit. Turn east onto Hwy 410. Drive 5.8 miles. Turn right onto S Prairie Rd E. Drive 4.1 miles. Turn right onto Hwy 162. Drive 0.2 mile. Turn left into trailhead parking.

**Dash Point State Park**

**HABITAT:** 398 acres of mixed forest, 0.6-mile saltwater shore.

**BIRDING:** Scope nearshore waters during mid-to-high tide for Surf, White-winged Scoters; Common Loons, Horned Grebes, Mew Gulls. In spring: Pacific-slope Flycatchers; Orange-crowned, Black-throated Gray, Wilson’s Warblers; Western Tanagers. Fall: Great Blue Herons, Bald Eagles, Band-tailed Pigeons; Downy, Hairy, Pileated Woodpeckers; Steller’s Jays, Hutton’s Vireos, Pacific Wrens, Townsend’s Warblers.

**VIEWING:** Beach – From Picnic Point, bluff trail drops to beach; from beach parking, walk shoreline, ravine trail. **Woods** – Walk 0.5-mile loop through campground.

**ACCESS:** From I-5, take exit 142 (Federal Way/S 320th St). Turn west onto S 320th St. Drive 4.6 miles. At T, turn right onto 47th Ave SW. Drive 0.4 mile. Turn left onto Hwy 509/Dash Pt Rd. Drive 0.8 mile. **Beach** – Turn right into park. Drive 1 block. At T, turn right. Drive 0.3 mile to Picnic Point parking. Return to T. Drive straight 0.5 mile to beach parking. **Woods** – Cross Dash Pt Rd to camping area of park. Park in pullout on left after kiosk.

**MORE BIRDING:** Dumas Bay Wildlife Sanctuary for Barred Owls; Ruby-, Golden-crowned Kinglets in woods; American Wigeons (possible Eurasians), Barrow’s Goldeneyes, Bonaparte’s Gulls at bay. From Dash Point State Park, turn left onto Hwy 509/Dash Pt Rd. Drive 0.8 mile. Turn left onto 44th Ave SW. Drive 0.2 mile to parking on right.

**West Hylebos Wetlands Park**

**HABITAT:** 120 acres of forest, marsh, creek, pond, meadow, orchard.

**BIRDING:** Hylebos Creek nourishes rich birdlife: Red-tailed, Sharp-shinned Hawks; Barred Owls; Downy, Hairy, Pileated Woodpeckers plus Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Northern Flickers; Steller’s Jays, Brown Creepers; Bewick’s, Pacific Wrens. Spring-summer: Wood Ducks, Rufous Hummingbirds, Swainson’s Thrushes, Wilson’s Warblers, Western Tanagers, Green Herons. Fall-winter: Gadwalls, Ring-necked Ducks; Golden-, Ruby-crowned Kinglets; Fox Sparrows.

**VIEWING:** Take 0.1-mile gravel path to kiosk, 1.0-mile boardwalk loop with Brooklake viewing platform. 0.1-mile gravel path leads through orchard to Marlake. Bonus: historic log cabins, summer dragonflies.

**ACCESS:** From I-5, take exit 142-B (Hwy 18 W). Turn west onto Hwy 18/S 348th St. Drive 0.9 mile. Turn left into parking.

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**Foothills Trail**

**HABITAT:** County’s 8-mile rails-to-trails greenbelt; creek, wetlands, riparian foliage.

**BIRDING:** Sweet suite of migrants nest in spring: Hammond’s, Willow Flycatchers; Warbling, Cassin’s, Red-eyed Vireos; Orange-crowned, Black-throated Gray, Wilson’s Warblers; plus possible Eastern Kingbirds, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Lazuli Buntings. Fall: Turkey Vultures. Winter: Northern Pygmy-Owls; Lincoln’s, Golden-crowned Sparrows; Varied Thrushes. Year-round: Red-breasted Sapsuckers.

**VIEWING:** Best birding within 3 miles of South Prairie trailhead. 1) Go east 0.1 mile to bridge for American Dippers. 2) Go west 0.9 mile past homes, fields to riparian woods for Western Tanagers; to picnic area wetland at 1.8 miles for Green Herons, Solitary Sandpipers, Wilson’s Snipes. Caution: summer weekend bicycles.

**ACCESS:** From Hwy 167 at milepost 7.1, take Hwy 410/Summer-Yakima exit. Turn east onto Hwy 410. Drive 5.8 miles. Turn right onto S Prairie Rd E. Drive 4.1 miles. Turn right onto Hwy 162. Drive 0.2 mile. Turn left into trailhead parking.

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**The Great Washington State Birding Trail**

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**Audubon Washington**

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23 Commencement Bay

HABITAT: Port of Tacoma-city’s river estuary, wetland, saltwater.


VIEWING: Gog-Le-Hi-Te Wetlands – 0.1-mile ADA trail leads to viewing platform. Take 0.5-mile dike trail to left. Bonus: harbor seals, salmon migration. Les Davis Pier – Up-close sightings of wintering Barrow’s Goldeneyes; Pacific, Common, occasional Yellow-billed Loons; Horned Grebes. Bonus: winter scuba divers.

ACCESS: Wetlands – From I-5 southbound, take exit 135 (Puyallup/Portland Ave N). From I-5 northbound, take exit 134 (Port of Tacoma/Portland Ave N). Turn north onto Portland Ave. Drive 0.7 mile. Turn right onto Lincoln Ave. Drive 0.3 mile. Turn right into wetlands parking. Les Davis Pier – Return to Portland Ave. Turn left. Drive 0.2 mile. Turn right onto Hwy 509 S toward City Center. Drive 1.0 mile. Take exit onto Shuster Pkwy. Drive 2.3 miles. Veer left onto Ruston Way N. Drive 1.4 miles. Turn right into parking.

MORE BIRDING: Julia’s Gulch for year-round Downy Woodpeckers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Bush tits. From Gog-Le-Hi-Te Wetlands, return to Portland Ave, turn left. Drive 0.4 mile. Turn left onto Puyallup Ave/Pacific Hwy E/Hwy 99. Drive 2.4 miles. Turn left onto 54th Ave E. Drive 0.9 mile. Turn right onto Hwy 509/Marine View Dr. Drive 1.7 miles. Turn right onto Norpoint Way NE. Drive 0.4 mile. Turn right into parking. Walk north to 0.5-mile steep, primitive ravine trail.

24 Tacoma Nature Center

HABITAT: City’s family-friendly 70-acre freshwater wetland/forest.

BIRDING: Fancy ducks rule lake: Wood Ducks, Mallards, Hooded Mergansers. Wetlands, woods bustle with Bick’s and Marsh Wrens, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Cedar Waxwings, Spotted Towhees; Song, Golden-crowned Sparrows; Dark-eyed Juncos.

VIEWING: Take 0.5-mile ADA loop trail; 0.5-mile 1st Bridge Trail loop; 1.0-mile 2nd Bridge Trail; 0.7-mile Hillside Trail loop.

ACCESS: From I-5, take exit 132 (Hwy 16 W/Gig Harbor/Bremerton/ Sprague Ave). Merge onto Hwy 16 West. Drive 3.2 miles. Take exit 2A ($ 19th St E), turn right onto S 19th St. Drive 0.5 mile. Turn right onto S Tyler St. Turn left into parking.

MORE BIRDING: Adriana Hess Audubon Center in 2-acre secluded wetland park (ADA trail, viewing platform). Return to Steilacoom Blvd SW. Drive 0.1 mile. Merge onto Ruston Rd. Drive 0.9 mile. Turn left onto River Rd. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn left into parking.

25 Fort Steilacoom Park

HABITAT: Municipal 340 acres with lake, woods, meadow, orchard.


VIEWING: Walk 1-mile ADA trail around lake. Take 0.5-mile orchard trail up hill for Western Screech-Owls; check barns for Great Horned, Barn Owls.

ACCESS: From I-5 take exit 25 (Bridgeport Wy/McCord Field). Turn north onto Bridgeport Wy SW. Drive 2.2 miles. Turn left onto Steilacoom Blvd SW. Drive 1.7 miles, staying left. Turn left onto 87th Ave SW. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn right into park and left onto Waughop Lake Rd SW. Drive 0.5 mile. Park at Discovery Trail trailhead by barns.

MORE BIRDING: Adriana Hess Audubon Center in 2-acre secluded wetland park (ADA trail, viewing platform). Return to Steilacoom Blvd SW. Turn right. Drive 1.7 miles. Turn left onto Bridgeport Wy. Drive 4.5 miles. Turn right onto 27th St W. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn right onto Morrison Rd W. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn left into parking.

26 Penrose Point State Park

HABITAT: 152 acres of mixed shrubs, woods; 2-mile saltwater shore.

BIRDING: Fingers of sand stretch into saltwater world of Harlequin Ducks, Pacific Loons; Common, Barrow’s Goldeneyes; Hooded Mergansers. Forest sustains Black-capped, Chestnut-backed Chickadees; Brown Creepers; Bick’s, Pacific Wrens.

VIEWING: Walk 0.2-mile Touch of Nature interpretive trail; 1.0-mile Penrose Point loop; 0.5-mile sand spit at low tide. Explore 2.5 miles of woodland trails. Bonus: harbor seals.
**ACCESS:** From Hwy 16 take Purdy/Hwy 302 W/Key Center exit. Drive 1.1 miles. Turn west onto Hwy 302/Key Peninsula Hwy N. Drive 5.3 miles. Veer left onto Key Peninsula Hwy N/Gig Harbor Longbranch Rd. Drive 9.0 miles. Turn left onto Cornwall Rd KPS. Drive 0.4 mile. Turn right onto Delano Rd KPS. Drive 0.8 mile. Turn left onto 158th Ave KPS. Drive 0.5 mile. At T, turn right. Drive 0.1 mile. Park at interpretive trail.

**MORE BIRDING:** Joemma Beach State Park for wintering Common Loons, Red-necked Grebes; spring’s Purple Martins in nest boxes on piers; year-round: Downy, Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers. Return to 158th. Turn left. Drive 0.5 mile. Turn right onto Delano Rd KPS. Drive 0.8 mile. Turn left onto Cornwall Rd KPS. Drive 0.4 mile. Turn left onto Key Peninsula Hwy. Drive 0.5 mile. Turn right onto Whiteman Rd. Drive 2.2 miles staying left. Turn right onto Bay Rd KPS. Drive 0.8 mile. Turn left into parking.

**HABITAT:** Port’s waterfront park on Puget Sound.  **BIRDING:** Wintering waterbirds to right, left, ahead, overhead! Thousands of American Wigeons, some Eurasians; hundreds of Surf Scoters, Western Grebes; dozens of White-winged Scoters; Common, Barrow’s Goldeneyes. Also abundant Hooded, Red-breasted Mergansers; Horned, Red-necked Grebes; some Greater Scaups. Double-crested, Pelagic Cormorants; Bald Eagles perch on pilings. Fall: Black Turnstiones, Surfbirds, Bonaparte’s Gulls.

**VIEWING:** Scan inlet from 0.1-mile boardwalk promenade.

**ACCESS:** From Hwy 16 at milepost 26.8 (Old Clifton/Tremont St), exit onto Tremont St. Drive 0.9 mile. Turn left onto Sidney Ave. Drive 1.3 miles (crossing Hwy 166/Bay St). Turn right. Drive 0.1 mile to 2-hour parking at waterfront by restrooms.

**MORE BIRDING:** Annapolis Ferry Dock for Mew Gulls. Return to Hwy 166/Bay St. Turn left. Drive 1.3 miles (veering left at 0.4 mile). Turn left into park-and-ride lot. Port of Waterman Pier for Harlequin Ducks, Brandt’s Cormorants. Return to Bay St/Beach Dr E.Turn left. Drive 2.6 miles. Turn left into parking.

**EVEN MORE BIRDING:** Lower Rota Vista Park for inland colony of roosting, nesting Pelagic Cormorants plus nesting Peregrine Falcons – all on bridge supports. From Evergreen Park, return to 14th St. Turn right onto 14th St. Drive 1 block. Turn right onto Park Ave. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn left onto 17th St. Drive 1 block. Turn right onto Elizabeth St. Drive 0.1 mile. Park at street end. Walk down steps.

**Old Mill Park-Clear Creek Trail**

**HABITAT:** Co nty’s 6 acres on saltwater; 6.5-mile trail by creek, woods.

**BIRDING:** Find favorites in saltwater, freshwater, forest, field. Fall-winter: Buffleheads; Common, Barrow’s Goldeneyes; Dunlins; plus summer’s Ospreys, Caspian Terns. Winter: Green-winged Teal. Spring-summer: Orange-crowned, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Townsend’s Warblers; Tree, Violet-green, Barn Swallows; American Goldfinches. Summer-fall: Cedar Waxwings. Year-round: Great Blue Herons, Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, Northern Flickers, Steller’s Jays, Spotted Towhees.

**VIEWING:** Take trail to left along Dyes Inlet 0.2 mile to 0.5-mile paved path on water, or cross Bucklin Hill Rd to Clear Creek Interpretive Center for map, start of 5.0-mile trail.

**CLEAR CREEK MEADOWS** offer 2.5-mile looping paths.

**ACCESS:** From Hwy 3 southbound, take exit 45 (Silverdale/Kitsap Mall). Turn right onto Kitsap Mall Blvd. Drive 0.9 mile. From Hwy 3 northbound, take exit 45A (Silverdale/Kitsap Mall) onto Hwy 303/Kitsap Mall Blvd. Drive south 0.5 mile. Turn right onto Silverdale Wy NW. Drive 0.2 mile. Turn left onto NW Bucklin Hill Rd. Drive 0.2 mile. Turn right into parking lot. Clear Creek Meadows – Return 0.2 mile on Bucklin Hill Rd. Turn right onto Silverdale Wy NW. Drive 1.8 miles. Turn left onto NW Schold Pl. Drive 0.2 mile. Turn left on Schold Rd NW. Drive 0.1 mile. Park in pullout on right.

**Liberty Bay**

**HABITAT:** 4 city parks by saltwater; mixed woods, creek, wetland, fields.

**BIRDING:** Oyster Plant Park’s nest gourds attract summer’s Purple Martins. Liberty Bay sustains thick marine flocks fall-winter: See birds of **27 Sinclair Inlet** plus Buffleheads, Western Grebes; Red-throated, Common Loons; Belted Kingfishers. **Fish Park** estuary in fall hosts Green-winged Teal, Greater Yellowlegs.
The Great Washington State Birding Trail

**Viewing:** Walk Oyster Plant pier; Liberty Bay Park boardwalk to American Legion Park; Fish Park’s 0.3-mile interpretive loop. Bonus: Suquamish Museum, www.suquamish.nsn.us/Museum.aspx

**Access:** From Route 305 at milepost 11.4 in Poulsbo, turn west onto NE Hostmark Dr. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn left on 6th Ave NE. Drive 0.4 mile. Turn left onto Fjord Dr NE. Drive 0.1 mile to Oyster Plant parking on right. Liberty Bay Park-American Legion Park — Turn around; drive 0.5 mile north on Fjord Dr NE. Turn left onto Front St NE. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn left onto King Harald V Vei/Anderson Pkwy. Drive 1 block to Liberty Bay Park lot. Fish Park — Return to Front St. NE. Turn left. Drive 0.9 mile. Veer left onto Lindvig Way NE. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn right into parking.

**Habitat:** City’s 137-acre mixed forest, 0.8 mile of saltwater shore.

**Birding:** Winter hillside comes alive at sunrise with Chestnut-backed, Black-capped Chickadees; Bushtits, Golden-crowned Kinglets; White-, Golden-crowned Sparrows; Yellow-rumped Warblers. Saltwater fall-spring: American Wigeons; Surf, Western Gulls, Rhinoceros Auklets, occasional Western Scrub-Jays. Year-round: Bald Eagles, Anna’s Hummingbirds, Pileated Woodpeckers, Pacific Wrens.

**Viewing:** Best at change of tides. Walk 0.1 mile to lighthouse. Take 0.1-mile trail through thickets to platform for saltwater, wetland vistas. Trail continues 1.1 miles to and through upland forest.

**Access:** From Hwy 104 at milepost 22.0 (2.2 miles west of downtown Kingston), turn north onto Hansville Rd NE. Drive 7.5 miles. Turn right onto Point No Point Rd NE. Drive 0.9 mile to parking area.

**More Birding:** Norwegian Point Park for fall’s Black-bellied Plovers, Sandpipers, Dunlins; year-round Pigeon Guillemots; Brandt’s, Double-crested, Pelagic Cormorants. Return on Point No Point Rd NE. Turn right onto Hansville Rd NE. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn right to park.

**Even More Birding:** Buck Lake for summer’s Pied-billed Grebes, Ospreys; year-round Marsh Wrens. From Norwegian Point, return 0.1 mile south on Hansville Rd NE. Turn right onto NE Buck Lake Rd. Drive 0.7 mile to park.

**Possession Point State Park**

**Habitat:** Mixed upland forest, bluffs, cobble beach on saltwater.


**Viewing:** Take steep 0.2-mile trail down to Cascadia Marine Trail campsites; walk 0.2 mile south on beach to tip of island. Also bird by ferry: Mukilteo-Clinton.

**Access:** From Hwy 525 at milepost 11.2, turn west onto Cultus Bay Rd. Drive 4.8 miles. Continue straight onto Possession Rd. Drive 1.6 miles. Turn right onto Franklin Rd. Drive 0.3 mile to parking.

**South Whidbey State Park**

**Habitat:** 347 acres of old mixed forest, saltwater shoreline.

The Great Washington State Birding Trail

**PUGET LOOP**

VIEWING: Walk 0.4-mile Discovery Trail loop spring-summer for Band-tailed Pigeons, Hutton’s Vireos, Pacific-slope Flycatchers. Take 0.8-mile Wilbert Trail (across Smugglers Cove Rd) for summer’s Black-throated Gray, Townsend’s Warblers; Western Tanagers.

ACCESS: From Hwy 525 at milepost 19, turn west onto Bush Point Rd/Smugglers Cove Rd. Drive 4.9 miles. Turn left into park, left again into parking.

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**Crockett Lake and More** 🌼💰💃 ($ except Sunday)

HABITAT: State 1200 acres: 2-mile saltwater spit, lake, uplands.

BIRDING: 3 distinct habitats – marine, lake, uplands – support varied, distinct birdlife.

VIEWING: Keystone Spit #1 – Walk to beach for Pacific Loons fall-winter. Cross highway to Crockett Lake for shorebirds fall-spring: Black-bellied Plovers, Greater Yellowlegs, Western Sandpipers, Dunlins. Plentiful birds of prey: Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks, Short-eared Owls. **Keystone Spit #2** – On spit watch for Lapland Longspurs (possible); Horned Larks in fall; Snow Buntings in winter. At Crockett Lake check pilings for Purple Martins in summer; Peregrine Falcons fall-spring; Trumpeter Swans, Northern Pintails in winter. **State Underwater Park** – Cormorants – Brandt’s, Double-crested, Pelagic – perch on old dock, Pigeon Guillemots nest underneath; on jetty see Heermann’s Gulls in summer; Harlequin Ducks, Bonaparte’s Gulls fall-spring. **Fort Casey State Park Picnic Area** – Take 0.1-mile trail east through conifers for House Wrens in summer; Great Horned Owls year-round. Picnic area spring-fall: Cassin’s Vireos; Orange-crowned, Wilson’s Warblers; Evening Grosbeaks. Summer; Olive-sided Flycatchers. Year-round: California Quail. Also by bird ferry; Coupeville Pt Townsend.

ACCESS: From intersection of Hwy 525 at milepost 30.5/Hwy 20 mp 17.6, turn west onto Hwy 20. Drive 2.1 miles. Turn left into #1 Spit parking area. Drive 1 block to T. Turn right. Drive 0.1 mile to viewing platform. Return to highway. Turn left. Drive 0.5 mile. Turn left into #2 Spit parking area. Return to highway. Turn left. Drive 0.6 mile. Turn left into Underwater Park. Return to highway. Turn left. Drive 0.5 mile. Turn left to lighthouse. Drive 0.6 mile. Park at Admiralty Head Interpretive Center for Fort Casey Picnic Area.

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**Penn Cove** 🌷💰艅 (except Sunday)

HABITAT: WDFW-county-city shoreline on saltwater.

BIRDING: Superstars in the spotlight: Western Grebes; Surf, White-winged Scoters; Black Turnstones, Surtbeds, Sandpipers – with cameos by other marine species and birds of prey.


ACCESS: From Hwy 20 at milepost 21.8, turn north onto N Main St. Drive 0.5 mile. Turn right onto NE 9th St. Drive 0.3 mile. Turn left into Capt. Thomas Coupe Park. Return on NE 9th to N Main. Turn right onto N Main. Drive 1 block. Turn left onto Coveland St. Drive 0.2 mile. Veer left onto Madrona Wy. Drive 2.5 miles. Turn right into unsigned WDFW parking circle for **Grasser’s Lagoon**. Continue west 0.6 mile on Madrona Wy. Turn right onto Hwy 20. Drive 0.8 mile. Turn right onto Holbrook Rd. Drive 1 block. At T, turn left onto Penn Cove Rd. Drive 1.8 miles. Turn right into Monroe Landing parking.

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**Fort Ebey State Park** 🌺💰巨星 ($) ($ except Sunday)

HABITAT: 645 acres of evergreens, pond, marsh, bluffs, saltwater shore.


VIEWING: Take 0.1-mile trail to **Lake Pondilla**, continue around pond to left 0.2 mile up to bluffs. Bonus: spring wildflowers, migrating gray whales; harbor, Dall’s porpoises. Great Horned, Barred, Northern Saw-whet Owls nest along Old Gun Battery Trail.

ACCESS: From Hwy 20 at milepost 25.3, turn west onto Libby Rd. Drive 0.9 mile. Turn left onto Hill Valley Rd. Drive 0.6 mile. Turn right. Drive 0.3 mile. At T, turn right onto Lake Pondilla Rd. Drive 0.4 mile to Lake Pondilla parking. Old Gun Battery – Return to T. Go straight. Drive 0.3 mile. Turn right. Drive 0.1 mile to parking.

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**Swan Lake and More** 🌷💰쉽 ($ except Sunday)

HABITAT: County’s salt-marsh restoration; ocean bluffs, saltwater.


VIEWING: Walk across W Beach Rd, down to lakeshore, dike. Also check marine waters, beach, bluffs.

ACCESS: From Hwy 20 at milepost 30.8, turn west onto Swantown Ave. Drive 2.8 miles. At T, turn left onto W Beach Rd. Drive. 0.9 mile to parking pullout on right.

MORE BIRDING: **Joseph Whidbey State Park** for American Bitterns, Virginia Rails, Soras, Common Yellowthroats; Yellow, Yellow-rumped Warblers spring-summer. Return 0.8 mile on W Beach Rd. Park, pullout on left. Walk 0.6-mile trail by freshwater wetlands, willows.

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**Deception Pass State Park** 🌺💰★ ($ except Sunday)

HABITAT: Marine waters, beaches, lake; old-growth, mixed forest.

BIRDING: Wintering loons steal the show! In pass see rafts of Red-throated, Pacific, Common. Fall-spring find Brandt’s, Pelagic, Double-crested Cormorants; Western, Red-necked Grebes; Mew,
Ring-billed, Thayer’s Gulls; Common Murres, Marbled Murrelets, plus Black Oystercatchers. Year-round in treetops: Bald Eagles; in forest: Red-breasted Sapsuckers; Downy, Hair, Pileated Woodpeckers; Northern Flickers, plus Pacific Wrens, Varied Thrushes (fall-winter), Yellow-rumped Warblers.

VIEWING: West Beach-Cranberry Lake – Walk north for Deception Pass, Strait of Juan de Fuca. Walk south on ADA 1.2-mile Sand Dune Interpretive Trail for Yellow, Black-throated Gray Warblers spring-fall. At 0.4 mile take short side path to lake viewing platform for nesting Pied-billed Grebes plus Soras, Marsh Wrens, Cedar Waxwings. Above lake: Vaux’s Swifts spring, fall; Ospreys; Tree, Violet-green Swallows in summer. Bonus: harbor seals, harbor porpoise, deer. *Hoyopus Hill* – Past gate, walk old road 0.8 mile to trailhead for 3-mile main loop in one of state’s largest lowland old-growth forests.

ACCESS: Beach-Lake – From Hwy 20 at milepost 40.8, turn west into state park. Drive 0.4 mile. At T, turn left. Drive 0.8 mile to West Beach parking. *Hoyopus* – From Hwy 20 at milepost 40.8, turn east onto Cornet Bay Rd. Drive 1.4 miles to boat launch parking.
The Great Washington State Birding Trail

Killebrew Lake – Island’s most reliable spot for MacGillivray’s Warblers spring-summer; Wood Ducks spring-fall. Moran State Park – At higher elevation: Sooty Grouse, Common Nighthawks. In woods: Swainson’s Thrushes, Purple Finches spring-fall; Hairy, Pileated Woodpeckers; Varied Thrushes year-round.

VIEWING: Richardson – View marsh from roadside. Killebrew – Primitive trail leads around marsh to right; bird by non-motorized boat. Moran – Map at Cascade Lake kiosk shows trails, road to Cascade Falls, Mt. Constitution. Spot American Dippers in creek by 0.2-mile Cascade Falls Trail. Bonus: 360° view from 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps summit lookout tower. Also bird by ferry: Anacortes-Friday Harbor/Inter-island.

ACCESS: Richardson – From ferry dock, turn west onto Orcas Rd. Drive 2.5 miles. Turn left onto Deer Harbor Rd. Drive 4.5 miles. Turn right onto Channel Rd. Drive 1.1 miles. Park in pullout on right.

Killebrew – From ferry dock, turn east onto Killebrew Lake Rd. Drive 2.4 miles. Park in pullout on left. Moran – Continue on Killebrew one block. Veer left onto Dolphin Bay Rd. Drive 5.4 miles (road turns right at 4.9 miles). At Y, stay straight onto Horseshoe Hwy/Orcas Rd. Drive 2.8 miles. Turn right onto Main St. Drive 1.2 miles. Turn right onto Olga Rd. Drive 3.6 miles to Cascade Lake parking on left.

Support the Great Washington State Birding Trail – Join Audubon Washington –

Mission
To conserve and restore natural ecosystems – focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats – for the benefit of humanity and earth’s biological diversity.

Important Bird Areas
The worldwide Important Bird Areas (IBA) program identifies sites essential to healthy, long-term bird populations, and works for conservation of these sites. Audubon is the lead U.S. organization for the IBA program.

Bird Information
• Audubon Washington, wa.audubon.org with links to: Eastside, Kitsap, Rainier, San Juan, Seattle, Tahoma, Vashon-Maury, and Whidbey Audubon societies
• Washington Ornithological Society, www.wos.org
• Tweeters, online discussion hosted by U of WA, www.scn.org/earth/tweeters
• BirdWeb, Seattle Audubon’s online WA bird guide, www.birdweb.org

Thanks!
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