



Trumpeter Swans

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The Great Washington State Birding Trail

SOUTHWEST LOOP

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INFO KEY

MAP ICONS



Seasonal Access (spring, summer, fall, winter)



Developed camping available, including restrooms. Fee required.



Restroom available at day-use site.



Handicapped restroom and handicapped trail or viewing access.



Important Bird Area



Fee required. Passes best obtained prior to travel

Passes best obtained prior to travel. Washington Dept. of fish and Wildlife (WDFW), WDNR, and state parks require Discover Pass 866-320-9933, www.discoverpass.wa.gov; USFS, USFWS, national monuments and parks 888-275-8747, www.nps.gov/passes

ABBREVIATIONS

USFS - US Forest Service

USFWS - US Fish and Wildlife Service

WDFW - Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

WDNR - Washington Dept. of Natural Resources

LOCAL SERVICES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Overall Washington: www.experiencewashington.com

Shorebird Festival: Last weekend in April,

1-800-303-8498, www.shorebirdfestival.com

Birdfest: 2nd weekend of Oct, 360-887-4106, www.ridgefieldfriends.org

Sites 1-3 and 51-54: Olympia/Thurston County Visitor and Convention Bureau, 1-877-704-7500, www.visitolympia.com

Sites 4-10: Grays Harbor Tourism,

1-800-621-9625, www.GraysHarborTourism.com

Sites 11-23: Long Beach Peninsula Visitors Bureau,

1-800-451-2545, www.funbeach.com

Sites 24-25: Lower Columbia Economic Development Council,

360-795-3996, www.welcometowahkiakum.com

Sites 26-27 and 47-49: Cowlitz County Tourism,

360-577-3137, www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/tourism

Sites 28-32: Southwest Washington Convention and Visitors Bureau,

1-877-600-0800x20, www.southwestwashington.com

Sites 33-36: Skamania County Chamber of Commerce,

1-800-989-9178, www.skamania.org

Sites 37-38: Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce,

509-493-3630, www.mtadams



GENERAL INFORMATION

- Use Birding Trail map along w/ state highway map.
- Driving directions often list mileage plus a fraction, e.g., “milepost 37.5”, which means continue 0.5 mile beyond milepost 37.0. Mileage markers are located on east or south side of state highways, with mileage calculated from south to north and from west to east.
- Many WDFW and Wildlife Refuge sites allow hunting September-January. Follow posted instructions and use caution.
- Disclaimer: Hiking and birding, even on established trails, can be dangerous. Audubon does not warrant conditions on or the safety of any site, and assumes no liability for injuries suffered as a result of travel or other activities associated with use of this map.



1 Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge



HABITAT: USFWS and WDFW 4,000-acre river delta w/ forest, salt- and freshwater wetlands, meadows, deciduous riparian woodlands, salt marsh, and Puget Sound mudflats.

BIRDING: Spring foliage shelters Western Tanagers; and Orange-crowned, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, MacGillivray's, and Wilson's Warblers, while Bush-tits and Spotted Towhees sing in brush and Rufous Hummingbirds flit in wildflowers. Meadows attract Song and Savannah Sparrows, Short-eared Owls, and Northern Harriers. Great Horned Owls sleep in trees near Twin Barns. American Bitterns and Marsh Wrens skulk in wetlands year-round. In winter, watch for Peregrine Falcons, Merlins and Bald Eagles, as 6,000 waterfowl gather in freshwater ponds: Northern Pintails, American and a few Eurasian Wigeons, Canada and Cackling Geese, and Green-winged Teal.

VIEWING: Walk 1.1-mile ADA Twin Barns Loop and 5.5-mile Brown Farm Loop on outer dike (closed hunting season Oct-Jan).

ACCESS: From I-5, take exit 114 (Nisqually). Turn north onto Nisqually Cut-off Rd. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn right (east) into Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Drive 0.5 mile to parking areas.

MORE BIRDING: From I-5, exit 114 (Nisqually). Drive southwest on Martin Wy 1.1 miles. Turn right (north) onto Meridian Rd. Drive 0.4 mile. At roundabout, exit right (east) onto Meridian Rd NE. Drive 2 miles. Turn right (east) onto 46th Ave NE. Drive 0.2 mile. Turn left (north) onto D'Milluhr Dr NE. Drive 0.5 mile to Public Access Area boat landing and park. Aug-Nov, use scope to see Dunlin, Greater Yellowlegs, Least and Western Sandpipers, Short- and Long-billed Dowitchers on mudflats, plus deep-water birds: Brant, Rhinoceros Auklets, Common Murres, Marbled Murrelets, Red-throated and Common Loons, Eared and Horned Grebes; and Surf, White-winged, and Black Scoters. (Avoid hunting season Oct-Jan.)

2 Woodard Bay



HABITAT: WDNR Natural Resources Conservation Area 678 acres of coniferous forest on saltwater bay.

BIRDING: Bay hosts wintering Common, Red-throated, and Pacific Loons; Horned and Western Grebes, Buffleheads, Hooded Mergansers, Greater Scaups, Common and Barrow's Goldeneyes, Surf and White-winged Scoters, and Canvasbacks. Dabblers include Northern Pintails, American Wigeons, and sometimes Gadwalls and Green-winged Teal. Forest contains Varied Thrushes, Winter Wrens, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, and Downy and Pileated Woodpeckers.

VIEWING: Take 0.75-mile Overlook Trail to picnic tables above Woodard Bay.

ACCESS: From I-5, take exit 109 (Sleater-Kinney Rd N). Turn southwest onto Martin Wy E. Drive 0.6 mile. Turn right (northwest) onto Sleater-Kinney Rd. Drive 4.3 miles. Road turns left, becoming 56th Ave NE. Continue on 56th Ave E 0.4 mile. Turn right (northwest) onto Shinke Rd NE. At 0.5 mile, road turns left (west) becoming Woodard Bay Rd NE. Continue on Woodard Bay Rd NE 0.4 mile. Turn right (north) into Chehalis Western Trail parking.

MORE BIRDING: Continue 0.2-mile further west on Woodard Bay Rd NE. Turn right (northeast) into parking area. Walk 1 mile on old Witham Rd to Chapman Bay overlook, or to 1-mile Loop Trail for night roost of Double-crested Cormorants. Summer Bonuses: Nesting Purple Martins, seals w/ pups on log booms, and bats from large colony at twilight.

3 Priest Point Park



HABITAT: Municipal park on saltwater bay w/ 1-mile gravel shoreline, 300-acre riparian forest w/ some old-growth conifers.

BIRDING: Spring brings colorful migrants: Rufous Hummingbirds, American Goldfinches, and Tree and Violet-green Swallows. Ospreys arrive in May. In November look for Buffleheads, Red-necked Grebes, and Surf Scoters on bay; Greater Yellowlegs along shore; and Varied Thrushes, Black-capped Chickadees, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Song Sparrows, and Winter Wrens in forest. Nov-April is high season for saltwater species: Rhinoceros Auklets; Double-crested, Pelagic, and Brandt's Cormorants; Western and Horned Grebes; and Pigeon Guillemots. Common and Barrow's Goldeneyes. Belted Kingfishers, and Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers live here year-round.

VIEWING: 3-mile Ellis Cove Trail winds through old-growth trees and along Budd Inlet's rocky beaches. Ospreys nest in canopy near trailhead.

ACCESS: From I-5, take exit 105B (Port of Olympia). Continue north on Plum St/East Bay Dr. Drive 2.1 miles. Turn right (east) into Priest Point Park. Drive 0.4 mile through park, cross over East Bay Dr on bridge. Turn LEFT at “Exit South” sign, then immediately turn right onto road to Ellis Cove Trail. Drive 0.1 mile to Ellis Cove Trail parking.

4 Chehalis Wildlife Area



HABITAT: WDFW 527-acre freshwater wetlands, and ponds w/ deciduous riparian edges.

BIRDING: Wood Ducks, Pied-billed Grebes, Ring-necked Ducks, and Lesser Scaups swim on ponds in spring. American Bitterns, Virginia Rails, and Marsh Wrens call from marshes year-round. Winter brings Canada Geese, Double-crested Cormorants, even Mew Gulls, plus Fox and Golden-crowned Sparrows.

VIEWING: Take 0.25-mile ADA paved trail to blind on first pond, or 0.75-



mile trail south on old road passing two large ponds w/ possible Green Herons.

ACCESS: From Hwy 12 at milepost 18.1, turn south onto Schouweiler Rd. Drive 0.3 mile. Turn left (south) onto Rd # 6510. Drive 0.2 mile to unsigned WDFW parking area.

5 Ferbache/Monte Brady



HABITAT: WDFW riparian woods/seasonal wetlands in private farm fields.

BIRDING: Greater Yellowlegs, Dunlins, and Black-bellied Plovers arrive after fall rains. In winter abundant raptors – Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, Cooper's and Rough-legged Hawks, Merlins, American Kestrels – hunt over fields where Trumpeter and a few Tundra Swans feed. Look in field ponds for Buffleheads and dabblers: American Wigeons, Northern Shovelers, Northern Pintails, and Green-winged Teal.

VIEWING: Scope fields for raptors and swans. Check trees south of fields for Western Scrub and Steller's Jays, Northern Flickers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Savannah Sparrows.

ACCESS: From Hwy 12 at milepost 14.8, turn south onto Monte Brady Rd. Turn left (east) at T onto Brady Loop Rd. Drive 3.6 miles (road twists and turns). Turn left (south) onto Foster Rd. Drive 0.5 mile. Turn left (south) at public fishing sign into WDFW parking area. To return to Hwy 12 via loop, drive west then north 1.9 miles on Brady Loop Rd. Turn left at T onto Monte Brady Rd. Drive 0.8 mile (west) to Hwy 12 at milepost 12.6.

6 Chehalis River Surge Plain



HABITAT: WDNR Natural Area Preserve 2,644 acres of Chehalis River sloughs w/ coniferous and deciduous riparian areas and forested wetlands.

BIRDING: Bald Eagles, Red-breasted Sapsuckers; and Downy, Hairy, and Pileated Woodpeckers use snags. Sloughs are favored by Double-crested Cormorants, Pied-billed Grebes, Hooded and Common Mergansers, Northern Shovelers, Northern Pintails, Canvasbacks, and Ruddy Ducks. Spring migrants include Black-throated Gray Warblers, and Song and White-crowned Sparrows. In fall find Hermit Thrushes, Cedar Waxwings, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets.

VIEWING: Walk to viewing platform at 0.5 mile and bench at 1.75 miles; 3.5-mile trail leads to end of Blue Slough.

ACCESS: From Aberdeen, take Hwy 101 S (toward Raymond/Cosmopolis). At milepost 79.4, turn east onto Blue Slough Rd. Drive 4.6 miles. Turn left (east) onto Hwy 107 N. Drive 1.1 miles. Turn left (north) onto Preacher's Slough Rd. Turn immediately left into trailhead parking.

7 Johns River



HABITAT: WDFW 1500 acres of tidally influenced river estuary, freshwater wetlands bordering deciduous and coniferous forest.

BIRDING: Spring and fall feature migrating Greater Yellowlegs, Short-billed

Dowitchers, Wilson's Snipe, Varied Thrushes, Spotted Towhees, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. White-crowned, Song, and Fox Sparrows stay fall-winter. Year-round residents include Double-crested Cormorants, Killdeer, Marsh Wrens, Red-tailed Hawks, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Northern Flickers, and Steller's Jays.

VIEWING: Take 1.25-mile dike trail (first 0.5-mile ADA to bird blind).

Scope riverbank and slough for river otters. See Roosevelt Elk in fall.

ACCESS: From Hwy 105 at milepost 37.1, turn east onto Johns River Rd. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn left onto Game Farm Rd. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn right (north) into WDFW boat launch and parking area.

MORE BIRDING: From Hwy 105 at milepost 37.8, (0.7 mile north of Johns River Rd) turn east into unsigned WDFW lane. Park by gate. Good birding along old road for 2 miles.

8 Bottle Beach State Park



HABITAT: Park of 76 acres on saltwater bay w/shoreline mud flats, uplands of shrub, Sitka spruce.

BIRDING: Use scope for spring shorebirds. April brings Dunlins, Red Knots, Western Sandpipers, Semipalmated Plovers, and Killdeer on their way to Alaska. In May check shrubs for Bewick's Wrens and American Goldfinches. Black-bellied Plovers, Short-billed and some Long-billed Dowitchers migrate through spring and fall; fall-only migrants include Whimbrels and American Golden Plovers. Marbled Godwits arrive in fall and stay the winter.

VIEWING: Walk 0.1-mile trail along dike, cross bridge, and follow path to beach. Birding is best 1.5 hours before and after high tide. Check bridge area for Virginia Rails, Marsh Wrens, and Rufous Hummingbirds. Caution: Stay off treacherous mudflats.

ACCESS: From Hwy 105 at milepost 34.8 (across from Ocosta Third St), turn northwest into parking pull-off at "Road Closed" sign. Caution: Short sight-distance for exiting/entering 50-mph-highway.

9 Westport Ocean Beaches



HABITAT: Municipal and state ocean beach, rock shoreline, and shore-pine woods.

BIRDING: Common Terns migrate through spring and fall. Brown Pelicans arrive in July. At dawn Rhinoceros Auklets may fly in and out of Half-Moon Bay. Fall-winter winds may blow Black-legged Kittiwakes into port. Fall-spring find Brant, Double-crested and Pelagic Cormorants; Common, Pacific, and Red-throated Loons; Red-necked, Horned, and Western Grebes; and Surf, White-winged, and Black Scoters – and occasional Long-tailed Ducks, Glaucous Gulls, and Barrow's Goldeneyes. In winter look for Black Turnstones, Rock Sandpipers, and Surfbirds on rock jetties, Harlequin Ducks in water by jetties, and Common Murres, Pigeon Guillemots, and Marbled Murrelets further out.

VIEWING: Use scope from **Westport Marina** Observation Platform.

Bonus: possible seals, sea lions and gray whales. Walk south to tower to 3-mile paved ADA Dune Trail to **Half-Moon Bay, Westhaven State Park**, and Westport Light State Park. Birding is best in first 2 miles.

ACCESS: Westport Marina - From Hwy 105 S at milepost 30.7, turn north onto Montesano St. S, which becomes N Montesano St/N 105 Spur/Dock St. Drive 3.6 miles. Turn left (west) onto Westhaven Dr. Drive 0.3 mile. Turn right (north) onto Neddie Rose Dr. Drive 0.3 mile to Westport Marina Observation Platform parking. **Half-Moon Bay, Westhaven State Park** - From Hwy 105 S at milepost 30.7, turn north onto Montesano St. S, which becomes N Montesano St/N 105 Spur. Drive 3.2 miles Turn left (southwest) on unnamed street to Westhaven State Park. Drive 0.4 mile to Coast Guard Half-Moon Bay tower parking area or continue 0.6 mile further to Westhaven State Park. Walk to beach and ADA loop trail.

**10 Westport Pelagic Birding**

HABITAT: Pacific Ocean.

BIRDING: See Continental Shelf birds: Fork-tailed Storm Petrels, Cassin's Auklets, Black-footed Albatrosses, Northern Fulmars, and Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwaters (May-October); Buller's and Flesh-footed Shearwaters (August-October); Red and Red-necked Phalaropes; and Pomarine, Parasitic, and Long-tailed Jaegers (August). Summer-fall sightings may include South Polar Skuas, Black-legged Kittiwakes, Sabine's Gulls, and Tufted Puffins, with Leaches Storm Petrels further offshore. Watchers may spot rarities: Red-legged Kittiwakes, Parakeet Auklets, Ancient Murrelets, and Manx Shearwaters. Winter possibilities are Laysan Albatrosses, Short-tailed Shearwaters, and Thick-billed Murres.

VIEWING: Pelagic trips – Westport Seabirds, PO Box 665, Westport WA 98595, 360-268-5222, pmand@reachone.com, www.westportseabirds.com.

ACCESS: From Hwy 105 S at milepost 30.7 in Westport, turn north onto Montesano St. S, which becomes N Montesano St/N 105 Spur/Dock St. Drive 3.6 miles. Park on street. Pelagic trips leave from Float #8.

11 Tokeland Marina

HABITAT: Pacific Ocean, and tidal marsh managed by port.

BIRDING: Famous for hundreds of wintering Marbled Godwits. Other

long-legged shorebirds arrive in fall: Long-billed Curlews, Whimbrels, Greater Yellowlegs, and rare Willets and Bar-tailed Godwits. Flocks of Sooty Shearwaters and Brown Pelicans appear late summer-fall. Brant stay winter-spring.

VIEWING: Scan water around docks, inside breakwater, and along ocean entrance to Willapa Bay.

ACCESS: From Hwy 105 S at milepost 18.6, turn south onto Tokeland Rd/Kindred Ave. Drive 3.0 miles to Tokeland Marina. Turn left on Front Ln. Park in first parking area on right.

12 Smith Creek

HABITAT: WDFW 646 acres of estuarine and mudflats, tidal salt marsh, and conifer hillside.

BIRDING: Fall shorebird migration starts in July, bringing Whimbrels, Marbled Godwits, Greater Yellowlegs, Black-bellied Plovers, and Short-billed Dowitchers. Tundra and Trumpeter Swans may appear in winter.

VIEWING: From bridge look south down onto Smith Creek slough. Watch shorebirds at high tide on logs and pilings, and between tides on mud flats. From northeast corner of parking lot, walk 0.25-mile abandoned road into spruce forest. Paddle up Smith Creek or North River on high tide.

ACCESS: From Hwy 105 at milepost 10.1, turn east into WDFW boat launch parking area on Smith Creek.

13 Helen Davis Park

HABITAT: 125-acre municipal park on Willapa River estuary w/ riparian restoration of salmon creek.

BIRDING: In spring Orange-crowned Warblers, Varied Thrushes, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets sing in leafy trees. In estuary, find Western Grebes, Common Loons, Buffleheads, Red-breasted Mergansers, Pelagic and Double-crested Cormorants, California Gulls, even Ospreys.

VIEWING: Boat along salt marsh on west riverbank. Walk south through parking area to deciduous grove by river. From picnic area, scope river and tide flats, or walk across Hwy 101 to Mill Creek and take 0.1-mile gravel path through riparian corridor.

ACCESS: From Hwy 101 at milepost 53.3 in city of South Bend, turn north into park.

14 Bush Pioneer Park & Palix River

HABITAT: 40-acre county park on forested bluff above saltwater mud flats, intertidal river estuary, and freshwater wetlands.

BIRDING: Best during migration, especially fall. Shorebird visitors – hunted by Peregrine Falcons and Merlins – include Short-billed Dowitchers, Black-bellied Plovers, Western and Least Sandpipers, Greater Yellowlegs, and Dunlins. Common Loons are present April-May and return for winter. In winter, see Horned and Western Grebes, American Wigeons, occasional Eurasian Wigeons, Green-winged Teal, and Northern Pintails.

VIEWING: Open year-round for birding, camping May-Sept. Search evergreens on south side of playfield year-round for Brown Creepers, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Northern Flickers; and Downy, Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers; and possible Red Crossbills in summer. Bald Eagles and Cooper's Hawks roost in conifers.

ACCESS: From Hwy 101 at milepost 42.4, turn west onto Bay Center Dike Rd. Drive 2.6 miles (through town of Bay Center) to Bush Pioneer Park. Park just inside entrance on left.

MORE BIRDING: Drive 0.9 mile on Bay Center Dike Rd. Park on south side of road for meadow view to south, river views to north. Early spring, check riparian brush and trees for kinglets; later in spring for Common Yellowthroats; and Orange-crowned, Townsend's, Wilson's, Yellow, and MacGillivray's Warblers. At 1.4 mile of dike road, park on south roadside, walk west to pond. Green Herons and four species of swallow come in summer; Great Egrets in fall, and Snow and possible Greater White-fronted Geese in winter.



15 Long Island



HABITAT: USFWS island w/ 274-acre old-growth forest encircled by salt marshes and tidal mud flats.

BIRDING: Birding by boat offers Bald Eagles, and Great Blue Herons in easy-to-find rookery. Scan woods for elusive Hutton's Vireo; and Black-throated Gray, Wilson's and Townsend's Warblers. Pileated Woodpeckers peck, Ruffed Grouse drum, and Brown Creepers, well, creep. In spring Brant forage on eel grass beds on west side of Island while Common, Pacific, and Red-throated Loons fish.

VIEWING: Launch at high tide, paddle/motor 0.25 mile across channel to landing on south end of island. Walk 2.5-miles north on main road; turn east for 0.75-mile Trail of Ancient Cedars loop. Plan for all-day wilderness experience. Cautions: Resident black bears and Roosevelt elk, impassable crossing at low tide, treacherous mud flats, sudden high afternoon winds. Avoid September's bow hunting season.

ACCESS: From Hwy 101 at milepost 24.2, turn east into Willapa National Wildlife Refuge headquarters parking area. Boat launch is across 101 from headquarters. Register for camping at headquarters.

MORE BIRDING: From refuge headquarters (open 7:30-4:30 M-F), follow 0.5-mile Willapa Salmon Art Trail up hill to creek headwaters. First 0.25-mile is ADA. In spring check shrubs and trees for Yellow-rumped and Orange-crowned Warblers, Pacific-slope Flycatchers, Pine Siskins, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Swainson's Thrushes. In winter look for Varied Thrushes, Fox Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, and Winter Wrens.

16 Lewis Unit-Willapa National Wildlife Refuge



HABITAT: USFWS salt- and freshwater marshes by south Willapa Bay, hillside of deciduous and conifer forest.

BIRDING: Water birds rule the roost! Freshwater marsh birds include Common Mergansers, Canvasbacks, and Northern Shovelers. Spring brings Killdeer, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, and Spotted Sandpipers, plus Tree, Northern Rough-winged, Violet-green, and Barn Swallows. Forest harbors Common Ravens, Barred Owls, Band-tailed Pigeons, Spotted

Towhees, and Steller's Jays.

VIEWING: Walk left up 0.5-mile hillside trail or down to 2-mile trail along dike to check ponds. Scope mud flats at low tide for spring shorebirds.

ACCESS: From Hwy 101 at milepost 18.6, turn west onto Jeldness Rd. Drive 1.2 miles to Lewis Unit parking area.

17 Long Beach



HABITAT: Municipal access to 11 miles of ocean beach, sand dunes, and myrtle shrub.

BIRDING: Shorebirds galore! Spring migration (April-May) features Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, Western and Least Sandpipers, Short-billed and a few Long-billed Dowitchers – who all return beginning in July. Thousands of shorebirds come through in fall; migration peaks mid-September. Some Semipalmated and Baird's Sandpipers arrive in fall along w/ Sanderlings and Dunlins. Brown Pelicans skim waves in fall.

VIEWING: Take Discovery Trail south, or north (first 0.4 mile ADA) to whale skeleton and to bronze tree commemorating 1805 Lewis and Clark expedition.

ACCESS: From Hwy 103/Pacific Hwy in the town of Long Beach, turn west onto 10th St S/Sid Snyder Dr. Drive 0.2 mile to beach parking lot.

18 Willapa Bay Interpretive Center



HABITAT: Port-owned salt marsh on Willapa Bay.

BIRDING: Ruddy and Black Turnstones pass through late April-May and return July-Sept. Brown Pelicans arrive late summer. Fall brings Great Egrets, Common Loons, Red-necked and Western Grebes, Surfbirds, Heermann's Gulls; and dabblers: Northern Pintails, Green-winged Teal, and American and Eurasian Wigeons.

VIEWING: From deck of interpretive center, use scope to scan salt marshes and bay.

ACCESS: Drive north on Hwy 103/Pacific Hwy which becomes Vernon Ave at city of Ocean Park, turns right (east) becoming Bay Ave, turns left (north) becoming Sandridge Rd. Drive 0.5 mile. Turn right (east) onto 273rd St. Drive 0.1 mile to center parking.

19 Leadbetter Point



HABITAT: State park and USFWS 4,900 acres of forest, sand dunes, mud flats, and ocean beach.

BIRDING: Rare Snowy Plovers nest on section of beach closed March-Sept. Abundant Western and Least Sandpipers, Sanderlings, and Short-billed Dowitchers feed on sand and mud flats April-May on their way north, and July-Sept on their way south. In fall Lapland Longspurs are possible in open grasses and Great Egrets at water's edge, while Ring-billed and Western Gulls dip and dive. In winter Peregrine Falcons and Merlins hunt the numerous Dunlins; Brant and Bald Eagles also present. Hutton's Vireos live in forest year-round.

VIEWING: From northwest edge of parking lot, green trail is 1.1-mile loop trail overlooking bay, blue is 1.3-mile (one-way) west to ocean beach; yellow is 1.8-mile (one-way) northwest to beach. South from parking lot, red trail is 2.9-mile forest loop. Caution: Trails may flood Oct-May.

ACCESS: Drive north on Hwy 103/Pacific Hwy which becomes Vernon Ave at city of Ocean Park, turns right (east) becoming Bay Ave, turns left (north) becoming Sandridge Rd, turns left (west) becoming Oysterville Rd, turns right (north) becoming Stackpole Rd. Drive 3.7 miles to Leadbetter Point parking area.



20 Black Lake Park



HABITAT: Municipal-owned 40-acre lake w/evergreen and deciduous border.

BIRDING: Family-friendly area w/ best birding in winter. Trumpeter Swans stay November-March. Spring attracts Golden-crowned Kinglets, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, and Red Crossbills to conifers. Double-crested Cormorants and Western Gulls float on water.

VIEWING: South access – Bird from covered picnic tables or walk north on path by lake. North access – From boat launch take 0.5-mile lakeside path up hill. Osprey nest is across lake.

ACCESS: South access - From Hwy 101 at milepost 12, turn east into Black Lake parking lot. North access- From Hwy 101 at milepost 12.2, bear north onto Sandbridge Rd. Turn right (east) at first gravel road. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn right (south). Drive 0.1 mile to boat launch parking.

21 Cape Disappointment State Park



HABITAT: 1,964-acre park w/ Pacific Ocean beach, Columbia River estuary, fresh- and saltwater wetlands, and forest.

BIRDING: In Beard's Hollow spring-early summer, watch and listen for Marsh Wrens, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Swainson's Thrushes, Warbling Vireos, Black-throated Gray and Orange-crowned Warblers, Chestnut-backed and Black-capped Chickadees, and Wilson's Snipe. On the coast summer-early fall, enjoy a visual feast of Brown Pelicans; Brandt's, Pelagic, and Double-crested Cormorants, and nesting colonies of Caspian Terns. Year-round park residents include Bald Eagles, and Western and Glaucous-winged Gulls. Some Heermann's Gulls are possible Aug-Oct. Turkey Vultures soar April-Sept. Watch beaches for migrating Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, and Western and Least Sandpipers, and edges of freshwater lakes for Killdeer, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, and Spotted Sandpipers. Peregrine Falcons hunt Dunlin in winter.

VIEWING: Seven trails in park offer variety. **Beard's Hollow** - Take 0.1-mile trail to beach. **North Head Lighthouse** - Take short trail past lighthouse and scope Black Oystercatchers on cliff below; and Sooty Shearwaters, Parasitic Jaegers, and Common Murres skimming over ocean. **First North Jetty** - Scope cormorant rookery on cliffs to east. **Second North Jetty** - Amble north along Benson Beach. Look for Osprey nest in tree by Lake O'Neil.

ACCESS: **Beard's Hollow** - From Hwy 101 at milepost 11.5 in the town of

Ilwaco, turn west onto Hwy 100 loop. Drive 1.8 miles. Turn right (west) into Beard's Hollow parking area. **North Head Lighthouse** - From Hwy 100 loop at 2.2 miles, turn right (west) onto North Head lighthouse Rd. Drive 0.4 mile to parking lot. **North Jetty areas** - From Hwy 100 loop at 3.4 miles, turn right (southwest) into Cape Disappointment State Park. Drive straight 0.4 mile to parking on left (east), and 1.2 mile further to North Jetty parking area and beach access. For O'Neil Lake, turn right (northwest) past state park entrance station; park at lake, walk along shore.

MORE BIRDING: Hwy 100 loop dead-ends at 3.8 miles at Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. From center parking area, hike 0.75-mile trail to Cape Disappointment Lighthouse.

22 Chinook County Park

HABITAT: Beach and mud flats of Baker Bay.

BIRDING: Best at change from low to incoming tide. Use scope to see Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, and Western and Least Sandpipers feeding on sand bar. Purple Martins nest in pilings. Fall specialties are Brown Pelicans and Heermann's Gulls. Residents Oct-March include Surf and White-winged Scoters, some Black Scoters, American, some Eurasian Wigeons, Northern Pintails, Greater/Lesser Scaups, a few Green-winged Teal.

VIEWING: Walk to water, set up scope by picnic tables.

ACCESS: From Hwy 101 at milepost 3.9 in the town of Chinook, turn southeast onto Chinook County Park Rd.

23 Fort Columbia State Park

HABITAT: Park w/ conifer and deciduous forested hills.

BIRDING: Glimpse warblers in breeding plumage: Yellow-rumped, Wilson's and Townsend's. Other spring migrants include Western Wood-Pewees, and Pacific-slope and Olive-sided Flycatchers. Also, Varied Thrushes, Spotted Towhees, Chestnut-backed and Black-capped Chickadees, and Pileated Woodpeckers.

VIEWING: Walk back up Loop Drive northeast past Historic Walk sign to trailheads for Military Road and Canyon Creek trails. Take 1.6 mile Canyon Creek trail to Scarborough Hill summit.

ACCESS: From Hwy 101 at milepost 3.0 east of Chinook County Park, turn south into 593-acre Fort Columbia State Park. Wind up along Loop Drive 0.3 mile to parking area.

24 Devils Elbow

HABITAT: Columbia Land Trust's 90 acres of tidally flooded spruce swamp bottomland and willow thickets bordered by cottonwoods and cedar.

BIRDING: Wood Ducks show off in spring, along w/ migrating Common Yellowthroats, Yellow-rumped Warblers; and White-crowned and Song Sparrows. Killdeer nest along dike. Tree, Violet-green, and Barn Swallows streak over wetlands. Caspian Terns, Bald Eagles, and White-tailed Kites may be seen. American Wigeons, Northern Pintails, Northern Shovelers, Pied-billed Grebes, and American Coots dabble in winter. Common and Red-breasted Mergansers stay year-round.

VIEWING: Climb onto dike, look down into wetland restoration, scope conifers across field. Walk south 0.1 mile to river. At end of dike at low tide, turn left and walk .01 mile to levy breach. Bonus: View across Columbia River of Oregon. Caution: Winter flooding, muddy.

ACCESS: From Hwy 4 at milepost 12.9, turn east onto Raistakka Rd. Drive 0.4 mile to end of pavement. Turn left (northeast) into unimproved parking area.

25 Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge



HABITAT: USFWS 6,238 acres of Columbia River islands and sloughs, riparian cottonwood and alder, Sitka spruce, wetlands, meadows.

BIRDING: Spring brings swallows – Violet-green, Tree, Northern Rough-winged, Cliff, Barn, and Purple Martin – along w/ Northern Harriers in fields, Wood Ducks in sloughs, Ospreys by river, and Turkey Vultures in open spaces. Sharp-shinned Hawks possible Oct-early April. Dec-March, Bald Eagles nest, Greater Scaups forage, and Tundra Swans pull wapato. Peregrine Falcons are present fall-winter.

VIEWING: Watch swallow aerobatics from refuge office viewing platform. Pick up free refuge auto tour flyer. Drive, bicycle, or walk 4.1-mile Steamboat Slough road through refuge. Wet meadows in first 0.7 mile attract Yellow Warblers and American Goldfinches. At 2.3 miles, pole in field to north supports Purple Martin nest gourds. Warblers are common in roadside brush and trees miles 2.9-3.8. Nov-April wetlands abound w/ Canada Geese, American Wigeons, Green-winged Teal, Gadwalls, and Northern Pintails; and Cinnamon Teal in summer. At boundary of refuge, turn right (east) onto 2.4 mile, one-lane Brooks Slough Rd to return to Hwy 4 at milepost 31.4.

ACCESS: From Hwy 4 at milepost 33.5, turn south onto Steamboat Slough Rd. Drive 0.2 mile. Turn right into refuge office parking. Bonus: At refuge kiosk on Hwy 4 milepost 31.8, view Roosevelt Elk and deer early evenings. Salmon migrate up Elochoman River in fall.

MORE BIRDING: On Hwy 4 at milepost 29, (0.25 mile west of refuge), Skamokawa Paddle Center offers kayak/canoe guided birding tours. 360-920-8300, www.skamokawakayak.com.



26 Coal Creek Slough

HABITAT: County/port-owned 380 acres of pristine wetlands by Columbia River.

BIRDING: Spring summons Bullock's Orioles; and Willow, Olive-sided, and Pacific-slope Flycatchers. Summer skies hold Ospreys, Turkey Vultures, Purple Martins, and Violet-green, Rough-winged, and Barn Swallows, while Belted Kingfishers swoop from riparian perches. Look for Lesser Goldfinches, Mourning Doves, and Cedar Waxwings in overhanging brush while Common Mergansers and American Coots scuttle underneath. Conifers attract Hairy, Downy, and Pileated Woodpeckers.

VIEWING: Birding by boat: Allow 3 hours to canoe or kayak 2 miles through Coal Creek and Fisher Sloughs. Launch on rising tide, return on slack. Cautions: afternoon wind blows up Columbia River; impassable brush prevents landing on slough shores.

ACCESS: From Hwy 4 (Ocean Beach Hwy) at milepost 55, turn south into unmarked boat launch parking area.

27 Lake Sacajawea Park

HABITAT: Family-friendly 120-acre municipal park w/ lake and naturalized islands.

BIRDING: Good beginning birding. Spring mornings are best for Yellow-rumped Warblers, Violet-green and Barn Swallows. In winter, 34 species of easily seen waterfowl include dabblers – Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, American Wigeons, and Wood Ducks. Gulls – Ring-billed, Herring, and Glaucous-winged – also abound.

VIEWING: Walk west (right) to first island and 1.0 mile to second. Lake loop trail is 3.5 miles.

ACCESS: From Hwy 4/Ocean Beach Hwy at milepost 59.8 in City of Longview, turn south onto Kessler Blvd. Park on right side of street.

28 La Center Bottoms

HABITAT: Municipal/county park w/ 574 acres of riparian wetlands and hillside forest on East Fork of Lewis River.

BIRDING: Color flashes during spring migration: Western Tanager, Bullock's Orioles, and Rufous Hummingbirds. Turkey Vultures soar above in summer. First fall arrivals are Killdeer, Dunlin, Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitchers, and Wilson's Snipe, followed by Sandhill Cranes in October. Winter boasts hundreds of Tundra Swans.

VIEWING: Walk 0.3-mile paved ADA trail to river, where left trail leads 0.1-mile to woods w/ perches for Ospreys, Bald Eagles, and Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawks; right trail leads 0.4-mile by wetlands to two bird blinds.

ACCESS: From I-5, take exit 16 (La Center). Turn east onto NW La Center Rd/Old Pacific Hwy. Drive 1.9 miles. Turn right at end of bridge guardrail onto W 3rd St. Turn right immediately again. Drive down hill into parking area.

29 Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

HABITAT: USFWS 5,150 acres of wetlands, grasslands, and woodlands along the Columbia River.

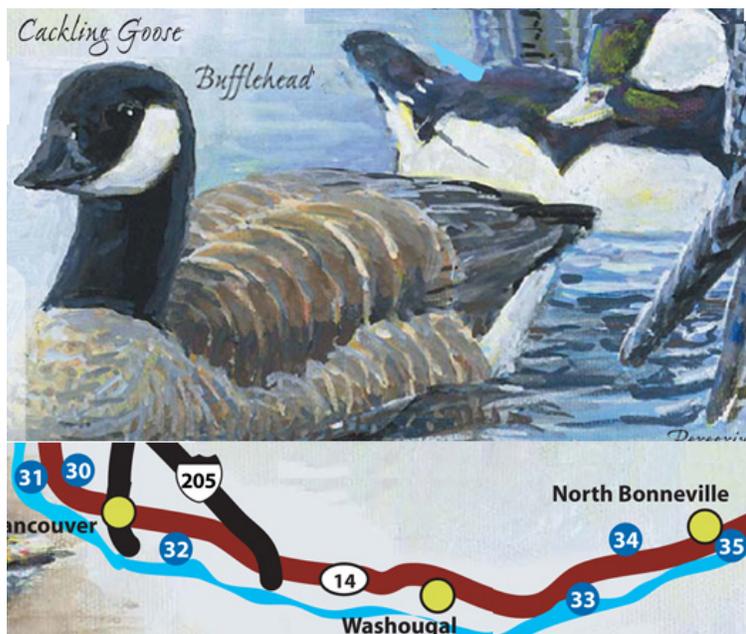
BIRDING: Refuge is home to Sandhill Cranes mid-Oct to April; 15,000 Cackling and Canada Geese mid-Nov to mid-April; and Tundra Swans Nov-March. Resident Bald Eagles prepare nests in January. Plethora of wintering ducks includes Gadwalls, American Wigeons, Northern Shovelers, Northern Pintails, Ring-necked Ducks, Green-winged Teal, Buffleheads, and Lesser Scaups. Green Herons remain April-Oct, Black-crowned Night-Herons and Great Egrets visit briefly late summer to early fall, unusual White-throated Sparrows winter here. Look for White-breasted Nuthatches in oaks, and Black Terns and Black-necked Stilts in wetlands.

VIEWING: Carty Unit – Cross bridge over railroad tracks to 2-mile Oaks-to-Wetlands trail, w/ replica of Chinook plank house visited by Lewis and Clark in November 1805 where Clark wrote, "I slept very little last night for the noise kept up during the whole of the night by the swans, geese...brant (and) ducks."

River S Unit – 4.2-mile year-round driving tour, and 1.2-mile Kiwa Trail May 1-Sept. 30. Caution: unit open to waterfowl hunting.

ACCESS: Carty Unit - From I-5, take exit 14, (Ridgefield/Battleground/Hwy 501) turn west onto NW Pioneer St/Hwy 501. Drive 2.7 miles. Turn right (north) onto N Main St in town of Ridgefield. Drive 1 mile. Turn left (west) into refuge. Park in lower area. Caution: Refuge gate self closes at 7:30 pm.

River S Unit - From I-5, take exit 14, (Ridgefield/Battleground/Hwy 501), turn west onto Pioneer St/Hwy 501. Drive 2.4 miles. Turn left (south) onto S 9th Ave/S Hillhurst Rd. Drive 0.6 mile. Turn right (south) at refuge sign onto unnamed dirt road. Drive 0.5 mile, cross river, park at restrooms. Caution: refuge gate self closes at 9 pm.



30 Vancouver Lake Park



HABITAT: 284-acre county park around 2,800-acre lake w/ shoreline trees.

BIRDING: Family friendly park. Savannah and White-crowned Sparrows arrive in abundance in spring. Common and Hooded Mergansers, Greater and Lesser Scaups, Ring-necked Ducks, Canvasbacks, Ruddy Ducks, and Redheads spend the winter. Fox, Lincoln's, and Song Sparrows inhabit underbrush in winter. Red-necked and some Clark's Grebes stay fall-spring.

VIEWING: **Park turnoff** - Use scope to scan lake in winter.

Main entrance - Take 1.0-mile ADA lakeshore trail west.

ACCESS: **Park turnoff** - From I-5, take exit 1D (Fourth Plain Blvd /Hwy 501). Drive west on Fourth Plain Blvd/NW Lower River Rd. Drive 4.5 miles. Turn right (northeast) into parking area. **Main entrance** - Continue north 0.6 mile on NW Lower River Rd. Turn right (east) into park.

31 Columbia River Lowlands



HABITAT: County riverfront parks and WDFW/USFWS wetlands along Columbia River.

BIRDING: Northern Harriers, Short-eared Owls, and American Kestrels hunt in open areas. Sandhill Cranes migrate through spring-fall. Great Egrets and Black-crowned Night-Herons are present in fall. Wetlands host spring visitors – Common Yellowthroats, Green Herons, Wilson's Snipe, Tree Swallows – plus shy American Bitterns and Virginia Rails year-round.

VIEWING: **Frenchman's Bar Riverfront Park** - Take 0.5 mile ADA Riverfront Trail north under cottonwoods for Ospreys and Caspian Terns on river, and Sanderlings on beach. **Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge** - Use scopes to check Post Office Lake for Trumpeter and Tundra Swans, and Canada and Cackling Geese; ducks shuttle between Post Office and Vancouver lakes in winter.

ACCESS: **Frenchman's Bar Riverfront Park** - From I-5, take exit 1D West (Fourth Plain Blvd /Hwy 501). Turn west onto Fourth Plain Blvd. Drive 1.3 miles. Stay right onto NW Lower River Rd. Drive 6.3 miles (road curves left at 4.5 miles). Turn left (west) into Frenchman Bar Riverfront Park. Drive 0.2 mile to parking area.

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge - From Frenchman's Bar Riverfront Park entrance, drive north on Lower River Rd 4.0 miles. Road dead-ends at parking area overlooking refuge.

32 Water Resources Education Center



HABITAT: Municipal 48 acres of wetlands along Columbia River.

BIRDING: Family friendly beginning birding. Spring mornings and evenings feature songs from riparian nesters: Spotted Towhees, House Finches, and Song Sparrows, plus Bald Eagles and Ospreys. Eagles stay fall and winter.

VIEWING: Walk south to wetland overview and trails. Take ADA 0.25-mile trail left (east) to Osprey nest on river pilings, and short beach trail on right (west) to Bald Eagle nest.

ACCESS: From I-5, take exit 1-A (Camas-Hwy 14) onto Hwy 14. From Hwy 14, take exit 1. Turn right (south) to Columbia Way. Go under railroad overpass, turn left (east) immediately onto SE Columbia Way. Drive 1.5 miles on winding street to Water Resources Education Center. Curve left (north) to parking lot in back of center.

33 Franz Lake



HABITAT: USFWS 522 acres in Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area of upland/wetland forest, w/ 250-acre seasonal lake and wetlands.

BIRDING: Tundra Swans stay mid-Oct to mid-Feb eating wapato roots in lake. Other wintering residents include Canada Geese, American Wigeons, and Lesser Scaups.

VIEWING: At overlook, use scope to peer down at swans.

ACCESS: From Hwy 14 at milepost 31.5, turn south into parking area.

34 Beacon Rock State Park



HABITAT: 4,690-acre park w/ coniferous forest, rock cliffs, and wetlands on Columbia River.

BIRDING: Few individuals but many species. Shrubs shelter Lazuli Buntings and Rufous Hummingbirds, and conifers host Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Black-throated Gray and Hermit Warblers, Pacific-slope Flycatchers, Cassin's Vireos, and Pileated Woodpeckers. Band-tailed Pigeons eat August elderberries.

VIEWING: Two trails. At lower picnic parking area, enter forest at "trail" sign for 1.0-mile loop. At campground trailhead, take Hamilton Mt. Trail. At 0.25-mile, 0.4-mile Little Beacon Rock loop trail begins.

ACCESS: From Hwy 14 at milepost 34.9, turn north onto unnamed road, drive 0.3 mile up hill to lower picnic area or continue 0.3 mile further through campground to trailhead parking.

MORE BIRDING: From Hwy 14 at milepost 34.2, turn south onto Beacon Rock Moorage Rd. Drive 0.4 mile, bearing left. Park at moorage walkway. Set up scope on dock, find white spot on south side of Beacon Rock to watch nesting Peregrine Falcons Feb to mid-July; and Great Blue Heron rookery on nearby islands.

35 Strawberry Island Trails



HABITAT: 45 acres of shrubs, woods, and wetlands managed by US Army Corps of Engineers.

BIRDING: Double-crested Cormorants, Bonaparte's Gulls in March, and Ring-billed Gulls feed in river mid-April to mid-June. Ospreys, Bald Eagles, and Turkey Vultures soar, while swallows – Violet-green, Barn, Cliff, and Northern Rough-winged – swoop after insects. Look in cottonwoods for Bullock's Orioles, Warbling Vireos, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Downy Woodpeckers, plus roosting Common Ravens and American Crows.

Listen for MacGillivray Warblers beneath cottonwoods. Check willows for other warblers, thickets for White-crowned Sparrows, and shrubs for Common Yellowthroats.

VIEWING: From west end of parking, take 1.0-mile Strawberry Island Trails loop. Bonus: California sea lions possible in river.

ACCESS: From Hwy 14 at milepost 38.5, turn south onto Dam Access Rd. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn right (west) at stop sign. Drive 1.6 miles to end of Hamilton Island Recreation Area parking.



36 Rock Creek Mill Pond   

HABITAT: Family-friendly municipal park w/ lake, riparian shrubs.
BIRDING: Wintertime is prime time for rafting Canada Geese, American Wigeons, Buffleheads, Hooded Mergansers, Canvasbacks, Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks, and Lesser and Greater Scaups. Spring migrants include Spotted Sandpipers, Killdeer, and Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs. Bald Eagles and Ospreys are common.

VIEWING: Walk across grass to short ADA trail on north shoreline.
ACCESS: From Hwy 14 at milepost 44.1, turn north onto SW Rock Creek Dr. Drive 0.4 mile. Turn south into parking lot.

37 Catherine Creek    

HABITAT: USFS 1,000 acres of basalt grasslands, oak savanna, and ponderosa pine along creek.
BIRDING: Find Lewis's Woodpeckers in oaks and pines, Canyon Wrens on rock walls. Turkey Vultures arrive Feb-March. Listen for Western Meadowlarks, Western Bluebirds, and Say's Phoebes mid-March to mid-June. Shrubs and trees shelter Western Scrub and Steller's Jays, Nashville Warblers, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches, and Northern Flickers.

VIEWING: Go around metal gate, walk cross country 0.1 mile up hill to right and down to Catherine Creek. Best birding is along 0.3 mile of old road leading upstream. Cautions: Poison oak, ticks, rattlesnakes. Bonus: Cross highway to 1.0-mile ADA loop trail for stunning view of Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. Wildflowers peak in April.
ACCESS: From Hwy 14 at milepost 70.9, turn north onto Old Hwy No. 8. Drive 1.4 miles. Turn north into gravel parking area.

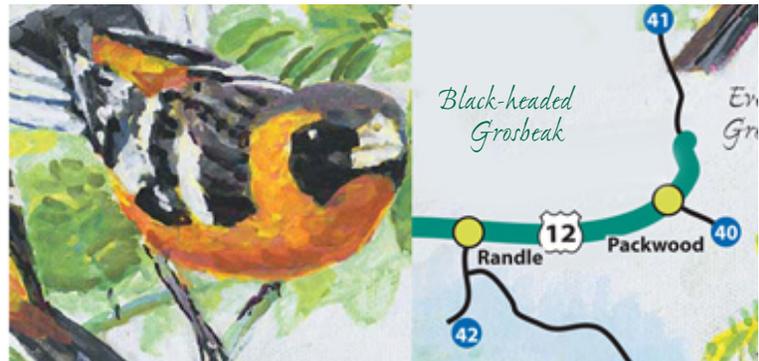
38 Weldon Wagon Trail 

HABITAT: County conifer-and-oak forests.
BIRDING: Trees attract Olive-sided Flycatchers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Varied Thrushes, Spotted Towhees, and Steller's Jays. Look for Yellow-rumped Warblers and Warbling Vireos at start of trail. Rufous and Black-chinned Hummingbirds perch on shrubs by parking area.
VIEWING: Best birding is first 0.5 mile on Weldon Wagon Trail in conifers,

and also 0.25-mile further on Indian Cemetery Rd.
ACCESS: From Hwy 14, take Hwy 141. At milepost 8.5, turn right (east) onto Indian Creek Rd. Drive 0.4 mile. Veer left at Y. Drive 0.1 mile, veer left at Y onto Indian Cemetery Rd. Drive 0.3 mile. Park in pull-off across road from Weldon Wagon Trail sign.

39 Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge   

HABITAT: USFWS 6,532 acres of coniferous forest, wetlands, seasonal lake.
BIRDING: 20 pairs of Sandhill Cranes nest in early spring. Look and listen for White-headed Woodpeckers, Gray Flycatchers, Cassin's Vireos, Mountain Chickadees, Chipping Sparrows, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Purple Finches; and Red-breasted, White-breasted, and Pygmy Nuthatches.
VIEWING: Walk 2-mile Willard Springs Foot Trail loop through pine forest, past quaking aspen grove to seasonal lake. Bonus: New-born elk babies.
ACCESS: From Hwy 141 at milepost 21, turn right (northeast) onto Warner Rd/E Sunnyside Rd. Drive 8.8 miles [at 1.0 mile, road turns left (north), and 1.2 mile further turns right (east) becoming Trout Lake Hwy] to Conboy National Wildlife Refuge. Turn right (south) onto Wildlife Refuge Rd. Drive 0.8 mile. Park on right opposite Willard Springs Foot Trail sign or continue 0.2 mile further to headquarters.



40 Packwood Lake    

HABITAT: USFS old-growth coniferous forest, small meadows, and lake.
BIRDING: Seen – but mostly heard – are Winter Wrens, Brown Creepers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Townsend's Warblers, Varied and Swainson's Thrushes, Hammond's Flycatchers, and Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers. At lake, w/ luck, find Ospreys, migrating Common Loons, Bald Eagles, and Common and Barrow's Goldeneyes.
VIEWING: Take 4.5-mile Trail #78 to Packwood Lake.
ACCESS: From Hwy 12 at milepost 131.4 in town of Packwood, turn east onto Snyder Rd/Forest Road #1260. Drive 5.8 miles to parking lot.

41 Grove of the Patriarchs  

HABITAT: Ancient grove of 1,000-year-old western red cedar, Douglas fir, and western hemlock in Mt. Rainier National Park.
BIRDING: By ear: Listen for Winter Wrens in understory, and high on trees for Pileated Woodpeckers, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, and Northern Saw-whet Owls (after dark). Catch fleeting glimpses of Common Mergansers and American Dippers on river.
VIEWING: Take 1-mile loop trail along Ohanapecosh River to grove.
ACCESS: From Hwy 12 at milepost 138.5, turn north onto Hwy 123. Drive 5.3 miles. Turn left (west) onto Hwy 706 (Stevens Canyon Rd) toward Paradise. Drive 0.1 mile to park entrance. Drive 0.1 mile into park. Turn right into trail parking area.



42 Woods Creek



HABITAT: USFS mixed hardwood-conifer forest, meadow, creek, beaver pond, and cattail marsh.

BIRDING: Best morning and evening. Search deciduous riparian trees and shrubs April-Oct for Warbling Vireos and Red-breasted Sapsuckers; Wilson's, MacGillivray's, and Black-throated Gray Warblers; and Pacific-slope, Willow, and Hammond's Flycatchers. See Wood Ducks on pond, w/ Virginia Rails, Common Yellowthroats, and Marsh Wrens in cattails.

VIEWING: Take 1.5-mile Woods Creek Watchable Wildlife Trail #247. At halfway point, 1.0-mile Old-Growth Loop Trail #247A begins.

ACCESS: From Hwy 12 at milepost 115 in the town of Randle, turn south onto Hwy 131. Drive 0.9 mile. Bear right at Y onto Forest Service Road 25. Drive 4.6 miles. Turn left into Woods Creek Wildlife Area.

MORE BIRDING: Continue south on Forest Service Rd 25 another 3.9 miles. Turn left into Iron Creek Picnic Site. Take 1.5-mile Iron Creek Old-Growth Interpretive Trail Loop for possible Townsend's Warblers and Barred Owls.

43 Cowlitz Wildlife Area: Kosmos Unit



HABITAT: Lake in summer and wet meadows in fall in WDFW-managed wildlife area on Tacoma Power property.

BIRDING: In early spring, practice sparrow identification: Chipping, Savannah, Lincoln's, White-crowned, and Golden-crowned. Scan logs in wetlands for Wood Ducks, and water's edge for Killdeer. Black-headed and Evening Grosbeaks stay spring-summer. Seasonal raptors include summer Ospreys; autumn's Bald Eagles and Cooper's Hawks; and year-round American Kestrels, and Red-tailed and Sharp-shinned Hawks.

VIEWING: Walk 0.1 mile to Champion Haul Rd and either cross toward lake, or walk south on haul road 0.2 mile to Rainy Creek bridge to scope wetlands, creek, flats, and lake. Also, walk 0.4 mile east on unnamed road and check blue elderberry bushes in late summer for Band-tailed Pigeons; and brush in fall for Cedar Waxwings. Caution: logging trucks on haul road.

ACCESS: From Hwy 12 at milepost 103, turn southeast onto Kosmos Rd. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn left (east) onto Champion Haul Rd. Drive 0.8 mile.

Turn left (east) onto unnamed road. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn left (west) into gravel circle and park.

44 Cowlitz Wildlife Area: Swofford Pond



HABITAT: 220-acre pond bounded by wetlands and mature deciduous trees owned by Tacoma Power, managed by WDFW.

BIRDING: Lots of birds of lots of species! Look for Western Grebes doing mating dance on water, and nesting Ospreys, plus Common Loons, Barrow's Goldeneyes, and Common Mergansers. Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Pine Siskins sing in cottonwoods, Pacific-slope and Willow Flycatchers in alders. Red Crossbills stay late spring-late fall. Winter promises Northern Shrikes, plus Northern Shovelers, Lesser Scaups, Northern Pintails; Blue-winged, Green-winged, and possible Cinnamon Teal; and occasional Ring-necked Ducks. American Kestrels, Bald Eagles, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, and Downy, Hairy, and Pileated Woodpeckers are year-round residents.

VIEWING: Walk 1.25-mile trail along shoreline or bird by non-motorized boat. Bonus: Possible river otter and muskrat.

ACCESS: From Hwy 12 at milepost 86.9 in the town of Mossyrock, turn south onto Williams St/SR-122. Drive 0.3 mile. Turn east (left) at T onto E State St/Mossy Rock Rd. Drive 2.5 miles. Turn right at Y (south) onto Swofford Rd. Drive 3.0 miles (road turns left at 1.8 miles, becoming Green Mountain Rd.). Turn right (south) into parking for South Swofford Pond Trail.

45 Cowlitz Wildlife Area: Brim Bar



HABITAT: WDFW riparian deciduous forest, gravel bar of Cowlitz River.

BIRDING: Calling adventuresome birders! Ospreys, Bald Eagles, Belted Kingfishers – even American Kestrels – fly through riparian corridor. On gravel bar, Killdeer feign broken wings. Look in scrub trees for Red-eyed Vireos, Common Yellowthroats, Varied Thrushes, and American Goldfinches spring-summer, plus Western Scrub Jays and Townsend's Solitaires spring-fall. Downy Woodpeckers and Northern Flickers favor cottonwoods. Check river and sloughs for Common and Hooded Mergansers, and Common and Barrow's Goldeneyes spring and fall.

VIEWING: Primitive site w/ NO amenities. Walk around metal gate onto gravel bar to view river. Walk up river 0.5 mile on fishermen's paths or 100 yards down river.

ACCESS: From Hwy 12 after milepost 74.1, turn south. Drive 3.0 miles. Turn left onto Spencer Rd, then right (east) immediately onto unimproved dirt road leading down to small bumpy parking area.

46 Lewis and Clark State Park



HABITAT: 621-acre park w/ old-growth Douglas firs and cedars; streams, wetlands.

BIRDING: Beginning birding from forest floor to canopy: California Quail, Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers, Steller's Jays, Common Ravens, and Great Horned Owls.

VIEWING: Self-guided 0.5-mile Old-Growth Interpretive Trail starts at first parking area. Other park trails total 7 miles.

ACCESS: From I-5, take exit 68 (Hwy 12E/Morton/Yakima). Turn east onto Hwy 12E. Drive 2.6 miles. At milepost 68.9, turn right (south) onto Jackson Hwy. Drive 1.7 miles. Turn right (west) into park.





47 Sequest State Park/Mt. St. Helens Visitor Center



HABITAT: Park w/ 475 acres of lake, riparian wetlands, and coniferous forest.

BIRDING: Lakeshore nesters include Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Virginia Rails, American Bitterns, Wood Ducks, Yellow and Wilson's Warblers, and Common Yellowthroats. Pied-billed Grebes, Buffleheads, and Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes stay fall-winter. Nesting in the forest are Bald Eagles, Western Tanagers, Evening Grosbeaks, Hutton's Vireos, Dark-eyed Juncos, and Brown Creepers, along w/ resident Northern Flickers, Red-breasted Sapsuckers; and Downy, Hairy, and Pileated Woodpeckers. Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets migrate through spring and fall.

VIEWING: Ospreys nest above visitor center March-Aug. Take ADA 1.0-mile boardwalk behind center to Pete Moore Island where guided tours are offered. In campground, 8 miles of trails loop through forest.

ACCESS: From I-5, take exit 49 (Toutle/Castle Rock). Turn east onto Hwy 504 (Spirit Lake Hwy). Drive 5.2 miles. At milepost 5.2, turn south into Mt. St. Helens Visitors Center. At milepost 5.3, turn north into Sequest State Park. Pedestrian tunnel under Hwy 504 connects both parking lots.

MORE BIRDING: From visitors center, continue east on Hwy 504 at milepost 7.8. Turn south (right) onto Kerr Rd. Drive 0.1 mile. Park at WDFW Silver Lk. boat launch.

48 Hummocks Trail



HABITAT: Ponds created by 1980 eruption, herbaceous plant recovery zones in USFS Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

BIRDING: Spring migration starts in April bringing uncommon Nashville Warblers and Lazuli Buntings to alders, along w/ Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers and Common Yellowthroats; and Barrow's Goldeneyes to pothole lakes. Next come Mountain Bluebirds, Violet-green Swallows, Song Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, Common Nighthawks, and Great Horned Owls. White-crowned Sparrows, Common Ravens, and American Kestrels stay on through fall. American Pipits, and Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks pass through in Oct.

VIEWING: Hummocks Trail 2.3-mile loop offers marsh, ponds, and young alder forest, and sometimes Roosevelt elk. Caution: Volcano activity may close area unexpectedly; check w/ monument staff.

ACCESS: From I-5, take exit 49 (Toutle/Castle Rock). Turn east onto Hwy 504 (Spirit Lake Hwy). At milepost 45.1, turn right (southwest) into parking area.

49 Johnston Ridge Observatory



HABITAT: USFS Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument pumice plains formed by 1980 eruption.

BIRDING: Area features small number of birds of species unusual in western Washington: Prairie Falcons, Horned Larks, Western Meadowlarks, and Rock Wrens.

VIEWING: From observatory, Boundary Trail goes 8 miles w/ spectacular views of Mt. St. Helens caldera. Caution: Volcano activity may close area unexpectedly; check w/ monument staff.

ACCESS: From I-5, take exit 49 (Toutle/Castle Rock). Turn east onto Hwy 504 (Spirit Lake Hwy). Road ends at milepost 51.8, Johnston Ridge parking area.

50 Rainbow Falls State Park



HABITAT: 139-acre park w/ riparian and conifer forest and Chehalis River waterfall.

BIRDING: Check for Hermit Warblers high in cedar, hemlock, and fir. Chestnut-backed Chickadees perch in treetops. Pileated Woodpeckers swoop, Steller's Jays and American Crows squawk, Brown Creepers climb trunks, and Blue Grouse boom on forest floor. Check river for American Dippers and river's edge for Rufous Hummingbirds and Wilson's Warblers.

VIEWING: From picnic area, walk north 0.1 mile to 6-mile Willapa Hills Trail along river to town of Pe Ell. From north side of pedestrian bridge, walk 0.25-mile trail along river. On south side of Hwy 6 (across from park entrance) take 0.5-mile interpretive trail loop.

ACCESS: From I-5, take exit 77 (Pe Ell/Raymond/Hwy 6). Turn west onto Hwy 6. At milepost 34.2, turn north into park. Drive 0.2 mile to picnic area.

51 Scatter Creek



HABITAT: WDFW 800 acres of riparian, rare Garry oak woodland, and glacial outwash prairie.

BIRDING: Late April-early June, forest and prairies fill w/ songs of Western Bluebirds, Western Meadowlarks, Chipping and Savannah Sparrows, Willow and Pacific-slope Flycatchers (more often heard than seen), and Orange-crowned Warblers. Western Tanagers, Warbling and Cassin's Vireos nest. Bewick's Wrens, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and American Kestrels stay year-round, as do creek-side residents – Belted Kingfishers, Western Scrub and Steller's Jays – and forest-dwellers – Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Downy Woodpeckers, and Northern Flickers.

VIEWING: From southwest corner of parking area, cross field to north side of barn for 1-mile Inner Foot Trail loop circling oak grove. 2-mile horse trail loops south through meadow and joins foot trail back to parking.

ACCESS: From I-5, take exit 88 B (Hwy 12W/Aberdeen). Immediately turn north (right) onto Elderberry St SW. Drive 0.3 mile. Turn right (east) at "T" intersection onto 193rd Ave SW. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn left (north) onto Gauva St SW. Drive 0.9 mile. Turn right (east) at "T" intersection onto 183rd Ave SW. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn left (north) onto Gauva again. Drive 0.2 mile. Continue (north) straight on gravel road w/ "Dead End" sign. Turn left (west) into WDFW gravel parking area.



52 Black River



HABITAT: Slow-moving river through protected corridor of dense riparian marsh owned by WDFW, USFWS, WDNR, Thurston County Parks, The Nature Conservancy.

BIRDING: Best mid-late spring. Migrants include Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, Tree Swallows, abundant Cedar Waxwings; and Olive-sided, Pacific-slope, and Willow Flycatchers. Wilson's Snipe winnow spring-early summer. Wood Ducks, Band-tailed Pigeons, American Goldfinches, Bullock's Orioles, and Song Sparrows are possible. Shy American Bitterns, Virginia Rails, Soras, and Green Herons hide in dense brush; and Marsh Wrens in cattails.

VIEWING: Birding by boat. Use WDFW boat launch, paddle downstream no more than 2 miles, return to launch. Caution: No landing sites along river. On-site rental: Black River Canoe Trips Inc. 360-273-6369.

ACCESS: From I-5, take exit 95 (Maytown/Littlerock). Drive north (straight through intersection) to Littlerock. Road curves to left (west) onto Maytown Rd SW. Drive 2.8 miles. Turn left (south) in the town of Littlerock onto Littlerock Road SW. Drive 1.9 miles. Turn right (west) into WDFW boat launch access parking.

53 Mima Mounds



HABITAT: WDNR Natural Area Preserve 624 acres of rare mounded grassland prairie bordered by coniferous forests.

BIRDING: Spring songs of Western Meadowlarks, Western Bluebirds, and Vesper and Savannah Sparrows waft over prairie while Ruffed Grouse drum. Summer nesters include Western Wood-Pewees and Western Scrub Jays. White-tailed Kites hunt south edge of prairie fall-winter. Present year-round are American Kestrels, Northern Harriers, and Red-tailed Hawks.

VIEWING: Take 0.5-mile paved ADA trail to kiosk, 2-mile loop trail, and 3.2 miles of other trails. Bonus: Profusion of mid-May camas wildflowers plus summer butterflies!

ACCESS: From I-5, take exit 95, (Maytown/Littlerock). drive north (straight ahead through intersection) to Littlerock. Road curves to left (west) onto Maytown Rd SW/128th Ave. Drive 3.6 miles (in town, road becomes 128th Ave SW). Turn right (north) at "T" intersection onto Waddell Creek Rd SW. Drive 0.7 mile. At Mima Mounds Area Preserve sign, turn left onto unmarked, one-lane road (easy to miss!). Drive 0.3 mile to trail parking lot.

54 Millersylvania Stat Park

HABITAT: Park w/ 842 acres of mature second-growth coniferous forest on freshwater lake.

BIRDING: Spring arrivals include Ospreys, Rufous Hummingbirds, and Pacific-slope Flycatchers. Ring-necked Ducks, Pied-billed Grebes, Common Mergansers, and Greater Scaups stay fall-winter. Year-round forest dwellers are Bald Eagles, Ruffed Grouse, Steller's Jays, Great Horned Owls, Bewick's and Winter Wrens; and Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers.



VIEWING: Scan edges of lake. Drive/walk 0.7 mile further to Environmental Learning Center/boat launch parking area and set up scope on dock. Also see forest birds from 8.6 miles of trails starting at learning center.

ACCESS: From I-5, take exit 95 (Littlerock/Maytown/Hwy 121 N). Turn east onto Maytown Rd SW/Hwy 121 N. Drive 3.1 miles (at "T" intersection, Hwy 121 N turns left, becoming Tilley Rd S.) Turn left (west) into park entrance.

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Mission

To conserve and restore natural ecosystems – focusing on birds, other wild-life, 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 w/ links to local Audubon societies: Black Hills, Discovery Coast, Grays Harbor, Vancouver, and Willapa Hills.
- Washington Ornithological Society, Rare Bird Alert– www.wos.org
- A Birder's Guide to Washington, by Hal Opperman, published by American Birding Association, Colorado Springs, CO 2003
- A Birder's Guide to Coastal Washington, by Bob Morse, 2003, www.rwmorse.com
- BirdWeb, Seattle Audubon's online guide to birds of Washington, www.birdweb.org
- BirdNote!™ Seattle Audubon's two-minute audio portraits of Washington birds on-line at www.BirdNote.org, on KPLU 88.5 FM, or www.KPLU.org.
- Tweeters, e-mail list on birds and birding hosted by Burke Museum, Univ. of Washington. Subscription: www.scn.org/earth/tweeters

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The Great Washington State Birding Trail, Southwest Loop

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