

The Great Washington State Birding Trail

SUN & SAGE LOOP

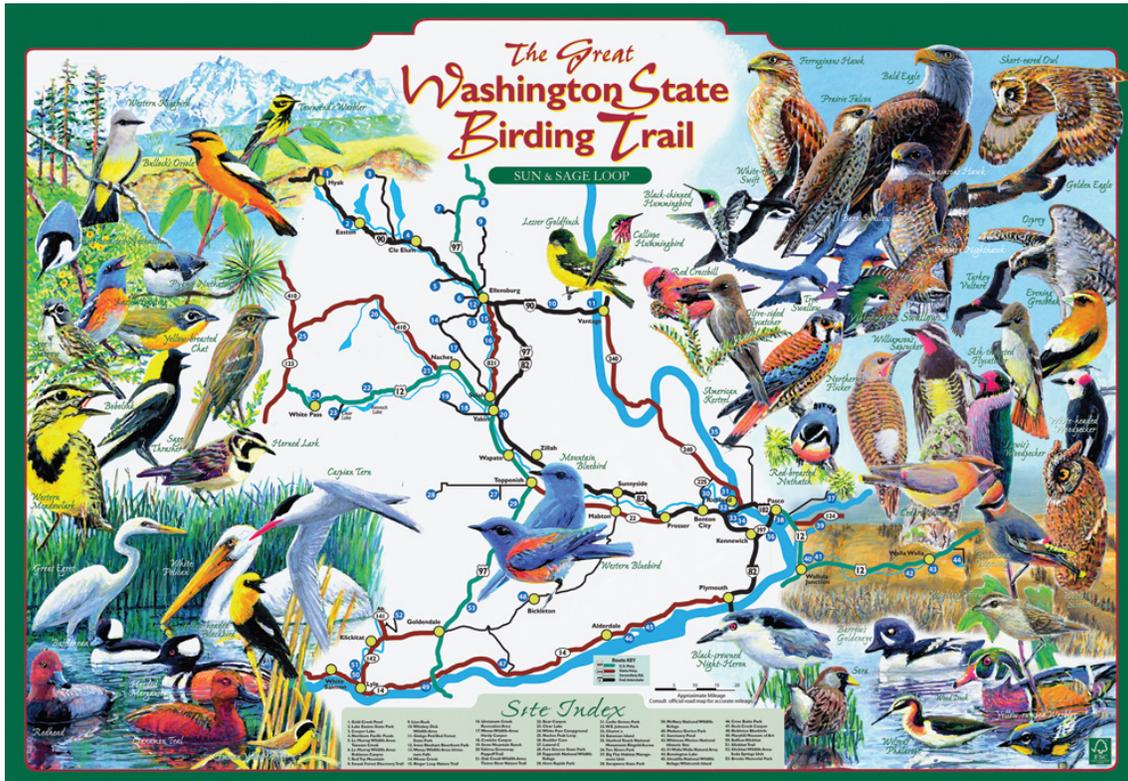
INDEX

Sites	Page	Sites	Page
INFO KEY			
	1		
1 Gold Creek Pond	2	27 Lateral C	7
2 Lake Easton State Park		28 Fort Simcoe State Park	
3 Cooper Lake		29 Toppenish National Wildlife Refuge	
4 Northern Pacific Ponds		30 Horn Rapids Park	
5 LT Murray Wildlife Area: Taneum Creek	3	31 Leslie Groves Park	
6 LT Murray Wildlife Area: Robinson Canyon		32 W.E. Johnson Park	
7 Red Top Mountain		33 Chamn'a	8
8 Swauk Forest Discovery Trail		34 Bateman Island	
9 Lion Rock		35 Hanford Reach National Monument: Ringold Access	
10 Whiskey Dick Wildlife Area		36 Two Rivers Park	
11 Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park	4	37 Big Flat Habitat Management Unit	9
12 Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park		38 Sacajawea State Park	
13 Wenas Wildlife Area: Umtanum Falls		39 McNary National Wildlife Refuge	
14 Wenas Creek		40 Madame Dorion Park	
15 Ringer Loop Nature Trail		41 Sanctuary Pond	
16 Umtanum Creek Recreation Area	5	42 Whitman Mission National Historic Site	10
17 Wenas Wildlife Area: Hardy Canyon		43 Ft. Walla Walla Natural Area	
18 Cowlitz Canyon		44 Bennington Lake	
19 Snow Mountain Ranch		45 Umatilla Nat'l Wildlife Refuge: Whitcomb Is.	
20 Yakima Greenway: Poppoff Trail		46 Crow Butte Park	
21 Oak Creek Wildlife Area: Tieton River Nature Trail	6	47 Rock Creek Canyon	
22 Bear Canyon		48 Bickleton Bluebirds	11
23 Clear Lake		49 Maryhill Museum of Art	
24 White Pass Campground		50 Balfour-Klickitat	
25 Naches Peak Loop		51 Klickitat Trail	
26 Boulder Cave		52 Klickitat Wildlife Area: Soda Springs Unit	
		53 Brooks Memorial Park	
		CREDITS	12



Lazuli Bunting

© Ed Newbold, 2008



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
- Handicapped restroom** and handicapped trail or viewing access
- Site located in an **Important Bird Area**
- Fee required.** Passes best obtained prior to travel.

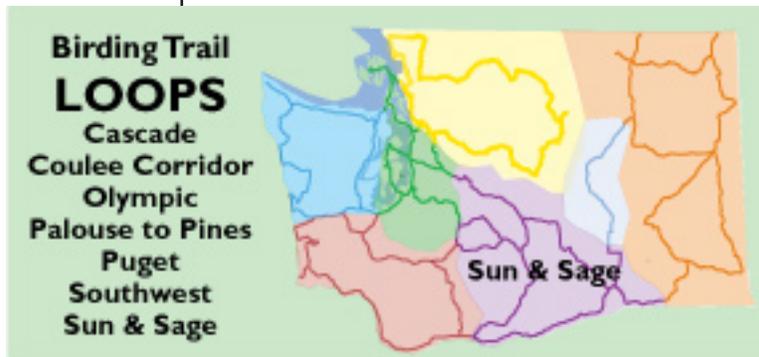
Washington Dept. of fish and Wildlife (WDFW), WDNR and state parks require Discover Pass 866-320-9933, www.discoverpass.wa.gov; USFS, USFWS, BLM & national parks 888-275-8747, www.nps.gov/passes

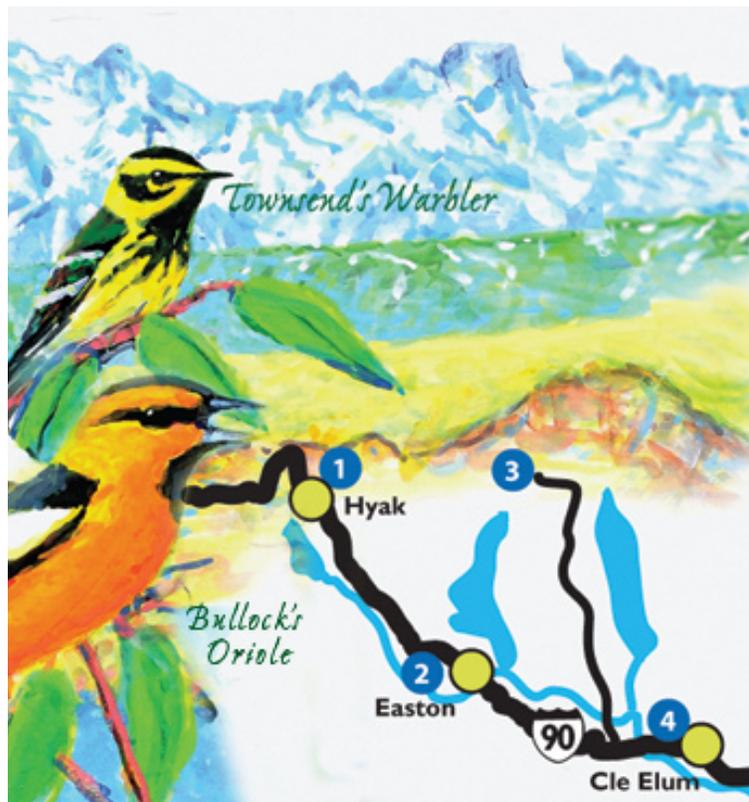
ABBREVIATIONS

- BLM – US Bureau of Land Management
- CORPS – US Army Corps of Engineers
- DNR – Washington Dept. of Natural Resources
- USFS (FS) – US Forest Service
- USFWS – US Fish and Wildlife Service
- WDFW – Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

LOCAL SERVICES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Washington Visitor Information: www.experiencewashington.com
- Sites 1-4: Cle Elum-Roslyn Chamber of Commerce 509-674-5958 www.cleelumroslyn.org
- Sites 5-16: Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce 888-925-2204 www.ellensburg-chamber.com
- Sites 17-29: Yakima Valley Visitors and Convention Bureau 800-221-0751 www.visityakima.com
- Sites 30-40 and 45-46: Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau 800-254-5824 www.VisitTriCities.com
- Sites 41-44: Tourism Walla Walla 877-998-4748 www.wallawalla.org
- Sites 47-51: Greater Goldendale Chamber of Commerce 509-773-3400 www.goldendalechamber.org
- Sites 52-53: Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce 866-493-3630 www.mtadamschamber.com





1 Gold Creek Pond



HABITAT: USFS firs, black cottonwoods; willow wetlands, red osier dogwoods and monkey flowers around 15-acre pond.

BIRDING: Great for kids! See Yellow Warblers, Song and White-crowned Sparrows during summer plus Buffleheads, Mallards, and Canada Geese. Into fall, find Dark-eyed Juncos, Barn and Violet-green Swallows, Gray and Steller's Jays, Black-capped and Chestnut-backed Chickadees. Bald Eagles eat spawning salmon. Vaux's Swifts swoop for insects.

VIEWING: Stroll 1-mile Gold Creek Pond Loop. At 0.5 mile, bridge crosses spring-fed creek hosting American Dippers. Look for Spotted Sandpipers at confluence. Rufous Hummingbirds perch atop fir trees. Spot Osprey platform at 0.7 mile. Caution: stay on trail; adjacent properties are private. Bonus: Seasonal weekend interpretive walks, 425-434-6111; mountain goats on peaks.

ACCESS: From I-90, take exit 54 (Hyak /Gold Creek). Turn north, then turn right onto Gold Ck Rd. Drive 0.9 mile. Turn left onto gravel road. Drive 0.4 mile, veer left onto paved road, then right, drive 0.1 mile to picnic parking.

MORE BIRDING: John Wayne Pioneer Trail – From pond, drive back to freeway, drive under I-90, turn left onto Spur Hwy 906. Drive 0.4 mile. Turn right at Iron Horse State Park sign, then right again, drive 0.1 mile to parking. Walk or bike 1.0 mile east to Keechelus Lake for Common Loons, or 0.4 mile west to tunnel. Trailside highlights include Calliope and Rufous Hummingbirds; Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Northern Flickers.

2 Lake Easton State Park



HABITAT: State's 1000 acres of fir, pine and vine maple forest; seasonal lake spring-fall, reverting to rivers in winter.

BIRDING: View busy Pine Siskins, Black-capped and Chestnut-backed Chickadees in trees while Ruffed Grouse scratch underneath. Check evergreens for Pileated Woodpeckers, White- and Red-breasted Nuthatches. Listen and watch for Northern Pygmy, Barred, and Great Horned Owls. Western Tanagers and Bullock's Orioles migrate through in spring.

VIEWING: Bike or walk 0.3 mile west on old highway. Turn left at John Wayne Pioneer Trail sign, continue 0.7 mile to trail. Go right 0.6 mile to Yakima River bridge for American Dippers, Belted Kingfishers. Continue 0.4 mile, staying straight at Y to Cabin Ck bridge; bird wetlands below grade on right. In winter, scope Trumpeter Swans, Snow and Canada Geese, Common Mergansers. Bald Eagles perch in trees.

ACCESS: From I-90, take exit 70 (Easton/Sparks Rd). Turn south toward Easton. Drive 0.4 mile. Turn right into park. Drive 0.9 mile. At second stop sign, turn right. Drive 0.2 mile. Park on left before bridge. Winter birding: at second stop sign in park, veer left to day-use parking.

3 Cooper Lake



HABITAT: USFS 120-acre lake with marsh; shrubby shoreline, fir forest.

BIRDING: Harlequin Ducks and some Common Goldeneyes nest here. Listen for lilting forest songs of Western Tanagers, Olive-sided Flycatchers plus Varied, Hermit, and Swainson's Thrushes. Rufous Hummingbirds zip by shoreline; Tree and Violet-green Swallows zoom over water.

VIEWING: Walk trails along lakeshore. Bird by boat to marsh.

ACCESS: From I-90, take exit 80 (Roslyn/Salmon la Sac). Turn north on unsigned road toward Roslyn. Drive 2.6 miles, continuing straight at 1st traffic circle. At 2nd traffic circle, continue straight onto N Hwy 903/N 1st St. Drive 2.2 miles through Roslyn. Turn left onto W Nevada Ave. Drive 14.1 miles. Turn left onto FS Rd 47 (crossing Cle Elum River). Drive 4.6 miles. Turn right onto FS Rd 4616. Drive 0.8 mile to Ohwi Campground or continue 0.2 mile to boat launch.

MORE BIRDING: Drive back 5.3 miles toward Roslyn. Just before bridge over river, turn right into gravel parking area. Vaux's Swifts dive-bomb insects by bridge at dusk in summer.

4 Northern Pacific Ponds

HABITAT: Mile-long ribbon of ponds, wetlands along Yakima River owned by Yakama Tribe, county.

BIRDING: Spring-fall, Yellow-rumped Warblers and Common Yellowthroats flit through shrubs. Tree, Violet-green, Barn, and Bank Swallows swoop above. Chipping Sparrows, Cedar Waxwings plus occasional Bohemian Waxwings forage in fall. Winters feature Common Goldeneyes, Hooded Mergansers. Find Pileated Woodpeckers all year.

VIEWING: From kiosk, walk 0.3 mile both ways along road edge, look down to ponds. Ospreys nest on platform to west in summer. Bonus: interpretive panels on natural and human history.

ACCESS: In Cle Elum on 1st St W, turn south onto S Cle Elum Wy. Drive 0.3 mile. Turn right onto Charter Rd at Cle Elum Hatchery sign. Drive 0.5 mile. Park on right across from kiosk.



5 LT Murray Wildlife Area: Taneum Creek



HABITAT: WDFW 1 mile of creekside shrubs and pine forest within 54,100-acre wildlife area.

BIRDING: Everybody sings in spring: Black-headed Grosbeaks, Rock Wrens, Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers. Enjoy bright show-offs – Western Tanagers, Lazuli Buntings, Bullock's Orioles – while plumage of Townsend's Solitaires blends with foliage, Killdeers with gravel.

VIEWING: Cross footbridge over creek; walk 0.2 mile to left on old road or follow informal streamside paths.

ACCESS: From I-90, take exit 93 (Taneum Creek/Elk Heights Rd). Turn north onto Elk Heights Rd. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn right onto Thorp Prairie Rd. Drive 3.6 miles. Turn right onto E Taneum Rd. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn right onto W Taneum/FS Rd 33. Drive 3.3 miles to Taneum Creek fishing access. Turn left onto road, park by barrier.

MORE BIRDING: Quartz Mountain – High-altitude birding in stunning location with summer wildflower smorgasbord. See Calliope and Rufous Hummingbirds, Clark's Nutcrackers, Gray Jays and Common Ravens. From Taneum Creek, drive west 5.1 miles. Turn left at Y onto FS Rd 3330. Drive 8.5 miles. Turn right at Y onto FS Rd 3120. Drive 4.1 miles. Turn right at T onto FS Rd 3100. Drive 5.1 miles (staying left at Ys). Park in day-use area.

6 LT Murray Wildlife Area: Robinson Canyon



HABITAT: WDFW 500-acre canyon with stream, riparian wetlands, and pine forest within wildlife area.

BIRDING: They arrive for courting and stay for nesting: Western Screech-Owls, Veeries, Warbling Vireos; and Nashville, Yellow and MacGillivray's Warblers. Western Wood-Pewees and Pacific-slope Flycatchers whistle. Lewis's Woodpeckers and Red-naped Sapsuckers tap-tap-tap. Calliope Hummingbirds whiz by.

VIEWING: Best early mornings and late afternoons. Beyond boulders, walk overgrown road along riparian canyon bottom 0.9 mile. Also, walk 0.1 mile back toward gate and 1 mile road up hill.

ACCESS: From I-90, take exit 101 (Thorp Hwy/Thorp). Turn south onto S Thorp Hwy. Drive 0.7 mile. Turn right onto Killmore Rd. Drive 2.4 miles. At T, turn right onto Robinson Canyon Rd. Drive 1.9 miles (gate at 1.5 miles opens May 1). Park at boulders.

7 Red Top Mountain



HABITAT: USFS mountaintop with high-elevation hemlocks, firs.

BIRDING: Migration features Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks, Goshawks, American Kestrels, Merlins, Peregrine and Prairie Falcons, plus Bald and Golden Eagles. Perhaps spot Sooty Grouse but count on flocks of Northern Flickers and troops of "camp robber" Gray Jays.

VIEWING: Hawk watching best 10 am-3 pm; use scope at lookout.

Check for Flammulated Owls at night in forest. Bonus: Elk bugling in meadows.

ACCESS: From Hwy 97 at milepost 156.4, turn west on FS Rd 9738. Drive 2.6 miles. Turn left onto FS Rd 9702. Drive 4.2 miles. Turn right. Drive 0.3 mile. Park. Hike 0.5-mile trail to USFS lookout. Caution: Rough road.

8 Swauk Forest Discovery Trail



HABITAT: USFS 1,200 acres, mixed coniferous forest logged in the 1980s.

BIRDING: Young trees harbor Cassin's Finches, Pine Siskins, Western Wood-Pewees. Listen for Olive-sided Flycatchers. Glimpse patterns of yellow/orange-and-black feathers: Evening Grosbeaks, Western Tanager, Townsend's Warblers. Chipping Sparrows forage on ground. Turkey Vultures soar above.

VIEWING: 2.8-mile trail loops through managed forest. Best in mornings.

ACCESS: From Hwy 97 at milepost 163.8, turn east onto FS Rd 9716. Drive 0.4 mile. Park in lot.

9 Lion Rock



HABITAT: USFS subalpine firs, lodge pole and ponderosa pines, and mountain meadow.

BIRDING: When snow melts, Chipping Sparrows, Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds, and Hermit Thrushes arrive to join Sooty Grouse, Mountain Chickadees, Great Horned Owls, Black-backed and Three-toed Woodpeckers. In fall, see raptor migrants: American Kestrels; Cooper's, Red-tailed, and Sharp-shinned Hawks; occasional Northern Goshawks, plus Bald and Golden Eagles.

VIEWING: Walk rough road 0.2 mile to panoramic overlook of Swauk and Teanaway valleys, and Mt Stuart. Scope fall hawk migration.

ACCESS: From I-90, take exit 106 (Ellensburg/Wenatchee). Turn north toward Ellensburg. At 4-way intersection, stay straight onto Business 90/University Wy. Drive 0.6 mile. Turn left onto Reecer Creek Rd. Drive 11.5 miles. Reecer Creek Rd becomes FS Rd 35. Drive 10.5 more miles, veering right at 1st Y, then left at next two Ys. Turn left onto FS Rd 124. Drive 0.3 mile to gravel parking.

10 Whiskey Dick Wildlife Area



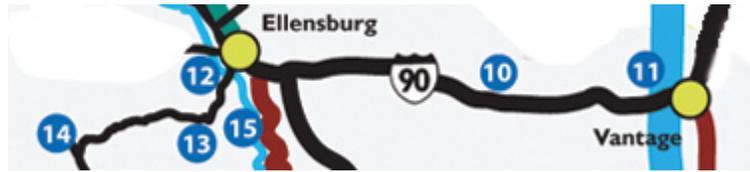
HABITAT: WDFW 28,000 acres of shrub-steppe.

BIRDING: THE place to commune with birds of the sage: Long-tailed Sage Thrashers, azure Mountain Bluebirds; shy Rock Wrens. Listen for arias of Brewer's Sparrows; spy Sage and Vesper Sparrows on ground.

VIEWING: Site opens May 1. Walk west up dirt road 1 mile. Bonus: spring wildflowers, elk.

ACCESS: From I-90, take exit 106 (97 N Ellensburg/Wenatchee). At 4-way stop, continue straight onto University Wy/Vantage Hwy. Drive 20 miles. At milepost 18.4 on Vantage Hwy, turn north into WDFW parking.





11 Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park



HABITAT: 7,500 acres of shrub-steppe, basalt cliffs on Columbia River.

BIRDING: Spring features greatest bird numbers and variety: Caspian Terns, Double-crested Cormorants, Horned and Eared Grebes bob on river while Bank and Cliff Swallows fly above. Canyon and Rock Wrens sing as foliage comes alive with Say's Phoebes, Yellow-rumped and Orange-crowned Warblers. Winter headliners are Common Loons, Bald and Golden Eagles, Western Grebes, Common Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, Ring-necked and Long-tailed Ducks.

VIEWING: Take 0.1-mile, ADA Indian Picture Rocks Trail to out-of-wind river overlook. Check trees and shrubs around center. Use scope to scan river below cliffs. Bonus: Museum, petrified trees, petroglyphs.

ACCESS: From I-90, take exit 136 (Vantage). Turn north onto Vantage Hwy. Drive 0.7 mile. Turn right onto Ginkgo Ave. Drive 0.5 mile to Interpretive Center parking.

MORE BIRDING: Columbia River – From center, return to park entrance. At Y, veer right onto unnamed paved road. Drive 0.5 mile down hill. At T, turn right. Drive 0.2 mile, go around barriers, park on right. Bird at water's edge; walk left on old roadway along river.

Trees of Stone (spring) – From center, return on Ginkgo Ave, turn right (west) onto Vantage Hwy. Drive 2 miles. At Vantage Hwy milepost 25.5, turn north into parking. Walk up hill, examine grove of trees for Cassin's Finches, Golden- and White-crowned Sparrows. Take 1.5-mile Trees of Stone Interpretive Trail and 2.5-mile Desert Trail through shrub-steppe for Northern Shrikes, Western Meadowlarks, Sage Thrashers, Sage and Brewer's Sparrows. **Boat Launch** (winter) – From center, return on Ginkgo Ave, turn left (east) onto Vantage Hwy. Drive 0.4 mile. Turn left onto Boat Ramp Rd. Drive 0.2 mile. Park by picnic tables. Take short ADA trail to picnic table for view of 2 small bays; watch Northern Pintails, Redheads, Greater and Lesser Scaups, Canada Geese (of course).

12 Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park



HABITAT: Municipality's 117 acres of grass, floodplain, riparian woods along Yakima River.

BIRDING: Terrific for beginning birders or birders who like LOTS of birds, especially in spring. See American Goldfinches, Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Western Tanagers; Tree, Violet-green, and Northern Rough-winged Swallows, and occasional Wood Ducks. Summers feature Ospreys, Yellow Warblers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and House Wrens. On winter ponds, view Ring-necked Ducks, Buffleheads, Common Mergansers, Canada Geese, Pied-billed Grebes; and American Dippers on river. Year-round, watch Black-capped Chickadees, Belted Kingfishers, Northern Flickers, Downy Woodpeckers.

VIEWING: Best dawn and dusk. Walk 1-mile loop through woods, around ponds, and by river. Or take perimeter road, return on path. Bonus: Monthly Audubon 1st Saturday BirdWalk, 8am.

ACCESS: From I-90, take exit 109 (Ellensburg/Canyon Rd). Turn north onto Canyon Rd. Drive 0.5 mile. Turn left onto Umptanum Rd. Drive 1 mile. Turn right into park.

13 Wenas Wildlife Area: Umptanum Falls



HABITAT: WDFW 500 acres of aspens, hawthorns, and shrubs along creek within 105,000-acre wildlife area.

BIRDING: April – June, look – but mostly listen – for Western Tanagers, Bullock's Orioles, Willow Flycatchers, and Nashville Warblers. Find Fox and Song Sparrows, Mountain Chickadees, Ruby- and Golden-crowned Kinglets. Lucky birders spot Northern Pygmy-Owls.

VIEWING: Walk 1-mile path by brook to waterfall. Caution: Do not cross to other side of waterfall where surface is loose, steep, and slippery.

ACCESS: From I-90, take exit 109 (Ellensburg/Canyon Rd). Turn north onto Canyon Rd. Drive 0.5 mile. Turn left onto Umptanum Rd. Drive 10.2 miles. Turn left into WDFW parking.

MORE BIRDING: Yakima Valley Audubon's **Vredenburg Bluebird Trail** – Mostly Western and some Mountain Bluebirds nest in 132 boxes along 13 miles of fence line, starting at mile 6.7.

14 Wenas Creek



HABITAT: 3 distinct landscapes within DNR/WDFW 2,600 acres: riparian foliage, meadows with ponderosa pines, brushy hillsides.

BIRDING: Nests here, there, everywhere! Some birds fancy stream-sides: Downy Woodpeckers and Red-naped Sapsuckers, Black-chinned and Rufous Hummingbirds, Pacific-slope and Hammond's Flycatchers, Yellow and MacGillivray's Warblers, Warbling Vireos, Veeries, Black-headed Grosbeaks. Vaux's Swifts twitter overhead. Open meadows and pines attract White-headed Woodpeckers, Western Wood-Pewees, Gray Flycatchers, Cassin's Vireos, Mountain Chickadees, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Cassin's Finches, Red Crossbills; Red-breasted, White-breasted, and Pygmy Nuthatches. Head for the hills for Sooty Grouse, Calliope Hummingbirds, Dusky Flycatchers, Nashville Warblers, and Townsend's Solitaires. Prairie Falcons cruise aloft by day, Common Poorwills and Nighthawks at dusk.

VIEWING: Opens May 1st. After exploring camping area, walk or bike 0.3 mile west and take old road 1.5 miles along south fork of Wenas Creek. Also hike hillside. Bonus: Annual Audubon Society family campout Memorial Day weekend with informal naturalist workshops: www.audubon.org. Caution: summer weekend crowds.

ACCESS: From I-90, take exit 109 (Ellensburg/Canyon Rd). Turn north onto Canyon Rd. Drive 0.5 mile. Turn left onto Umptanum Rd/N Wenas Rd. Drive 18.7 miles. Turn right onto Audubon Rd. Drive 2.7 miles. Turn left toward Dry Creek. Drive 0.1 mile, crossing bridge. Park anywhere.

15 Ringer Loop Nature Trail

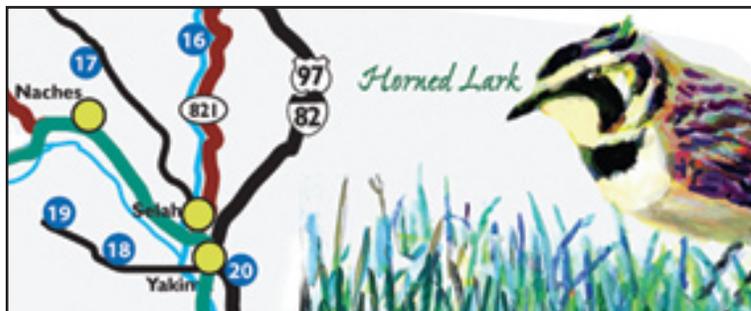


HABITAT: BLM 200 acres of meadows, cottonwood groves and ponderosa pines; WDFW restoration of 176 acres along Yakima River.

BIRDING: Springtime = romance. Wooing on the wing are Tree, Violet-green, Bank, and Cliff Swallows; plus Blue-winged Teal, Wood Ducks, Western Sandpipers, Western Wood-Pewees. Wilson's Snipes call in meadows. Ospreys and Red-tailed Hawks glide over ponds on summer afternoons. Fall-winter, American Dippers and Common Mergansers float by on swift Yakima River.

VIEWING: Take braided 0.5-mile Nature Trail north to BLM parking and kiosk. Cross Ringer Loop at kiosk for Yellow-headed Blackbirds in cattail marsh spring-fall.

ACCESS: From I-90 take exit 109 (Canyon Rd). Turn south onto Canyon Rd. Drive 3.3 miles. Turn right onto Ringer Loop. Drive 0.2 mile. Turn left at Public Fishing/Nature Trail signs. Drive 0.1 mile. Park at river's edge.



16 Umtanum Creek Recreation Area



HABITAT: BLM/WDFW 8 miles of canyon, talus slopes, meadow, creek, Yakima River, riparian shrubs.

BIRDING: Spring-summer, check cottonwood trees for Bullock's Orioles and Red-naped Sapsuckers, blue elderberry bushes for Spotted Towhees, bare branches for Lazuli Buntings and Yellow-breasted Chats. Look for Eastern Kingbirds before crossing bridge. Scan skies for Golden Eagles, Prairie Falcons, Red-tailed Hawks, and ever-wheeling Violet-green and Tree Swallows. See Bald Eagles in winter. Year round, find Chukars, California Quail, Northern Flickers. Hear Mourning Doves, Rock and Canyon Wrens.

VIEWING: Cross suspension bridge. Take path under railroad track. At Y, stay right, then follow any of myriad paths up 8-mile canyon. Bonus: Bighorn sheep, mule deer.

ACCESS: From Hwy 821 (Canyon Rd) at milepost 16.3, turn west onto gravel road. Drive 0.2 mile to parking.

17 Wenas Wildlife Area: Hardy Canyon



HABITAT: WDFW riparian bottomlands and clearings by Wenas Creek, sage and bitterbrush on slopes.

BIRDING: Yellow-breasted Chats and Lazuli Buntings flash bright colors, along with Tree Swallows at birdhouses. Watch ground for California Quail and Ruffed Grouse, and tree trunks for Northern Flickers and Red-naped Sapsuckers. Regulars include Western Wood-Pewees, Pacific-slope Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbirds, Mourning Doves. Not so obvious are Gray Catbirds, Cooper's Hawks.

VIEWING: Walk through 2nd gate and on dirt road through deciduous grove. Wilson's Snipes like wet meadow on left. Cross bridge, explore open country to aspen grove. Best birding is 1st 0.5 mile after 2nd gate.

ACCESS: From I-82, take exit 26 onto N Hwy 821. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn west onto Harrison Rd. Drive 1.9 miles. Turn right onto N Wenas Rd. Drive 17.2 miles. Turn left at Wenas Wildlife sign. Drive through gate, park by hay barn.

18 Cowiche Canyon



HABITAT: 3-mile canyon of shrub-steppe, plus creek and riparian brush; owned by BLM, Cowiche Canyon Conservancy.

BIRDING: Spring mornings delight as Violet-green and Cliff Swallows swoop, Red-tailed Hawks and American Kestrels soar, and Spotted Towhees skitter. Spot shy Lazuli Buntings and Yellow-breasted Chats. Bright Bullock's Orioles perch atop shrubs. Raucous Black-billed Magpies contrast with melodic Canyon and Rock Wrens. Fall berries nourish Cedar Waxwings, Black-headed Grosbeaks.

VIEWING: 3-mile gravel path leads east, crisscrossing creek on bridges. At bridge 8, take 1-mile Uplands Trail for Horned Larks and views of Mt Rainier and Mt Adams. Bonus: Lavish spring wildflowers.

ACCESS: From I-82, take exit 31A (Hwy 12). From Hwy 12 milepost 199.5, take N 40th Ave/Fruitvale exit. Take 40th Ave south. Stay straight onto 40th Ave, driving south. Drive 1.5 miles. Turn right onto Summitview Ave/Rd. Drive 7.1 miles. Turn right onto Weikel Rd. Drive 0.5 mile. Turn right at Cowiche Canyon Trail sign onto gravel road. Drive 0.1 mile to parking.

19 Snow Mountain Ranch



HABITAT: Cowiche Canyon Conservancy's 1,700-acre former ranch with creek, pond, sage-covered hills.

BIRDING: Spring's colorful denizens serenade from riparian greenery: Bullock's Orioles, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Yellow-breasted Chats. Spot Sage Thrashers, Brewer's and Vesper Sparrows in high-elevation shrub-steppe. Lewis's Woodpeckers harvest insects. Brushy areas host flashy Lazuli Buntings. Check oaks for Ash-throated Flycatchers.

VIEWING: Cross bridge, walk 1 mile along creek. 4-mile Bench Trail loops through upland shrub-steppe, along base of basalt cliff. 6-mile Cowiche Mountain Loop climbs to summit.

ACCESS: From I-82, take exit 31A (Hwy 12). From Hwy 12 at milepost 199.5, take N 40th Ave/Fruitvale exit. Stay straight onto 40th Ave. Drive 1.5 miles. Turn right onto Summitview Ave/Rd. Drive 8.8 miles. Turn left onto Cowiche Mill Rd. Drive 2.5 miles. Turn left to parking.

20 Yakima Greenway: Poppoff Trail



HABITAT: Nonprofit-owned 3,600 acres along Naches and Yakima rivers; ponds, sloughs with overhanging shrubs, willows, cottonwoods.

BIRDING: Premier Yakima birdwalk! Find featured woodland residents: Downy Woodpeckers, Black-capped Chickadees, Bewick's Wrens, Song Sparrows. Migration adds White- and Golden-crowned Sparrows, Spotted Towhees, Dark-eyed Juncos. Ponds host dabblers: Mallards, Cinnamon Teals, American Wigeons, Northern Shovelers, Wood Ducks, plus Canada Geese. Check river for divers: Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes, Ring-necked Ducks, Common Mergansers. Other

avian fish-eaters are summer Ospreys, winter Bald Eagles, Great Blue Herons and Belted Kingfishers all year.

VIEWING: Walk or bike around pond on 1.5-mile Poppoff Trail, which is southern end of 10-mile Yakima Greenway. Bonus: seasonal birdwalks—www.yakimaudubon.org

ACCESS: From I-82, take exit 36 (Union Gap/Valley Mall Blvd). Turn east onto E Valley Mall Blvd. Drive 0.2 mile to Jewett Pathway at Spring Creek parking lot.



21 Oak Creek Wildlife Area: Tieton River Nature Trail



HABITAT: WDFW 3 miles of post-fire Garry oak woodland, river, sage and bunchgrass below andesite cliffs.

BIRDING: Nesters high and low! Golden Eagles nest on cliff rim, Cliff Swallows on cliff face, Bullock's Orioles in branches over river, Lewis's Woodpeckers in blackened oak trunks. Violet-green Swallows zip over water; Turkey Vultures soar aloft. Glimpse blue hue of Steller's Jays and Western Bluebirds. Check trees for Northern Flickers, shrubs for Eastern and Western Kingbirds, forest floor for Spotted Towhees.

VIEWING: Oak Creek Headquarters – Walk across Hwy 12, cross bridge, and walk or bike up river 2 miles to suspension bridge. Also walk west through elk fence gate, past barn, and 0.3 mile up hill through meadows by basalt outcrops and Garry oaks. Bonus: Spring wildflower extravaganza, winter elk feeding station. **Suspension Bridge** – Walk 0.1 mile to river, cross bridge, walk upriver 1+ miles.

ACCESS: Oak Creek Headquarters – From Hwy 12 at milepost 183.5, turn north into Oak Creek Wildlife Area. **Suspension Bridge** – From Hwy 12 milepost 182.1, turn south into parking by Quonset hut.

MORE BIRDING: From headquarters, return to Hwy 12/Hwy 410 junction. Drive 0.6 mile north on Old Naches Rd. Turn left into bighorn sheep winter feeding station. Scope Cleman Mountain for Golden and Bald Eagles.

22 Bear Canyon



HABITAT: 10,000-acre basalt canyon with Garry oaks, aspens, pines, firs; owned by USFS, WDFW, Nature Conservancy.

BIRDING: Best mornings and evenings. Violet-green Swallows fly high, White-throated Swifts higher, Golden Eagles highest. Hear raucous Steller's Jays, dulcet tones of Canyon and House Wrens. Nashville Warblers, Cassin's Vireos, Townsend's Solitaires forage

in foliage. Western Tanagers and Yellow Warblers splash yellow through green leaves. Listen for hard-to-see Common Poorwills at night.

VIEWING: Past gate, take old road up canyon 3 miles to FS Rd 1302.

ACCESS: From Hwy 12 at mp 178.8, turn north into parking.

23 Clear Lake



HABITAT: USFS man-made lake lined with alders, willows, cottonwoods, and surrounded by pines, cedars, firs.

BIRDING: Prime nesting real estate for water-lovers: Ospreys, Barrow's Goldeneyes, Ring-necked Ducks, American Coots, American Wigeons, Canada Geese, American Dippers. Forest birds nest here too: Western Tanagers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Chipping Sparrows, Western Wood-Pewees. Catch sight of Swainson's and Varied Thrushes in understory. American Crows, Common Ravens, Steller's Jays are hard to miss. Spot Common Loons in late summer.

VIEWING: Paved 0.5-mile nature trail loops by lake, through forest.

ACCESS: From Hwy 12 at milepost 158.5, turn south onto Tieton Rd. Drive 2.5 miles. Turn left. Drive 0.1 mile to day-use parking.

MORE BIRDING: From day-use area, drive back on Tieton Rd 2.2 miles. Turn hard right, drive 0.6 mile into Clear Lake N Campground. From campsites 6 or 8, walk onto hill, look down onto Tieton River between Clear and Rimrock Lakes.

24 White Pass Campground



HABITAT: USFS lake surrounded by fir forest.

BIRDING: Birdiest just after snow melts – noisy, too, as Yellow Warblers trill, Ospreys whistle, Red-naped Sapsuckers and Pileated Woodpeckers hammer on trees. Yellow Warblers, Lincoln's and White-crowned Sparrows nest in willow thickets. Ring-necked Ducks and Barrow's Goldeneyes hide at far end of lake.

VIEWING: Scope lake. Birdiest place is south side of lake in willows and snags. Bird on foot or by boat in calm mornings; west wind builds during day.

ACCESS: From Hwy 12 at mp 151.7, turn north onto unmarked road. Drive 0.5 mile to campground parking.

25 Naches Peak Loop



HABITAT: High-elevation meadows, lakes, mountain hemlocks, subalpine firs within Mt. Rainier National Park/USFS.

BIRDING: Discover birds that like high country: resident Sooty Grouse, Mountain Chickadees, Gray Jays and Clark's Nutcrackers; plus summer visitors: Varied and Hermit Thrushes, Cassin's Finches, American Pipits, Chipping and Fox Sparrows, and Rufous Hummingbirds.

VIEWING: Trails open after mid-July snow melt. Take footbridge over Hwy 410 to 3.5-mile Naches Peak Loop with views of Mt. Rainier. Spectacular wildflowers peak mid-August. Or hike north 3.8 miles to Sheep Lake; add 1 more mile to Sourdough Gap to see Mt. Adams.

ACCESS: From Hwy 410 at milepost 69.5, turn north into Chinook Pass Summit rest stop. Park in paved lot.

26 Boulder Cave



HABITAT: USFS Naches River in basalt ravine rimmed with Douglas fir, ponderosa pine.

BIRDING: From family-friendly grounds, view avian entertainment on river: Harlequin Ducks, American Dippers, and Common Mergansers. Rufous Hummingbirds bzzzzzz by, and Steller's Jays patrol picnic area. Dark-eyed Juncos scurry through bushes.

VIEWING: Open Memorial Day-Labor Day. Walk 0.7-mile ADA River Trail, 1.5-mile loop Boulder Cave Trail. On the drive in, note Osprey nest at 1.2 miles, left side of road. Bonus: Townsend's big-eared bats.

ACCESS: From Hwy 410 at milepost 95.4, turn south onto Old River Rd. Cross bridge, turn right again. Drive 1.3 miles to parking.



27 Lateral C

HABITAT: Mix of Yakama Tribe's and private grassland, floodplain meadow, cottonwoods and willows by Toppenish Creek.

BIRDING: June is prime time to see breeding Bobolinks. Also find Wilson's Snipes, Long-billed Curlews, Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Flooded areas may attract Wilson's Phalaropes in spring.

VIEWING: Check fence posts and scan fields for Bobolinks.

ACCESS: From Hwy 97 at milepost 62, turn west onto Fort Rd. Drive 9.4 miles. Turn left onto Lateral C Rd. Drive 3.2 miles to parking on left.

28 Fort Simcoe State Park

HABITAT: 200 acres of Garry oak forest and shrub-steppe.

BIRDING: Outstanding site for Lewis's Woodpecker. Also find other attractions: Western Tangers, California Quail, White-breasted Nuthatches, Spotted Towhees, Common Ravens. Listen and look for Chipping Sparrows, Ash-throated Flycatchers, possible Great Horned Owls. American Kestrels and Prairie Falcons hunt over sage.

VIEWING: From middle of east side of parking lot, walk loop trail through oaks and sage. Check Mool Mool Springs for Lazuli Buntings. Bonus: Fort Simcoe's historic buildings and exhibits. Also Yakama Nation Museum: From Hwy 97 at milepost 62.8, turn south onto Buster Rd, then right on Spiel-yi Loop, and park in lot.

ACCESS: From Hwy 97 at milepost 62, turn west onto Fort Rd. Drive 19.2 miles. Turn left onto Fort Rd Extension. Drive 0.2 mile. At T, turn left onto Signal Peak Rd. Drive 2.0 miles. Turn right onto Fort Simcoe Rd. Drive 5.0 miles. Turn left into park.

29 Toppenish National Wildlife Refuge

HABITAT: USFWS 1,700 acres of seasonal wetlands, shrub-steppe.

BIRDING: In fall, 30,000 waterfowl arrive and stay for winter. Scope ponds (when not frozen) for Pied-billed Grebes, Northern Pintails, Northern Shovelers, Gadwalls, American Wigeons, and, of course,

Mallards. Fortunate birders spot Short-eared Owls. Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers migrate through in spring. Marsh Wrens, Common Yellowthroats, Yellow-breasted Chats stay for summer. Spring-fall, Yellow-headed Blackbirds sing atop cattails and Black-crowned Night-Herons and Soras skulk beneath.

VIEWING: Take 0.1-mile paved trail to viewing platform. Mowed-grass 0.2-mile Wildlife Foot Trail skirts ponds and creek. Dirt road behind gate leads 0.5 mile to cottonwood grove by headquarters. Look on ground for white pellets – then up into trees for Great Horned Owls.

ACCESS: From Hwy 97 at milepost 56.9, turn west onto Pump House Rd. Drive 0.1 mile. Turn right into refuge parking.

30 Horn Rapids Park

HABITAT: County's 800 riparian and upland acres along Yakima River.

BIRDING: Spring bestows color. Migrating Rufous Hummingbirds, Yellow Warblers, Western Tangers, and Bullock's Orioles bring bright hues; plus Long-billed Curlews, Western Wood-Pewees, and Swainson's Hawks. California Quail scuttle through shrubs. Look for uncommon Common Nighthawks at dusk mid-June to early September. Ospreys fish through October. Fall features White-crowned Sparrows, Yellow-rumped Warblers, occasionally Lewis's Woodpeckers.

VIEWING: Take 0.3-mile ADA through cottonwood trees to river, plus informal trails along shore.

ACCESS: From Hwy 82/12, take exit 96/Hwy 225 N. Drive 10.6 miles. Turn east into Horn Rapids Park. At T, turn left, drive 0.1 mile, turn right into day-use parking.

31 Leslie Groves Park

HABITAT: Municipal ribbon of 149 acres by Columbia River with riparian trees and sandy, shrubby islands.

BIRDING: Gulls and more. View Glaucous-winged Gulls and hybrids, Ring-billed and California Gulls nest on Nelson Island, Herring Gulls visit in winter. In fall Ospreys soar above river. Winter specialties include Barrow's Goldeneyes, Common Loons, and American White Pelicans. Look for Downy Woodpeckers, Brown Creepers on tree trunks.

VIEWING: Walk 0.1 mile to floating dock; set up scope to watch nesting gulls on river islands. Take riverfront path 1 mile south or bird by boat around bird sanctuary islands. Caution: strong river current.

ACCESS: From I-182/Hwy 12, take exit 5B (George Washington Way). Drive north on George Washington Way 3.8 miles to northern park access. Turn right onto Saint St. Drive 0.5 mile. Park at river.

32 W.E. Johnson Park

HABITAT: Municipal 236 acres of undeveloped riparian tangle and wetlands by Yakima River.

BIRDING: Spring singers advertise for mates: Yellow-breasted Chats, Lazuli Buntings, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Gray Catbirds. Glimpse radiance of Black-chinned Hummingbirds. Fall-winter, catch sight of Varied Thrushes; Song, White- and Golden-crowned Sparrows, American Goldfinches, Bewick's Wrens, and Spotted Towhees. Flocks include Dark-eyed Juncos, Cedar Waxwings, Yellow-rumped Warblers.

VIEWING: From Tanglewood St, walk past bollards down paved access road, and through white gate to informal trails. Path to right leads 0.2 mile to base of hills. Path to left connects to 2+ miles of unmarked trail network through trees, brush, sage.

ACCESS: From I-182/Hwy 12, take exit 4 (W Hwy 240/Vantage). At 1st stoplight on W Hwy 240, turn left onto Duportail St. Drive 1 block. Turn right onto Riverstone Dr. Drive 0.5 mile. At T, turn left onto Tanglewood St. Drive 0.2 mile. Park on right side of 600 block on residential street. Park is unsigned.



33 Chamn'a



HABITAT: Municipal 276 acres of dense thickets of riparian trees on Yakima River delta, shrub-steppe hillside.

BIRDING: Spring greets arriving nesters: Wood Ducks, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Bullock's Orioles, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Western Kingbirds, and Northern Rough-winged Swallows. Sharp-shinned Hawks and American Kestrels soar through fall skies above Downy Woodpeckers' tap-tap-tapping. Belted Kingfishers chatter from river's edge.

VIEWING: Paved path leads down toward river. Turn left to 8-mile-trail network. Explore Sand, River and Tree Tunnel trails. Best birding in first 0.5 mile of trails, and slough at east end.

ACCESS: From I-182/Hwy 12, take exit 5B (George Washington Way). Drive north on George Washington Way 0.1 mile. At 1st traffic light, turn left onto Aaron Dr. Turn left again staying on Aaron Dr. Drive 0.6 mile. Turn left onto Jadwin Ave. Drive 0.1 mile (on overpass). At T, turn right onto Carrier Rd. Drive 0.2 mile. Turn right onto Cullum Ave at Chamn'a Natural Area sign. Drive 0.3 mile. Turn left into parking.

34 Bateman Island



HABITAT: Municipal 60-acre park with seasonal mudflats and riparian shrubs, bounded by Yakima and Columbia rivers.

BIRDING: Water's edge teems with shorebirds! See Dunlins, Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets late March-May, and again Aug-Nov. Watch spring migrants: Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Long billed Dowitchers, Spotted Sandpipers. On summer mornings, find Cliff and Bank Swallows. Winter means waterfowl: American Wigeons, Common Loons, Pied-billed Grebes, Hooded Mergansers, Ring-necked Ducks – even a Lesser Scaup or Northern Pintail. Great Horned Owls stay all year.

VIEWING: Scope river and shoreline from overlook. Walk east to gate in chain link fence, down hill, and onto 0.1-mile causeway to island and multiple trails. To left is 1-mile loop; to right are four

0.1-mile spur trails. Bonus: Audubon birdwalk, 8 am, 1st Saturdays, Sept-June.

ACCESS: From I-182/Hwy 12, take exit 5A (Hwy 240E) onto Hwy 240. Drive 1.6 miles. Take Columbia Park Trail exit; stay in left lane. At roundabout, take Columbia Park Trail eastbound. Drive 1.1 miles. Turn left into Lewis & Clark Interpretive Overlook parking.

MORE BIRDING: Rod Coler Audubon Nature Trail – Continue 2 miles east on Columbia Park Trail. Turn left into parking by playground equipment. Cross street to nature trail's 3 short loops. Look for Winter Wrens and Spotted Towhees in winter, Song Sparrows in spring, American Coots in pond in fall.

35 Hanford Reach National Monument: Ringold Access



HABITAT: US Dept. of Energy/WDFW 200 acres of deciduous trees and sagebrush along Wild and Scenic segment of Columbia River.

BIRDING: Enjoy spring charmers: Song Sparrows, Mourning Doves, Bullock's Orioles, Black-headed Grosbeaks. Black-billed Magpies investigate and comment. Ospreys and Great Egrets hang out by river, and Great Horned Owls nest. Winters stars are water birds: American White Pelicans, Pacific Loons; Western, Pied-billed, and more occasional Red-necked Grebes.

VIEWING: Walk 0.1 mile west on old road through Russian olive trees. Explore spur trails to river.

ACCESS: From I-182/Hwy 12, take exit 9. Turn north onto Rd 68. Drive 2.3 miles. Bear right at Y onto Taylor Flats Rd. Drive 13.6 miles. Turn left onto Ringold Rd. Drive 3 miles. At Ringold sign turn left. Drive 0.8 mile. Turn right at T onto gravel Ringold River Rd, then immediately left at public fishing sign. Drive 0.3 mile. Park at restroom.

MORE BIRDING: White Bluffs – Guided boat tour to see Great Blue Heron rookery, rare Raven's nest on bluffs, dazzling aerobatics by Cliff and Bank Swallows. Ask to go ashore at fishing access for peek into small riparian canyon. www.coloumbiariver-journeys.com. 1-888-486-9119.

36 Two Rivers Park

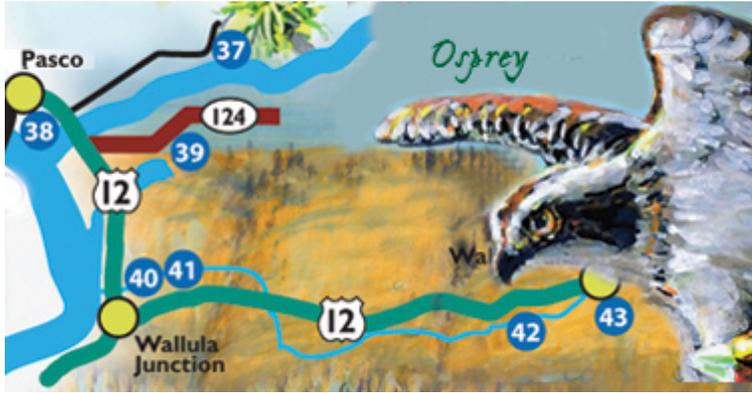


HABITAT: County's 210 acres on Columbia River with lagoon, marsh, deciduous riparian trees.

BIRDING: Near-urban spot with 200 species. In spring, Tree Swallows and Downy Woodpeckers nest in snags by Nature Trail; Song Sparrows and Marsh Wrens nest in cattails. Great Horned Owls fledge young. Fall-winter, see Dark-eyed Juncos, White-crowned Sparrows, Spotted Towhees and Varied Thrushes in riparian areas. Look for Common Loons, Horned Grebes, Ring-billed Gulls, American Coots on water, and Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks overhead. Check tall trees by picnic area for Brown Creepers, Black-capped Chickadees, and Yellow-rumped Warblers.

VIEWING: Walk east past gate on 0.5-mile riparian nature trail to boat launch. Spur trails lead to marshy areas by river.

ACCESS: From Hwy 12, take exit 14A 397 south (Finley). Drive south on Hwy 397/Oregon Ave/Ainsworth Ave/10th Ave/Gum St 6.6 miles through Pasco and Kennewick. At milepost 4.7, turn left onto Finley Rd. Drive 1.6 miles. Turn left into 2nd park entrance.



37 Big Flat Habitat Management Unit

HABITAT: Corps-managed 832-acre peninsula of basalt and shrubs in Snake River.

BIRDING: Big place with big birds on major flyway. Winter gets top billing for Canada Geese, Western Grebes, and thousands of Mallards. Shrub fruits feed Cedar Waxwings, Varied and Hermit Thrushes. Local residents – Great Horned and Barn Owls, American Goldfinches, Mourning Doves, Western Meadowlarks, Marsh and Rock Wrens – are joined by spring migrants: a thousand Bank Swallows plus Lazuli Buntings, Bullock's Orioles, Yellow-breasted Chats.

VIEWING: Cross dike to explore 2 miles of meandering dirt roads, side paths into Russian olive groves, cottonwoods, birches, and shrubs; grasslands, baby basalt columns. Bonus: Deer, beaver.

ACCESS: From Hwy 12 at milepost 292.2, take Kahlotus exit. Turn northeast onto Pasco-Kahlotus Rd. Drive 13 miles. Veer right onto gravel Herman Rd. Drive 1.5 miles to parking.

MORE BIRDING: Columbia Plateau Trail – Return on Herman Rd 0.1 mile, park at pullout on right. Bird by bike or walk south on rails-to-trails Pasco-to-Cheney route along Snake River to see birds of the sage fly by: Western Meadowlarks, Brewers Blackbirds. Above, spot Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, Northern Harriers, even Ospreys and Bald Eagles. Bonus: Ice Age flood geology.

38 Sacajawea State Park

HABITAT: 284 acres of deciduous trees, river shallows with cattails, shrub-steppe uplands.

BIRDING: Dramatic design and color highlight spring plumage of Wood Ducks in slough, Yellow-rumped Warblers in willows, iridescent Black-billed Magpies in sage. Western Meadowlark sing atop bushes. Fall features “fishermen”: American White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants. Common Loons and Common Goldeneyes spend the winter, along with Bald Eagles who perch high in trees while Downy Woodpeckers and Northern Flickers forage lower on trunks.

VIEWING: From center, walk by river and on ADA path. Check park trees. Walk to boat launch, take informal 1-mile trail north. From park gate, return 0.3 mile on park road; trail leads to view of Great Egret rookery on Columbia River island. Bonus: At park – Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center honoring Sacajawea. At corner of Sacajawea Park Rd and Hwy 12 – Ainsworth Historical Marker.

ACCESS: From Hwy 12 at milepost 294.4, turn south onto Sacajawea Park Rd. Drive 1.8 miles (veer left at Y) to park. Spring and

fall, drive to interpretive center parking. In winter, park on right at gated entrance and walk into park.

39 McNary National Wildlife Refuge

HABITAT: USWFS 15,894 acres of river islands, sloughs, seasonal wetlands, mudflats, riparian areas, shrub-steppe uplands.

BIRDING: Winter gets top rating! Some 100,000 Canada Geese and Mallards arrive Oct-Nov, plus Tundra Swans, Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaups, Ring-necked Ducks, Common Goldeneyes, Hooded Mergansers, American Wigeons, and Canvasbacks. Good migratory birding in spring and fall for Ruddy Ducks and Yellow-headed Blackbirds.

VIEWING: Take 1-mile loop Burbank Slough Wildlife Trail; check out viewing blind. Walk 0.3-mile Bird Spur trail in trees. Bonus: Painted turtles sunning on logs.

ACCESS: From Hwy 12 at milepost 295.3, turn north onto Hwy 124 (Waitsburg). Drive 1.0 mile. Turn right onto Lake Dr. Drive 0.7 mile. Turn right into McNary Education Center.

MORE BIRDING: Return 1.6 miles toward Hwy 12. Turn right into Hood Park. Turn right at gate to dirt parking area. Walk east past steel gate into trees, and follow 0.5-mile informal trail around slough. Best birding fall-winter. Examine trees for Harris's and White-throated Sparrows, Hermit and Varied Thrushes, Black-capped Chickadees. Find flocks of Yellow-rumped Warblers, Cedar Waxwings, Oregon Juncos. Look for Wood Ducks at marsh pond.

40 Madame Dorion Park

HABITAT: Corps' 51 acres of shrubs, willows along Walla Walla River.

BIRDING: A multitude of Song Sparrows pop through bushes in winter. Also find Bewick's Wrens, Cedar Waxwings, Varied Thrushes, Dark-eyed Juncos, White-crowned Sparrows, Great Horned Owls, plus Red-tailed, Cooper's, and Sharp-shinned Hawks. Migrating though spring and fall are Wilson's, MacGillivray's, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. In summer, view Caspian Terns and American White Pelicans on river, House Finches and American Goldfinches in willows.

VIEWING: Look and listen in willows near river. Check foliage on way to boat launch 0.3 mile further. Also bird by boat on river. Bonus: Beaver, muskrat active dawn and dusk.

ACCESS: From Hwy 12 at milepost 307, turn east onto N Shore Dr. At T, turn right. Drive 0.2 mile. Park by picnic tables.

41 Sanctuary Pond overlook

HABITAT: USFWS 2,200 acres of pond and flooded field

BIRDING: Jan-March, Bald Eagles cruise for dinner entrées of Northern Pintails, Green-winged Teal, Canvasbacks, Lesser Scaups. Spy Northern Shrikes in winter. Spot Great Egrets fall and spring.

VIEWING: Set up scope at covered overlook to view pond below. Bonus: interpretive sign-1806 Lewis and Clark camp, Chief Yelepit's gift.

ACCESS: From Hwy 12 at milepost 307, turn east onto N Shore Dr. At T turn left. Drive 0.4 mile. Park on right at overlook.

MORE BIRDING: From overlook, continue 1.2 miles on N Shore Dr. Park in gravel pullout on right. Set up scope on Millet Pond for spring shorebird spectacular: American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, Dunlins, Cinnamon Teal, Great Egrets, Black-crowned Night-Herons, and rare White-faced Ibis.



42 Whitman Mission National Historic Site



HABITAT: National Park Service 98 acres of rye-grass prairie, cottonwood and locust tree riparian ribbon on creek.

BIRDING: Family-friendly setting for beginners to learn birds by season – and cuisine. American Goldfinches munch spring tree buds. Barn Swallows feast on summer's mosquitoes. Fall berries feed Cedar Waxwings, and Black-billed Magpies make meals of winter seeds.

VIEWING: Take 0.9-mile Mission Sites Trail. Look for California Quail on Oregon Trail behind covered wagon. Great Horned Owls frequent canyon behind Great Grave monument. Bonus: Turtles on Grist Mill Pond, visitor center and museum.

ACCESS: From Hwy 12 milepost 329.9, turn south at Whitman Mission sign onto Swegle Rd. Drive 0.5 mile. Turn left onto park road. Drive 0.4 mile to visitor center parking.

MORE BIRDING: Walk 0.4 mile back on park road in early summer for Great Blue Heron rookery. Respect private property.

43 Ft. Walla Walla Natural Area



HABITAT: Municipal 70-acre natural area of ponds, shrubs, cottonwood trees; trail maintained by Blue Mountain Audubon Society.

BIRDING: Easy, fun family exploring for bountiful birds: Black-capped Chickadees, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Song Sparrows. Woods harbor spring nesters: Cooper's Hawks, Yellow-breasted Chats, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Gray Catbirds, Bullock's Oriole. Wood Ducks use nest boxes.

VIEWING: Mornings, evenings best for 0.4-mile Arthur G. Rempel Trail. Walk primitive path to barn (interpretive post #14) for Great Horned and Barn Owls, and to riparian ponds. Check Russian olives and cottonwoods (interpretive post #5) for Swainson's Hawk nest. Bonus: Ft Walla Walla Museum.

ACCESS: From Hwy 12 at milepost 335.2, take Myra Rd exit. Turn south onto Myra Rd. Drive 1.6 miles. Turn left into Ft. Walla Walla Museum complex. Drive 0.4 mile, staying left around complex. Park at Blue Mountain Audubon Natural Area sign.

44 Bennington Lake



HABITAT: 612 acres of cottonwood and willow trees, seasonal mud flats; 52-acre lake created and managed by Corps.

BIRDING: Spring-summer highlights are nesting Lazuli Buntings, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Yellow-breasted Chats, Spotted Sandpipers, House Wrens, Tree Swallows. Ospreys fish spring-fall; late fall find Greater Yellowlegs and Tundra Swans. In winter, discover Townsend's Solitaires and Northern Shrikes, and listen for Great Horned and Long-eared Owls.

VIEWING: Scope lake below 1st parking area for shorebirds. 2.6-mile Meadowlark loop by lake and 4.8-mile Whitetail Trail on hillside are part of 20-mile hike/bike network from Walla Walla. Caution: Hunting Sept 1-Jan 31 on White Tail Trail.

ACCESS: From Hwy 12 at milepost 339.4, take Airport Rd/Port of

Walla Walla exit. Turn south onto Airport Rd. Drive 0.5 mile. Turn left onto Reservoir Rd. Drive 1.7 miles to parking lot; continue to left, park at picnic area.

MORE BIRDING: Return 1.2 miles on Reservoir Rd. Turn right into Mill Creek Project Office. Drive 0.1 mile to kiosk. Cross bridge to 1.7-mile Kingfisher loop trail. Check spillway in winter for Common and Hooded Mergansers.

45 Umatilla Nat'l Wildlife Refuge: Whitcomb Is.



HABITAT: USFWS 4-square-mile island and marsh in Columbia River.

BIRDING: Fall-spring, shallow water provides home for dabbling ducks: Gadwalls, American Wigeons, Northern Shovelers, Ruddy Ducks, Green-winged Teal, Canvasbacks. Watch predators watching for prey: Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, Northern Harriers, and Merlins.

VIEWING: Walk back on road to scope sloughs, ponds, wetland shrubs, trees. Caution: respect private property.

ACCESS: From Hwy 14 at milepost 159.1, turn south onto Whitcomb Island Rd. Drive 0.2 mile to parking on right.

46 Crow Butte Park



(Restrooms open Mar 15-Oct 15)

HABITAT: 275-acres on Columbia River island; sloughs, marsh, seasonal mudflats, deciduous trees and shrubs, shrub-steppe; owned by Corps, managed by Port of Benton.

BIRDING: Common Ravens far outnumber their smaller relatives here. In spring, find Bullock's Orioles, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Caspian and Forster's Terns. Late summer's exposed mudflats draw migrating shorebirds: American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, Least and Western Sandpipers, Dunlins. Other fall visitors include Hermit Thrushes and flocks of Yellow-rumped Warblers, Dark-eyed Juncos, and Song, White- and Golden-crowned Sparrows. In winter, view causeway marsh for Ring-billed and occasional California and Glaucous-winged Gulls, plus Virginia Rails and Marsh Wrens.

VIEWING: Check tree groves at water's edge. Walk 0.2 mile to campground, campsite #42, for start of 1.5-mile Crow Butte Trail to hillside home of Rock Wrens, Loggerhead Shrikes, Western Meadowlarks.

ACCESS: From Hwy 14 at milepost 155, turn north onto Sonova Rd, and then right again onto Butte Rd. Drive 1.9 miles (passing under Hwy 14) to day-use area parking on right.

MORE BIRDING: Return 1.7 miles on Butte Rd. Before overpass, park in gravel pullout on left. Walk back along road to check trees, wetlands and sloughs. In spring, look at beams under east end of overpass to see Great Horned Owl nest – possibly large owlets, too.

47 Rock Creek Canyon



HABITAT: Corps-owned Columbia River slough with creekside shrubs.

BIRDING: Popular spot for spring visitors and migrants. See Ospreys above slough, Common Mergansers and Buffleheads on water,



Spotted Sandpipers on shore. Survey trees for Black-headed Grosbeaks, Bullock's Orioles, and Western Tanager. Find American and Lesser Goldfinches, Yellow-breasted Chats in brush, Eastern and Western Kingbirds in meadows. Bank Swallows wheel above, with Common Ravens even higher. Keep an eye out, too, for Bald Eagles and Prairie Falcons.

VIEWING: Walk on old paved roadways. Birding by boat: Put in at launch and paddle 1 mile to Columbia River.

ACCESS: From Hwy 14 at milepost 121.1, turn north onto Rock Creek Rd. Drive 1.3 miles. Turn left; drive 0.5 mile to boat launch.



48 Bickleton Bluebirds

HABITAT: Agricultural fields, rolling grasslands.

BIRDING: "Summer homes, rent free!" Free to bluebirds, that is. Bickleton's human residents developed the state's first bluebird trail with nest boxes used by mostly Mountain and some Western Bluebirds.

VIEWING: Bluebird driving loop with 50 birdhouses begins at milepost 35.2 in town of Bickleton. Turn north onto Cemetery Rd. Drive 1.5 miles. Turn left onto Pine Creek Rd. Drive 1 mile. Turn left onto Nelson Rd. Drive 1 mile. Turn left onto Bickleton Hwy to return to town. Bonus: Carousel Museum.

ACCESS: From Hwy 14 at milepost 121.1, turn north onto Rock Creek Rd. Drive 13.3 miles. At T, turn right onto Bickleton Hwy. Drive 20 miles to Bickleton.

49 Maryhill Museum of Art

HABITAT: Private museum's 5-acre setting on Columbia River bluff: deciduous trees, shrubs, and adjacent shrub-steppe.

BIRDING: Lesser Goldfinch is prize species here! View tree-dwellers: Bullock's Orioles, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and possible Yellow Warblers. Brewer's Blackbirds perch and flock as California Quail scurry on ground. Thermal wind currents create aerial highways for Northern Harriers, Swainsons' and Red-tailed Hawks, and Turkey Vultures.

VIEWING: Check tree groves that give shelter from wind, and weedy edges past museum gardens. Bonus: art museum, sculpture garden.

ACCESS: From Hwy 14 at milepost 98.8, turn south onto Maryhill Museum Dr. Drive 0.1 mile to parking.

50 Balfour-Klickitat

HABITAT: USFS 50+ acres of grassland, oak savanna, ponderosa pines above confluence of Klickitat and Columbia rivers.

BIRDING: Winter brings bonanza of Bald Eagles feasting on salmon. Windfall of swallows arrives in spring: Tree, Violet-green, Northern Rough-winged, Barn, and Cliff, plus some Purple Martins. Spot Lewis's Woodpeckers, Ash-throated Flycatchers, White-breasted

Nuthatches. Lesser Goldfinches hide in thistles. With fall comes a smattering of shorebirds: Greater Yellowlegs, Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers. Anna's Hummingbirds stay all year.

VIEWING: Sand Spit – From parking area, scope sand spit in Columbia River in winter for eagles, in spring-summer for Double-crested Cormorants, California Gulls, Caspian Terns. **Picnic Loop** – Take ADA 1-mile trail to picnic area above Klickitat River.

Klickitat Cove Overlook – Walk left on ADA trail 0.3 mile, veer left onto old grassy roadbed 0.5 mile to overlook for views of spring Ring-necked Ducks, summer Western Tanagers in canopy, fall Cinnamon Teal, and winter Common Goldeneyes.

ACCESS: From Hwy 14 at milepost 75.8, turn north onto Old Hwy 8. Drive 0.2 mile. Turn right and down to parking.

51 Klickitat Trail

HABITAT: Rails-to-trails ribbon of Garry oak, ponderosa pine, aspen, alder, and riparian shrubs along Wild and Scenic Klickitat River; partnership of Klickitat Trail Conservancy, USFS, and state parks.

BIRDING: Birds up, down, all around! Check treetops for Western Tanagers, branches for Cassin's and Warbling Vireos, trunks for White-breasted Nuthatches. Find Anna's Hummingbirds and Ash-throated Flycatchers in brush. Common Mergansers and American Dippers ply river. Vaux's Swifts swoop near basalt rock walls where Canyon and Rock Wrens call. Golden and Bald Eagles patrol skies over canyon.

VIEWING: Bike or walk north through Garry oak and riparian landscape 8.4 miles to town of Pitt. Bonus: traditional Indian salmon fishing platforms across river from parking (respect tribal property).

ACCESS: From Hwy 142 at milepost 1.6, turn west onto Fisher Hill Rd. Cross bridge to parking area.

52 Klickitat Wildlife Area: Soda Springs Unit

HABITAT: WDFW 13,000 acres of meadows, ponderosa pine and Garry oak highlands above 18-mile riparian Klickitat River corridor.

BIRDING: Survey trees for elusive Western Wood-Pewees, and Red-eyed, Cassin's, and Warbling Vireos; enjoy brightly attired Yellow Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chats, Bullock's Orioles. Lewis's Woodpeckers favor oaks. Lazuli Buntings perch on shrubs. Watch on ground for Ruffed and Sooty Grouse, California Quail, Chukars, and Wild Turkeys. Brewer's Blackbirds flock in grasslands where Western Meadowlark sing. Tree Swallows and Western Bluebirds flit to and from nest boxes.

VIEWING: Check pond for Killdeers. From Y, left fork of rough road goes 2+ miles; right fork ends in 0.2 mile at fence. Bonus: wildflowers!

ACCESS: From Hwy 142 at milepost 23.6, turn north at sign to Alderwood onto Glenwood Hwy. Drive 5.6 miles (passing wildlife headquarters). At milepost 18.1, turn right onto unmarked, dirt Grayback Road. Drive 0.4 mile. Turn left at Y intersection. Drive 0.4 mile. Veer left at Y. Drive 1.5 miles to Y; park off road.

53 Brooks Memorial Park

HABITAT: State's 700-acre pine forest, beaver wetlands, meadows. **BIRDING:** Look for all four hummingbirds: Rufous, Anna's, Calliope, and Black-chinned. Check treetops for Western Tanagers and tree

trunks for Williamson's Sapsuckers and Pileated Woodpeckers, plus Pygmy, Red- and White-breasted Nuthatches. More forest birds abound: Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkeys, Steller's Jays, Cassin's Vireos, Mountain Chickadees. Find meadow residents: Western Bluebirds, Chipping Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, Western Wood-Pewees, Pine Siskins. Watch aloft for Vaux's Swifts, Red-tailed Hawks, Bald Eagles.

VIEWING: Forest Trail – Hike 1+ mile up to ridgetop meadow.

Beaver Ponds – Explore riparian brush at far end of camping area.

ACCESS: From Hwy 97 at milepost 24.7, turn east opposite state park sign. Turn right at Brooks Memorial Environmental Learning Center sign. Drive 0.1 mile to Y. **Forest Trail** – veer left; drive 0.2 mile to trail parking on left. **Beaver Ponds** – veer right; drive 0.2 mile to group camping.

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.
- Many WDFW and Wildlife Refuge sites allow hunting fall-winter. Check dates at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/game/seasons.htm>. Use caution.
- Disclaimer: hiking and birding can be dangerous. Audubon does not warrant conditions on or safety of any site, and assumes no liability for injuries suffered as a result of travel or other activities associated with this map.
- Keep a sharp eye out for rattlesnakes and ticks, which occur throughout Eastern Washington spring through fall.
- "Bird by boat" means non-motorized craft.

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: Blue Mountain, Kittitas, Lower Columbia Basin, and Yakima Valley Audubon societies
- Washington Ornithological Society, Rare Bird Alert—www.wos.org
- A Birder's Guide to Washington, by Hal Opperman, 2003, American Birding Assn, Colorado Springs, CO, www.americanbirding.org
- Birds of the Inland Northwest and Northern Rockies, by Harry Nehls, Mike Denny, and Dave Trochlell, 2008, RW Morse Company, www.rwmorse.com
- Birds of Yakima County, by Andy Stepniewski, 2008 2nd Printing, Yakima Valley Audubon Society, Yakima, WA; and Yakima Area Wildlife Viewing Guide and BirdYak: www.yakimaaudubon.org
- Birder's Guide to Kittitas County, and BirdKitt: www.kittitasaudubon.org
- Birding in and around Klickitat County, wdfw.wa.gov/viewing/wildview.htm
- Online discussions: Tweepers, U of WA, www.scn.org/earth/tweepers; Inland NW Birders, birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/INNW.html
- BirdWeb, Seattle Audubon's online WA bird guide, www.birdweb.org

Thanks!

Applause to the dedicated chapter volunteers from Blue Mountain, Kittitas, Lower Columbia Basin, and Yakima Valley Audubon societies • our many Birding Trail volunteers • Washington Ornithological Society • Confederated Tribes & Bands of the Yakama Nation • our business and agency partners. Audubon Washington is grateful for financial support from WA State Dept. of Transportation and individual contributors.



The Great Washington State Birding Trail, Sun & Sage Loop

© Audubon Washington 2009, 1st printing

© 2008 Paintings by Ed Newbold

© 2009 Design/layout by Al Tietjen (Fusion Studios)

Christi Norman (Audubon Washington) directs the Birding Trail Program.



Audubon WASHINGTON

wa.audubon.org, 206-652-2444

5902 Lake Washington Blvd. S, Seattle, WA 98118