



The following information comes from "**Birds of Utah County**", by Robin Tuck

Popular Birding Places

"Utah Birds" • Print Center - Dec 2000 • www.utahbirds.org

A. Lindon Marina

The Lindon Marina is a privately owned boat ramp just north west of Geneva Steel on West Geneva Road at N 40° 19.629' W 111° 45.799'. Access is from Geneva Road at 200 South, Lindon or 400 South, Orem. From either of these proceed west toward the lake to the Marina, passing several cooling ponds which often have a variety of ducks. This is a narrow road with a lot of truck traffic, so pull completely off the roadway if you want to stop. The marina is small with a single arm reaching out into the lake. There is a \$2.00 charge to enter the marina. Immediately east of the marina is a stand of Cottonwoods that often have

Red-tail and other Hawks. The old Lindon land-fill just north still attracts a large number of gulls.

B. Utah Lake State Park

The Utah Lake State Park (<http://www.nr.state.ut.us/parks/ww1/utah.htm>) is at the west end of Provo Center Street at Utah Lake, N 40° 14.215' W 111° 44.016'. This State Park has an excellent boat ramp, large grassy areas for picnicing and camping, and is one of the few birding spots having bathroom facilities. The Marina has a large protected boat moorage area and two jetties reaching out into the lake. The southern jetty parallels the Provo River outlet and is best for

waterfowl, but the north jetty has had some shore birds as well as a pair of wintering Snow Buntings. There is a \$3.00 fee per vehicle/\$1.00 per pedestrian to enter the park and an annual pass is available.

C. American Fork Marina

Access to the American Fork Marina is via 6000 West, American Fork, N 40° 20.500' W 111° 48.070'. This small marina is surrounded by tall cottonwoods and has a single arm reaching into the lake. There is a \$2.00 per vehicle charge to enter the marina

D. Lincoln Point/Lincoln Beach

Lincoln Point is a public beach on

the south end of Utah Lake, at the north end of West Mountain, N 40° 08.473' W 111° 48.170'. Access is through Benjamin, winding on farm roads towards the lake (See the Lincoln Point & West Mountain Auto Tour for directions). This area is being developed but currently does not charge for entry. There are several portable toilets, which may be poorly serviced. This is a popular area for shore birds, having a variety of species especially during migration. Snowy Plovers are known to nest on the rocky beach.

E. Saratoga Marina

The Saratoga area consists of grassy farm land and lake shore at the north end of Utah Lake, about a mile southwest of the Jordan River outlet, which at one time had been an amusement park and swimming area, but is now a housing development. The old pavilion is being rebuilt and access to the old marina (N 40° 20.985' W 111° 54.233') is being provided for walk-in traffic. Access is through Lehi, turning south after 9550 West. The road to the old Saratoga Park passes by marshy fields that are habitat for a large number of birds and mammals. The marina has two arms that reach several hundred feet out into the lake, providing some good views of the lake shore on either side. Currently, there is no charge to enter the marina to observe birds. Parking is along the roadway east of the marina.

F. Swede Lane Sportsman Access

The Swede Lane Sportsman Access consists of a parking lot with a small boat launching area, and a wildlife viewing tower overlooking the east arm of the lake. Access is from State Road 77,

west to Swede Lane, 2750 West, heading north, winding past fields to the parking lot at N 40° 10.397' W 111° 43.313'. 300 yards west of the entrance to the parking lot is a large mud flat that often has numerous shore birds such as American Pelicans, Caspian Terns, Black-necked Stilts and Spotted Sandpipers and many others. The road to the mud flat should not be taken when wet.

G. Sandy Beach

The Sandy Beach Sportsman Access follows the Spanish Fork River to the lake, where, like its name implies, there is a large sandy beach area. The location is N 40° 10.016' W 111° 44.919'. This is a popular place for four-wheeling with a lot of trails cut through the willows and Russian Olive. The access road is bumpy but passable for all but the lowest cars. There are a lot of large trees in this area. Get there by taking State road 77 to 3200 West, then winding north and west.

H. Lake Shore

The Lake Shore Sportsman Access is on the southeast end of Utah lake, between Swede Lane and Lincoln Point. Access is by going north on 4000 West, (Benjamin), which turns into a dirt road north of 5200 South where it enters marsh land. For the first half mile, the road is built up on a dike and offers some great views of some wetlands. Sandhill Cranes, Great Blue Herons, White-faces Ibis, Canada Geese and many other waterfowl and shorebirds inhabit the area. The road ends at N 40° 09.005' W 111° 44.966' where there is a small boat launch area and place for several camp sites. Plan for mosquitoes.

I. LeBarron Point

On the east side of the south end of Utah Lake, west of West Mountain, LeBarron Point sticks out into the lake, N 40° 02.972' W 111° 52.319'. The road to the point passes through a large group of trees that are a migrant trap in the spring and fall for migrating warblers and often have nesting raptors. A Great Horned Owl is commonly seen here. The road winds down to a point where it crosses a marsh where Marsh Wren, Savannah Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, Sora and Virginia Rail are found. Access is from Lincoln Beach Road, turning west toward the lake at the edge of the Genola orchards where the road crosses a cattle guard. Near here, the west side of West Mountain often has Chukar on the rocky outcrops. A good road to drive up to find Chukar is 1.1 miles north of the LeBarron turn-off at N 40° 03.892' W 111° 51.337'. Drive to the top, then listen, Chukar are noisy.

J. Knolls

The Knolls Sportsman Access is the only public access on the west side of Utah Lake. Access is from Highway 68 (Redwood Road) at mile marker 19 (N 40° 12.437' W 111° 53.673'). Take the gravel road to the lake. This area gets its name from the two high hills on the lake's edge. In the late summer, the west side of the lake often has a wind that blows insects from the lake onto the sagebrush flats next to the shore. Because of this bounty, some years large spiders proliferate spinning wispy webs on the sage. These spiders are not harmful, but you may wish to walk carefully anyway. There are probably 7 to 10 square miles of sage covered with millions of these large, 1½ inch spiders.

K. Jordan River

Sportsman accesses to the Jordan River outlet of Utah Lake are at 10000 West on Highway 73 west of Lehi, N 40° 23.247' W 111° 54.098', and at 10000 West on Saratoga Road at N 40 21.653' W 111 53.945'. This provides access to the gates that control the height of Utah Lake and the flow of water in the Jordan River. The path along the river is an extension of the Provo-Jordan Parkway.

Yellow-headed Blackbird, Virginia Rail, Sora, Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret and Common Snipe are commonly seen.

L. Powell Slough

Powell Slough is a large marshy area near the Orem Water Treatment Plant, with a number of waterways winding through the reeds providing habitat for American Coots, Common Moorhen and other waterfowl.

Primary access is from the westmost end of University Parkway, off Geneva Road at 1000 South, Orem. Drive west through a new business park and park in the turn-around at the end of the road, N 40° 16.470' W° 111 44.343'. There is a gate (sometimes open for parking) providing foot access to the slough. Additional access is available week days, 6:00 am to 6:30 pm through the Orem Treatment Plant. Stop and inquire at the office. Please do not wear out our welcome. There is a large pond west of the treatment plant that is protected and may have Cormorants and other waterfowl.

M. 5th West

The 5th West Sportsman Access is on the southwest end of Provo. Drive south on University Avenue turning west at 920 South. Drive past where the road passes underneath the I-15 Freeway, then

turn south on a road named "Frontage Road", which turns into 500 West. Drive to 1820 South where the road climbs a dirt embankment and leads to a parking lot at N 40° 12.411' W 111° 40.093'. Bring mosquito protection in season. There is an Osprey nest in the trees ¼ mile to the west and a trail to the south that leads to the lake shore.

N. Mill Race

The Mill Race Sportsman Access is north of Camelot Woods (also a great place to bird). Exit I-15 at the Mountain Springs exit and turn west, then north on the frontage road. In times of high water levels, much of this road is submerged and impassible. Park along the road. There is not a good place to turn around at the end of the road at N 40° 12.109' W 111° 39.308'. Mill Race Creek and Spring Creek flow into the lake here.

O. BYU Botany Pond (N 40° 14.675' W 111° 39.039')

The south edge of the BYU Campus is an arboretum along the hill edge consisting of trees and shrubs planted from east to west representing native plants from the eastern to the western part of the United States. Winding through this garden are numerous paved paths providing views of the plants and the birds that stop over or nest here. Parking is along 800 North in Provo and the best access is through a gate at 400 East. This is a great migrant trap in the spring.

P. Rock Canyon (N 40° 15.875' W 111° 37.805')

2300 North in Provo goes a half mile past the Provo Temple to Rock Canyon Park. Park your vehicle and continue up the mouth of the canyon on foot. There are numerous paths winding around in

the Gambel Oak providing the opportunity to see many species. About 500 feet up the main road on the right is an old cut with a path at the end of it that continues around the hillside and out of the canyon. This path provides an excellent view of the canyon mouth and is a great place to see migrants in the spring. A trail continues up Rock Canyon for several miles connecting with the Squaw Peak Road that is of interest to hikers.

Q. Salem Pond (N 40° 02.996' W 111° 40.454')

Salem, a small town 5 miles east of Payson has a residential area built around a 5 acre pond. This pond rarely freezes over in the winter and is a great place to see wintering and migrating waterfowl. There is a park and a marsh at one corner of the pond that collect migrants in the spring. This pond is very accessible and almost always productive, especially in winter.

R. Spring Lake (N 40° 00.218' W 111° 44.760')

Spring Lake is a shallow spring-fed pond about 2 miles south of Payson on State Highway 6. Turn east on 12400 South and go one block down the hill. This pond generally has a number of ducks on the north end, which has a road around it with picnic tables.

S. Geneva Cooling Ponds (N 40° 19.629' W 111° 45.799')

The Geneva Cooling Ponds are just south of the Lindon Marina and west of Geneva Steel Plant on West Geneva Road. Access is from Geneva Road at 200 South, Lindon or 400 South, Orem. From either of these proceed west toward the lake. The cooling ponds often have a good variety of ducks. The road to the south goes along the shore of Utah Lake and then turns east

into a farming area. There is good bird habitat all along this road.

T. Warm Springs Wildlife

Management Area (N 39° 57.793' W 111° 51.272')

The Warm Springs Wildlife

Management Area is a series of ponds ringed by marsh and Russian Olive trees. Access is off the I-15 Santaquin exit, number 248, west on Highway 6 for 4.4 miles. After crossing the railroad tracks, take the surfaced road to the south (left) diagonally for .6 miles. Then take the dirt road that goes up and over the railroad tracks, which enters the Wildlife Area. The ponds are immediately below an old mine and ore processing plant south of Genola. This is a secluded place and is good for birds year round. This is a stop-over for migrating ducks and passerines.

U. Provo City Cemetery (N 40° 13.500 W 111° 38.614')

The Provo City Cemetery has a large number of old mature deciduous and coniferous trees which attracts a number of small birds. Daytime access is west of State Street (US Highway 89) at 800 South. Birding in the Cemetery is best in the winter.

V. Camelot Woods (N 40° 11.308' W 111° 38.978')

Camelot Woods is a Boy Scout Camp in a stand of trees adjoining Utah Lake just to the west at the Mountain Springs exit of I-15, exit

265. Turn west at the exit, then immediately turn north and park. There may be scouting functions going on in the camp but access is normally available. This is a popular place to 'owl' in the winter.

W. American Fork Canyon (N 40° 25.950' W 111° 45.080')

American Fork Canyon separates Mt. Timpanogos from Lone Peak (http://www.gorp.com/gorp/resource/US_Wilderness_Area/UT_lone.HTM), in northern Utah County. Access to the canyon is either by way of 100 East in Pleasant Grove (which becomes Canyon Road) or by way of the Highland/Alpine exit off I-15, following the signs to Timpanogos Cave (http://www.gorp.com/gorp/resource/us_nm/ut_timpa.htm). As you travel up the canyon, you will come to Salamander Flats, which has a good mixture of furs, oak, aspen, cedar, wild current, elderberry and honeysuckle bush which makes it excellent habitat. About 6 miles up the canyon is the Timpanooke turn off which joins the Alpine loop and ends up in Provo Canyon. Tibble Fork Reservoir is 5 miles further. A \$3.00 fee per vehicle is collected at the mouth of American Fork Canyon.

X. Timpooneke (N 40° 25.976' W 111° 38.166')

Timpooneke is the start of a dirt road that winds to the front of

Mount Timpanogos. The distance from the mouth of American Fork Canyon to the Timpooneke Campground is 8.4 miles. There is no indication at the campground and trailhead that this is the start of the Timpooneke road. Enter the campground, driving by the pay booth (no fee is necessary) for .8 miles. The road turns to dirt and you have come to a "Y". To the left is the campground and a riparian habitat with a beaver pond. Turning to the right is the Timpooneke road. The travel time to the end and back is 2 to 3 hours. On this rough road, 4 wheel drive not necessary for the first 5 miles, but is needed after that. The road eventually dead-ends above Battle Creek and Cold Creek canyons in Pleasant Grove. Ruffed grouse have been seen along this road.

Y. Provo Wetlands Wildlife Protection Area (N 40° 11.842' W 111° 38.355')

This wetland was established as a mitigation area for the Provo Airport expansion. Drive south on University Avenue to 1700 South and turn east onto East Bay Drive. Continue east and wind around then turn south at 700 East and drive past Kuhni's, on the west. There is a parking lot available by appointment (379-6700). Foot access is on the north side where a dirt road goes to a good sized lake. This is a good place for waterfowl and shorebirds in season.

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