



Weber County

Popular Birding Places

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Anderson Cove

Directions: Anderson Cove Campground is located at mile 17.5 of SR-39. [in Ogden Canyon, near Huntsville]

Description: This large campground is run by the US Forest Service. It lies at an elevation of 5,000 feet. Its open meadows, lawns with both planted and natural trees and vegetation make good habitat for a variety of birds.

Facilities: Areas for trailers, camping and lodging, picnicking, fishing, swimming and boating are provided. Drinking water, vault toilets and a small general store are available for your convenience. Swimming beaches, volleyball courts and horseshoe pits are located within the campground.

Beus Canyon

Directions: Go east on 4600 South in Ogden until the road curves to the south, then look for the sign for "Beus Canyon Trailhead" on the left side of the road near the microwave towers.

Beus Park and Beus Pond, Ogden ~ Kris Purdy

Description: Beus Park is a heavily wooded area surrounding a pond in a residential neighborhood. The park offers a paved path, benches, bathrooms, and a dock that juts out into the water. Habitat includes Cottonwoods, scrub oak, fruit trees, and Box Elders. The trees may be very thick in places offering good cover for birds. Varied Thrushes have been spotted here in the winter.

Directions: From points south of Ogden, take US-89 north. After passing under the I-84 underpass, you'll climb the Ogden bench. Turn right (north) at the second traffic

light onto Harrison Blvd and SR-203. Drive north on Harrison just over 2 miles and turn right (east) onto 42 Street. Drive approximately 3/4 mile and turn right into the Beus Park entrance.

From points north or east, take I-84 to exit 87, Ogden. Turn north onto US-89 and follow the directions above.

Birds: Wood Duck, Western Screech-owl, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Black-crowned Nightheron, Spotted Towhee, Brown Creeper (winter), and neo-tropical migrants during migration.

Other: Walk around the paved path and enjoy whatever you see along the way. Don't hesitate to make forays into the woods on unpaved footpaths to see what might be off-trail.

Causey Reservoir ~ Kris Purdy

Directions: Causey Reservoir is located off SR-39 about 10 miles east of Ogden Valley. Within mile 27 of SR-39, turn east on Causey Road at Red Rock Ranch and Outfitters and drive until the road ends at the reservoir. To reach the trailhead and the boat put-in, turn right across the dam and drive until the road ends at a parking lot with a pit toilet.

Description: Causey is a deep, cold reservoir not particularly good for water birds. (Only non-motorized water craft are permitted on the reservoir). There's a nice trail option from the south arm along the south shore to the east arm. Skullcrack Trail is 2.3 miles long (one way) and will take you through some ruggedly beautiful territory. It's considered a quiet and peaceful hike, rated moderate with a vertical rise from 5,700 to 6,000 feet.

Birds: Common Merganser, Spotted Sandpipers, Green-tailed Towhees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Plumbeous Vireo, Steller's Jays, Cordilleran Flycatchers, Western Tanagers

Dairy Ridge and Eli Ridge Road ~ Kris Purdy

Directions: Dairy Ridge and Eli Ridge Road are located on UT 39 between mile markers 45 and 46. To get there from I-15, exit the interstate at 344 and turn east on 12th Street, also named UT 39. Follow UT 39 through Ogden Canyon, along the south shore of Pineview Reservoir, and east of Huntsville. UT 39 proceeds due east of Huntsville and follows the South Fork of the Ogden River. Watch the mile markers count up. Dairy Ridge and Eli Ridge are served by the same sign and are just over the Cache Valley line. The road into the area may still be impassable due to snow late into spring.

Specialty Birds: (Summer only) Blue Grouse, Mountain Bluebird, White-crowned Sparrow, Green-tailed Towhee

Fort Buenaventura ~ Kris Purdy

Description: Fort Buenaventura is located within a mature cottonwood stand along a curve of the Weber River. Well-developed paths through the park and along the river on both sides allow good access.

Directions: From I-15 exit 342 (24th Street in Ogden) turn east. Drive one mile on 24th Street and turn south on A Street. Follow the brown signs to Raptor Field/Fort Buenaventura; it's less than a block from 24th Street. Pass Raptor field and continue south. You can park at the yurt and then bird the path west of the river, or continue over the river into the park proper and park at the visitor's center.

Birds: Belted Kingfishers, vireos, Wood Ducks, hummingbirds, Western Screech-owls, Great Horned Owls, Bullock's Orioles, Cooper's Hawks, Spotted Sandpipers.

Other: Best birding is along the path next to the river because the habitat is more diverse there. At the end of the paved path, the Kingfisher Wetlands Trail forms a loop around a small wetland and has an observation tower. If you enter the park, you can pay your \$1.00 entrance fee at the visitor's center. Bathrooms are located in the park. Fort Buen can be a very noisy place sometimes due to railroads on the south and east sides, Saturday Mountain Man Rendezvous and Boy Scout Jamborees.

Harold Crane WMA

Directions from the South: Take the 12th Street exit (exit 344) of I-15 in the Ogden area and go west on Highway 39 to 6700 West and turn right (north). Go 3 mile or so to the end of the road and you will be at the wetlands.

Directions from the North: Take exit 349 of I-15 near Farr West and go west on Highway 134 into Plain City (3 or 4 miles). Go west from Plain City on 2050 North a couple of miles until it "T's" into 1900 North and turn right

(west). Go west about .2 miles to 6700 West and turn right (north). Go north about a half mile to the end of the road and you will be at the wetlands.

Birding the area: From the trailhead you will see a hack tower to the northeast. Look for Peregrine Falcons on it. You can walk along the old railroad bed east or west. If you go east there is a small pond about 1 mile that holds a fair amount of birds and waterfowl. ~ Paul Merola

Birding along the way: On your way there, stop at the West Warren Cemetery on the corner 6700 West and 700 North. Northern Shrikes may be in the area and if you're lucky Short-eared Owls may be in a Russian Olive grove about 1/4 mile north of the cemetery on 700 North. ~ Paul Merola

Specialty Birds: Eastern Kingbird, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon ~ Paul Merola

Maples Loop Nordic Trail ~ Kris Purdy

Description: Maples Loop Nordic Trail is a National Forest Service Trail below Snowbasin Ski Resort. The area is forested with mixed aspen, fir, spruce, and pine. The trail formerly was a dirt road that led to Maples Camground years ago when the camground was an overnight camping area.

Directions: Maples Loop Nordic Trail is just below the northernmost Snowbasin Ski Resort parking lot. The trailhead is at the farthest corner from the entrance to the parking lot. Snowbasin is accessed from SR-167, Trapper's Loop, that runs between the town of Mountain Green in Morgan County and Huntsville in Weber County.

Birds: Red-naped Sapsucker, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Flammulated Owl, both Chickadees, Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, MacGillivray's Warblers, Orange-crowned Warblers, House Wrens, Lazuli Buntings.

Other: You may either walk down the trail nearly a mile to the open area of the old camground and return to the trailhead, or follow the trail signs to other National Forest Service trails.

Middle Fork WMA ~ Kris Purdy

Directions: The Middle Fork WMA is located in northeast Ogden Valley. From SR-39 on the east side of Huntsville go north to where SR-39 turns east toward Monte Cristo, but continue straight for about 1/4 of a mile then bear right onto 7800 East (don't follow the main road [SR-166] which goes to Eden and Liberty); continue north on 7800 East to where 1900 North connects from the west. You will see the entrance sign. The road will go north then turn east leading the parking lot.

North Arm Natural Area, Pineview Reservoir

~ Kris Purdy

Description: The North Arm Natural Area is formerly a US Forest Service campground that flooded regularly in the spring. Once the area was allowed to return to nature, it became mid-elevation riparian habitat.

Directions: From I-15 exit 344, turn east on SR-39 and drive through Ogden Canyon. At the head of the canyon, turn left (north) onto SR-158 and over Pineview Dam. Drive 3.8 miles and turn right into the trailhead parking lot.

Good Birds: Sandhill Crane, Osprey, Wilson's Snipe, Caspian Tern, Calliope Hummingbird, Gray Catbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, Fox Sparrow

Rare Birds: Veery, Green Heron

Other: Stop at the pullout along SR-158 at about mile 3.1-3.2 to look over the whole area and view the Osprey nesting platforms in the spring and summer. You can also view the area from the east side at an angler's access and you might be able to see pelicans, gulls, terns, shorebirds and waterfowl along the shore. Within the area, the nature trail is generally a figure 8 in the river bottom, while the Pineview West trail traverses the slope on the west side through more diverse habitat and gives a better view.

Ogden Cemetery

Directions: The cemetery is located on 20th Street between 450 E. and 700 E. streets in Ogden. You can park on 20th Street and walk into the cemetery from there.

Specialty Birds: Bohemian Waxwing, Cedar Waxwing, Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Mountain Chickadee and Golden-crowned Kinglet

Ogden Nature Center

Directions: Take the 12th Street exit (Exit 347) and go east toward Ogden. Go about 1.5 miles to the nature center on the left side of the road.

Ogden River Parkway

Directions: Take the 12th Street exit (Exit 347) in Ogden and go east through Ogden toward Ogden Canyon. Turn right at the sign for "Dinosaur Park" about 100 yards before entering Ogden Canyon and cross the river to the parkway head.

Ogden Bay Waterfowl Management Area

Directions: North Entrance: Go west on 12th Street (becomes 900 South) in Ogden to 7500 West. Turn south and proceed to the north entrance. Or, from Hooper, go west to 7500 West. Turn north and proceed to the south entrance.

South Entrance: "To reach Ogden Bay's south entrance, take exit 338 from I-15 and head west on 5600 S. through Roy. This road becomes 5500 S. and passes through Hooper. 5500S ends at a stop sign at a "T" in the

road; turn north on 7500W and drive until you enter Ogden Bay WMA". ~ Kris Purdy

Specialty Birds: Marsh Wren, Savannah Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird

Perception Park

Directions: Perception Park is a National Forest Service campground located on UT 39 east of Huntsville. To get there from I-15, exit the interstate at 344 and turn east on 12th Street, also named UT 39. Follow UT 39 through Ogden Canyon, along the south shore of Pineview Reservoir, and east of Huntsville. UT 39 will proceed due east of Huntsville and follow the South Fork of the Ogden River. Watch the mile markers. Perception Park is located between mile markers 26 and 27 on UT 39. Several other Forest Service Campgrounds--Magpie, Botts, Meadow, Willows--are located along the same stretch and should provide birds similar to those in Perception Park. ~ Kris Purdy

Specialty Birds: Hermit Thrush, Belted Kingfisher, (summer) Lazuli Bunting

Pineview Reservoir

Directions: Take 12th Street in Ogden east up Ogden Canyon (UT 39) to the dam and Pineview Reservoir.

Specifcs: Geertsen Bay is located on the north end of the reservoir and is due south of the Bar B Ranch on SR-166. The bay is accessible from two paths labeled as Angler's Accesses. The Middle Inlet Swim Area is located on the northeast side of the reservoir along SR-166. The gate is closed to vehicle traffic, but you can still walk in for good views of the water. ~ Kris Purdy

Powder Mountain Ski Area ~ Kris Purdy

Description: Powder Mountain Ski Area and the adjacent Powder Ridge Village condominiums are located at 8,200-8,800 feet in mixed coniferous and aspen forest at and above the tree line along the Weber/Cache County line.

Directions: From I-15 exit 344, turn east onto SR-39 and drive through Ogden Canyon. At the head of the canyon, turn left (north) onto SR-158. The highway ends nearly 12 miles later at the main base lodge of Powder Mountain Ski Area. Turn right just before the ski area parking lot onto a dirt road and drive a mile higher to Powder Ridge Village. The STOP PRIVATE PROPERTY signs on the dirt road are directed at skiers and snowboarders who are attempting to do a self-shuttle off the road without a lift ticket. You may proceed to the condominiums.

Birds: Winter: Gray-crowned and Black Rosy-finches at the feeder at Powder Ridge Village. Also, Clark's Nutcrackers, Steller's Jays, Red Crossbills, Pine Grosbeaks. Summer: Dusky and Ruffed Grouse, Northern Saw-whet and Flammulated Owls, Williamson's and Red-naped Sapsuckers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Nutcrackers and Jays,

Red Crossbills, Green-tailed Towhees.

Rare Birds: Bohemian Waxwings in the canyon, rosy-finches at Powder Ridge Village

Other: Not recommended when snow/ice cause hazardous driving conditions, in combination with ski area traffic. The last four miles of SR-158 is the steepest paved road in Utah and using a low gear on the way down will preclude burning out your brakes. In winter, drive to the condos for the rosy-finches and other feeder birds. In summer, bird Powder Ridge Road up to the the condos and within the resort on ski trails. You can also walk the road through the private home area to the top of the ski school area and continue up to Lightning Ridge, the ridge above the private homes.

Rainbow and Steward Bridson Trails ~ Kris Purdy

Yield right-of-way to mountain bikers and horseback riders.

Description: Both trails are located in a riparian "bowl" between the Ogden River at the mouth of Ogden Canyon and the oak foothills of the bench area east of Ogden. The habitat includes small streams, a pond, thick willow, chokecherry, cottonwoods, and dense scrub oak.

Directions: Take I-15 to exit 344, 12th Street/SR-39. Turn east toward the mountains. Just before Ogden Canyon, turn right on Valley Drive and immediately left into the Rainbow Gardens Gift Shop parking lot. The trailheads that serve both trails is located in the far right (southwest) corner of the parking lot.

Birds: Yellow-breasted Chat, Gray Catbird, Virginia's Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Bullock's Oriole, California Quail, Chipping Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak, hummingbirds

Other: You can walk a loop using both trails, a short section of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail (BST), and several blocks of the nearby residential neighborhood. Take the Rainbow Trail to the BST and leave the trail system at the 22nd Street Trailhead. Wind north and west a couple blocks through neighborhoods to the intersection of 20th Street and Fillmore Ave, where you'll find the south trailhead for the Birdsong Trail. Take the Birdsong Trail back to Rainbow Gardens. Restrooms and a restaurant are available at Rainbow Gardens.

Strongs Canyon

Directions: The trailhead is located at the east end of 36th Street in Ogden, just before the road turns south.

Description: Several trails connect to this point including the Strong Canyon, Mt. Ogden Exercise Trail, the Bonneville Trail and the trail to Waterfall Canyon.

Weber River Trail (Riverdale Parkway) ~ Kris Purdy

Description: The Weber River Trail is located in Riverdale City in Weber County. The trail is a 10 foot-wide paved path and includes three wooden boardwalks. It's

approximately 1 1/4 miles long from the access near 4400S north to the end of the trail near Parker Drive in Ogden. The trail is bordered by the Weber River to the east and a residential area to the west. It's forested with tall cottonwoods, other old-growth deciduous trees, and lots of dead snags. The understory is shrubs and brushy edges. Riverdale City plans to leave the majority of the trail in its natural state to provide habitat critical to wildlife. Another 1-mile section of the trail continues south of Riverdale Road.

Directions: Take I-15 to exit 339, Riverdale. Turn east on Riverdale Road and drive 1.3 miles to 700W. Turn left (north). Drive a block to 4400S and turn right (east). Continue east on 4400S as the road curves north and dead-ends at a trailhead. You could also turn left (north) on 600W and park at any trail access up to 4080S. To reach the south section, from Riverdale Road turn right (south) at 700W. Turn left toward the Riverdale City offices. Cross over the river and follow the road around to the right. Park at the trailhead.

Birds: Black-chinned Hummingbird, Lazuli Bunting, Black-headed Grosbeak, Yellow Warbler, Downy Woodpecker, Black-capped Chickadee, Warbling Vireo, Belted Kingfisher, Bullock's Oriole, Song Sparrow, waterfowl

Other: The trail is popular among the residents of the area and the birder will meet many friendly people.

Wheeler Creek / Canyon

Directions: Take exit 347 (Ogden, 12th Street) of I-15, and go east 9.5 miles through Ogden Canyon. Just before you reach the Pineview Reservoir dam, turn right into the Wheeler Creek trailhead parking lot.

Description: The trail is about two miles long and connects to the old Snowbasin Road (SR-226) and another parking lot.

Wolf Canyon Trail ~ Kris Purdy

Description: Wolf Canyon Trail offers a mid-elevation hike that passes through several vegetation zones. The lower reaches are vegetated by scrub oak and maple; the mid-elevations have both isolated firs and sometimes cool and thick fir slopes; and the higher areas open up with shrubs, forbs, and aspen/alders/box elders along the creek. The trail is one-way, 3 miles long, and gains 1600' of elevation from 6,000' at the trailhead to 7,600' feet at the summit. The trail offers a gentle climb on a dirt road until about halfway up; at higher elevations, the trail becomes steeper and dwindles to a path.

Directions: Wolf Canyon Trail is located in Weber County approximately 16 miles northeast of Ogden at

mile 8.2 of UT 158 (Powder Mountain Canyon). Take I-15 to exit 344 (12th St. and UT 39) and turn east. Pass through Ogden Canyon and turn right onto UT 158 at Pineview Dam. Watch your odometer; the trailhead is located on the west side of the road behind the white gate at mile 8.2.

Birds: Virginia's Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Swainson's Thrush, Black-capped Chickadee, Western Tanager, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Green-tailed Towhee

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