



Box Elder County

Popular Birding Sites

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

Directions: Take the Brigham City exit (#363) from I-15 and go west about 20 miles to the end of the road. Or from Main Street in Brigham City, turn west on Forest Street. BRMBR is about 15 miles on this road.

Specialty Birds: American White Pelican, Long-billed Curlew, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, American Avocet, Black-crowned

Night-Heron; (winter) Bald Eagle, Herring Gull, Thayer's Gull, Glaucous Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Tundra Swan, Canvasback; (in migration) Red Knot, Common Tern, Bonaparte's Gull, Snow Goose.

Clear Creek

Description: This campground, road and stream are located on the divide of the Great Basin and the

Snake River drainage in the Sawtooth National Forest. The stream, cottonwood riparian and pinyon juniper habitats provide a highly variable bird population during migration and good birding in the summer.

Directions: Go west from Snowville on UT 42 to Strevell, (an old town site) just across the Idaho border. Go west on the gravel road 3.3 miles to the Clear Creek Campground sign. The campground is

south and west of the sign 6.2 miles.

Specialty Birds: (summer) Hairy Woodpecker, Western Screech-Owl, Pinyon Jay, Warbling Vireo, Hermit Thrush and Chipping sparrow.

Dale Young Nature Park (Perry Nature Park)

Directions: Take I-15 north and exit at the Brigham City 1100th south exit (#362). Go east to Main Street, turn right, (going south) you are now on US Highway 89. Go past Maddox Ranch House and turn right (west) at 2250 South. Go 3-4 blocks west and you are there. ~ Sharon Andrus

Devil's Playground

Directions:

East approach: Go west then southwest on UT 30 from Rossette, exactly 27.2 miles. Beyond a wash there's a gravel pit and dirt road going toward the mountains to the west. Go west on the dirt road for just over a mile and bear onto the unimproved road that continues west for 1.2 miles. Take the next right heading north into the sagebrush for about a mile.

West approach: Take the unmark turnoff about 15 miles east of Grouse Creek Junction.

Golden Spike National Historic Site

Directions: Take Exit 365 off I-15 near Brigham City and go about 20 west on UT 83. Turn left and go about 8 miles, follow the signs to Golden Spike NHS.

Johnson Creek

Directions: Go south then west of Yost for 1 mile until you get to a sign for Johnson Creek.

Locomotive Springs Wildlife Management Area

Directions: Go about a mile northeast from Golden Spike NHS (see above), to UT 504, follow

the signs west about 22 miles then turn left and go about a mile to Locomotive Springs.

Lucin

Directions: Turn south from UT 30 about 8 miles east of the Utah-Nevada border (Grouse Creek Junction). Go 5 miles on the gravel road until it crosses the railroad tracks. Turn left and go to the ponds surrounded by trees.

Mantua Reservoir ~ Kris Purdy

Description: Mantua Reservoir is a small man-made body of water east of the town of Mantua. It's bordered on the west and south sides by a dike that allows easy access and good viewing. Vehicles are not permitted to park on the dike, but adequate parking areas are adjacent to the dike.

Directions: Mantua is located on Route 89/91 east of Brigham City (Exit 362 from I-15). The reservoir is easily visible from the highway as 89/91 runs adjacent to the town of Mantua. Once you can see the reservoir, take any Mantua exit and drive east until you reach access roads to the dike.

Specialty Birds: Western, Clark's, Pied-billed, and Eared Grebe; American White Pelican; Forster's and Caspian Tern, Bald Eagle (winter only).

Mayor's Pond ~ Kris Purdy

Description: Mayor's Pond is a 2-3 acre man-made pond on Box Elder Creek at the mouth of Box Elder Canyon in Brigham City. It was built with the intention of providing under-15 year olds with a community fishing spot, and is regulated by the Utah Department of Wildlife Resources Fishing Proclamation. It is reputed not to freeze in the winter, so it's a great spot for waterfowl when other options are iced over.

Directions: From points along the Wasatch

Front, take I-15 to exit 362 (Brigham City, Logan, and UT 91). Turn east. UT 91 intersects Main Street in about 2 miles. Turn left (north) on Main Street and drive to the Brigham City Tabernacle. Turn right (east) after the tabernacle on UT 90. Drive .9 miles and look for the pond on your left. If you're driving from Cache Valley, take US 89/UT 91 past Mantua and take the first Brigham City exit (UT 90). You'll find the pond on your right in approximately .3 miles.

Birds: Common and Barrow's Goldeneye, American Wigeon, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Canada Goose, Ring-necked Duck, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Bufflehead, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Wilson's Snipe, Northern Flicker. Gray Partridge have been sighted in the area as well. Double-crested Cormorant (summer only).

Other: There's a good wide pullout along the south side of the pond on a road that doubles as an entrance to a gravel pit. You'll likely have sand and gravel trucks rumbling by, but the location is safe and the trucks are not disturbing to either the birds or the birders. The observation spot offers a view of the entire surface of the pond. Be sure to look along the wooded shore at the extreme southeast corner of the pond, also the mouth of Box Elder Creek, for Wilson's Snipe.

Raymond M. Hansen Park (Elwood, Utah)

~ Kris Purdy

Description: Hansen Park is located in the town of Elwood, Box Elder County, southeast of Tremonton. The park sits on a curve of the Bear River and offers old-growth deciduous woods, open fields and brushy edges.

Directions: Take I-15 to Exit 376 and turn north. Just after the red-roofed Exxon/Arby's Travel Center, turn right (east) on 9600N. The

intersection might not have a street sign, but there's a sign for a health food store in the direction you should turn. Drive east for a mile and turn right (south) onto 4400W. at the four-way stop. Drive south a half mile and turn right (west) onto River Road. The park entrance is a couple hundred feet down River Road on the left.

Birds: Lazuli Bunting, Black-headed Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole, Yellow Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ring-necked Pheasant, Black-capped Chickadee, Bank Swallow, Belted Kingfisher, American Goldfinch, Cedar Waxwing.

Other: The park is closed in the winter, however, if you continue down River Road past the entrance you can look down into the park along a hillside covered with Russian Olives. You'll also get a view of the river from this vantage point and you may see waterfowl if the water is open.

Salt Creek WMA

Directions: 1. From Corinne, go 4 miles west on UT 83. After following the signs to the landfill, go north to the WMA (the landfill is to the south). 2. From Corinne, go 8 miles west on UT 83. After passing Little Mountain, turn north and go about 3 miles staying right at all intersection until you get to the WMA.

Specialty Birds: Northern Harrier, Cinnamon Teal and Sandhill Crane (winter) Bald Eagle

Salt Hills Flat

Directions: From the road about 1 mile north of Promontory, go west about 12 miles.

Whites Valley ~ Kris Purdy

Description: Whites Valley is a remote ranch/farmland/grass and sagebrush covered valley in extreme north-central Utah. Much of the

property is private, so please observe the 'No Trespassing' signs.

Directions: Take I-15 north and I-84 west. Remain on I-84 when the two roads split and take Ranch Exit 32. Turn right, or north. The pavement ends after .3 miles and the road is gravel thereafter. Continue north. You'll reach Whites Valley after approximately 4 miles. The road zigzags west and north across the valley until it ends at two silos; however, the last half mile is marked, "No Trespassing".

Birding: Watch for Burrowing Owls and listen/watch for Grasshopper Sparrows in the first mile or so. Watch along the road and in stubble in the fields for both Gray Partridge and Sharp-tailed Grouse. You might need to walk through brush or sage lining the safflower and wheat fields to find partridge or grouse. Watch over field edges and sagebrush for Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers. Returning south and east out of the valley, you might consider taking the road that heads east at an intersection at a single silo, through Johnson Canyon. Grasshopper Sparrows have been heard and seen in the grassy field northwest of the Nucor Steel Plant. Continue east on this road and you'll intersect I-15.

Specialty Birds: Gray Partridge, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Grasshopper Sparrow, Burrowing Owl, Short-eared Owl, Sage Thrasher, American Pipit

Willard Bay State Park

Directions: Take Exit 357 about 5 miles south of Brigham City and go west. Immediately turn left into the park.

Specialty Birds: Gray Catbird, Bonaparte's Gull, Bald Eagle, Common Tern, Hooded Merganser; (fall and winter) Common Loon

Willard Peak Road ~ Kris Purdy

Description: Willard Peak Road connects the town of Mantua to Willard Basin Campground near Willard Peak, rising in elevation from about a mile to over 9,000 feet. The road parallels Box Elder Creek at the lower elevations, and is forested with open, deciduous woods and fragments of grassy/scrub oak woods. Information on the higher elevations would be appreciated!

Directions: Mantua is located east of Brigham City (Exit 362 from I-15). Exit UT 89/91 at the westernmost Mantua exit, also signed for Box Elder Campground. Consider making a brief jaunt into Box Elder Campground especially in the spring to look for Ruffed Grouse. Turn right on Main Street in Mantua and proceed southwest. Main Street becomes Willard Peak Road. (It may be closed in the winter).

Specialty Birds: Hermit Thrush, Lazuli Bunting, Orange-crowned Warbler, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Western Tanager

Other Information: It is recommended that you use a 4WD vehicle (just in case) and not go when the road is wet? The road is pretty rutted in places and looked like it could be slippery or washed out when raining. The Willard Peak area is the domain of the 4-wheeler, and it might be best to bird here during the week to avoid the noise and ATV traffic. Park anywhere there's a turnout or ATV path, especially one that provides open views. Your ears are your best birding tools to get started!

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