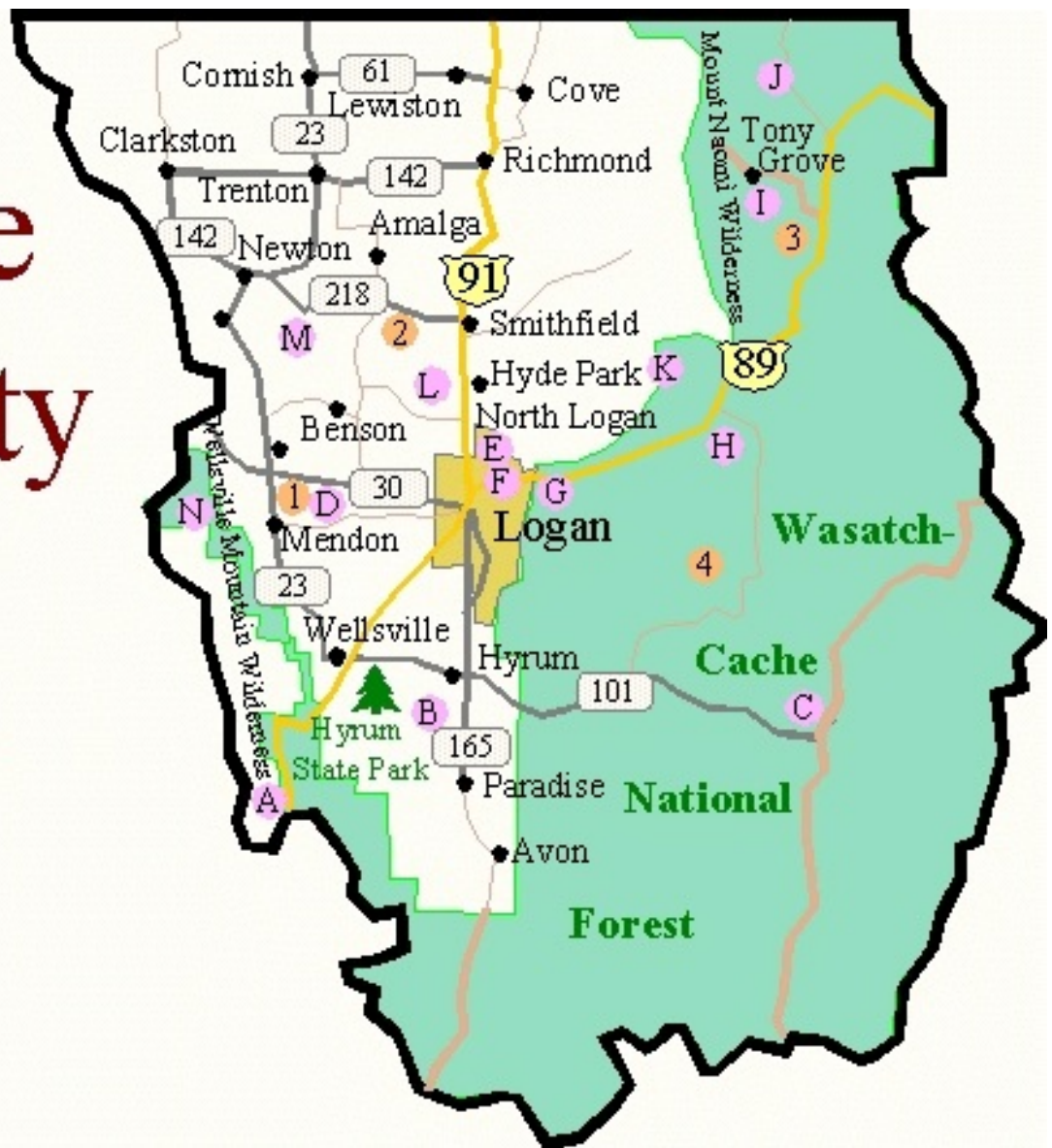


Cache County



Popular Birding Places

“Utah Birds Print Center (Dec 2013) www.utahbirds.org

First section from information provided by The Bridgerland Audubon Society

A. Dry Lake. (Roadside viewing, recommended for spring and summer, 15.0 miles from downtown Logan.) Ponds and marshes near the summit of Sardine Canyon on Highway 89-91. Park near the stock driveway on the south end of the valley. This is the flyway from the Great Salt Lake to Cache marshes used by the White-faced Ibis and White Pelican.

B. Hyrum Reservoir (State Park) .(Roadside viewing, recommended for spring and summer, 15.0 miles from downtown Logan.) Drive south on 4th West in Hyrum to reach the reservoir. Park in the parking lot or drive to the spillway and bridge just beyond it to view birds. Bank Swallows nest here. An occasional Loon, Western Grebes and diving ducks

use the deep water behind the spillway for fishing. (See writeup below).

C. Hardware Ranch. (Easy walk, 22.0 miles from downtown Logan) [Take UT 101 going east of Hyrum through Blacksmith Fork Canyon]. The visitor center and open country around it are great places to view Golden Eagles (all year) Bald Eagles (in winter) and Turkey Vultures (summer). (Weather Forecast)

D. Spring Creek Ranch. (Roadside viewing, 6.0 miles from downtown Logan) See third paragraph of the Mendon loop tour on www.utahbirds.org website and writeup below.

E. Old Main Hill and the U.S.U. Campus. (Easy walk, winter only) Between the campus buildings and 7th East, concrete walkways on the hillside are good birding spots for Cedar and Bohemian Waxwings, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Downy Woodpeckers and Cassin's Finches. Trees all around campus should be checked for Pine Siskins and Townsend's Solitaire. The cemetery behind the HPER building (at 10th North and 12th East) is good for small songbirds and a regular Great Horned Owl.

F. Canal trail along Canyon Road. (Easy walk) This 1-mile path begins at a driveway on the southeast corner of 4th North and 6th East in Logan. It parallels Canyon Road past Pehrson's Floral, and is excellent warbler habitat in the spring. Owls are often sighted in winter. Spring viewing may also include Rough-winged Swallow, White-throated Swift, orioles, Black-headed Grosbeaks and Lazuli Buntings.

G. First Dam (of the Logan River) (, 2.0 miles from downtown Logan). See paragraph two of Tony Grove Trip on the utahbirds.org website and writeup below.

H. Malibu-Guinavah Campground. (Easy walk, 6.5 miles from downtown Logan) See paragraph four of the Tony Grove Tour on the utahbirds.org website and writeup below.

I. Tony Grove Lake. (Easy walk, recommended for spring and summer, 28.1 miles from downtown Logan) See paragraph seven of the Tony Grove Tour on the www.utahbirds.org website and writeup below.

J. Franklin Basin Drive (Roadside viewing, recommended for spring and summer, 15.0 miles from downtown Logan) 3.3 miles north of highway 89 on the Franklin Basin Road to the site of the Soil Conservation Service Klondike Narrows Snow Survey Station. Early morning birding is best (before 8:30 a.m.) and is fairly good again from 4:30 p.m. until

dark. Twenty species nest here, including the Dusky Flycatcher, Western Wood Peewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Mountain Bluebird. (See writeup below).

K. Green Canyon. (Easy walk, 15.0 miles from downtown Logan) Drive east on 19th North in North Logan as far as you can take your car. In the lower reaches of the hike both Ruffed and Blue Grouse can be seen, as well as chickadees and kinglets. An occasional Poor-will or Canyon Wren might be heard. Near the ridge, Clark's Nutcracker and a Golden Eagle or two may be seen by the careful birder. (See writeup below).

L. Logan-Cache Airport. (Roadside viewing, 4.1 miles from downtown Logan) The road on the south side of the airport is a good spot for Short-eared Owls in the years when they are abundant, water pipits (winter) and snipe. Listen for winnowing snipe in the spring. Several hot springs on nearby 6th West keep some open water present all year.

M. Cutler Reservoir. (Roadside viewing, 7.0 miles from downtown Logan) See paragraph six of the Amalga-Benson loop on the utahbirds.org website and writeup below.

N. Wellsville Ridge. (strenuous hike, 7.0 miles from downtown Logan) Although breezy and chilly in the fall this is a good place for migratory hawk and eagle watching from late August until November. Gray-crowned Rosy Finches and Rock Wrens are also a possibility on the barren, rocky slopes. Use Deep Canyon trail, which can be found by following the dirt road extension of 3rd North in Mendon. Once on top, walk north on the west ridge about ½ mile, find a high nook to sit in, and face north for hawk watching. (See writeup below).

Note: There are descriptions and direction for five "Tours & Loops" in the Cache County pages on the "Utah Birds" web site. Links are listed on the main county page: www.utahbirds.org/counties/cache/

Other Popular Birding Sites

20-20 Ponds

Directions: From Main Street Logan, go west on 200 North to 1000 West. Turn left and go to 600 South and turn right. Go about 1.5 miles until you cross the Logan River and immediately turn right on 2200 West. Go 1.8 miles to the ponds on the west side of the road.

Specialty Birds: Green-winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, Wood Duck, Canvasback, Bufflehead, Ring-necked Duck

Amalga Barrens

Directions: Amalga Barrens is a relatively flat, open, marshy expanse in northern Cache Valley. Most of the marshy areas double as private ranch and pasture land. The Barrens is located northwest of Smithfield and just 10 miles south of the Utah-Idaho state line. ~ *Kristin Purdy*

Directions: Go west from Smithfield on UT 218. Turn north after crossing the Bear River and go about a mile on 2400 West. Turn on 7000 North which goes across the barrens.

From the Wasatch Front: Take I-15 north to exit 387. Turn east on UT 30. Just after entering Cache Valley, turn left (north) on UT 23 at Petersboro. Follow UT 23 north through Cache Junction, then east through Newton. Just south of the pyramid-shaped Little Mountain, take a short jog south on 4800W., and then turn left (east) onto 7000N. 7000N is an unimproved road that crosses The Barrens' expanse along the south side. To reach The Barrens within Cache Valley, take US 91 north through Logan. Turn left (west) at UT 218 in Smithfield, and right (north) on 2400W/Meridian Road. Watch for 7000N on the left--it's a pretty obscure road. ~ *Kristin Purdy*

Specialty Birds: Short-eared Owls, waterfowl, shorebirds, Sandhill Cranes, Wilson's Snipe, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, raptors in winter.

Other: It's important to have a scope because interior access to the marsh can only be achieved on 7000N. The birder can circumnavigate the entire Barrens area, looking into the marsh on UT 218 (a.k.a. 5200N in Smithfield, and the south border), 2400W. (east border; mostly residential), 8600N. (north border), and UT 23 (west border). All distances are pretty far, but you might catch some Short-eared Owl aerial display activity if you visit in early morning or at dusk in the spring. ~ *Kristin Purdy*

Ballard Springs

Directions: Directions: (1800 South Highway 165 on the East side of the highway. [south of Logan])

- *Coming from Logan:* Highway 165 is the main route from Logan to Hyrum and Paradise. At the "Y" on the south end of Logan, apx. 800 S, take the left lane at the light. Ballard springs is a little over a mile from the "Y".

- *Coming from Hyrum:* If you are in Hyrum, Highway 165 is 800 East. Start at the traffic signal and go North about 5 miles to the pond.

Description: This pond may be a worth while spot to check when much of the open water freezes. It is fed by a warm spring and remains open all winter. It is called "Ballard Springs" and is a private pond, however it is along highway 165 south of Logan and there is room to pull over and look.

Specialty Birds: Species seen there in the past week [around 23 Jan 2007] include, American Coot, Mallard, Canada Goose, Killdeer, Northern Shoveler, Ring-billed Duck, Canvasback, Northern Harrier, Rock Pigeon, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wigeon, Belted Kingfisher, Gadwall, Black-billed Magpie, and Northern Pintail.

Bear River Oxbow

Directions: From US 91 north of Logan, go west on 2500 North (Airport Road) about 2.6 miles and bear left at the intersection and go west .75 miles to a "T" in the road. Turn right and proceed the bridge across the Bear River. (There's an excellent wetlands on a trail going south along the river). Continue west another 1.75 miles to Sam Fellow Road. Turn right going north about a quarter of a mile on Sam Fellow Road to the Oxbow Overlook.

Specialty Birds: Marbled Godwit, Great Egret, swans, Cackling Goose

Benson Bridge

Directions: Go west from Logan on Hwy. 30 (200 North) to 3200 West and turn right. Drive 3 miles to 3000 North and turn left (west) and go 2.2 miles to the Benson Marina.

(Alternate route) From US 91 north of Logan, go west on 2500 North (Airport Road) about 2.6 miles and bear left at the intersection and go west .75 miles to a "T" in the road. Turn right and proceed to the bridge across the Bear River.

There's a parking area just before you cross the river. GPS: N41° 47.240', W111° 57.125'

Description: North of the road on the east side of the bridge is a picnic area (with restrooms). From here you can view the reservoir. From the parking lot you can walk along the shoreline on a trail that curves around to an old railroad bridge.

Birds: Common Loon, White-faced Ibis, Black-crowned Night Heron, Osprey, Clark's and Western Grebes, Long-billed Curlew (in the fields), (Winter) Tree Sparrows and Northern Shrikes.

Cowley Walk-in Access (1000 N.)

Description: This is private land that is open to public access through an arrangement with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Although often referred to as "the" Cowley Walk-in Access, the Cowley WIA has three separate tracts in Cache Valley which are each separated by several miles. This one has a small creek flowing mostly through a pasture. In the spring it may flood, and then it provides habitat for migrating shorebirds. Its proximity to the Logan Sewage Lagoons makes it a great location for fly-over waterfowl.

Directions: Head west on 1000 N from Logan. The parking area is where this road dead-ends at about 1900 W.

Good Birds: This can be a great place for shorebirds in spring if the flooding of the fields corresponds to shorebird migration. Savannah Sparrows can be abundant in the breeding season. The stream hosts lots of Song Sparrows and some Marsh Wrens and Virginia Rails. Bobolinks have been seen here.

Rare Birds: This location was just opened to the public in 2011 and quickly made it on the local birders' radars when a Swamp Sparrow was found in the corrals just south of the parking area in late December 2011 and continuing into January 2012, only the second of that species to be seen in Cache County and the first in almost 20 years.

Other: There is a DWR sign-in book at the parking area that you MUST fill in to have permission to access the property. If you are not carrying the tear-out receipt from this book with you, you may be cited for trespassing. You might also want to note in the comments section that you are birding, to help show the DWR that is not just hunters who use these public access areas.

Cutler Marsh

Directions: From US 91 north of Logan, go west on 2500 North (Airport Road) about 2.6 miles and bear left at the intersection and go west .75 miles to a "T" in the road. Turn right and proceed to the bridge across the Bear River. There's an excellent wetlands on a trail going south along the river. Continue another 1.75 miles to Sam Fellow Road. A quarter of a mile north on Sam Fellow Road is the Oxbow Overlook and about 2 miles south is the Benson Marina.

Birding: There's a 2.5 mile trail which starts and ends at Benson Marina on 3000 North Street which provides good birding.

Specialty Birds: American Bittern, White-faced Ibis, Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, Great Blue Heron, Northern Harrier, Common Yellowthroat, American White Pelican and Sandhill Crane

Cutler Reservoir

Directions: Go west from Benson to the Benson Marina and picnic area. The road turns to gravel. The open water on both sides of the road here (Cutler Reservoir) provides an opportunity to spot diving ducks.

Description: (Roadside viewing, 7.0 miles from downtown Logan) The picnic area is an ideal lunch spot.

Specialty Birds: Cackling Goose, diving ducks

Deep Creek Trail

Directions: Go west from Mendon on 300 North. When the road turns to gravel, continue to the parking place at the end of the road for Trailhead 39.

Denzil Stewart Nature Park ~ Mike Fish

Directions: Denzil Stewart Park is located at 100 South 600 East in the "Island" area. If you drive east on 100 South in Logan as far as you can go, you will end at the Park.

Description: Denzil Stewart Nature Park, it is a small park along the Logan river right below the River Heights bluff. The park seldom has many people and is a bit of a hidden jewel in the valley. The park is a great birding area and a great place to take kids to teach them about nature. The schools take kids on field trips often to this park (The park is probably around 4500 feet in elevation).

First Dam

Directions: Take 400 North (Hwy. 89) in Logan, east toward Logan Canyon. On the hill before the mouth of the canyon, turn right into Canyon Entrance Park where you can park.

Description: This is a reservoir formed by the first of three dams on Logan River.

Birds: (Spring, Summer) Bullock's Orioles, Song Sparrows, Yellow Warblers, Canyon Wrens (on cliffs) and Townsend's Solitaires. (Winter) Barrow's and Common Goldeneye, Bald Eagle, Hooded Merganser

Franklin Basin Drive

Directions: Take highway 89 for about 15 miles and turn left (north) on Franklin Basin Road. Continue 3.3 miles north to the site of the Soil Conservation Service Klondike Narrows Snow Survey Station.

Description & Birds: (Roadside viewing, recommended for spring and summer, 15.0 miles from downtown Logan) Early morning birding is best (before 8:30 a.m.) and is fairly good again from 4:30 p.m. until dark. Twenty species nest here, including the Dusky Flycatcher, Western Wood Peewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Mountain Bluebird.

Specialty Birds: Dusky Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Mountain Bluebird

Green Canyon

Directions: From Logan Main Street go east on 1800 North to 1000 East and turn left. Go one block to 1900 North and turn right going east until you reach the mouth of the canyon. There is a parking lot on your left as you pass the power station.

Description: (Easy walk, 15.0 miles from downtown Logan) The King Nature Park trail takes you through some pinyon-juniper habitat. The Bonneville Shoreline Trail goes southwest along the bench. The Forest Service road goes east up Green Canyon. There is a picnic area on the right just a short walk up the canyon.

Birding: In the lower reaches of Green Canyon Ruffed and Blue (Dusky) Grouse can be seen, as well as chickadees and kinglets. An occasional Common Poor-will or Canyon Wren might be heard. Near the ridge, Clark's Nutcracker and a Golden Eagle or two may be seen.

Also look for Western Tanager, Chukar, and Lazuli Bunting. Black-throated Gray, Virginia's and Orange-crowned Warblers and farther up the canyon, Hammond's Flycatchers and Hermit Thrush.

High Creek Ridge / High Creek Canyon

Description: This canyon and ridge provide stream, riparian, mountain shrub, maple, aspen and conifer habitats and are best birded in the spring, summer and fall. Higher elevations best in the summer when snow is sufficiently melted.

Directions: Go north from Richmond on US 91 about 1 mile. Turn right at the sign to High Creek and proceed to a cattle guard. The ridge is on your left. For easiest access go another .7 miles up the road. You can also continue up the canyon on an unpaved (but passable) road another 2 1/2 miles or so to a trailhead for the Mount Naomi Wilderness area (there's a campground half way up the road).

Specialty Birds: American Dipper, Plumbeous vireo and Western Tanager (on High Creek Trail in Jun) Winter Wren

Hyrum State Park

Directions: From US 89/91 turn east on UT 101 going toward Hyrum. Go about 3 miles to Hyrum and approach the park from 400 West street. There is a parking area near the dam (take the left fork) and one near the park headquarters (take the right fork).

Description: (Roadside viewing, recommended for spring and summer, 15.0 miles from downtown Logan.)

Birds: (Winter) Common Loon, Pacific Loon, Caspian tern; (Summer) Western Grebe, Bank Swallow

Sue's Ponds / Logan Mitigation Ponds / Logan River Wetlands ~ Jason Pietrzak

Directions: Go West out of Logan on 200 N. About two miles down the road take a left on 1900 W. Parking is on the right next to entry gate. If gate is unlocked, feel free to unfasten chain and enter.

Description and Birds: The habitat is a flat wetland which attracts gulls, shorebirds, and some ducks. Grassy areas within and surrounding the wetlands provide habitat for blackbirds and cranes. "... there is a gate that has a chain without a lock. Anyone is welcome to enter thru the gate and bird from inside which is much better than looking thru the fence on the road, safer too. Many birds will be inside not seen from the road. The ease of birding like a window mounted scope is great. The ponds have turned up Dunlin, Stint, Whimbrel, all the peeps, plovers and most water fowl. The birds are much closer than most locations such as AIC where they can be confused in the distance. The Playa is actually a

habitat created by Bridgerland Audubon and Logan City. It got graded out, we bought a pump, obtained water rights thru Logan City and we fill the Playa (Sue's Pond) during fall and spring migration. This Pond can not be seen from the road. We anticipate working on additional improvements such as inside parking, blinds (a little shade with a bench is always nice), birding information and whatever else can be accomplished. This area is so much more convenient than Amalga Barrens. Sue has moved to Arizona, and turned care keeping over to me." ~ *Bob Atwood*

Mack Park

Directions: The park is located at 50 North and 300 East in Smithfield

Description: This is a small but convenient place to see some good birds.

Birds: (Winter) Golden-crowned Kinglet, Townsend's Solitaire and sometimes White-breasted Nuthatch. Rare birds seen here: Varied Thrush and Blue Jay.

Malibu-Guinavah Campground

Directions: Go east from Logan on Highway 89 about 5 miles and turn in at Malibu-Guinavah Campground and then left into the Guinavah loop. Follow the signs to the Riverside Nature Trail, and take the 2.0 mile nature trail walk which parallels the Logan River on its south bank.

Description: (Easy walk, 6.5 miles from downtown Logan)

Birds: American Dippers and Belted Kingfishers are here throughout the year. (Spring and early Summer) Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, hummingbirds, Warbling Vireos, Yellow Warblers, Lazuli Buntings, Fox, Sparrows, Grey Catbirds, Song Sparrows and flycatchers. (Winter) Chickadees and Townsend's Solitaires are abundant

Sherwood Hills Resort ~Kris Purdy

Description: Sherwood Hills Resort is located on the mountain maple-covered foothills of the Wellsville Mountains between Mantua and Wellsville.

Directions: From Brigham City, take US-89/91 east and north toward Logan. The resort is located at mile 12.7, west side of the road.

Specialty Birds: Indigo Bunting, Lazuli Bunting, vireos, warblers, woodpeckers, Dusky Flycatchers, finches, chickadees

Other: Park at the hotel and pick up a rudimentary, yet useful trail map at the counter in the lobby. Follow

the map or wander at will. Be sure to check out the resort's two water features on the lawn east of the hotel. The birds are well aware of the pools and cascades and sometimes these spots offer the best birding. Sometimes this area can be very good during peak passerine migration at the end of August.

Smithfield Cemetery

Directions: Take US 91 (Main Street) north out of Logan approximately 7.5 miles. In Smithfield, turn east (right) on Center Street. Drive .4 miles to the cemetery.

Description: Smithfield Cemetery is a fairly open location surrounded by a residential neighborhood. Mature evergreens dominate the cemetery, including spruce, fir, cedar, and juniper.

Birding: Be very quiet and use your ears, especially in the winter. Notice the mature junipers and look for species like robins, solitaires, and waxwings that might be feeding on juniper berries. Don't overlook the apple and other fruit trees in backyards surrounding the cemetery. Watch the very tops of spruces and firs for members of the finch family. Listen very carefully for the high-pitched call of Brown Creepers and Golden-crowned Kinglets; they may be practically invisible high in the foliage or on the tree trunks.

Birds: Chickadees, kinglets, creepers, waxwings, solitaires, flickers, crossbills.

Spring Creek Ranch

Directions: From Logan go west on 600 South about 4 1/2 miles out of town and you will see Spring Creek Ranch on the right (north) side of the road; a white cement gateway marks the entrance. Pull over on the shoulder after passing this gate.

Description: (Roadside viewing, 6.0 miles from downtown Logan)

Birding: Scan all ponds and fields for seasonally abundant ducks, large shorebirds, White-faced Ibis, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Herons, White Pelican and grebes. Note the large heron rookeries in stands of dead trees just west of the ranch house, about 1/4 mile due north of you. If you are lucky, in May you may see many behavioral courtship displays of the great blue heron in the rookeries. Tree Sparrows frequent roadside shrubs here in the winter.

Specialty Birds: Black-crowned Night-Heron, Tree Sparrow (winter)

Spring Hollow

Directions: Go east on US 89 (400 North) from Logan. After traveling up Logan Canyon about 4 miles to Third Dam, turn right (after mile marker 465) and cross the bridge where there is a parking lot on your right. (This is the only free parking for the Spring Hollow Campground).

Description: From the parking lot you can either bird the Riverside Trail along the Logan River or take the paved campground road into Spring Hollow.

Birding: (Spring & Summer) Check hummingbird feeders by the campground host's trailer for Black-chinned, Broad-tailed and sometimes Calliope Hummingbirds. Rufous Hummingbirds may be there from mid-July through August. Other species you may find are Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, American Dipper, Western Tanager, Song Sparrow, Fox Sparrow. (Fall) Winter Wrens

Stewart Pass

Directions: Go south in Mendon on UT 23 until you get to the Main Street intersection. Turn right on FR 086 and go about 3 miles to the Stewart Pass Trailhead.

Tony Grove Lake

Directions: Go east of Logan on 400 North (US 89) for 19.2 miles. Turn left at the Tony Grove sign (after mile marker 480) and immediately turn left again and go 7 miles to Tony Grove Lake.

Description: (Easy walk, recommended for spring and summer, 28.1 miles from downtown Logan) If short on time, a walk around the lake is suggested, (about one mile). For a really rewarding experience, walk up either the White Pine Lake Trail or the Naomi Peak Trail which leave from the north end of the parking loop. You will want set aside a lot of time for this exciting place. It represents some of the most scenic and accessible habitat in this area.

Birds: Golden Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Purple Martin, Mountain Bluebird, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Lincoln's Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Red Crossbill. (late Summer) lots of Broad-tailed Hummingbirds and possibly Calliope Hummingbird. (Uncommon species) Northern Goshawk, Williamson's Sapsuckers and American Three-toed Woodpeckers (in trees near the lake).

Wellsville Ridge

Directions: Use Deep Canyon trail, which can be found by following the dirt road extension of 3rd North in Mendon. Once on top, walk north on the west ridge about ½ mile, find a high nook to sit in, and face north for hawk watching.

Description: Although breezy and chilly in the fall this is a good place for migratory hawk and eagle watching from late August until November. (strenuous hike, 7.0 miles from downtown Logan)

Birds: Gray-crowned Rosy Finches and Rock Wrens are also a possibility on the barren, rocky slopes.

"Utah Birds"

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