

Summit County



Popular Birding Places

Utah Birds Print Center - www.utahbirds.org (2013)

Bald Mountain

Directions: Go east of Kamas on UT 150 about 29.5 miles to the trailhead on the left side of the road.

Birding: Birds you might see if you hike up the trail from the pass toward the peak are American Pipit and Black Rosy-finch.

Beaver Creek Trail

Directions: From Kamas, go 6.2 miles east on UT 150 to the Yellow Fork parking area. The Beaver Creek Trail starts from an inconspicuous spot across the road from the parking lot.

**** Note **** Even though you don't pass the fee booth, which is a few hundred feet down the road, a fee is required to park in this parking lot to access the trail).

Birding: There are several access point along the approximately 5-mile length of the trail. The aspen trees near the stream and the evergreens a little higher up, as well as the riparian areas along the stream provide habitat for a good variety of birds. Look for Hairy and American Three-toed Woodpeckers, Bohemian Waxwings, Pygmy Owls, Steller's Jays, Gray Catbirds, Swainson's Thrushes and in the winter Northern Shrikes.

Blacks Fork

Directions: Go south from Mountain View, Wyoming on WY-410 to Robertson (about 8 miles away) and continue west about 5 more miles to the Blacks Fork Road. Turn south on Blacks Fork Road and go 14 miles to Meeks Cabin Reservoir, then another 11 miles to East Blacks Fork campground and trailhead. (Four miles south of Meeks Cabin Reservoir, FR-073 takes off east to China Meadows which is about 10 miles away) .

Description: This summer birding area is part of Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The habitat varies from sagebrush in the lower elevations to spruce-fir up higher. Birds are especially abundant in the aspen and riparian areas. (Restrooms and campgrounds are available).

Birding: You can bird the whole road from the turnoff west of Robertson, Wyoming to the East Blacks Fork Trailhead. You can also backpack from the East Blacks Fork Trailhead to the higher elevations.

From this trailhead you can also access Bald Mountain, which is one of the few places in Utah where White-tailed Ptarmigan are regularly found. To

get there, turn left off the Black's Fork trail soon after crossing the bridge. A trail marked "Bear River, Smith's Fork" goes north, parallel to the stream, for about a half mile before intersecting another trail marked "Red Castle" that switchbacks up the east side of the canyon. At the top, stay right on the trail marked "Bald Mountain". Total hike to the top from the trailhead is about 4.5 miles.

Birds: Golden Eagle, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Clark's Nutcracker, Gray Jay, Hermit Thrush, Lincoln's Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow and Song Sparrow

Specialty Birds: (Possible in the higher elevations) Black Rosy-Finch and White-tailed Ptarmigan

Chalk Creek

Directions: Take the Coalville exit of I-80 and go northeast to Coalville's Main St. (Set your odometer at this point). Turn left and follow Main Street to 100 North then turn right and follow the curves as this road becomes Chalk Creek Road.

Birding: At about mile 4, check for Wild Turkeys, Red-naped Sapsuckers and Plumbeous Vireos. (see photo above). Pinyon Jays can show up anywhere along this road, so be on the lookout.

At mile 10.4 look for Bobolinks on the fence posts around the un-mowed fields.

At mile 14.8 and beyond check for Yellow-breasted Chats in the wet willow area.

Pinecliff Camp, with a lodge and cabins, is located at mile 18 and usually has hummingbird feeders as well as other types of feeders. Park on the main road and walk into the camp area being aware not to disturb any people that are using the camp. (There can be fairly large groups).

China Meadows

Directions: Go south from Mountain View, Wyoming, on WY-410 for about 7 miles. Instead of following the main road that turns west go straight on WY-246 south for about 8 miles to where the road forks. Take the left fork (FR-013) to the State Line Reservoir about 6 more miles away. As you continue on, you'll pass the Bridger Lake turnoff in about a mile, but continue on FR-072 about 3 miles and you'll reach China Meadows.

Description: This summer birding area is part of Wasatch-Cache National Forest which consists mainly of wet meadows, open water, riparian, and aspen habitats. (Restrooms campgrounds and picnic areas

are available).

Birds: Green-winged Teal, Northern Harrier, Hairy Woodpecker, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Nighthawk, Gray Jay, Mountain Chickadee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Mountain Bluebird, American Pipit, Western Tanager, Lincoln's Sparrow, Cassin's Finch, Pine Siskin

Dahlgreen's Creek

Directions: Go east of Salt Lake City on I-80 into Wyoming. Take Exit 34 going to Mountain View through Fort Bridger. In Mountain View go right on WY 410. A couple of miles before the town of Robertson, take Uinta County road 246 south about 12 miles and turn left on FR 017. Go 4.6 miles to Dahlgreen's Creek.

Deer Valley Trails

Directions: Deer Valley Resort is located in Park City at 2280 Deer Valley Dr. S [[website](#), [directions](#)] Description: If you take the lift from the Snow Park Lodge there is a \$14 round trip fee. There is no fee however, if you drive to "Mid Mountain" following these directions:

Directions to "Mid Mountain": From where Park Ave., the main road from the north intersects with Kearns Blvd., the main road from the east in Park City, go south on Park Ave. about 4 blocks and turn left on Deer Valley Dr. go about a mile and bear right onto Marsac Ave. Remain on Marsac for about 1 3/4 miles and turn left on Guardsman Connection. In about 1/4 mile turn right on Royal Street and go about a block and find a parking place. This is called "Silver Lake Village" The trails emanate from this area.

Birds you might see: Western Tanager, Hermit Thrush, Western Wood-Pewee, Dusky Grouse, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Mountain Bluebirds, Pine Grosbeak and Red Crossbill. Also, during fall migration, lots of warblers, including Townsend's. Birding: You can take the lift at Snow Park Lodge or drive to "Mid Mountain" to access the hiking trails. (See directions above).

At Mid Mountain (called Silver Lake Village), there are two "hiker only" trails that go between the bottom and top of that lift. (Otherwise it's crazy with mountain bikers).. Note that there's lift access to the top of the ski area from there.

From the top of Marsac Avenue (SR-224) at the point where the road levels off and Timp is visible to the south. (The photo below looks north down toward

town). There are a number of trails in both directions from this point as well. This is a good place for Pine Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills.

East Canyon Ranch Road (Jeremy Ranch)

Directions: Take the Jeremy Ranch exit of I-80 (about 9 miles northwest of Park City) and go north. Immediately turn left onto the frontage road and go about a tenth of a mile to a roundabout where you will turn right onto Jeremy Ranch Road. (Set your odometer - distances will be measured from this point).

Birding: Continue on Jeremy Ranch Road 0.7 miles through the Jeremy Ranch Golf Course to the north side where there is a pond skirted by the Weber River. You can check for swallows here and make a stop if there is other interesting bird activity.

Continue another 0.4 miles on the now unpaved road to where the river is closer to the road and there is a large area of willows and wet lands. This is a good place for: Gray Catbirds, Willow Flycatchers, Green-tailed Towhees and Fox Sparrows (same as other similar areas along this road).

Farther down the road are more willow wetlands and a variety of fields and sagebrush areas. This road continues about 4 miles to the Morgan County border and another 8 miles or so to the East Canyon Reservoir. American Dippers are seen regularly and in the winter you might see some Rough-legged Hawks along this road.

Echo

Directions: The exit to Echo (#169) come immediately to the east of where I-80 and I-84 intersect so you've got to be prepared before you get there. Take the Echo exit and go north under the freeway to the "T" intersection. The cliffs are to the right and the town of Echo is to the left.

Birding: Go right on the frontage road and check out the cliff for White-throated Swifts, Violet-green Swallows, Rock and Canyon Wrens, Peregrine Falcons, American Kestrels, Lazuli Buntings and Spotted Towhees. You can continue on this road for several miles to look for these birds.

This road parallels I-80 for about 10 miles up Echo Canyon before merging with it. Another 13 miles on the interstate gets you to the Wahsatch train stop (exit 191). From there you can continue northeastward along the frontage road and look for raptors flying over Deseret Ranch. Also, the dirt road that goes east

from I-80 at that exit is a good place to find Sage Thrashers, Brewer's Sparrows and Say's Phoebes.

Go back to the "T" intersection and continue straight going west for about 1 mile to the town of Echo. Go to Temple Lane, turn right and proceed a short distance to the small chapel where you can park. You can check out the cliffs for White-throated Swifts, swallows and raptors and the trees around the chapel for Bullock's Orioles and other birds that may be attracted to this small group of large trees.

Echo Reservoir

Directions: Take the Coalville Exit of I-80 and go to Coalville's Main Street. (Set your odometer here).

Birding: Turn left on Main Street and go 1.1 miles and turn left to a place you can look for shorebirds and waterfowl depending on the water level of the reservoir. (Try to get to the edge of the water where there are mudflats). Look for Cackling and White-fronted Geese, Great Egrets, Osprey, Pinyon Jays and in the winter, Loons.

Continue on the main road to mile 2.6, where you can access the "Rail Trail" which goes along a lot of the east side of the reservoir. (At this point Grass Creek intersects the main road from the east. Look for an Osprey nest platform there.) You can continue along the main road past the dam and on toward Echo.

Henefer

Directions: Henefer is located along I-84, about 6 miles northwest of Echo Junction (the junction of I-80 and I-84).

Birding: The Water Treatment Ponds are located on Main Street (SR 86) about a mile northwest of the East Canyon Road (SR 86) turn off in the middle of town. Look for Wood Ducks, Franklin's and Bonaparte's Gulls, Blue-winged Teal, Eared Grebes and Great Blue Herons. There is a rockery in the large dead tree to the north of the treatment ponds.

In the spring Bobolinks sometimes show up in a particular field west of town. Take East Canyon Road (SR 65) from Main Street in the middle of town and go 0.2 miles to a parking lot just past an industrial building on the right side of the road. Go to the northwest corner of the parking lot to look for Bobolinks which are usually on the fence posts.

Look for Bullock's Orioles in the trees around town during spring and summer.

In the winter look for Bald Eagles in the large

cottonwood trees along the Weber River that parallels the freeway.

Henry's Fork - Upper Basin

Directions: Go east of Salt Lake City on I-80 into Wyoming. Take Exit 34 going to Mountain View through Fort Bridger. In Mountain View go right on WY 410. A couple of miles before the town of Robertson, take Uinta County road 246 south about 12 miles and turn left on FR 017. Go 7 miles and bear right on FR 077. The trailhead campground is 3.5 miles down this road.

Specialty Birds: White-tailed Ptarmigan, Black Rosy-Finch

Mirror Lake

Directions: From Kamas, go east on UT 150 about 31.5 miles to turnoff to the lake on the right side of the road.

Note: For those keeping county lists, Mirror Lake is actually in Duchesne County but is included on the Summit County page because it is accessed through Summit County and is associated with other birding places along the Mirror Lake Highway (UT 150) that are in Summit County.

Description: (From "Merrill Webbs Top 20 Birding Places in Utah" list) "For beautiful mountain scenery the drive east from Kamas on the Mirror Lake highway through forests of pinion-juniper, aspen, and finally spruce-fir is a favorite of most instate birders. Plus, this is the best location in the state to observe a variety of high alpine forest birds in a centrally located area. Around the Mirror Lake camping area, Gray Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Pine Grosbeaks and Three-toed Woodpeckers are fairly easy to find. And at certain times of the year, with luck, the Black-rosy Finch can be observed foraging in the snowfields along Mt. Baldy pass. Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins can usually be observed in the tops of conifers where they extract seeds from the cones."

Birds: Gray Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Pine Grosbeaks, Three-toed Woodpeckers, Red Crossbill, Pine Siskin

Nearby: Bald Mountain, Trial Lake (there are many good places to bird all along highway 150 including Upper Provo River Falls [25 miles from Kamas, close to Trial Lake], Soapstone Campground [about 16 miles from Kamas], which is near the Soapstone Basin Road -- FR037.

Park City Mountain Resort Trails

Directions: From where Park Ave., the main road from the north, intersects with Kearns Blvd., the main road from the east in Park City, go south on Park Ave. about 4 blocks and turn right on Empire Ave. Go about 5 or 6 blocks to the main parking lot for the resort. [website]

Description: This is a ski resort that in the summer has trails for mountain bikers and hikers. A single ride pass is about \$12 and an all-day pass is about \$21. You can get a detailed trail map for a \$5 donation.

At the bottom, south-facing areas have scrubby vegetation and north-facing slopes have aspens.

At the top, north-facing slopes have conifers, and south facing slopes have aspens.

Birds you might see: Mountain Bluebird, Warbling Vireos, Western Tanager, Hermit Thrush, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, Green-tailed Towhee, Dusky Grouse

Pinebrook Trails

Description: This system of interconnected trails is part of the Pinebrook subdivision which is a private area. Non-residents are allowed on the trails, but it would be good to be very considerate and not abuse the privilege that the Pinebrook association has so generously allowed us. Trailheads for four of the sections are described below. (The distance from the freeway exit to the last trailhead for the Dan's Crest Trail is 2.4 miles).

Directions: Take the Jeremy Ranch exit of I-80 (about 9 miles northwest of Park City) and go south. (Set your odometer - distances will be measured from this point). Continue straight on Pinebrook Blvd. about a half mile and turn right on Pinebrook Road. Go about a half mile to Buckboard Dr. and turn left into a small parking area near the "Spring Trailhead."

Harry Woodpeckers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Golden-crowned Kinglets and Brown Creepers can be seen along this trail which connects to the "Lower Meek's Trail"

Get back on Pinebrook Road and continue up about 0.25 miles and turn left on Canyon Dr. Go about 0.2 miles and turn left at Canyon Drive Court. Park near this intersection. Walk back to Canyon Dr. and around the gully to the "Lower Meek's Trailhead."

This is a good area for Brown Creepers, Hammond's Flycatchers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Mountain Chickadees. Dusky Grouse can be found anywhere along this trail system. Lower Meeks connects to

Upper Meek's Trail if you go right at the fork. If you go left going downhill you will connect with the Spring Trail. You can hike a loop back to your car if you go up to Upper Meek's at Spring Trail intersection. Hermit Thrush, Dusky Flycatchers, Orange-crowned warblers, MacGillivray's Warblers, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Red-naped Sapsuckers, Green-tailed Towhees are all commonly seen here.

The Upper Meek's Trail goes back to the east and connects to the Jekyll & Hyde Trail which goes up the ravine to the saddle on top of the mountain (see photo below). This is a good place for Ruffed Grouse which, in the springtime, you can sometimes hear drumming on a log. If you are lucky one may be seen on the trail!

From the Lower Meek's Trailhead, continue up Canyon Dr. about 1 mile and turn right on Pineridge Drive (going downhill). Continue about 1/2 mile to a driveway between the addresses 7345 and 7349 and park on the main road (Pineridge Dr.). Walk about 300 feet down the long driveway.

Go past the trailheads for "Dan's Crest Trail/West Perimeter Trail," around the gate and continue down a wide old dirt road. You are now leaving Pinebrook and entering Toll Canyon.

At the bottom of this road is a pond. There is very narrow trail that follows the stream. It is good place for Swainson's Thrush, Green-tailed Towhee and Hairy Woodpeckers. Beware of moose. It is a tight ravine dense with willow. They can be hard to see until you are too close. They have been known to be a bit hostile.

If you go right on the paved road Western Tanagers are regulars.

If you take West Perimeter Trail to Stan's Trail (to the north) it is a little drier habitat with Mountain Mahogany and Scrub Oak and is a good place to look for sapsuckers and flycatchers.

(Upper) Provo River Falls

Directions: Go east of Kamas on UT 150 about 25 miles to the parking lot, signed "Provo River Falls" on the left side of the road.

Description: This is a fairly popular spot for people to stop as they travel this road to nearby campgrounds and lakes. Williamson's Sapsuckers have nested in tree holes a short distance about the falls. American Dippers are common in this area along the fast-moving stream.

Birds: Williamson's Sapsucker, American Dipper
Nearby: Mirror Lake, Bald Mountain, Trial Lake (there are many other good places to bird all along highway including Soapstone Campground [about 16 miles from Kamas], which is near the Soapstone Basin Road -- FR037.

Richardson Flat

Directions: Take the Park City / Kamas exit of US 40 (just east of Park City) and go east (on SR 248) toward Kamas. (Set your odometer from this exit - distances will be measured from this point).

Birding: Go about 0.4 miles and pull off to the side of the road. Common spring birds are Spotted and Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Sandhill Crane.

Proceed down SR248 1.2 miles and turn right on Jordanelle Parkway. (the area around this intersection is in Wasatch County). Go another 0.1 miles and turn right on Richardson Flat Road (13898 North). (This road is about 2 miles long and will "T" into Kearns Blvd. near the Park City exit of US 40 where this loop began). As you skirt the sagebrush-covered hill (in the distance above) watch for Green-tailed Towhees, as well as Mountain Bluebirds and Sage Thrashers

Midway down Richardson Flat road both sides of the road can have transient ponds or flooded areas which can be good for waterfowl and shorebirds at certain times of the year. Some of these ponds that are quite deep can remain as other areas dry up.

As you continue west beyond the ponds, Vesper and Brewer's Sparrows can be seen and heard in the sagebrush.

As you pass under US 40, you will find some marshy habitat in the low-lying areas. There's a bike path going off to the west that may give better access to a pond with marshes to the south of the main road. This marshy pond is close to the intersection with Kearns Blvd. which leads into Park City and is the other end of Richardson Flat Road.

Rockport Reservoir

Directions: Rockport Reservoir is located on SR 32 between Wanship and Peoa. The State Park is on the south end of the reservoir.

Birding: It's good to scope out the waterfowl from the dam (see photo above), especially in the winter when there are sometimes loons -- maybe even rare ones.

The south end of the reservoir where the Weber River comes in has some good riparian habitat and an Osprey platform. Look for Peregrine Falcons, swallows and of course Osprey.

The location of the mudflats vary, but you can usually get a good look from the road on the east side. This is usually the best place for shorebirds and waterfowl.

In the pinyon-juniper area on the east side, look for Lazuli Buntings, Black-throated Gray Warblers, Plumbeous Vireos, Gray Flycatchers, Bushtits, Mountain Bluebirds, migrating warblers and occasionally Pinyon Jays.

The road dead ends beyond the last camping area.

Smith and Morehouse Reservoir

Directions: From the center of Oakley on US 32, take Weber Canyon Road going east. (Signed for Smith and Morehouse Reservoir). (Set your odometer - distances will be measured from this point). Go 11.8 miles following the Weber River then turn right onto a well-maintained dirt road (FR033 or Smith and Morehouse Road) and go about 2 miles to the reservoir. (If you're in Oakley around June you might want to try for Bobolinks).

Birding: After turning onto the dirt road that goes along Smith and Morehouse Creek there are some good marsh and willow areas that are worth checking out.. Swainson's Thrush, MacGillivray's Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and rarely a Pacific Wren have been found along here.

Look for American Dippers on some of the more rocky, shallow stretches of the creek.

Besides waterfowl on the reservoir look for Swainson's Thrush, MacGillivray's Warbler, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet along the shore. Up higher beyond the reservoir you might find Clark's Nutcrackers.

State Line Reservoir

Directions: Wyoming Route: Go south from Mountain View, Wyoming, on WY-410 for about 7 miles. Instead of following the main road that turns west go straight on WY-246 south for about 8 miles to where the road forks. Take the left fork (FR-013) to the State Line Reservoir about 6 more miles away.

Utah Route: [this is a long unpaved road that may be impassible early in the spring] From UT-150 (Mirror Lake Road) about 15 miles north of Mirror Lake (~6 miles south of the Wyoming border), take

Forest Road 058 (North Slope Road) going east. In the first 16 miles you'll pass the Mill Creek Guard Station, Fish Lake and Lyman Lake. A couple of miles past Lyman Lake you'll come to FR 065 going to Blacks Fork. turn left and go about a mile north, then turn right where FR058 continues east. Hewinta Guard Station is about 6 miles, Chine Meadows is about 5 miles further and State Line Reservoir is about 3 miles from there.

Trial/Washington Lakes

Directions: Go east of Kamas on UT 150 about 25.7 miles to turnoff to the lakes and campgrounds on the left side of the road

Birding: The turn into Trial Lake is about .1 mile from the highway. You can park by the dam without paying a campground fee and walk along the lake in either direction.

About a quarter mile beyond Trial Lake is a turnoff to Crystal Lake Trailhead and to the Washington Lake Campground. You can park at the trailhead and walk down to the lake or along any of the trails.

Just beyond the Crystal Lake Trailhead/Washington Lake turnoff the pavement ends at the Washington Lake Group Campground, which is often not in use. This is usually the best birding spot in the area. If you park along the road, you can walk up through the campground, then follow a trail up to the lake.

Birds: Common birds around the lakes are American Three-toed Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, Clark's Nutcracker, Hermit Thrush, and Cassin's Finch. Gray Jays are also seen there on occasion.