Washington County



Popular Birding Places

Beaver Dam Wash

Directions: (*See directions to Lytle Ranch Preserve*). Lytle Ranch is in the Beaver Dam Wash.

Coalpits Wash, Zion NP

Directions: Go on UT 9 about 7.4 miles east of Virgin. Just before the bridge, take the dirt road to the parking area by the road. This is the trailhead for Coalpits Wash.

Emerald Pools Trail, Zion NP Directions: The trailhead is across from the Zion Lodge in Zion NP.

Enterprise Reservoirs

Directions: Go west of Enterprise on Main Street about 6 miles and bear left on the road that follows Little Pine Creek (FR 006). Go 5 miles to the reservoir.

Grafton

Directions: Go south from Rockville on Bridge Road about 3.8 miles. [Grafton is located about 3 miles west of Rockville just south of the Virgin River]. Cross the bridge over the Virgin River and go right on Grafton Road. Bear right at the next two junctions and proceed to the ghost town of Grafton. (The riparian habit on the flood plane of the river is a good birding place).

Gunlock Reservoir

Directions: Go west on UT 8 (Sunset Boulevard) from St. George through Santa Clara to Shivwits. Take the road going right and go about 5 miles to the reservoir.

Hurricane Fields

Directions: From SR 9 in Hurricane, go south on 700 West for about 2

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miles, and turn left on 2060 South, follow this road past where it jogs left for about 1.6 miles, and turn right for another 1.2 miles, at which point the road ends near some shallow ponds. ~ *Rich Fridell, Kevin Wheeler*

Kolob Reservoir Road

Directions: Go east of La Verkin on UT 9 about 5 miles to Kolob Reservoir Road (in Virgin) and turn left. The 23.5 mile route to Kolob Reservoir is good for birding.

Leeds Creek

Directions: Take Exit 23 of I-15 about 15 miles north of St. George (just north of Leeds). Go west toward Silver Reef and enter the Dixie National Forest. This road follow Leeds Creek for about 8 miles to Oak Grove Campground.

Lytle Ranch Preserve

(The main access to Beaver Dam Wash)

Description: Lytle Ranch is located in a section of the Mojave Desert that projects into Southwest Utah. This island of trees and water in the middle of a very dry desert lies along a migratory corridor, and creates an excellent stopping place for a great variety birds, many of which, not usually found in other parts of Utah. Reservations: Lytle Ranch is owned and operated by Brigham Young University through the College of Biology and Agricultural Sciences and the Bean Museum and used for research and teaching, but visitors are very much welcome and gladly given information on the latest bird sightings. Any over-night camping needs to be reserved by contacting the Bean Life Science Museum at (801) 378-5052.[call to see if camping space is available, then fill out and send in the reservation form]. Scheduling for the campground is done on a priority need basis and also there are limitations on the number of people allowed to camp [25] on the preserve at any given time. There is a reservation fee [\$50.00 per group] and camping fee [\$10.00 per campsite] for individuals camping on the preserve. (A Reservation Form - Information Sheet is available on the "Utah Birds" web site).

For day use, no reservations are needed. It is requested that day-users make a contribution to help maintain the facilities on the preserve. Directions: [Because this is a remote, not well-signed place, it is advisable to follow these instructions precisely, noting the mileages as you go]. Take the Bluff Street Exit (Exit 6) of I-15 in St. George and follow Bluff Street as it goes north until you come to Sunset (at a very confusing intersection). Go left (west) on Sunset (SR-91) through Santa Clara, past Ivins and Shivwits. Shortly after crossing the Santa Clara River the road forks. Take the left fork (the right fork goes to Gunlock Reservoir) and proceed on SR-91 for 11.7 miles

to a place known as Castle Cliffs, for the prominent rock outcrops (on your left). Turn right onto the gravel road marked by a small sign for "Lytle Preserve" and a larger sign for "Big Cottonwood Game Ranch." Travel west down this well graded gravel road, through the high-profile cactus country, 10.8 miles, at which point you take the north (right) turn to Lytle Ranch Preserve. (combined directions from Rich Fridell, Marilyn Davis and Bill Hunter)

Checklist: See the "Utah Birds Print Center."

Mathis Park

Directions: Take the Bluff Street Exit (6) coming from SLC. When you get off I-15 turn right and then left at the immediate stop light. This takes you to Hilton Dr. Go past hotel (used to be a Hilton Hotel) and several car dealerships and then follow the curvy road past Maverick Service Station over the bridge in the center of the South Gate Golf Course. Keep curving around past the driving range.....staying close to the Santa Clara River. You will take Dixie Drive.... past Tonaquint Nature Center and continue on that road until it goes past Sun Brook Golf Course. Immediately past the road to the left that takes you to Sun Brook there is a road to the right. It has white fence around it. Take that road. If you miss it you will go over the Santa Clara River.... and that is too far. You may feel you are going into a housing area, and it is, but there is a gate that opens and goes to Mathis Park. ~ Marilyn Davis

Description: It's a little park but it's always full of birds, the best (in my opinion) being the Summer Tananager. I've seen owls, flycatchers, towhees, tanagers, grosbeaks, various sparrows and warblers, catbirds, a nighthawk, etc. ~ *Carol Davis*

Oak Grove Campground

Directions: Take Exit 23 of I-15 about 15 miles north of St. George (just north of Leeds). Go west toward Silver Reef and enter the Dixie National Forest. Go 8 miles to Oak Grove Campground.

Pa'rus Trail, Zion National Park Directions: Go through the South Entrance of Zion NP less than 0.2 miles and turn right toward the Watchman Campground. Park before you cross the bridge at the trailhead.

Pine Valley Campgrounds

Directions: Turn east from UT 18 about 23 miles north of St. George. Go about 10 miles through Central and Pine Valley to the campgrounds.

Pinto Creek

Directions: Go south of New Castle on Main Street about 0.3 miles. and turn left on 200 South. In about a mile the road come to New Castle Reservoir -- in about 4 more miles the road comes to Pinto Creek and continues about 6 miles along the creek to Pinto.

Quail Creek Reservoir

Dircetions: Utah State Parks & Recreation link on web site.

Red Hills Golf Course

Directions: Take UT 18 north, to the outskirts of St. George. The golf course is on the right.

Seigmiller Pond

Directions: Go east on St. George Boulevard in St. George going under I-15. Turn right on River Road and turn left on 1450 South ("Stake Farm Road") immediately after you cross the Virgin River. Go about a mile and turn left toward Spring Estates. You'll see Segmiller Pond on the left.

Snow Canyon State Park

Directions: Take UT 18 north of St. George a few miles to the state park.

Springdale Pond

Directions: From Zion Park Boulevard in Springdale (UT 9), turn southeast on the road just north of the Zion Park Inn. Go down the hill to the pond.

Tonaquint Park

Directions: Go south on Bluff Street (UT 18) in St. George and turn right on Hilton Drive just before you get to I-15. After you pass the golf course bear right on Dixie Drive. Go a few hundred yards to the park entrance.

Virgin River Parkway

Directions: 1. North end: Take Exit 6 (I-15) in St. George going south (Riverside Drive/ Bluff Street). Go right on Main Street and go to the end of the road to the trailhead.

2. South end: Take Exit 4 (I-15) in Bloomington and go south on Pioneer Road. Go west on Man O'War Drive crossing the Virgin River to the parking area and trailhead on the other side.

Washington Fields

Directions: Go east on St. George Boulevard in St. George going under I-15. Turn right on River Road and turn left on 1450 South ("Stake Farm

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Road") immediately after you cross the Virgin River. Go about 2 miles and turn left on 3000 East and Washington Fields.

West Canyon

Directions: On Snow Canyon Road north of Santa Clara, turn just south of the Snow Canyon Campground to Three Ponds at the head of West Canyon.

Zion National Park

Directions: Just north of Springdale on UT 9. (A checklist is available from the "Utah Birds Print Center.")