



Weber County

Popular Birding Sites

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Beus Canyon

(on Wasatch Audubon web site)

Beus Park, 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.

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

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 Campground years ago when the campground 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 campground and return to the trailhead, or follow the trail signs to other National Forest Service trails.

Fort Buenaventura

(Description & Directions: Wasatch Audubon Web Page)

North Arm Natural Area, Pineview Reservoir ~ Ron Wheeler

Directions: Take I-15 to the 12th street exit. Go East on 12th and continue through Ogden Canyon. Pineview reservoir's dam will be on your left and you'll see it as you climb a gradual hill that has the Wheeler Creek trail head to your right. Turn left [north] across the dam. This is your last turn and you'll be following the reservoir on it's West side. In five or so miles you'll be at the well seen trail head for the North Arm Wildlife Trail.

Description: When this road starts descending after passing the Yacht Club and marina you'll see a Y in the road. The trail head is just before the Y and to your right. Very easy to spot even at the posted 50 MPH. There are a couple of different trails here. The Pineview Trail is the longest and the one I regularly take. It is 4-5ft wide and well maintained. There are numerous food sources along the trail for birds. From bugs to berries. The trail climbs in elevation a bit and you'll be looking over a natural grass wetland area where you'll a wide variety of birds. There are even two Osprey platforms as this is their habitat. There is a new bench ten minutes up this trail that has good views across acres of tree tops. By the way, you are now in Eden. A nice little town to visit with an old time general store that serves food and has lots of neat stuff for sale too. ~ *Ron Wheeler*

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 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 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 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.

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.

Specifics: 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.

Powder Mountain Ski Area

~ Kris Purdy

Description: Powder Mountain Ski Area and upper Highway 158 offer high montane coniferous and aspen forest. The area is unpopulated and offers views of Ogden Valley to the south and Cache Valley to the north.

Directions: Powder Mountain is located in Weber County 19 miles northeast of Ogden on Highway 158. Take I-15 to Exit 344, 12th Street and UT 39. Proceed east on UT 39 through Ogden Canyon. At the head of the canyon, turn left and drive over Pineview Dam. You're now on Highway 158. Your last possible pit stop is at the Maverick or Valley Market at the only stop sign around mile 4. Powder Mountain canyon actually begins at about mile 7; the ski resort is located at the end of Highway 158 at approximately miles 11-12.

Birds: Blue Grouse, Ruffed Grouse, Clark's Nutcracker, Green-tailed Towhee, Red Crossbill, Brewer's Sparrow, Common Poorwill, Mountain Bluebird, Cassin's Finch, Townsend's Solitaire, Mountain

Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet

Other: Not recommended if there's snow on the ground due to hazardous road conditions and traffic in ski season. Once you enter the canyon the road becomes steep, narrow and winding. In good weather, pull over periodically to scan up the canyon walls and listen. Golden Eagles, Sharp-shinned Hawks and Buteos have been seen high up on embankments and flying along the ridges. Blue Grouse have been spotted at around mile 10.4 and Common Poorwills have been seen at mile 10.6. Northern Saw-whet Owls have been heard at this spot as well. When Highway 158 ends at the ski area proper, a gravel road on the right will take you up to Powder Ridge **Condominiums**. This road and the ski area are only open to the public (without a lift ticket) from mid-June to mid-August. Bird along the road. Blue Grouse, Mountain Bluebirds, Western Wood-pewees, Clark's Nutcrackers, McGillivray's Warblers, Red Crossbills and many other species have been spotted here. Drive until the road ends at a gate behind the ski area. Look down the slope to the south for Green-tailed Towhees, Brewer's Sparrows, American Kestrels and Mountain Bluebirds. You may walk past the gates from this point for more of the birds mentioned above. Birders have spotted other mammals along the roads including porcupines, foxes, moose and deer. Use a low gear when descending the canyon to avoid smoking brakes.

Strong's Canyon

(Description: Ogden Trails Network)

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

(Description & Directions: Wasatch Audubon Web Page)

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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