

Audubon Presents The Great Washington State Birding Trail

Leavenworth area featured locations

10 Hidden Lake

HABITAT: USFS 489 acres of coniferous forest/riparian habitat above Lake Wenatchee.

BIRDING: Spring and summer species include Say's Phoebe, Varied Thrush, Townsend's Warbler, Cassin's Vireo, and Black-headed Grosbeak. Great Blue Herons, Pileated Woodpeckers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Golden-crowned Kinglets stay through fall.

VIEWING: From parking walk along trail #1510 for 0.75 mile to Hidden Lake.

ACCESS: From Hwy 2 at milepost 84.7, turn north onto Hwy 207. Drive 3.5 miles. Turn left (west) onto Cedar Brae Rd. Drive 0.4 mile. Take left (south) at Y on Cedar Brae Rd. Drive 4.3 miles to Hidden Lake parking lot.

11 Upper Meadow Creek

HABITAT: USFS site, w/ thick riparian willows and coniferous forest.

BIRDING: Spring and summer bring over 30 neotropical species, including Rufous and Calliope Hummingbird; Olive-sided, Hammond's, Willow, and Dusky Flycatcher; Western Wood-Pewee; MacGillivray's, Nashville, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, and Townsend's Warbler; and Cassin's and Warbling Vireo. Also watch for Winter Wrens, Fox Sparrows, Varied Thrushes, and Red-breasted and Red-naped Sapsuckers.

VIEWING: Walk USFS Road 6309 to bridge, and bird along creek. Watch for movement in brush and forest.

ACCESS: From Hwy 2 at milepost 84.7, turn north onto Hwy 207. Drive 4.3 miles. Turn right (northeast) onto Chiwawa Loop Rd. Drive 1.1 miles. Turn left (north) onto Meadow Creek Rd/USFS Road 62. Drive 2.3 miles. Turn left (northwest) onto USFS Road 6300. Drive 2.8 miles. At Y, take left fork to Upper Meadow Creek Rd. Drive 4.3 miles to gate. Park at turnout on left.

12 Swiftwater Picnic Area


HABITAT: Views of Tumwater Canyon from picnic spot along Wenatchee River.


BIRDING: Ospreys nest in scenic canyon, and American Dippers are also here.


VIEWING: One Osprey nest sits in a large burned snag across river. Male brings back fish for female and chicks. The birds migrate here in April; typically, two chicks hatch the end of May and remain in the nest for two months. A 0.25-mile trail goes along Wenatchee River.


ACCESS: From Hwy 2 at milepost 92.5, turn south into parking lot.


MAP ICONS

 Seasonal Access (spring, summer, fall, winter)

 Developed camping available, including restrooms. Fee required.

 Restroom available at day-use site.

 Handicapped restroom and handicapped trail or viewing access.

 Important Bird Area

 Fee required. Passes and decals are best obtained prior to your trip.

USFS and North Cascades National Park both require the Northwest Forest Pass. 1-800-270-7504 www.naturenw.org

WDFW requires parking decal. 1-866-246-9453 www.wa.gov/wdfw/wlm/vup

13 Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery

HABITAT: USFWS riparian and wetland sloughs along Icicle Creek, meadows w/ ponderosa pines, soaring hillsides blackened in 1994 forest fire.

BIRDING: Over 100 species have been recorded here. On Icicle Creek, watch for Bald Eagles, Ospreys, Common Mergansers, and American Dippers. In brush and nearby pines, look for Western Tanager, White-headed, Pileated, and Hairy Woodpeckers; Red Crossbills, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Rufous Hummingbirds, Cassin's Finches, Swainson's Thrushes, Gray Catbirds, Veeries, and five species of warblers. Five species of swallows forage above the creek.

VIEWING: Walk past fish-rearing areas to river; cross canal to 1-mile interpretive loop trail for excellent birding, especially in the morning.

ACCESS: From Hwy 2 at milepost 99, turn south onto Icicle Rd. Drive 2.2 miles. Turn left (east) onto Hatchery Rd. Drive to parking area.

14 Icicle Gorge Loop Trail

HABITAT: USFS trail along boulder-strewn creek edged by cedar, hemlock, maple, and ponderosa pine; shaded wetlands, meadow of summer wildflowers.

BIRDING: Watch river for American Dippers, Common Mergansers, and Harlequin Ducks. Trees shelter Bullock's Orioles, Townsend's Warblers, Hermit Thrushes, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Pine Siskins, Brown Creepers, Red-naped Sapsuckers, and Pileated Woodpeckers. In meadow, look for Calliope and Rufous Hummingbirds; and Red-tailed Hawks.

VIEWING: Walk east to end of road and meadow. River Trail makes 4-mile loop on shoreline, and 1.25-mile View Trail leads to vistas of Icicle Canyon.

ACCESS: From Hwy 2 at milepost 99, turn south onto Icicle Road/USFS Road 7600. Drive 16.8 miles. Turn left (south) at Rock Island Campground sign. Cross bridge. Drive 0.2 mile. Turn left (east) onto USFS Road 615. Drive 0.2 mile and park at Jack Creek Trailhead.

15 Waterfront Park

HABITAT: Municipal park w/ walkways over and around Wenatchee River, w/ canopy on riverbanks and Blackbird Island of deciduous trees.

BIRDING: Watch for woodland dwellers: Red-breasted Nuthatches, Downy Woodpeckers, Veeries, Red-eyed Vireos, Swainson's Thrushes, Bullock's Orioles, Western Tanagers, Yellow Warblers, Cedar Waxwings, Gray Catbirds, and Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds. On river, look for Wood Ducks in the spring, Ospreys fishing on summer evenings, and Bald Eagles feasting on spawning salmon in fall.

VIEWING: Morning birding is best. Walk river path and two island trails, one around perimeter and one through center. Bridge provides a good vantage point for spotting American Dippers.

ACCESS: From Hwy 2 in Leavenworth, turn south onto 9th St. Turn right onto Commercial St. Park at bottom of hill.

• This is the location for the planned Leavenworth Audubon Center, a community resource for the whole Wenatchee Valley, providing conservation education and volunteer programs for all ages, scheduled to open in 2005.

16 Devil's Gulch

HABITAT: 25,000-acre USFS area w/ extremely large stand of ponderosa pine; also coniferous/deciduous forest and riparian area.

BIRDING: More than 100 species occur here, including many songbirds, raptors, grouse, and woodpeckers. Summer brings Warbling Vireos, Townsend's Warblers, Dusky Flycatchers, Cassin's Finches, Vaux's Swifts, and Gray Catbirds. Common Ravens are, well, common. Owls include Northern Pygmy, Northern Saw-whet, and Flammulated. Over 1,700 raptors of sixteen species have been counted here during fall migration.

VIEWING: Trail #1220 begins at parking lot, w/ good viewing opportunities over creek. At 0.5 mile, trail goes uphill, and continues 8 miles to crest of Mission Ridge.

ACCESS: From Hwy 2 at milepost 111, turn south onto Aplets Way/Division St/ Pioneer Ave. Drive for 0.7 mile. Turn left (south) onto Mission Creek Rd. Drive 6.7 miles. Take left fork onto USFS Road 1700. Drive 2.3 miles to parking area.