

## ELK CITY AREA

Authors: Mindy Wiebush, Steve Blair

### Site C I — Map C-1

**Highlights:** Three-toed Woodpecker, Bobolink, Pine Grosbeak

**Major Habitats:** Wetland, Meadow, Mixed Conifer Forest

**Location:** Idaho Co., 50 miles east of Grangeville

**Spring:** \*\* **Summer:** \*\* **Fall:** \*\* **Winter:** \*\*

Two small rivers, the American and the Red, join to form the South Fork Clearwater River near Elk City. Birding spots along both of these remote watercourses are described below. Additional birding can be had while you are getting here. Stop often in the scenic South Fork Clearwater River canyon to hear Winter Wrens in wet draws, Canyon and Rock Wrens near huge rock slabs, and American Dippers along the river. You may also see Mountain Goats scrambling on the rocks high above the river's south bank between mileposts 22 and 23.

### DIRECTIONS:

This tour's starting point is the junction of ID 14 and FR 222 at ID 14 milepost 46.7 (just past the sawmill). The roads throughout this area are narrow and twisty; please drive safely.

### BIRDING:

#### AMERICAN RIVER

From the starting point go left (northeast) on ID 14, following the American River upstream toward Elk City. Watch for Belted Kingfishers and American Dippers along the way. River Otters are often visible along here during winter.

At milepost 48.3 the narrow canyon opens into a broad, privately-owned meadow. In April and May the meadow's wetlands attract Tundra and Trumpeter Swans (the latter being rare), Snow Geese, various ducks, Soras, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, and Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes.

At milepost 48.8, scan the sewage pond on the right (south) for Wood Ducks and the occasional Moose. In downtown Elk City (milepost 49.4) park at the historical marker by the rodeo grounds. From April through June, the surrounding willows and wetlands support Soras, Common Snipe, Willow Flycatchers, and Yellow Warblers. Bobolinks and Savannah Sparrows are often seen on fence-posts in the background.

For a little variety, consider hiking "Blue Diamond" trail, which starts 0.1 mile beyond the Elk City Ranger Station. To find the ranger station, turn left (north) at "The Store" in downtown Elk City and follow American River Road

for 0.4 mile. The trailhead is marked with a green-and-white "Snowmobile Route" sign. The trail itself is flagged with small orange and blue diamonds. Be aware that recent timber harvest has obscured portions of the trail. During spring and summer, Pileated and Three-toed Woodpeckers are fairly common, and Williamson's Sapsuckers are possible. In fact, a day without a woodpecker here is like a day without orange juice—it just doesn't happen! Also keep your eyes and ears ready for Varied Thrushes, Townsend's and MacGillivray's Warblers, Western Tanagers, and Pine Grosbeaks. In winter this trail is packed down by snowmobiles and provides a good walking surface to look for Hairy Woodpeckers, Black-capped, Mountain, and Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Brown Creepers, and Golden-crowned Kinglets.

### RED RIVER

Back at the starting point, zero your odometer and follow FR 222 (a.k.a. Red River Road) southeast toward Red River and Dixie. About 9.7 miles from the starting point (there are no mileposts), you'll see the sign and driveway for the Red River WMA on the right (west). This complex, consisting of two small houses, a corral, and a 300-acre meadow, is managed by the IDFG and is open to the public from June 16 to February 28. Elk are often thick here in early morning or late evening. To bird, walk behind the headquarters (the tan house) into the meadow, wandering on the various trails and roads. Spotted Sandpiper, Violet-green Swallow, Willow Flycatcher, and Savannah Sparrow are common summer species. Future plans call for a nature trail somewhere in this area.

Approximately 4.3 miles upstream from the Red River WMA is the Red River Chinook Viewing Area on the right (east), with interpretive signs and a short trail. The focus is on the nearby fish-rearing facility, but you might also look for Vaux's Swifts, various swallows, and American Dippers. You may also find these species 0.3 mile upstream, by the Red River Ranger Station.

The best way to locate Spruce Grouse in this area is to walk the semi-open Engelmann Spruce/Lodgepole Pine forest surrounding wet mountain meadows. Although the grouse can be found in these habitats throughout the snowfree period, they are most likely from July to October. A particularly good place is Trail 505, between FR 468 and Soda Creek Point. You'll need a Nez Perce NF map to find this area (see below).

### OTHER:

Area maps and more information can be obtained from FS offices in Grangeville (208/983-1950), Elk City (208/842-2245), or Red River (208/842-2255). Primitive campgrounds and additional trails are abundant (see FS map). Elk City has fuel, food, and lodging. For other services, try Grangeville. Snowmobiling, history-touring, and hunting are all popular here. Be sure to bring warm clothing and wet-weather foot-gear whenever you visit.

## WHITEBIRD BATTLEFIELD

Author: Dan Svingen

Site C-2 — See Central map, page 102

**Highlights:** Yellow-breasted Chat, Lazuli Bunting

**Major Habitats:** Grassland, Deciduous Forest, Wetland

**Location:** Idaho Co., 10 miles south of Grangeville

**Spring:** \*\*      **Summer:** \*\*      **Fall:** \*      **Winter:** \*

*Whitebird Battlefield, managed by the National Park Service, is where the infamous Nez Perce Indian War started in 1877. You can follow the battle's course along an auto tour and interpretive trail. The best birding is during May and June.*

### DIRECTIONS:

From Grangeville follow US 95 south for 9.8 miles. Turn left (east) at milepost 230 (signed for "Whitebird Battlefield Auto Tour"). Zero your odometer and pick-up a brochure at Autotour stop #1, then follow Old Highway 95 down Whitebird Hill to the town of Whitebird. *Think twice about taking this twisty, narrow road if you're driving an extra-long or extra-wide vehicle.*

### BIRDING:

As you descend Whitebird Hill, watch the rock outcrops for Rock Wrens, especially from May to August. Between miles 1 and 3.6, the road snakes through a series of switchbacks where you might spot American Kestrels, Gray Partridge, Chukars (April to November; uncommon), or Northern Shrikes (October to April; common). After the switchbacks, the road parallels Magpie Gulch, which hosts its namesake Black-billed Magpies, as well as Cooper's Hawks, Yellow-breasted Chats, Lazuli Buntings, and Spotted Towhees. Watch overhead for Prairie Falcons.

At mile 5.0 is a pull-off which accesses a walk-through gate on the right (northwest). You can scan 2-acre Swartz Pond from here, then go through the gate for a closer look. You can also wander up the draw, following the tiny creek to its origin, a quarter-mile north of Swartz Pond. On the way you'll pass two more ponds and several tree/shrub clumps. Birds to watch for include various waterfowl (including Cinnamon Teal, Greater Scaup, and Barrow's Goldeneye), Red-tailed Hawks, Golden Eagles, California Quail, Soras, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds. In winter search the cattails and rose bushes for gamebirds, Northern Saw-whet Owls, Marsh Wrens, and sparrows.

Spend some time birding near Autotour stop #5 (mile 7.6). A walk along the grassland trail west of stop #5 may produce Grasshopper Sparrows (June through August; uncommon). You can also explore the newly acquired riparian area east of the road, accessed by driving to mile 7.9 and walking

through the green metal gateway on the left (east). Follow the dirt road through the old farmyard, which contains several outbuildings, a barn, and a corral. The best birding is in the tall grass, shrubs, and cottonwood trees along Whitebird Creek, behind (i.e., 100 yards northeast of) the old barn. *Make sure that you stay on National Park Service land, and do not enter the neighboring private stuff. Public land is enclosed by a fence with rectangular, white signs reading "BOUNDARY LINE, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE."* Beware of the over-friendly horse and donkey often pastured here. If you pet 'em, they'll follow you around like puppies! Birds along Whitebird Creek include Western Screech-Owls, Great Horned Owls, Lewis's Woodpeckers, Western Wood-Pewees, Say's Phoebes, Warbling Vireos, and Bullock's Orioles.

To return to US 95, continue south on Old Highway 95, passing through Whitebird at mile 9.6. Birding can be good right in town. Just park and take a short walk. Calliope and Rufous Hummingbirds are often easy to find. At the T intersection at the south end of Whitebird, you can turn left and follow the signs up the hill to US 95 in 0.1 mile, or turn right and follow Whitebird Creek down to the Salmon River (mile 10.9). Then follow the Salmon upstream to where the road rejoins US 95 at mile 12.3. Along the way you'll pass more riparian habitat containing many of the species found on the Battlefield, as well as having an opportunity to view wintering waterfowl, Bald Eagles, Chukars, Canyon Wrens, and Townsend's Solitaires.

#### OTHER:

Grangeville is a full-service community. Fuel, food, and lodging are available in Whitebird, also. For more information, contact the National Park Service in Grangeville (208/983-2034).

## SALMON RIVER ROUTE

Author: Sharon Ritter

Site C-3 — See Central map, page 102

**Highlights:** Chukar, Lewis's Woodpecker, Canyon Wren

**Major Habitats:** Dry Conifer Forest, Wetland, Cliffs

**Location:** Idaho Co., Riggins

**Spring:** \*\*    **Summer:** \*\*    **Fall:** \*\*    **Winter:** \*\*

*This 19-mile route takes you from Riggins to French Creek. If you're looking for Lewis's Woodpeckers, this place is for you! Between April and August, one or two of these beautiful and entertaining tree excavators can be seen in riverside Ponderosa Pine snags every quarter-mile. Your only problem will be finding a safe place to pull over to look at them!*

#### DIRECTIONS:

From downtown Riggins follow US 95 south about 1 mile. At milepost 194.6 turn left (east) on Big Salmon River Road and follow it upstream. This narrow road is paved to Partridge Creek Bridge (milepost 12.6), with fairly good gravel to French Creek (milepost 18.6), then rough gravel to road's end (milepost 26.5). In winter, be especially careful upstream of Manning Bridge (milepost 13.5), since the road there can get rutted and muddy.

Big Salmon River Road passes through private land for about 7 miles until it crosses the river at Rough Creek. Because of scattered parcels of private land from Rough Creek to French Creek, however, you shouldn't wander far off the road without checking a FS map for land-ownership data.

#### BIRDING:

Stringers of deciduous trees and shrubs occur wherever a side stream enters the river. Allison Creek (milepost 9.7) and Spring Bar Campground (milepost 10.4) are particularly good spots for riparian birds, and they both have nearby Ponderosa Pine stands for additional exploring. Also check Van Creek (milepost 11.2), Elkhorn Creek (milepost 14.7), and Carey Creek (milepost 23.2). These are all good for American Kestrels, Northern Flickers, Mountain Chickadees, Cedar Waxwings, Red-eyed Vireos, MacGillivray's Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chats, Song Sparrows, and Lazuli Buntings in spring and summer. In winter you can find Bald Eagles, Northern Flickers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Black-capped Chickadees in these same areas.

Continue straight at Partridge Creek Bridge (milepost 12.6). From here to Manning Bridge (milepost 13.5) you'll find big rock slabs and narrow canyon walls. Listen and watch for White-throated Swifts and Canyon Wrens. Additional species might include Belted Kingfisher, Violet-green Swallow, Rock Wren, Nashville Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Lazuli Bunting, Spotted Towhee, and American Goldfinch.

Look for Chukars by milepost 17 and at other rocky areas along the river. Cassin's Vireo can often be heard near mileposts 17 and 18. American Dippers and Spotted Sandpipers forage along the entire length of the river.

There are also several places where you can take a short hike. At milepost 15.3 there is an open stand of Ponderosa Pine between two sandy beaches. Investigate this area, then walk up the jeep road along the canyon's south side to look for White-headed and Pileated Woodpeckers, Canyon and Rock Wrens, Pygmy Nuthatches, MacGillivray's Warblers, Spotted Towhees, and Western Tanagers.

Most birders turn around at French Creek. If you continue, check Carey Creek (milepost 23.2) for more riparian species. You can also walk across the Wind River foot-bridge (milepost 23.5) to explore the 1992 Scott Fire Burn, which has been particularly good for woodpeckers.

**OTHER:**

Maps can be obtained from FS offices in McCall (208/634-0700) or Grangeville (208/983-1950). Food, fuel, and accommodations are available in Riggins. About 1 mile west of Allison Creek is the Riggins Hot Springs Lodge (milepost 9.2), which has an outdoor mineral swimming pool, an indoor spa and sauna, and a stocked trout pond. There are several campgrounds (pit toilets; no showers) along the route.

The Riggins area provides plenty to do besides birding. You can go white-water rafting, jet boating, horseback riding, and fishing, or you can visit the Rapid River Fish Hatchery (which also has birding opportunities). Brundage Mountain, which has excellent downhill skiing, is only about 40 miles south of here.

**POLLOCK AREA**

*Author: Trish Heekin*

**Site C-4 — Map C-4**

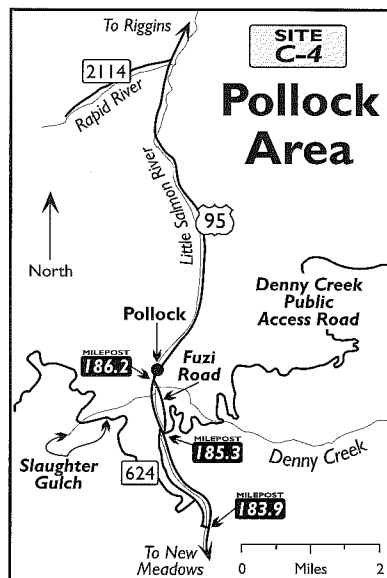
**Highlights:** Mountain Quail

**Major Habitats:** Deciduous Forest, Dry Conifer Forest

**Location:** Idaho Co., 7 miles south of Riggins

**Spring:** \*    **Summer:** \*    **Fall:** \*\*    **Winter:** \*

The Little Salmon River Canyon in the vicinity of Pollock shelters one of Idaho's last Mountain Quail populations. In fact, the Pollock Area is your best chance of finding this species in the state.

**DIRECTIONS:**

There are three spots to look for Mountain Quail in the Pollock area: Fuzi Road, Denny Creek Public Access Road, and FR 624. Fuzi Road parallels US 95. Its northern terminus is at US 95 milepost 186.2, while its southern end is at US 95 milepost 185.3. (Watch for handmade wooden signs.) Denny Creek Public Access Road (dirt) heads east from Fuzi Road, about 0.1 mile north of Fuzi Road's southern end. Denny Creek Public Access Road is gated during winter and spring. The road's opening-date varies from year to year. Contact the BLM (208/962-3245) in Cottonwood for more information.

**BIRDING:**

Idaho's Mountain Quail are extremely difficult to observe, as they tend to stay in or near dense vegetation. If disturbed, they often freeze or move away quietly on foot, rather than flushing. Finding them during winter (when they visit feeders on private land) or in May and June (when they are incubating) is nearly impossible. Your best chance of seeing Mountain Quail is in fall, especially as the light is fading from the day. Watch for coveys foraging along the roadside. Particular spots to be alert for Mountain Quail include the interiors of the draws on FR 624 and the Denny Creek drainage (before and after the cattle-guard) on the Denny Creek Public Access Road. Unfortunately, even under these circumstances your chances of seeing Mountain Quail are not particularly good.

This area offers many other birding attractions. Watch for Common Mergansers, Belted Kingfishers, and American Dippers along the Little Salmon River and Rapid River (see map) year round. While not common, White-headed Woodpeckers have occasionally been seen in the Ponderosa Pine forest near the ridgetop on the west side of the Little Salmon River Canyon. Likely summer species near Pollock include Say's Phoebe, Western and Eastern Kingbirds, Yellow-breasted Chat, Western Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, and Pine Siskin.

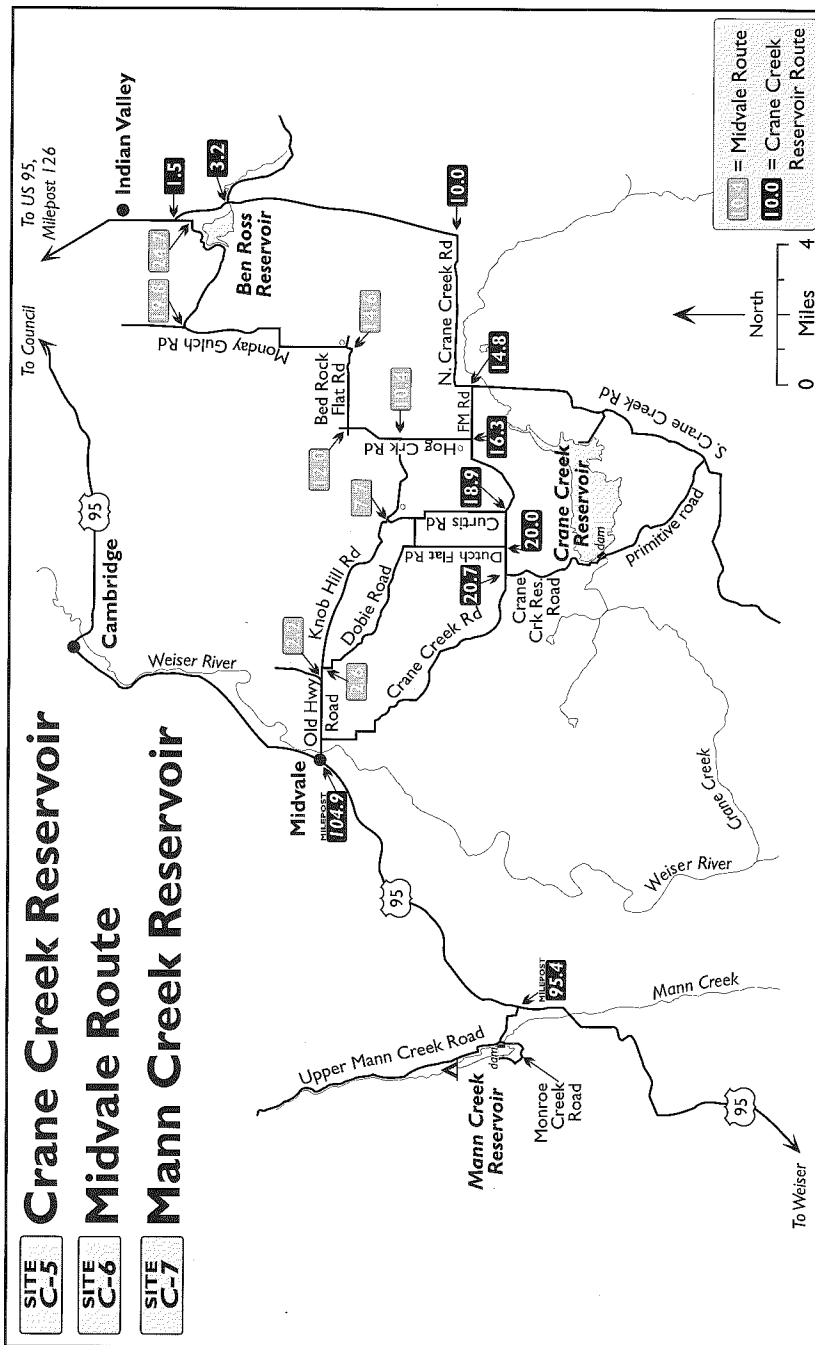
Several raptors are also possible. At least two Peregrine Falcon pairs nest nearby, one near US 95 milepost 205, and another in the Rapid River drainage. Golden Eagles often soar above the narrow canyons. Red-tailed Hawks and American Kestrels are common, while Northern Harriers, Northern Goshawks (winter), and Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks are less so. In evenings from March to June, you might hear the calls of a Western Screech-Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, or Great Horned Owl.

Gamebirds are also plentiful. Blue Grouse display (April to June) in Slaughter Gulch along FR 624 (see map). As you drive up Denny Creek Access Road, watch for Wild Turkeys on the first flat past the cattle-guard. Gray Partridge may be flushed from the roadside, while Chukars should be listened for on the surrounding slopes.

During migration you may hear Tundra Swans and Canada and Snow Geese as they fly overhead. In some years Clark's Nutcrackers are seen in the area during late winter or early spring, especially along FR 624.

**OTHER:**

Food, fuel, and accommodations are available in Riggins. Primitive and undeveloped campsites are abundant on surrounding BLM and FS land. Some developed camping is available in Riggins. Riggins is known as Idaho's Whitewater Capital, for it offers raft and jet-boat excursions on the Salmon River. Note that Western Rattlesnakes, ticks, and Poison-Ivy are common throughout this area. See also Salmon River Route (p. 108).



## CRANE CREEK RESERVOIR ROUTE

Authors: John and Marty Hirth

Site C-5 — Map C-5/C-6/C-7

**Highlights:** Sage Grouse, Long-billed Curlew, Loggerhead Shrike

**Major Habitats:** Shrub-steppe, Farmland, Wetland

**Location:** Washington Co., 24 miles northeast of Weiser

**Spring:** \*\* **Summer:** \*\* **Fall:** \* **Winter:** \*\*

Because of its arid surroundings, Crane Creek Reservoir has the potential to attract lots of interesting birds. Some of the best birding, however, is associated with the surrounding expanses of sagebrush and grasses. This 23-mile-long route begins in Indian Valley and ends near Midvale.

### DIRECTIONS:

To reach Indian Valley from US 95, turn south at milepost 126 and follow paved Indian Valley Road for 3.5 miles. Zero your mileage at the store in Indian Valley, and then continue south on Indian Valley Road (a.k.a. Emmett Road). At mile 1.5 stay left. Pavement ends at mile 1.7. At mile 3.2 go right (south), staying on Indian Valley Road. Although there is some public land (BLM) in this area, most of this route passes through private property.

### BIRDING:

Watch for Red-tailed, Ferruginous, and Swainson's Hawks, Prairie Falcons, Short-eared Owls, and Brewer's, Vesper, Savannah, and Grasshopper Sparrows along Indian Valley Road. You'll pass in and out of farmland. Near cultivated fields (such as around mile 9.2), look for gallinaceous species, such as Ring-necked Pheasant, California Quail, and Gray Partridge.

After following the road through a curve at mile 10, continue straight (west) onto North Crane Creek Road at mile 10.2. At mile 14.3 turn left (south) on South Crane Creek Road. At mile 14.8 turn right (west) on paved Farm to Market Road.

From February through April, sagebrush and grassland areas along Farm to Market Road are good for displaying Sage Grouse and Long-billed Curlews. Sharp-tailed Grouse are rare but possible. Side trips on graveled Cutoff Road (mile 14.3), Hog Creek Road (mile 16.3), Curtis (a.k.a. Heinrich) Road (mile 18.9), and Dutch Flat Road (mile 20.0) have revealed Gray Partridge, Burrowing and Short-eared Owls, and lots of Vesper and Savannah Sparrows.

To reach Crane Creek Reservoir itself, turn left (south) at mile 20.7 onto graveled Crane Creek Reservoir Road, and follow it 2.5 miles to the reservoir. Check weedy patches below the dam for sparrows, including American Tree Sparrows (winter). Scope the reservoir for American White Pelicans (summer), Snow and Ross's Geese (migration), and Peregrine Falcons. Be sure to

check the periphery for Ferruginous Hawks and Rock and Marsh Wrens. Stilt and Solitary Sandpipers have been found during fall migration.

If you have a high-clearance 4-wheel-drive vehicle, zero your mileage on the dam and continue south on the primitive road. This remote region contains a substantial Loggerhead Shrike population, as well as Rock Wrens, Sage Thrashers, and an occasional Sage Sparrow. The primitive road ends on South Crane Creek Road, 5.2 miles southeast of the dam. Turn left (north) here, and follow South Crane Creek Road to view the east side of the reservoir from afar. Continuing north on South Crane Creek Road, you'll eventually return to Farm to Market Road, 12.4 miles from your starting point at the dam.

#### OTHER:

For additional maps and information, contact the BLM in Boise (208/384-3300). Undeveloped camping, fishing, and a boat dock are available at Crane Creek Reservoir. Fuel, food, and lodging are available in Council, Cambridge, and Weiser. For other services, try Boise. See also Mann Creek Reservoir (p. 116) and Midvale, the next site.

## MIDVALE ROUTE

Author: John F. Gatchet

Site C-6 — Map C-5/C-6/C-7

**Highlights:** Sage Grouse, Short-eared Owl, Grasshopper Sparrow

**Major Habitats:** Shrub-steppe, Grassland, Farmland

**Location:** Washington Co., Midvale

**Spring:** \*\*\*\* **Summer:** \*\*\* **Fall:** \*\* **Winter:** \*

*This 26-mile route takes you from Midvale to Indian Valley. Spring is the best time to bird here, since it is then that dancing Sage Grouse, calling Long-billed Curlews, and courting Short-eared Owls are particularly prominent. As if all this action weren't enough, Midvale also provides some of Idaho's best birding for Swainson's and Ferruginous Hawks, Burrowing Owls, and Grasshopper Sparrows.*

#### DIRECTIONS:

Zero your mileage at the junction of US 95 and Old Highway Road (unsigned) in Midvale (US 95 milepost 104.9), then go east on Old Highway Road. At mile 2.2, the road forks—stay right (straight) on Knob Hill Road. At mile 2.6 continue straight as the pavement ends. All land along this route should be considered private.

#### BIRDING:

At mile 3.4 is a feedlot below a small knoll. Just beyond the feedlot (at mile 3.6) is a Sage Grouse lek which hosts about 40 birds. Most of the dancing is on the right (south) side of the road. Another Sage Grouse lek should be looked for at mile 7.0.

At mile 7.7, continue straight as Knob Hill Road merges into Dobie Road. Burrowing and Short-eared Owls and Grasshopper Sparrows can be found anywhere in this area, so keep an eye (and an ear) out. In winter, look for Northern Shrikes and Snow Buntings, and check the Horned Lark flocks for stray Lapland Longspurs.

At mile 8.1 scan the small pond on the right (south) for waterfowl, including Eurasian Wigeons (spring). At mile 8.5 look for Sharp-tailed Grouse (uncommon to rare), Burrowing Owls, and Grasshopper Sparrows. To date, there are no Sharp-tailed Grouse leks visible from the road, but keep searching since lek locations change year to year.

At mile 10.4 turn left (north) on Hog Creek Road, which is particularly good for Rough-legged Hawks in winter and spring. At mile 12 turn right (east) on Bed Rock Flat Road. At mile 14.6 go straight, staying on Bed Rock Flat Road (which will turn into Monday Gulch Road). There's a small pond on the right (east) side of the road at mile 14.7, which should be scanned for waterfowl and shorebirds. Monday Gulch Road is good for Sage Grouse, Long-billed Curlews, and Short-eared Owls. Additional Sage Grouse leks can be found at miles 15.1 and 16.2.

At mile 19.8 turn right (east) onto Ben Ross (a.k.a. Swisher) Road, watching and listening for Gray Partridge and California Quail. At mile 21.6 look for a Bank Swallow colony in the cutbank to the left (north). You reach Ben Ross Reservoir at mile 22.6, where a variety of water birds may be found in migration, including Tundra and Trumpeter Swans, Snow and Ross's Geese, Wood Ducks, Canvasbacks, Greater Scaup, and Barrow's Goldeneyes. Western Grebes are present in summer. Ben Ross Road meets paved Indian Valley Road at mile 24.7. Merge and go north here, following Indian Valley Road into Indian Valley at mile 26.3, where you can look for migrating hawks and Say's Phoebe. To rejoin US 95, follow Indian Valley Road north another 3.5 miles.

If you're still searching for Sharp-tailed Grouse or Grasshopper Sparrow, consider backtracking and driving Dobie Road (see map).

#### OTHER:

Food, gas, and lodging are available in Cambridge, Council, and Weiser. Ben Ross Reservoir has undeveloped campsites, a boat ramp, and fishing. See also Crane Creek Reservoir Route (p. 113) and Mann Creek Reservoir, the next site.

## MANN CREEK RESERVOIR

Author: John F. Gatchet

Site C-7 — Map C-5/C-6/C-7

**Highlights:** Shorebirds, Veery, Red-eyed Vireo  
**Major Habitats:** Wetland, Deciduous Forest, Shrub-steppe  
**Location:** Washington Co., 12 miles northwest of Weiser  
**Spring:** \*\* **Summer:** \*\* **Fall:** \*\*\* **Winter:** \*

*This 280-acre reservoir has great birding potential as a fall migrant trap, but it has been little explored. Hopefully, this situation will soon change, since the area can be easily and quickly birded. Be sure to swing in if you're passing by!*

### DIRECTIONS:

From Weiser follow US 95 north to milepost 95.4, then turn left (west) on Upper Mann Creek Road, following it 1.3 miles to the dam. Mann Creek Reservoir is managed by the BOR, but some private land does occur—watch for posted signs.

### BIRDING:

To scan the entire length of the reservoir, turn left at the dam and follow Monroe Creek Road to the parking areas on the right (north and west) in 0.3 and 1.7 miles, respectively. Migrating Eurasian Wigeons (rare), Barrow's Goldeneyes, and an occasional Wood Duck use Mann Creek Reservoir as a resting area, as do Bonaparte's Gulls and Forster's Terns. Unexpected species, such as Horned Grebes in June or Pacific Loons in fall, have also been found.

To bird the east side of the reservoir, zero your mileage at the east end of the dam and continue north on Upper Mann Creek Road. Watch the shrub-steppe habitat to the right (east) for Say's Phoebes, Eastern Kingbirds, Sage Thrashers, and Loggerhead Shrikes. In winter look for Northern Goshawks, Merlins, and Northern Shrikes. Parking areas on the left (west) at miles 0.8 and 1.4 are good vantage points.

At mile 1.6 turn left (west) onto the 0.3-mile-long, graveled entrance road to the campground, where Mann Creek enters the reservoir. There is a short road/trail which follows Mann Creek upstream. It begins behind the camp host's site at the north end of the campground. Wading and bushwhacking are required to bird this riparian forest, which shelters a rich variety of breeding passerines, including Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos, Yellow and MacGillivray's Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, Yellow-breasted Chats, Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Lazuli Buntings, Spotted Towhees, Song Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, Bullock's Orioles, and American Goldfinches.

The north end of the reservoir is excellent for shorebirds, especially in late fall when water levels are low. In addition to more common species, look for American Golden-Plover, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, and Long-billed Curlew.

Mann Creek's riparian habitat can also be birded by following Upper Mann Creek Road 2 miles north of the campground entrance road (see map). The road parallels the creek for about 4 miles. Watch for Prairie Falcons, Western Screech-Owls, Lewis's Woodpeckers, Black-chinned Hummingbirds, Western Wood-Pewees, Veeries, and previously mentioned species.

### OTHER:

Food, fuel, and lodging are available in Weiser. Boat ramps, fishing, and a primitive campground (pit toilet; water) are available at Mann Creek Reservoir. For additional maps and information, contact the FS (208/549-4200) in Weiser, or BLM (208/384-3300) in Boise.

## GOOSE LAKE

Author: Mark Collie

Site C-8 — Map C-8/C-9/C-10/C-11

**Highlights:** Red-necked Grebe, Three-toed Woodpecker  
**Major Habitats:** Mixed Conifer Forest, Wetland  
**Location:** Adams Co., 13 miles northwest of McCall  
**Spring:** N/A **Summer:** \*\* **Fall:** \* **Winter:** N/A

*In 1994 over 300,000 acres of woodland burned in central Idaho. A portion of those burns occurred near Goose Lake, a 2-mile-long, high-elevation reservoir. Because of salvage logging, expect heavy logging traffic. Check with the Payette NF for more information (see below). Be aware that access into this area is limited to June through early December.*

### DIRECTIONS:

From McCall, follow ID 55 northwest 5 miles. At milepost 149.6 turn right (north) onto paved FR 257 (a.k.a. Brundage Mountain Road) and zero your mileage. Continue north 4 miles to the Brundage Mountain Ski Resort, where FR 257 becomes gravel of varying quality (including some rough washboard). At mile 6.8 stay left (northwest) on FR 257 (now called Goose Lake Road). Drive past Brundage Reservoir at mile 7.5. At mile 10.9 (past the entrance to Grouse Creek Campground), turn left (southwest) onto an unmarked dirt road and go 0.2 mile to Goose Lake Dam.