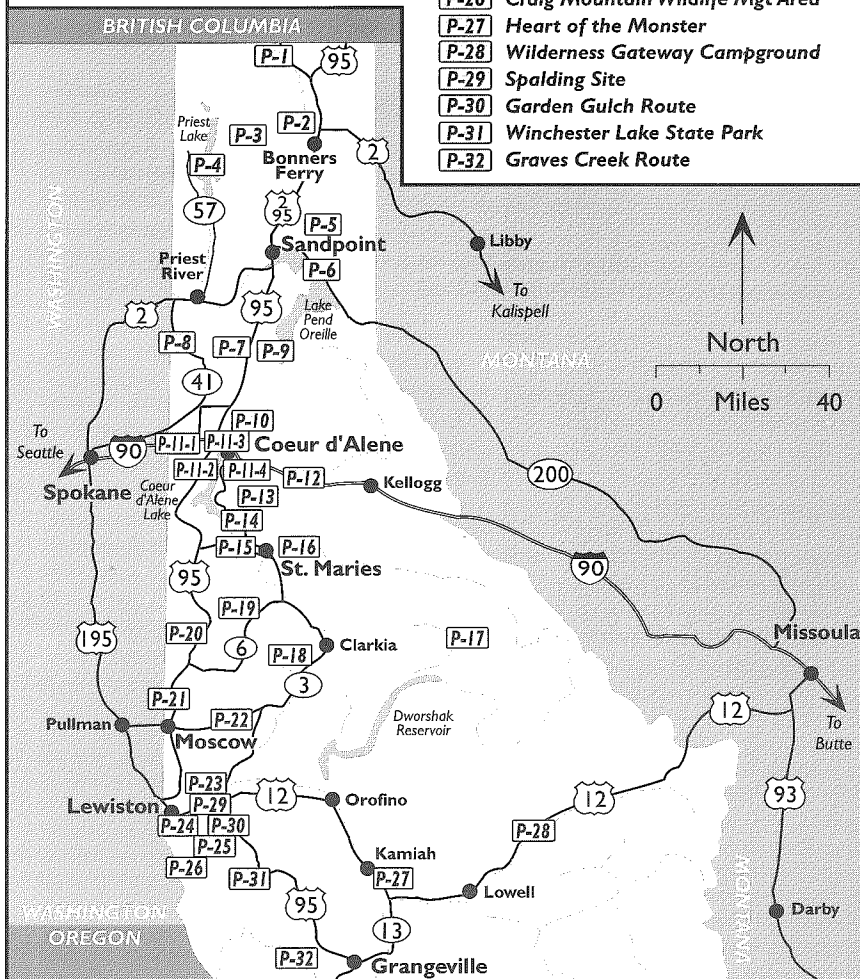


PANHANDLE BIRDING SITES

- | | |
|--|--|
| P-1 Smith Creek | P-12 Cataldo Area |
| P-2 Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge | P-13 Chain Lakes Route |
| P-3 Roman Nose Lakes | P-14 St. Maries to Harrison Route |
| P-4 Western Selkirks | P-15 Heyburn State Park |
| P-5 Cabinet Mountain Lakes | P-16 St. Joe Route |
| P-6 Sandpoint to Beyond Hope Route | P-17 Snow Peak Trail |
| P-7 Hoodoo Valley Route | P-18 Emerald Creek |
| P-8 Blanchard Lake | P-19 Willow Creek |
| P-9 Farragut State Park | P-20 McCrosky State Park |
| P-10 Hayden Lake Route | P-21 Moscow Mountain Route |
| P-11-1 Coeur d'Alene: Post Falls | P-22 Spring Valley/Moose Creek Res. |
| P-11-2 Coeur d'Alene: US 95 | P-23 Coyote Gulch |
| P-11-3 Coeur d'Alene: North Shore | P-24 Lewiston Area |
| P-11-4 Coeur d'Alene: Wolf Lodge Bay | P-25 Mann Lake |
| | P-26 Craig Mountain Wildlife Mgt Area |
| | P-27 Heart of the Monster |
| | P-28 Wilderness Gateway Campground |
| | P-29 Spalding Site |
| | P-30 Garden Gulch Route |
| | P-31 Winchester Lake State Park |
| | P-32 Graves Creek Route |

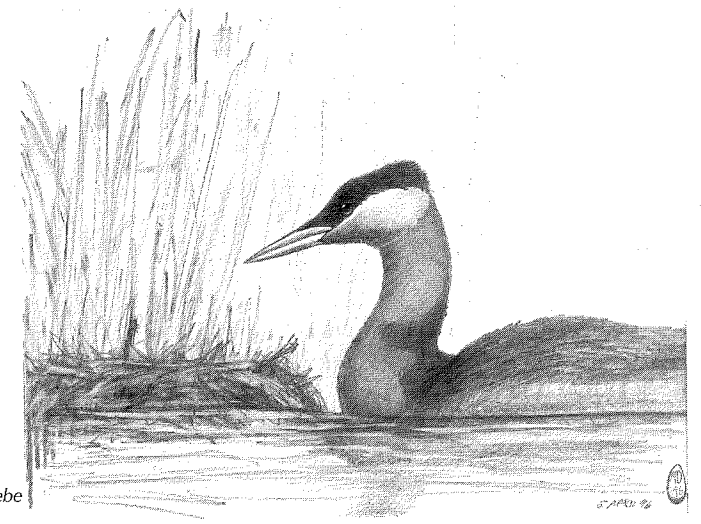


IDAHO PANHANDLE

Idaho's Panhandle stretches from Canada to the Clearwater River, encompassing the Northern Rocky Mountain and Palouse Prairie Ecoregions. Coeur d'Alene and Sandpoint, two of Idaho's fastest growing communities, are found here. In farmland areas, numerous small communities provide services, but gas stations, motels, and restaurants are scarce in the backwoods.

Most of the Panhandle is covered with dense, wet, mixed conifer forest. This is the most boreal of Idaho's regions, and resembles habitats in western Washington and southern British Columbia. Several large, deep-water lakes provide additional diversity.

The best summer birding is in the coniferous forest. Vaux's Swift, Hammond's Flycatcher, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, and Townsend's Warbler are all common, and Spruce Grouse, Black Swift, Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers, Boreal Chickadee, and White-winged Crossbill can be found with diligent searching. High-elevation habitats are particularly interesting, although bird numbers and diversity are often low due to the naturally low productivity. From fall to spring, most local birders concentrate on the large lakes, such as Pend Oreille, Coeur d'Alene, and Chatcolet. All are heavily used by waterfowl and other migrants. Winter birding is restricted to mid- and low elevations, as heavy, wet snows exclude all but the hardest adventurers from the high country. Fighting Creek Landfill and downtown Coeur d'Alene host the state's best gull watching, with Mew, Herring, Thayer's, Glaucous-winged, and Glaucous Gulls now regular.



Red-necked Grebe
Mike Denny