

summer. The park's two main lakes (actually, it's one big interconnected lake) are to the southeast, encircled by trails. Scan the water for migrating or wintering Pacific Loons, American White Pelicans, Great and Snowy Egrets, White-faced Ibises, Trumpeter Swans, Canvasbacks, Barrow's Goldeneyes, Hooded Mergansers, Bald Eagles, Bonaparte's and Herring Gulls, and Caspian, Forster's, and Black Terns.

In summer check trees around the lakes for Yellow-breasted Chats, Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Lazuli Buntings, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds. In migration look for Hermit and Varied Thrushes, Townsend's Solitaires, and Nashville, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, MacGillivray's, and Wilson's Warblers. Vagrant species found here have included Northern Mockingbird, American Redstart, and Northern Waterthrush. During winter look for Rough-legged Hawks, Long-eared Owls (once common but absent for the last several years), Northern Shrikes, and American Tree, White-throated, and Swamp Sparrows (the latter two being rare).

OTHER:

The park has a developed campground and is popular with both fishermen and astronomers. A few supplies (fuel, food) can be found in Bruneau or Hammett, but Mountain Home is the closest full-service community. For more information, call the park (208/366-7919). See also the C.J. Strike WMA, the previous site.

TRINITY RECREATION AREA

Author: Win Shaughnessy

Site SW-20 — Map SW-20

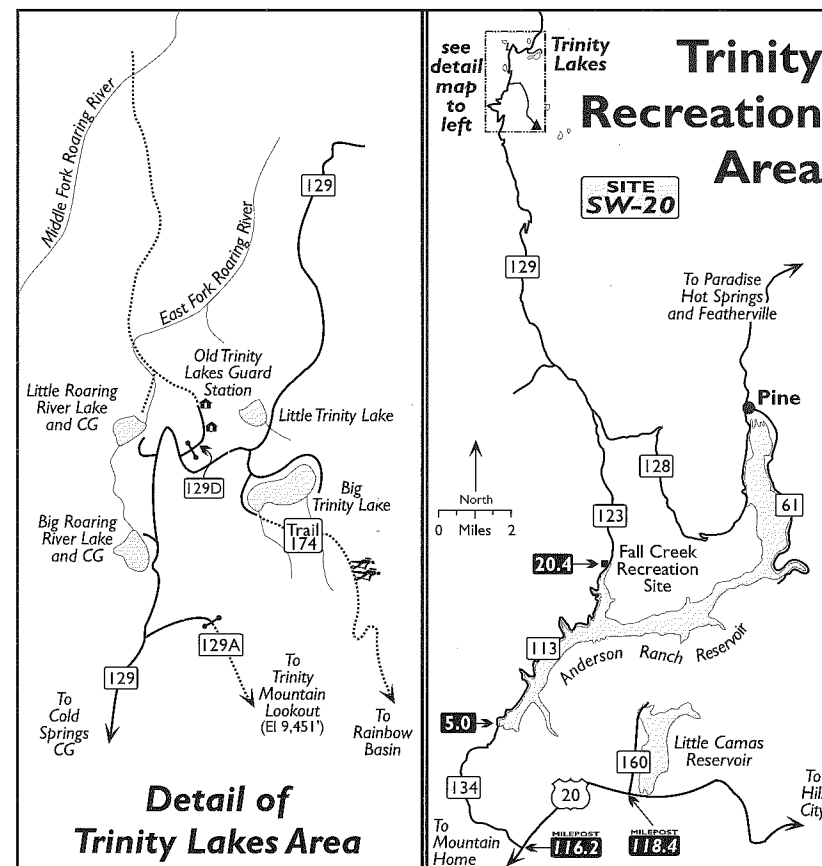
Highlights: Olive-sided Flycatcher, Pine Grosbeak

Major Habitats: Mixed Conifer Forest, Wetland

Location: Elmore Co., 40 miles north of Mountain Home

Spring: N/A **Summer:** ** **Fall:** ** **Winter:** N/A

Trinity Recreation Area is a rugged, remote expanse of high-elevation forest, lakes, and tundra. Because the birding is around 8,000 feet in elevation, the area is accessible by car only between late June (some years late July) and mid-September. It is best to avoid the recreation area during the busy July 4th and Labor Day weekends.



DIRECTIONS:

From Mountain Home head northeast on US 20 for 24 miles. At US 20 milepost 116.2 zero your mileage and turn left (northwest) on FR 134 (toward Anderson Dam and Fall Creek). At mile 5 cross Anderson Reservoir Dam, turn right (northeast) on FR 113, and follow the road along the reservoir. At mile 20.4 turn left (north; by Fall Creek) onto FR 123 and drive another 12 miles to Trinity Recreation Area (FR 123 will turn into FR 129 on the way). This route is steep and is mostly over unimproved, dusty graveled roads without guard rails. Allow at least 2.5 hours traveling-time from Mountain Home. Most land here is public (FS).

BIRDING:

On the way to Trinity Recreation Area, you'll pass through a variety of rewarding habitats. Ospreys, Swainson's Hawks, Spruce Grouse (most likely along FR 129), Sage Grouse, Red-naped Sapsuckers, Western and Mountain

Bluebirds, Western Meadowlarks, and Brewer's Blackbirds should all be looked for in appropriate habitat. Pay particular attention to any water source.

Some of the area's best birding is in campgrounds within the recreation area itself. Look for Ospreys, Spotted Sandpipers, Belted Kingfishers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes, Warbling and Cassin's Vireos, Western Tanagers, and Pine Grosbeaks. You may also find something out of place, such as the five American Avocets observed swimming in Big Trinity Lake in August 1991.

If you're camping and have enough time, Trail 174 (Rainbow Lakes Basin Trail) is worth investigating. A hike to 12-acre Big Rainbow Lake, the largest of nine lakes within the basin, is 6 miles round trip. Expect few birds along the way but a beautiful, tranquil lake at trail's end. This is a rather strenuous jaunt, about 90% of which is definitely sloped!

In the middle of the recreation area is the old FS Trinity Lakes Guard Station (two cabins and a garage) that is surrounded by good birding. Park in the open area outside the locked gate (FR 129D) and walk in. Just west of the smaller cabin (near the old garage) is a short trail leading north to a large, wet willow thicket. Search along the thicket edges for Yellow and MacGillivray's Warblers, Lazuli Buntings, and Lincoln's, Fox, and White-crowned Sparrows.

The foot trail running north from the smaller cabin is good for Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds, Olive-sided and Cordilleran Flycatchers, Mountain Chickadees, Cassin's Finches, Red Crossbills, and Pine Siskins. August is the best month for hummers. The trail heads to the ridgetop, where there are scattered clumps of conifers and extensive subalpine meadows. Look for Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed Hawks and Golden Eagles. Northern Goshawks and Prairie Falcons are present in late summer. This is also home to Clark's Nutcrackers, Steller's Jays, Common Ravens, Columbian Ground Squirrels, many wildflowers, sphinx moths, huge bumblebees, and many butterflies.

Towering above Trinity Recreation Area is the fire lookout atop 9,451-foot-high Trinity Mountain. The 1.5-mile, 1,100-foot climb to the lookout from the locked gate on FR 129A is worth the effort (if you take your time). Looking down on soaring Golden Eagles and Violet-green Swallows is an unusual sensation! On the hike up watch for Rock Wrens, Mountain Bluebirds, and Mountain Lion tracks.

OTHER:

For maps and more information, contact the FS (208/587-7961) in Mountain Home. Fuel, food, lodging, and supplies are available at Fall Creek Resort and Marina (at mile 13.7) and at Nester's Mountain Mart in Pine. There are two modest FS cabins (constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the mid-1930s) at the old Trinity Lakes Guard Station that can be rented.

Water and restrooms are available at the primitive campgrounds within the recreation area. *The "warm" weather season is very short at this elevation; a late June snowstorm is not unusual, and frosty nights can occur at any time.*

CAMAS PRAIRIE CENTENNIAL MARSH WMA

Author: Dan Svingen

Site SW-21 — Map SW-21

Highlights: American Avocet, Willet, Wilson's Phalarope

Major Habitats: Wetland, Meadow

Location: Camas Co., 14 miles southwest of Fairfield

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

Idaho's largest rush/sedge marsh is protected by the 3,000-acre Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh WMA. This preserve is best known for the Common Camas which bloom in its wet meadows. Hundreds of lily admirers come to drive the loop road in late May. Unfortunately, the area has received little attention from birders.

DIRECTIONS:

From Fairfield follow US 20 southwest to milepost 143.1, turn left (south) onto graveled Wolf Lane, and zero your mileage. At mile 2.8 watch the utility pole nest boxes for American Kestrels and surrounding private land for Long-billed Curlews and Horned Larks. At mile 4.8 turn right (west) onto Stokes Road. At mile 5.8 follow the road curve left (south). At mile 6.0 a road takes off to the right (west). Park here.

BIRDING:

In the WMA's marsh surrounding your vehicle, look for Soras, Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets, Wilson's Phalaropes, and Ring-billed and California Gulls. Sandhill Cranes, Long-billed Curlews, and Short-eared Owls may be present in the meadows.

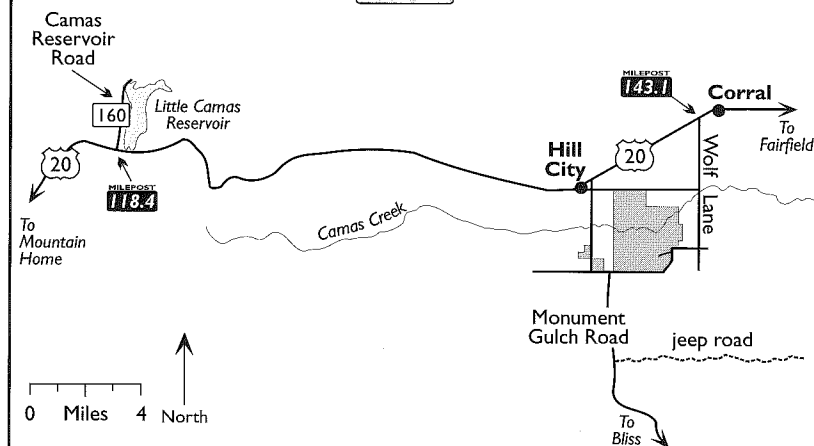
If the road leading to the west isn't flooded, follow it 0.7 mile to the old farmstead, which provides a good observation point. Deep-water here attracts Eared Grebes, Canada Geese, Redheads, Ruddy Ducks, and other waterfowl. After you're done exploring, return to Stokes Road and turn right (south) to continue the loop.

About 2.9 miles southwest of the turn-off to the old farmstead, Monument Gulch Road leads off to the left (south) into the hills. For a side trip into drier habitat, turn and go 3 miles to the third cattle-guard. A narrow, steep jeep trail climbs the butte to the left (east). A 2-mile drive (or walk) up this road ends at an impressive overlook. Golden Eagles, Swainson's Hawks, Prairie Falcons, Blue and Sage Grouse, Rock Wrens, and Sage Thrashers all nest in this general area.

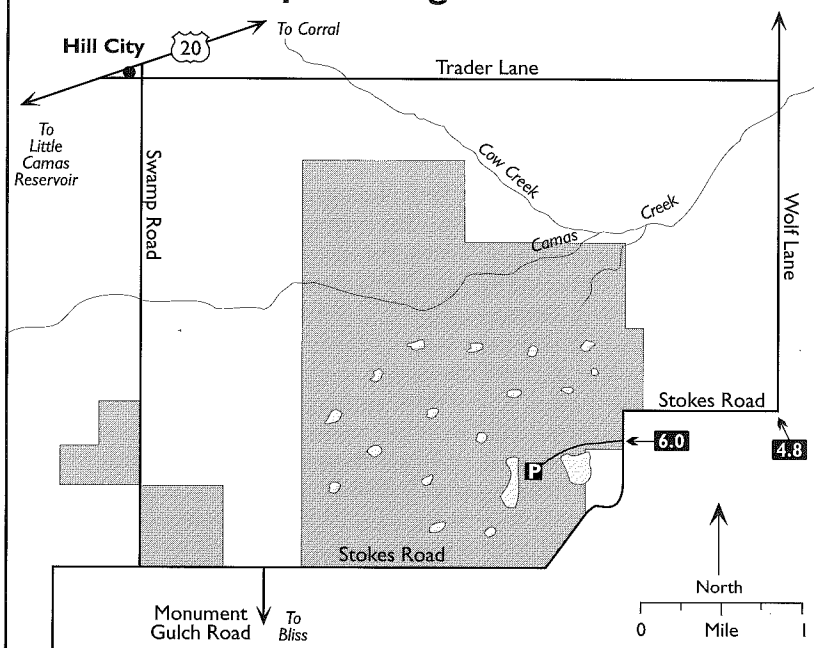
From the junction of Stokes Road and Monument Gulch Road, continue west 0.8 mile, then turn right (north) and follow Swamp Road along the WMA's west side. You'll reach US 20 at Hill City in 3.2 miles. Note that

Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh Wildlife Management Area

SITE
SW-21



Detail of Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh Wildlife Management Area



much of this area is inaccessible during winter due to deep snows (over 100 inches). You may still be able to find Golden Eagles, Black-billed Magpies, American Crows, Common Ravens, Horned Larks, and Snow Buntings, however.

For additional spring, summer, or fall birding, try Little Camas Reservoir, which is west of Hill City along US 20. At milepost 118.4 listen for Bobolinks on the south side of US 20, then turn north onto gravelled FR 160 (a.k.a. Camas Reservoir Road) and follow it 2.4 miles to the dam. Before you reach the dam, you may want to explore along the several dirt 2-track roads leading to the reservoir's west bank. Most land here is public (FS and State). Loggerhead Shrikes, Mountain Bluebirds, Western Meadowlarks, and Brewer's and Vesper Sparrows nest in the dry uplands, while Western Grebes, Trumpeter Swans, various ducks, and Caspian Terns breed on the reservoir itself.

OTHER:

You are currently allowed to walk around both the WMA and Little Camas Reservoir year round. Primitive camping is available at Magic Reservoir, about 18 miles east of Fairfield, and at Mormon Reservoir, about 8 miles east of Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh. Food and fuel are available in Fairfield. For other services try Mountain Home or Ketchum. A WMA brochure and a checklist are available from the FS (208/764-2202) in Fairfield. For more information, contact the WMA (208/764-2489).

SILVER CREEK PRESERVE

Author: Dan Svingen

Site SW-22 — Map SW-22

Highlights: American Bittern, Yellow-breasted Chat

Major Habitats: Wetland, Deciduous Forest, Meadow

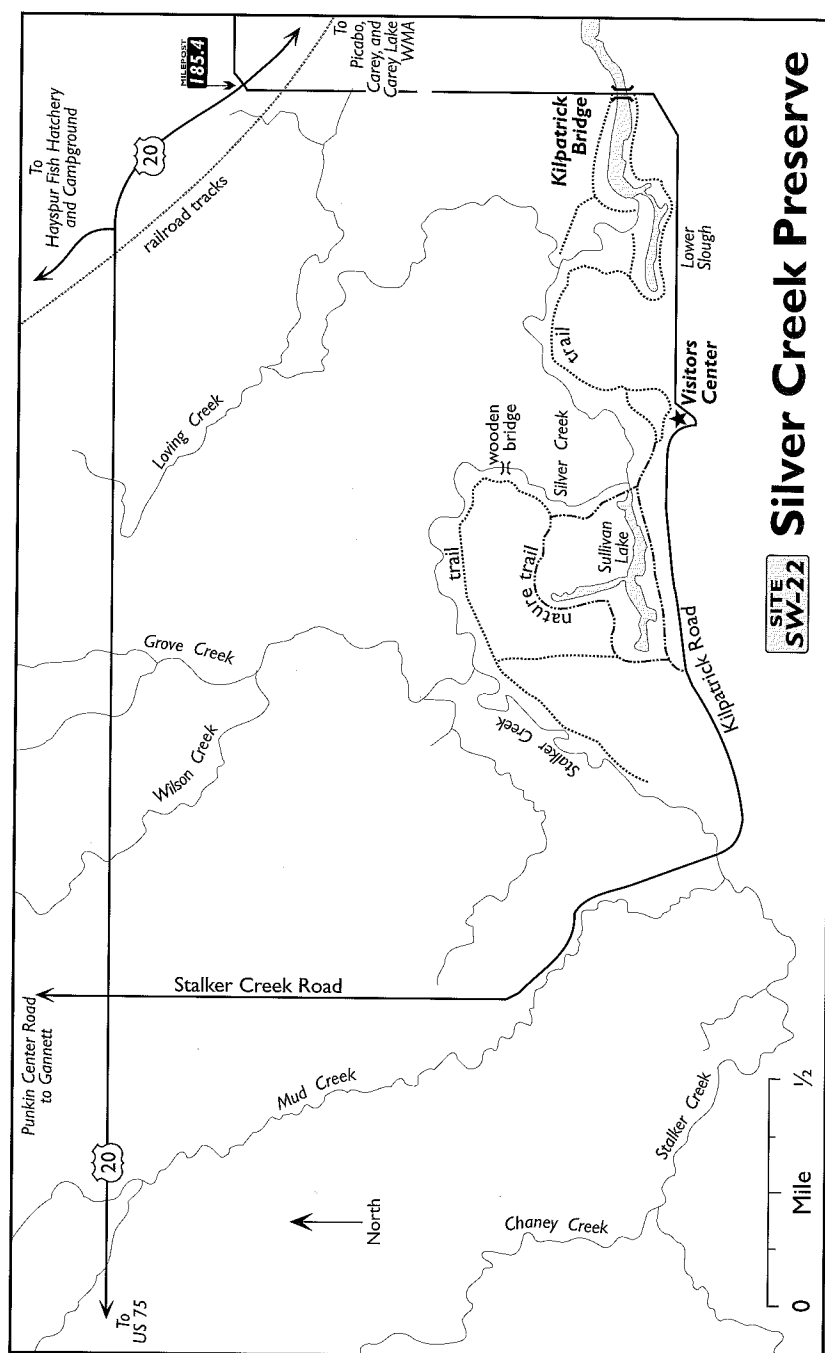
Location: Blaine Co., 4 miles west of Picabo

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

The Nature Conservancy's Silver Creek Preserve protects a portion of this world-renowned trout stream. Although more than 5,000 acres are included in the preserve, public use is restricted to about 400 acres surrounding the visitors center.

DIRECTIONS:

From the junction of US 20 and US 75, follow US 20 east 7 miles to milepost 185.4, then turn right (south), staying to the left. You'll cross Kilpatrick Bridge in 1 mile. Park here.



BIRDING:

At Kilpatrick Bridge scan the marsh and open water for Pied-billed Grebes, American Bitterns, Trumpeter Swans, Virginia Rails, Franklin's Gulls, Short-eared Owls, and Marsh Wrens, then drive the road west 0.7 mile to the Preserve's visitors center on the right (north). Some of the Preserve's best birding is to be had from the visitors center's front porch. Scan the trees to the north for nesting Swainson's Hawks and Bald Eagles. Willow Flycatchers, Gray Catbirds, Warbling Vireos, Yellow and MacGillivray's Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chats, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Bullock's Orioles, and American Goldfinches nest in the riparian shrubs below. The porch's feeder attracts Calliope, Broad-tailed, Rufous, and Black-chinned Hummingbirds in May, and again in July and August.

After enjoying the porch view, pick up a preserve map and explore along the trails. Particularly recommended is the nature trail, where common species include Red-naped Sapsucker, Eastern and Western Kingbirds, Tree and Violet-green Swallows, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Lazuli Bunting.

When you're done hiking, continue driving west along Kilpatrick Road, birding the roadside riparian areas and meadows. Stay on Kilpatrick Road as it curves north, becoming Stalker Creek (a.k.a. Stocker Creek) Road. You'll rejoin US 20, 2.7 miles northeast of the visitors center. From here you can drive straight (north) across the highway onto Punkin Center Road and follow the rough gravel to Gannett in 2 miles. Where Punkin Center Road crosses irrigation canals, stop to look again for American Bitterns.

Because Silver Creek stays open in winter, a relatively diverse avifauna is present at that season. Wintering species include various waterfowl, Golden and Bald Eagles, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Gyrfalcon (rare but regular during the last few years near Gannett), Prairie Falcon, Belted Kingfisher, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Horned Lark, Marsh Wren, Townsend's Solitaire, Snow Bunting, American Tree Sparrow, Cassin's Finch, and Common Redpoll (rare).

Additional birding is available at Carey Lake WMA, but access into this large, shallow marsh is limited to pull-outs on the north edge of the wetland along US 20. To find the WMA from Carey, follow US 20 northeast for 2 miles. Pull-outs on the right (south) side of the road are available at mileposts 206.5, 206.9, and 207.3. The pull-out at milepost 207.3 is the most developed; it has a primitive boat ramp and pit toilet. Explore along the dike trails that take off from the parking lot for more marsh views. Besides various waterfowl, watch (and listen) for American Bitterns, Black and Caspian Terns, Marsh Wrens, Common Yellowthroats, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Migrant shorebirds here have included rare Short-billed Dowitchers.

OTHER:

The closest full-service communities are Twin Falls and Ketchum. Food, fuel, and some accommodations are available in Gannett, Fairfield, Shoshone, Carey, and Hailey. Camping is available at the Hayspur Hatchery, where Idaho's first Fork-tailed Flycatcher was found. For more information, contact the Preserve (208/788-2203).

KETCHUM/SUN VALLEY AREA

Author: Brian Sturges

Site SW-23 — Map SW-23

Highlights: Black and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches

Major Habitats: Mixed Conifer and Deciduous Forest

Location: Blaine Co., Ketchum

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

Known world-wide for its first class sporting facilities, the Sun Valley Area also offers great Idaho birding. Described below are seven nearby sites.

DIRECTIONS:

The common starting point for all seven sites is the intersection of Sun Valley Road (a.k.a. Third Street), and ID 75 in downtown Ketchum. Zero your mileage here.

BIRDING:

TRAIL CREEK WETLAND

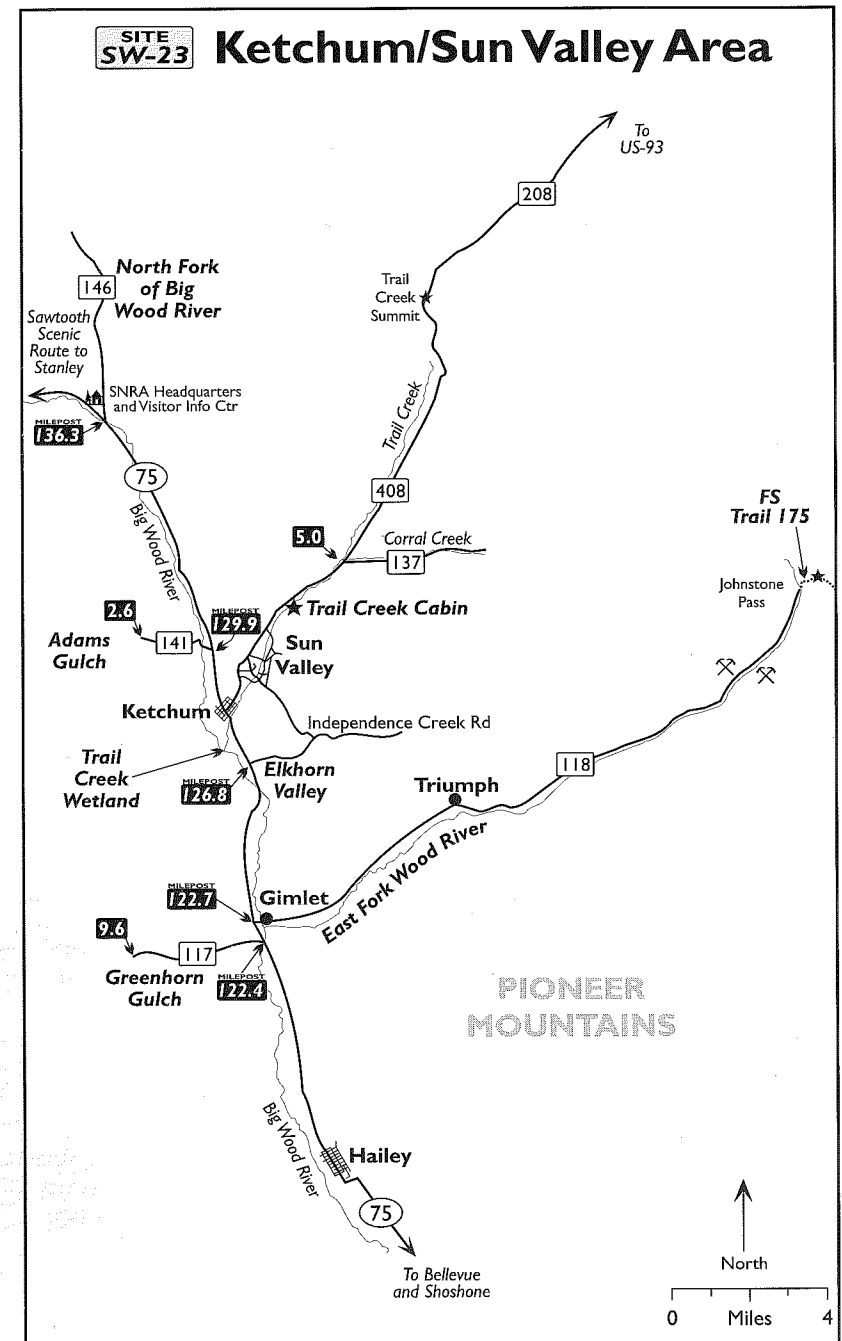
The confluence of Trail Creek and Big Wood River creates a productive wetland, attractive to both migrating and nesting birds. To get there, go southwest on Sun Valley Road for 0.3 mile, then follow the sharp left (south) turn onto Third Avenue. Stay on Third Avenue for another 0.6 mile. The road ends near the lower parking lot of Sun Valley Ski Hill's "River Run Entrance."

At the south end of the parking lot is the paved "Wood River Trail." This popular recreation trail runs 16 miles downstream (all the way to Bellevue) and 4 miles upstream. On the south side of the paved trail is an informal dirt path which leads downhill to Trail Creek Wetland.

Common breeding species along Trail Creek include Calliope Hummingbird, Lewis's and Pileated Woodpeckers, Western Wood-Pewee, Cordilleran Flycatcher, American Dipper, Gray Catbird, and Nashville, Yellow, Wilson's, and MacGillivray's Warblers. Also look for Winter Wren, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Fox Sparrow. In winter Bald Eagle, American Dipper, Moose, and Mink may be seen.

TRAIL CREEK CABIN

When Trail Creek Cabin is not rented out for weddings (summer) or used as a supper house (winter), it can be a good place to bird. From the starting point go northeast on Sun Valley Road (a.k.a. Trail Creek Road, a.k.a. FR 408). At mile 2.9, turn right (east) and drive 0.2 mile downhill to Trail Creek Cabin. Park here and walk the various roads and trails to the south and east.



The mixed deciduous/coniferous woodland along Trail Creek harbors Lewis's Woodpeckers, Red-naped Sapsuckers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Lazuli Buntings. Hills on the east side of Trail Creek are covered with conifers and sagebrush. Along the trails in this habitat look for Northern Goshawks, Spruce and Blue Grouse, Northern Saw-whet Owls, and Western Tanagers. Green-tailed Towhees have been heard on the dry, brushy slopes bordering this area.

If you continue driving northeast on Trail Creek Road, look for a Golden Eagle pair by Corral Creek (mile 5). Also keep a lookout for Peregrine Falcon; the species has been hacked just over Trail Creek Summit. Trail Creek Road gets rough after about mile 12. *Use caution if you continue exploring.*

ADAMS GULCH

Adams Gulch is a narrow canyon on the west side of the Wood River Valley. From the starting point go north on ID 75. At mile 1.5 (milepost 129.9) turn left (west) onto Adams Gulch Road (a.k.a. FR 141). At mile 1.7 curve right (north). At mile 1.9 curve left (west). At the stop-sign (mile 2.0) turn left (south) and follow the road as it heads uphill and enters public land (FS) at mile 2.5. The trailhead at mile 2.6 accesses a maze of footpaths, all of which are good for birding.

Riparian habitat along Adams Gulch Creek is home to a variety of species, including Yellow, Yellow-rumped, MacGillivray's, and Wilson's Warblers and Western Tanagers. Spring-time birders might try owling, since Flammulated, Northern Pygmy-, Boreal, and Northern Saw-whet Owls all nest in this general area.

NORTH FORK OF THE BIG WOOD RIVER

The North Fork Valley has some of Idaho's most productive deciduous/coniferous forest. From the starting point go north on ID 75 for 8 miles. At milepost 136.3 (by the Sawtooth National Recreation Area Headquarters), turn right (north) onto FR 146 (a.k.a. North Fork Road), and follow this rough graveled road through North Fork Valley for about 6 miles. Stop often to listen for singing Olive-sided Flycatchers, Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes, Townsend's and MacGillivray's Warblers, and Western Tanagers.

ELKHORN VALLEY

The Elkhorn Valley is full of condo-lined golf courses and subdivisions, but can still provide good birding, particularly at winter feeders. From the starting point head south on ID 75 for 1.5 miles and turn left (east) onto Elkhorn Road at milepost 126.8. At mile 2.1 pull into the parking spot on the right (south) overlooking a tiny pond. When present, exotics such as Black and Black-necked Swans and Bar-headed Geese decoy-in wild waterfowl here.

At mile 2.8 turn right (south) on Juniper Road into the Twin Creek subdivision, which extends for about 1.5 miles. This is one of the best areas

to find winter flocks of Black and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches. Watch for the birds coming to local feeders. Make sure to get permission before peering into someone's yard. The friendly homeowners here have come to tolerate all those "odd" people who look at birds!

To explore backcountry, continue east on Juniper Road. The hills beyond Twin Creek Subdivision are home to Blue, Spruce, and Sage Grouse in fair numbers. Spring and early summer are the best times to find these species. You may see Gray Partridge in any of the Elkhorn Valley subdivisions, particularly along the roadsides during early morning, November to March.

Another place to explore for grouse and Gray Partridge is along Independence Creek Road, which heads southeast off Elkhorn Road. To get there, follow Elkhorn Road 1.9 miles east from its junction with ID 75 and turn right (east) on Morning Star Road. After 0.2 mile turn right (southeast) on Independence Creek Road and go as far as you like.

EAST FORK ROAD

The East Fork Wood River Valley has a diversity of both habitats and birds. To get there, go south on ID 75 for 5.7 miles. At milepost 122.7 turn left (east) onto East Fork Wood River Road and drive 5.7 miles to Triumph, birding from the road along the way. During summer Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees, Mountain Bluebirds, and Western Tanagers are easy to find.

In winter look for Black and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches in Triumph. The best time to see the rosy-finches is November to April. The most reliable places are usually feeders or rocky south-facing ledges.

Summertime exploration of the Johnstone Pass area on FS Trail 175 leads into alpine habitat, where the two rosy-finches may nest. The trailhead for Trail 175 is at the end of FR 118, 10 miles northeast of Triumph. (The last 4 road miles are pretty rough.) Trail 175 is typically open from July to September. It's a strenuous 2-mile hike to rosy-finch habitat.

GREENHORN GULCH

Greenhorn Gulch is another of the narrow riparian canyons on the west side of the Wood River Valley. To explore this area, go south on ID 75 for 6 miles. At milepost 122.4 turn right (west) onto FR 117 (unmarked). You enter public land (FS) at mile 9, where the pavement stops. At mile 9.6 the road ends in a parking lot which accesses miles of popular hiking/biking/ORV trails.

Species to watch for in the sagebrush areas include Golden Eagle, Common Poorwill, and Brewer's Sparrow. In the riparian woodland look for Ruffed Grouse, Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes, Veeries, Gray Catbirds, and MacGillivray's Warblers.

OTHER:

Ketchum is a full-service community. The Chamber of Commerce (800/634-3347) runs a helpful visitors center. Other organizations that you may want to contact include Ketchum Ranger District (208/622-5371) and the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (208/726-5018). A Sawtooth National Forest map, available at the Ketchum Ranger District, can be helpful.

SAWTOOTH VALLEY ROUTE

Author: Larry J. Barnes

Site SW-24 — See Southwestern map, page 146

Highlights: Northern Goshawk, Three-toed Woodpecker

Major Habitats: Mixed Conifer Forest, Shrub-steppe, Wetland

Location: Custer Co., 30 miles northwest of Ketchum

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

The 754,000-acre Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA) is rich in both cultural and natural history. The 90-mile drive from Galena Summit to Cape Horn follows ID 75 and ID 21 through spectacular scenery. You are likely to see a variety of wildlife right from the highway, but the best birding is along short side trips. Due to the route's length, it is best done over two full days.

The Sawtooth's greatest bird diversity occurs in summer. In winter most of the side roads recommended here are snowblocked. You may still see Bald Eagles, Northern Goshawks, Snow Buntings, Gray-crowned and Black Rosy-Finches, and Common Redpolls along the main highways, however.

DIRECTIONS:

From Ketchum follow ID 75 north 30 miles, passing over Galena Summit.

BIRDING:

At ID 75 milepost 168.5, turn left (west) on paved FR 205. Along the 2.5-mile drive to Alturas Lake, make a few stops and listen for drumming Red-naped and Williamson's Sapsuckers. The rather common Red-naped are encountered about ten times more frequently than Williamson's are. You may also find Lincoln's and White-crowned Sparrows in wet meadows. At the east end of Alturas Lake, stop at Alturas Lake Picnic Group Area and take a morning walk into the Lodgepole Pine forest along the lake's southeastern shore. There are no established trails, so "bushwhacking" may be required. This is a good place to search for Three-toed Woodpeckers in April and May. Listen for their drumming. You are most likely to find them in unharvested mature Lodgepole Pine harboring Western Pine Beetles. You'll probably hear

Pileated Woodpeckers, Hermit Thrushes, and Western Tanagers. Scan Alturas Lake for waterfowl at various viewpoints along the north shore, then return to the highway.

Back on ID 75, continue north 2.8 miles and turn left (west) on FR 208 at milepost 171.4. This 1.5-mile washboard graveled road leads to Pettit Lake. (Watch for American Dippers along Pettit Creek along the way.) At the lake turn right (north), following signs to Tin Cup Hiker Transfer Camp. Bird the trail/trailhead/campground for Spruce Grouse, sapsuckers, Pileated Woodpeckers, Dusky Flycatchers, and Western Wood-Pewees.

After returning to ID 75, travel north 4.9 miles and turn right (east) at milepost 176.3 onto graveled Fisher Creek Road (a.k.a. FR 132). In spring and summer check the willow riparian habitat for Calliope Hummingbirds, Olive-sided and Willow Flycatchers, Bullock's Orioles, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Lazuli Buntings, Red Crossbills, and Evening Grosbeaks (especially if anyone is feeding birds). In 1993 a Northern Waterthrush was found near the tiny community of Fisher Creek, about 0.7 mile east of ID 75. Follow Fisher Creek Road 1.6 miles east from the highway to the sheep corrals, which mark the start of public land (FS). A male Chestnut-sided Warbler sang in the willows near the corrals through all of June 1995. Dusky Flycatchers are common in the mixed willow/conifer habitat along Fisher Creek Road. Red-naped Sapsuckers, Orange-crowned Warblers, and House Wrens nest in the Quaking Aspens. Keep birding along Fisher Creek Road until the road gets too rough. (About 3 miles is as far as you should push it in a passenger car.)

Continue north on ID 75 for 7.3 miles, then turn left (west) at milepost 183.5 into the Sawtooth Hatchery. Stop here to learn the plight of endangered Chinook and Sockeye Salmon. The hatchery ponds attract a wide variety of ducks. Ospreys and Belted Kingfishers visit the hatchery, as does an occasional Great Blue Heron.

About 1.5 miles north of the hatchery, at ID 75 milepost 185, turn left (southwest) on paved FR 214 and drive toward Redfish Lake, the largest lake in the Sawtooth Valley. If you're visiting in early spring or late fall, stop at Little Redfish Lake and scan for Common Loons and Bald Eagles. American Dippers are common all year on Redfish Creek. After going 2.2 miles, turn right (west) on FR 213 and go another 0.5 mile to Redfish Lake Lodge. Walk east along the beach, where occasional gulls and shorebirds congregate during migration. On the lake itself, look for Western, Clark's, and Red-necked (rare) Grebes. One of Idaho's highest and most productive Peregrine Falcon eyries is at the west end of the lake. With luck, you may see one of the occupants. You should also walk the 0.25-mile path between the lodge and Point Campground, watching for Osprey, Pileated Woodpecker, and Williamson's Sapsucker.

Return to ID 75 and drive north about 1.8 miles to milepost 186.8. Turn left (west) toward Stanley Ranger Station. After 0.1 mile turn right (north) to the RV dump-station and oxidation ponds. Park at the end of the

dump-station loop. These humble looking oxidation ponds attract more unusual waterbirds than any other place in the Sawtooth Valley. Most of Idaho's duck species loaf here during some part of the year. In July and August shorebirds refuel on shoreline invertebrates. Among the species attracted are Eared Grebe, Wood Duck, Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teals, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Barrow's Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, American Avocet, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes, Western, Least, and Baird's Sandpipers, Bonaparte's Gull, and Black Tern.

Back on ID 75, continue north 2.6 miles to Stanley. Stay on ID 75 another 0.6 mile after it intersects with ID 21. Immediately after you cross Valley Creek, turn left (west) into the Stanley Museum at milepost 190. Continue on this rutted, dirt road 0.2 mile to the Stanley oxidation ponds. It is difficult to see into the ponds because a dike separates the road from the ponds. By standing on your vehicle's bumper or tailgate, however, you can peer into the two ponds without disturbing the birds. Species are similar to those at the Stanley Ranger Station oxidation ponds.

Return to Stanley and take ID 21 through town. About 2.5 miles west of Stanley, at milepost 128.5, turn left (south) on graveled FR 619, which leads 3.2 miles to Iron Creek Trailhead. Look for Northern Goshawks, Spruce Grouse, Three-toed and Black-backed (rare) Woodpeckers, and Hammond's Flycatchers along the trail to Alpine and Sawtooth Lakes. The trail is steep but well maintained. It takes about 1.5 hours to hike the 3 miles to Alpine Lake.

Return to ID 21 and continue northwest for 2 miles. At ID 21 milepost 126.4 turn left (west) into Elk Mountain Resort. Feeders here sometimes attract large numbers of Cassin's Finches. Unfortunately, a growing number of Brown-headed Cowbirds also use the feeders.

About 0.5 mile north of Elk Mountain Resort, at ID 21 milepost 125.9, turn right (east) on graveled FR 653 and park in the pull-out on the right in 0.1 mile. Bird the willow riparian area for species such as Osprey, Virginia Rail, Sora, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Rock Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Common Yellowthroat, and Lincoln's and White-crowned Sparrows. If you continue east along FR 653 for a few miles, you should see Sandhill Crane, Savannah Sparrow, and, in sagebrush country, Vesper and Brewer's Sparrows.

Return to ID 21 and cross over to graveled FR 455. Drive west about 3.5 miles to Stanley Lake. Park at the trailhead at Bridal Veil Falls (4 miles) and bird the mature willow wetland at the upper end of Stanley Lake. Be on the lookout for Northern Goshawks, Peregrine Falcons, Spotted Sandpipers, Common Snipe, Calliope and Rufous Hummingbirds, Olive-sided and Dusky Flycatchers, Gray Jays, Warbling Vireos, Nashville, MacGillivray's, and Wilson's Warblers, Fox and Lincoln's Sparrows, and Cassin's Finches. Great Gray Owls, Northern Pygmy-Owls, Spruce Grouse, and Pine Grosbeaks are uncommon in the conifer forest.

Return to ID 21 and continue north 2.4 miles to the Park Creek Overlook on the left (west) at milepost 123.5. Scan the forest edge at dawn or dusk for Great Gray Owls; one hunted here in June 1994.

About 4 miles north of Park Creek Overlook, at ID 21 milepost 119.5, turn right (north) on graveled Marsh Creek Road (a.k.a. FR 203) and go about 5.5 miles to the Cape Horn Guard Station and the end of this route. Stop periodically along the way to watch for Elk, waterfowl, Northern Goshawks, Swainson's Hawks, Common Snipe, Virginia Rails, Soras, Sandhill Cranes, Great Gray Owls, Mountain Bluebirds, Cassin's and Warbling Vireos, MacGillivray's Warblers, Western Tanagers, and Vesper and Lincoln's Sparrows. In the driest part of the route (near Dry Creek) look for nesting Horned Larks.

OTHER:

Maps and more information are available at the Stanley Ranger Station (2.6 miles south of Stanley at ID 75 milepost 186.8) and at the Sawtooth National Recreation Area Visitors Center (8 miles north of Ketchum at ID 75 milepost 136.3; phone number: 208/726-5018). Camping opportunities are abundant in the SNRA. You can buy lunch at Redfish Lake Lodge and enjoy a breathtaking view of Redfish Lake and the Sawtooth Mountains. Fuel and a few supplies are available in Stanley. For other services, try Ketchum.