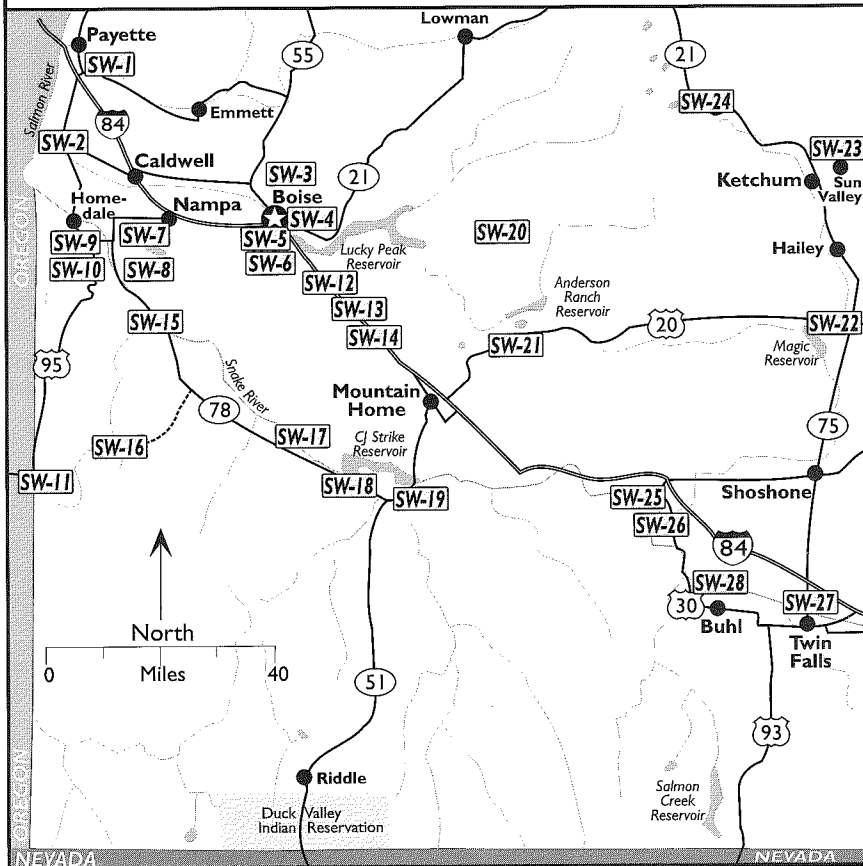


# SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO BIRDING SITES

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>SW-1</b> New Plymouth Area               | <b>SW-15</b> Snake River Birds of Prey Area    |
| <b>SW-2</b> Fort Boise Wildlife Mgt Area    | <b>SW-16</b> Silver City Area                  |
| <b>SW-3</b> Boise Foothills                 | <b>SW-17</b> Ted Trueblood Wildlife Mgt Area   |
| <b>SW-4</b> Boise Area                      | <b>SW-18</b> C.J. Strike Wildlife Mgt Area     |
| <b>SW-5</b> Pleasant Valley Road Route      | <b>SW-19</b> Bruneau Dunes State Park          |
| <b>SW-6</b> Hubbard Reservoir               | <b>SW-20</b> Trinity Recreation Area           |
| <b>SW-7</b> Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge | <b>SW-21</b> Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh    |
| <b>SW-8</b> Dry Lakes                       | <b>SW-22</b> Silver Creek Preserve             |
| <b>SW-9</b> Marsing Area                    | <b>SW-23</b> Ketchum/Sun Valley Area           |
| <b>SW-10</b> Jump Creek                     | <b>SW-24</b> Sawtooth Valley Route             |
| <b>SW-11</b> North Fork Owyhee River        | <b>SW-25</b> Hagerman Wildlife Mgt Area        |
| <b>SW-12</b> Blacks Creek Reservoir Route   | <b>SW-26</b> Thousand Springs Preserve         |
| <b>SW-13</b> Indian Creek Reservoir         | <b>SW-27</b> Twin Falls Area                   |
| <b>SW-14</b> Mayfield Route                 | <b>SW-28</b> Niagara Springs Wildlife Mgt Area |

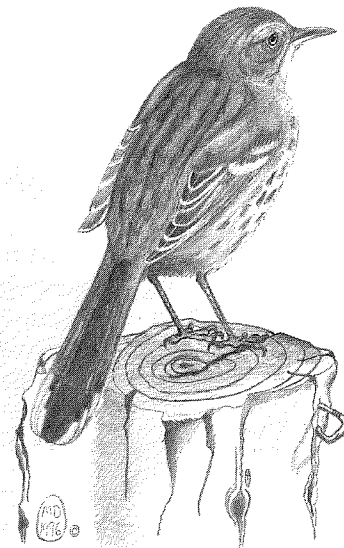


## SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

Dry, open, forbidding landscape characterizes Southwestern Idaho, yet this region also supports the bulk of the state's population. Half of Idaho's large towns are here, including Boise, the state capital. Before venturing too far however, be aware that most of the Southwest's towns and associated services are concentrated along the I-84 corridor. It can be a long walk to a gas station from the Owyhee Uplands!

Two ecoregions, Middle Rocky Mountain and Intermountain Semidesert, meet along the Boise Front Range, providing unique opportunities for avian study. Cassin's and Plumbeous Vireos breed within a few miles of each other, one in the Middle Rocky Mountain's coniferous forest, the other in the Intermountain Semidesert's riparian zones. Lucky Peak is also worthy of attention. More than 5,000 raptors, mostly accipiters, fly by Lucky Peak each fall. Extensive, long-term study of Prairie Falcons, Golden Eagles, Long-eared and Burrowing Owls, Ferruginous Hawks, and shrub-steppe passerines and small mammals is carried out at the nearby Snake River Birds of Prey Area. The World Center for Birds of Prey, home to captive California Condors and The Peregrine Fund, may also be of interest to birders.

Additional habitat diversity is provided by the varied nature of the Intermountain Semidesert, from low-elevation agricultural lands to high-elevation shrub-steppe. The moderating effects of the Semidesert in winter make the Southwest the mildest area in the state. Fabulous winter birding is often the result. Trips can be started near the relatively balmy Snake River to witness the massing of hundreds of thousands of waterfowl at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge and Hagerman Wildlife Management Area, and then head to world famous Sun Valley to search for Gyrfalcon, Snow Bunting, and Black Rosy-Finch, and perhaps find an outstanding rarity such as the Siberian Accentor that wintered over in 1996-1997.



Sage Thrasher  
Mike Denny