

# SouthWest MONTANA

Birding in

## Ducks, Geese & Swans (Anseriformes)

- American Wigeon (1–8, 10)
- Barrow's Goldeneye (2, 10)
- Blue-winged Teal (2–8, 10)
- Bufflehead (2, 4, 6, 7, 10)
- Canada Goose (2–8, 10, 12)
- Canvasback (1–8, 10)
- Common Goldeneye (1–8, 10, 12)
- Common Merganser (2–8, 10, 12)
- Gadwall (1–8, 10)
- Greater White-fronted Goose (10)
- Green-winged Teal (1–8, 10)
- Hooded Merganser (2, 4, 6, 8, 10)
- Lesser Scaup (1–8, 10)
- Long-tailed Duck (4, 10)
- Mallard Duck (1–8, 10, 12)
- Northern Pintail (2–8, 10)
- Northern Shoveler (1–8, 10)
- Red-breasted Merganser (4, 6, 10)
- Redhead (2–8, 10)
- Ring-necked Duck (2–8, 10)
- Ross's Goose (2, 10)
- Ruddy Duck (2, 4, 6, 7, 10)
- Snow Goose (2, 4, 10)
- Surf Scoter (fall) (4, 5, 6, 10)
- Trumpeter Swan (2–8, 10)
- Tundra Swan (2–8, 10)
- White-winged Scoter (fall) (4, 5, 6, 10)
- Wood Duck (1–8, 10)

## Upland Game Birds (Galliformes)

- Dusky (Blue) Grouse (3, 5, 9)
- Gray (Hungarian) Partridge (1, 4, 6, 10)
- Greater Sage-Grouse (7, 8)
- Ruffed Grouse (3, 4, 9, 12)
- Spruce Grouse (5, 9)

## Loons (Gaviiformes)

- Common Loon (2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10)
- Pacific Loon (4, 6, 10)

## Grebes (Podicipediformes)

- Eared Grebe (2, 4, 10)
- Horned Grebe (3, 10)
- Pied-billed Grebe (2, 4, 6, 7, 10)
- Red-necked Grebe (2, 4, 5, 10)
- Western Grebe (2, 6, 7, 10)

## Cormorants (Suliformes)

- Double-crested Cormorant (7, 10, 12)

## Pelicans & Wading Birds (Pelecaniformes)

- American White Pelican (4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12)
- Black-crowned Night-Heron (7, 8, 10)
- Great Blue Heron (1–10)
- Sabine's Gull (10)

## Hawks, Ospreys, Eagles & Allies (Accipitriformes)

- Bald Eagle (1–8, 10, 12)
- Cooper's Hawk (1–10, 12)
- Ferruginous Hawk (6, 7, 8)
- Golden Eagle (1–10, 12)
- Northern Goshawk (5, 7, 9, 10)
- Northern Harrier (1, 2, 4, 10)
- Osprey (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12)
- Red-tailed Hawk (1–10, 12)
- Rough-legged Hawk (winter) (1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 10)
- Sharp-shinned Hawk (1–10, 12)
- Swainson's Hawk (7, 8, 9, 10)
- Turkey Vulture (1–12)

## Cranes & Rails (Gruiformes)

- American Coot (2, 4–8, 10)
- Sandhill Crane (1, 2, 4, 7–10)
- Sora (1, 2, 8, 10)
- Virginia Rail (1, 2, 8, 10)

## Plovers, Sandpipers & allies (Charadriiformes)

- American Avocet (4, 6–8, 10, 12)
- American Golden Plover (fall migration) (1, 10)
- Baird's Sandpiper (4, 6–8, 10)
- Black-bellied Plover (fall migration) (1, 10)
- Black-necked Stilt (4, 6–8, 10, 12)
- Black Tern (2, 7)
- Bonaparte's Gull (2, 4, 10)
- California Gull (4–6, 8, 10)
- Caspian Tern (4, 6, 7, 10)
- Forster's Tern (4, 6, 10)
- Franklin's Gull (4, 6–8, 10)
- Greater Yellowlegs (1–10)
- Herring Gull (4, 6, 10)
- Killdeer (1–10, 12)
- Least Sandpiper (4, 6–8, 10)
- Lesser Yellowlegs (1–10)
- Long-billed Curlew (1, 2, 4, 6–10)
- Long-billed Dowitcher (4, 6–8, 10)
- Marbled Godwit (4, 8, 10)
- Pectoral Sandpiper (4, 6–8, 10)
- Ring-necked Gull (4–6, 8, 10)
- Sabine's Gull (10)
- Sanderling (4, 6–8, 10)
- Semipalmated Plover (4, 6–8, 10)
- Semipalmated Sandpiper (4, 6–8, 10)
- Solitary Sandpiper (1–10)
- Spotted Sandpiper (1, 6–10, 12)
- Upland Sandpiper (3)
- Willet (1–10)
- Wilson's Phalarope (4, 6–8, 10)
- Wilson's Snipe (1, 4, 6–8, 10)

## Pigeons & Doves (Columbiformes)

- Eurasian Collared-Dove (1–12)
- Mourning Dove (1–12)
- Swainson's Hawk (7, 8, 9, 10)
- Turkey Vulture (1–12)

## Owls (Strigiformes)

- Great Gray Owl (5, 9)
- Great Horned Owl (1–12)
- Long-eared Owl (9)

## Nightjars (Caprimulgiformes)

- Common Nighthawk (1–12)
- Common Poorwill (3, 4, 12)

## Swifts & Hummingbirds (Apodiformes)

- Black-chinned Hummingbird (11)
- Calliope Hummingbird (1–11)
- Rufous Hummingbird (1–11, 12)
- White-throated Swift (3, 4, 12)

## Kingfishers (Coraciiformes)

- Belted Kingfisher (1–12)

## Woodpeckers (Piciformes)

- American Three-toed Woodpecker (5, 9)
- Black-backed Woodpecker (3, 5, 9)
- Downy Woodpecker (1–12)
- Hairy Woodpecker (1–12)
- Lewis's Woodpecker (3, 10, 11)
- Northern Flicker (1–12)
- Pileated Woodpecker (3, 5, 11)
- Red-naped Sapsucker (1–3, 7, 10, 11)
- Williamson's Sapsucker (2, 5)

## Falcons (Falconiformes)

- American Kestrel (1–10, 12)
- Gyr Falcon (winter) (4, 10)
- Merlin (4)
- Peregrine Falcon (4, 7, 8, 10, 12)
- Prairie Falcon (2, 7, 8; winter) (10)

## Perching Birds (Passeriformes)

- American Crow (1, 2, 4, 10)
- American Dipper (1–11)
- American Goldfinch (1, 2, 4–8, 11, 12)
- American Pipit (10)
- American Redstart (12)
- American Robin (1–12)
- American Tree Sparrow (winter) (1, 9, 10)
- Baird's Sparrow (3)
- Bank Swallow (1–12)
- Barn Swallow (1–12)
- Black Rosy-Finch (9)

- Black-billed Magpie (1–12)
- Black-capped Chickadee (1–11)
- Black-headed Grosbeak (1–11)
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (12)
- Blue Jay (4, 5)
- Bobolink (1, 2, 4)
- Bohemian Waxwing (winter) (1–11)
- Brewer's Blackbird (1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11)
- Brewer's Sparrow (2, 6, 10)
- Brown Creeper (3, 4, 5, 9)
- Brown-headed Cowbird (1–11)
- Bullock's Oriole (1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 12)
- Canyon Wren (4, 12)
- Cassin's Finch (1, 4, 12)
- Cassin's Vireo (12)
- Cedar Waxwing (1–12)
- Chipping Sparrow (1–12)
- Clark's Nutcracker (5, 7, 9, 11, 12)
- Clay-colored Sparrow (2, 10)
- Cliff Swallow (1–12)
- Common Grackle (1, 6, 10)
- Common Raven (1–12)
- Common Redpoll (winter) (5, 9, 10)
- Common Yellowthroat (1–10)
- Cordilleran (Western) Flycatcher (3, 5, 6, 12)
- Dark-eyed Junco (1–11)
- Dusky Flycatcher (3–5, 7, 12)
- Eastern Kingbird (1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12)
- Evening Grosbeak (1, 2, 4, 5, 6–11)
- Golden-crowned Kinglet (1–11)
- Gray Catbird (1, 2, 4, 6, 10–12)
- Gray Flycatcher (8)
- Gray Jay (5, 11)
- Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (5, 9)
- Green-tailed Towhee (12)
- Hammond's Flycatcher (3, 5, 9)
- Harris's Sparrow (winter) (10)
- Hermit Thrush (5, 9, 10, 12)
- Horned Lark (1, 2, 4, 8, 10)
- House Wren (1–8, 10, 11)
- Lark Sparrow (3, 10, 12)
- Least Flycatcher (1–6, 10)
- Lapland Longspur (winter) (10)
- Lazuli Bunting (3, 6, 10, 12)
- Lincoln's Sparrow (5, 7, 9)
- Loggerhead Shrike (8)
- MacGillivray's Warbler (3, 4, 7, 9, 10)
- Marsh Wren (2, 6, 7, 8, 10)
- McCown's Longspur (6, 8)
- Mountain Bluebird (1–4, 7, 8, 10–12)
- Mountain Chickadee (5, 7, 9, 11, 12)

- Northern Rough-winged Swallow (1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10)
- Northern Shrike (winter) (1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10)
- Northern Waterthrush (1, 9, 10)
- Olive-sided Flycatcher (3, 5, 9)
- Orange-crowned Warbler (1–11)
- Pacific Wren (5, 9)
- Pine Grosbeak (5, 9)
- Pine Siskin (5, 9, 11, 12)
- Pinyon Jay (4)
- Pygmy Nuthatch (4)
- Red Crossbill (4, 5, 9, 11)
- Red-breasted Nuthatch (5, 9, 12)
- Red-eyed Vireo (1, 2, 4, 10)
- Red-winged Blackbird (1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11)
- Rock Wren (8, 12)
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1–12)
- Sage Thrasher (8)
- Sagebrush Sparrow (8)
- Savannah Sparrow (1–10)
- Say's Phoebe (4, 9)
- Snow Bunting (winter) (8, 9, 10)
- Song Sparrow (1–10)
- Spotted Towhee (4, 12)
- Sprague's Pipit (3)
- Steller's Jay (5, 9, 11)
- Swainson's Thrush (3, 9)
- Townsend's Solitaire (3, 5, 9, 12)
- Tree Swallow (1–4, 6, 8, 10, 11)
- Veery (3, 9)
- Vesper Sparrow (1–10)
- Violet-green Swallow (5, 7, 9, 12)
- Warbling Vireo (2, 7, 11, 12)
- Western Bluebird (3, 10)
- Western Kingbird (1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 12)
- Western Meadowlark (1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10–12)
- Western Tanager (1–12)
- Western Wood-Pewee (1–12)
- White-breasted Nuthatch (4)
- White-crowned Sparrow (5, 7, 9)
- White-winged Crossbill (5, 9)
- Willow Flycatcher (1–12)
- Wilson's Warbler (7, 8, 9)
- Yellow Warbler (1–12)
- Yellow-breasted Chat (3, 12)
- Yellow-headed Blackbird (1, 2, 4, 8, 10)
- Yellow-rumped Warbler (1–12)



## Experience a Big Sky alive with birds.

Turns out, humans aren't the only species drawn to SouthWest Montana. Every year, vast flocks of birds make their annual spring and autumn migrations through this region. And year-round, the diversity simply staggering. Of the 428 bird species recorded as resident species and viewing opportunities is soaring above wide open valleys.

Here you'll find one of the largest populations of trumpeter swans anywhere. You'll hear the echoing cry of loons as the morning mist burns off Ennis Lake, the trilling song of the hermit thrush blending with the whisper of leaves along quiet mountain streams, the piercing screech of red-tailed hawks for a spell.

You'll also experience moments of profound quiet. In those moments, you'll get a deeper sense why humans, too, find this a pretty great place to nest.

## Birding Ethics

Located between Yellowstone and Glacier national parks, SouthWest Montana offers stunning landscapes and adventures. Among breathtaking vistas and valleys with the whisper of leaves along quiet mountain streams, the trilling song of the hermit thrush blending with the whisper of leaves along quiet mountain streams, the piercing screech of red-tailed hawks for a spell.

You'll find well-preserved ghost towns, rockhounding and adventures. Among breathtaking vistas and valleys with the whisper of leaves along quiet mountain streams, the trilling song of the hermit thrush blending with the whisper of leaves along quiet mountain streams, the piercing screech of red-tailed hawks for a spell.

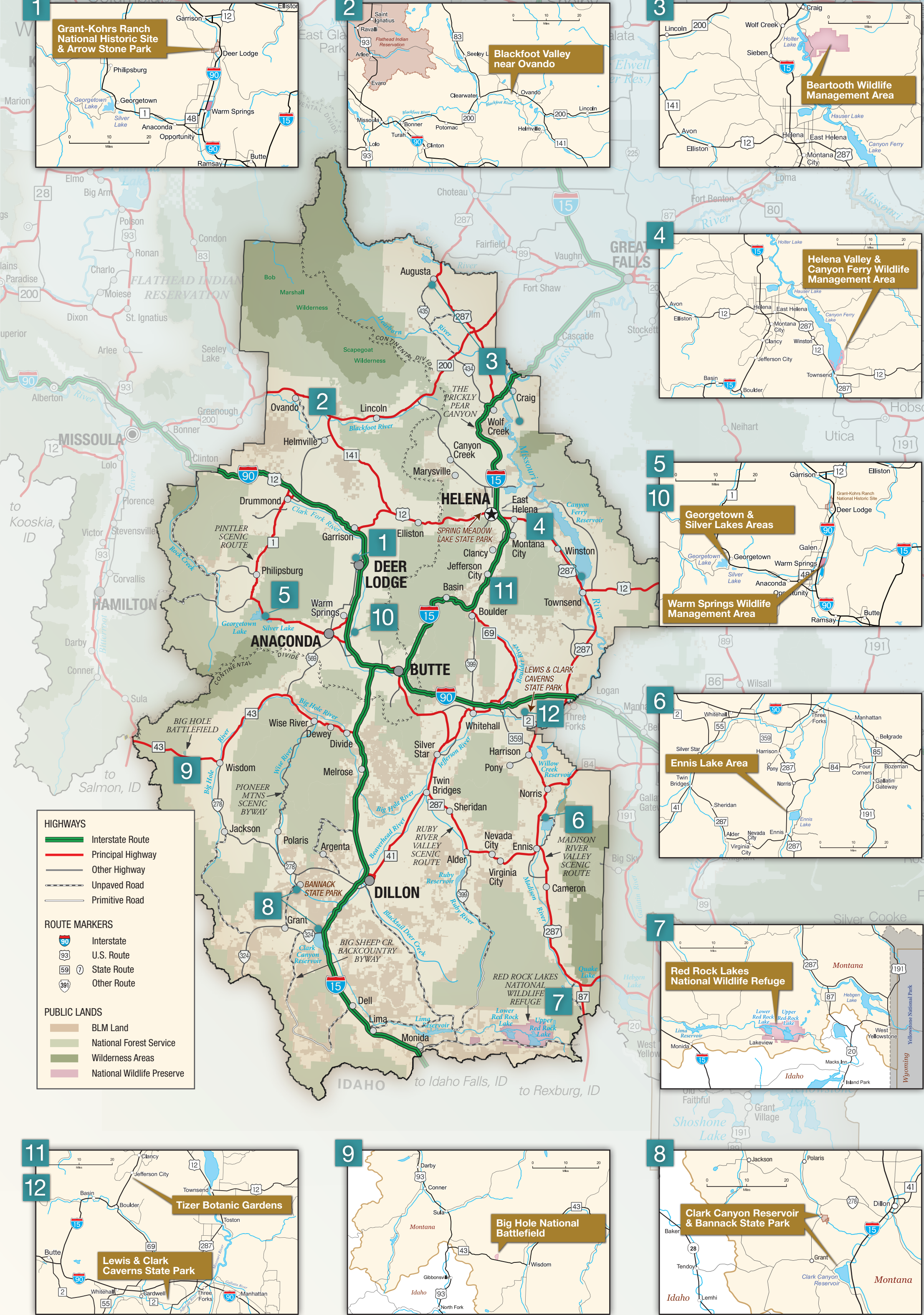
Whether you consider yourself a dedicated lister or simply staggering. Of the 428 bird species recorded as resident species and viewing opportunities is soaring above wide open valleys.

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800-879-1159 | southwestmt.com

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For detailed descriptions of the numbered areas, please see the reverse side of this foldout brochure.

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## 1 GRANT-KOHR'S RANCH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE / ARROWSTONE PARK

The 1,600-acre Grant-Kohrs Ranch is operated by the National Park Service to give the public a view of how life used to be here. With plenty of healthy riparian habitat populated by diverse bird species, you'll feel like you're experiencing Montana's wildlife of a century ago or more.

At the Grant-Kohrs Visitor Center you can purchase a field guide of the common birds for these sites that includes color photographs and a map of the ranch's habitats. You can walk plenty of quiet roads, trails and the abandoned Milwaukee Railroad right of way. There's also a series of well-established trails at Arrowstone.

**HABITATS**  
Arrowstone Park is a riparian area along the Clark Fork River. There is also a series of small ponds and wet areas. Grant-Kohrs habitats include ponds and wet marshes, riparian / stream, short-grass prairie and hayfields.

**BEST VIEWING SEASONS**  
April — October; November — March for winter species.

**CONTACT**  
Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site  
406-846-2070 • [tiny.cc/Birds-GrantKohrs](http://tiny.cc/Birds-GrantKohrs)

Powell County Chamber of Commerce  
406-846-2094  
[tiny.cc/Birds-DeerLodge](http://tiny.cc/Birds-DeerLodge)



## 2 BLACKFOOT VALLEY NEAR OVANDO

The Blackfoot Valley offers outstanding scenery as well as great wildlife viewing. Three core birding areas in the valley provide the best public access for birding. They include Browns Lake (mostly private shoreline, but public roads and a fishing access site provide boat access and camping), Blackfoot Waterfowl Production Area, and the Aunt Molly Wildlife Management Area Waterfowl Production Area complex.

**HABITATS**  
This is a "prairie pothole" landscape surrounded by mountains. A mixture of intermountain grasslands, sagebrush-grasslands, agricultural fields, aspen stands and mixed-conifer ridge tops dominate the area. Cottonwood riparian habitats can be found along the Blackfoot River and its tributaries. Audubon Important Bird Area.

**BEST VIEWING SEASONS**  
April — September; June is prime for nesting songbirds.

**CONTACT**  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
406-542-5500  
[tiny.cc/Birds-BrownsLake](http://tiny.cc/Birds-BrownsLake) (Brown's Lake)  
[tiny.cc/Birds-AuntMolly](http://tiny.cc/Birds-AuntMolly) (Aunt Molly)

[southwestmt.com/communities/ovando.htm](http://southwestmt.com/communities/ovando.htm) (Ovando)



## 3 BEARTOOTH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA / AUGUSTA

In this windswept landscape where the Great Plains crumple at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, wild things abound. All of Montana's big game species call this area home at various times of the year, as do upland game birds, raptors, songbirds, furbearers and small mammals.

The 31,798-acre WMA is open to the public from May 15 through November 30. Good birding can also be found by traveling Highway 435 south of Augusta.

**HABITATS**  
The area is dominated by intermountain grasslands and ponderosa pine forests, with some foothill and prairie pothole habitats. Remnant patches of Douglas fir and lodgepole pine forests can be found on north-facing slopes. Several creeks bisect the area, supporting riparian habitat.

**BEST VIEWING SEASONS**  
May — September; June is prime for nesting songbirds.

**CONTACT**  
Helena FWP  
406-444-2535  
[tiny.cc/Birds-Beartooth](http://tiny.cc/Birds-Beartooth) (Beartooth WMA)

[southwestmt.com/communities/augusta.htm](http://southwestmt.com/communities/augusta.htm) (Augusta)



## 4 HELENA VALLEY / CANYON FERRY WMA

In spring and autumn, the Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area near Helena resonates with the melodious songs of diverse bird species as they pause along one of North America's major north-south migration routes. With its network of dikes and ponds, the area provides nesting birds plenty of protection — and offers birders amazing viewing opportunities. You will need a scope to maximize your experience.

That's just one of many great places to bird-watch in the Helena Valley. You'll find an even wider variety of species in the surrounding mountains as well as in the lake habitats of the region. A detailed guide to birding in the Helena Valley can be downloaded at [lastchanceaudubon.org/html/birding.html](http://lastchanceaudubon.org/html/birding.html). There is also a bird list available for the Canyon Ferry WMA.

**HABITATS**  
Dry grasslands, pine and fir forests, willow / cottonwood, riparian areas, lakes, prairie potholes, wetlands and cliffs. Audubon Important Bird Area.

**BEST VIEWING SEASONS**  
May — July for breeding birds; August — November for shorebirds and migrants.

**CONTACT**  
Townsend Chamber  
406-266-4101  
[tiny.cc/Birds-CanyonFerry](http://tiny.cc/Birds-CanyonFerry) (Canyon Ferry WMA)  
[tiny.cc/Birds-LastChance](http://tiny.cc/Birds-LastChance) (Last Chance Audubon Society)



## 5 GEORGETOWN & SILVER LAKE AREAS

Situated between the rugged Pintler Mountains to the south and the Flint Creek range to the north, these high-elevation lakes and the surrounding forests are popular destinations for anglers, hikers and birds of many feathers. Sprawling across 3,000 acres, Georgetown Lake would be plenty scenic without its many resident waterfowl, raptors and other birds that are drawn to the area's verdant forests, meadows and marshes. Nearby Silver Lake is smaller but offers great birding as well. A good location for birding in high-elevation meadows and mountains is the Mount Haggin Wildlife Management Area, located south of Anaconda on Highway 569.

**HABITATS**  
Mountain lake wetlands, meadow, and stream riparian areas with alder and willow. Extensive coniferous forest of spruce, fir and lodgepole pine, mixed with scattered stands of aspen and open parks of mountain grasses.

**BEST VIEWING SEASONS**  
May — September; October — November for scoters and loons; December — March for owls, jays and grosbeaks. Winter access can be limited.

**CONTACT**  
Pintler Ranger District (Phillipsburg Office)  
406-859-3211  
Anaconda Chamber/VIC • 406-563-2400  
[southwestmt.com/communities/anaconda.htm](http://southwestmt.com/communities/anaconda.htm)



## 6 ENNIS LAKE AREA

Located just north of the quaint community of Ennis, this 3,692-acre lake beckons visitors with some of Southwest Montana's finest fishing, bird-watching, sunsets and simple solitude. For an exceptional birding loop head north on Jeffers Road from Ennis, then circle the lake on Ennis Lake Road.

Other good birding sites are found along the Madison River, north and south of the lake. There are numerous mountain streams flowing into the valley as well as extensive short-grass prairies south of Ennis. While you're in the area, you can marvel at another of the region's colorful species at the Ennis National Fish Hatchery, home to huge rainbow trout.

**HABITATS**  
A willow / grass complex with sage and rabbit brush surrounds the lake. The foothills on the north end of the lake have a juniper / Douglas fir mixed forest. South of the lake are agricultural lands and short-grass prairie. The Madison River fishing access sites feature plenty of willow and cottonwood. Audubon Important Bird Area.

**BEST VIEWING SEASONS**  
May — July for breeding birds; March — June and August — November for shorebirds and migrants.

**CONTACT**  
Ennis Chamber and VIC  
406-682-4388  
[tiny.cc/Birds-Ennis](http://tiny.cc/Birds-Ennis)



## 7 RED ROCK LAKES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

When this refuge was established in 1939, the trumpeter swan was all but extinct. Today, North America's heaviest bird is thriving; but there's still no better place to see these massive, majestic waterfowl than Red Rock Lakes, home to one of the largest populations in the lower 48 states — as well as a bevy of other birds.

The refuge headquarters, located at Lakeview, offers a small visitor center with wildlife displays and brochures. Upper Lake Campground is an excellent spot for birding due to its mix of lakeside habitats. Dirt roads are impassable after heavy rains, and make sure to top off your gas tank before venturing this way.

**HABITATS**  
Primarily open grassland and sagebrush with isolated stands of willows and aspens. Willow habitat is found along streams, lakeshores and marshes throughout the refuge. Audubon Important Bird Area.

**BEST VIEWING SEASONS**  
June — July for breeding birds; August — September for shorebirds and migrants.

**CONTACT**  
Red Rock Lakes NWR  
406-276-3347  
[tiny.cc/Birds-RedRock](http://tiny.cc/Birds-RedRock)



## 8 CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR & BANNACK STATE PARK

When Lewis and Clark stopped here they dubbed the spot Camp Fortunate; and today, anyone who comes through the area must surely feel lucky to be alive. This sprawling reservoir teems with wildlife along its shores and in the surrounding foothills.

Nearby Bannack was Montana's first territorial capital, and now stands as one of the best-preserved ghost towns in the Rockies. Good birding can be found in the campgrounds and along the road and stream. Additional bird species can be found along the gravel road leading south from Bannack to Grant.

**HABITATS**  
Riparian habitat, short-grass / sagebrush prairie and agricultural fields surround the reservoir. Late summer mud flats offer shorebird viewing at the west and south inlets to the reservoir. Bannack features riparian habitat along Grasshopper Creek and mature sagebrush habitat for several miles south to Grant.

**BEST VIEWING SEASONS**  
April — October; November — March for winter species.

**CONTACT**  
Bannack State Park  
406-834-3413  
[tiny.cc/Birds-Bannack](http://tiny.cc/Birds-Bannack)



## 9 BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

Today, few places seem more peaceful than the Big Hole Valley of Southwest Montana. But in August 1877, this was the site of a bloody battle between the Nez Perce and the U.S. Cavalry. The battlefield's visitor center offers historic displays and artifacts — and a bird checklist. You can also take a self-guided tour of the battlefield and visit the deeply moving tipi memorial along the Big Hole River. The site has limited roads, but excellent trails and an observation deck.

The battlefield is open year-round, albeit with reduced hours in the winter. Highway 43 to the battlefield is also rich in bird species, especially raptors and owls seen early in the morning and in winter months. For those seeking a deeper understanding of the history of this site, a commemoration of the battle is held every August.

**HABITATS**  
Subalpine-montane riparian shrub land, dry-mesic spruce fir forest and aspen / willow stands host a diverse bird community in a relatively small area.

**BEST VIEWING SEASONS**  
May — September; November — March for winter species.

**CONTACT**  
Big Hole National Battlefield  
406-689-3151  
[tiny.cc/Birds-BigHole](http://tiny.cc/Birds-BigHole)



## 10 WARM SPRINGS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

The largest area for waterfowl production in the upper Clark Fork River valley is actually a series of man-made ponds developed for treatment of surface water impacted by historic mining operations in Butte. The land is healthier now and the birds are everywhere, with 212 species documented in the WMA. All of the treatment ponds can be walked or bicycled via an extensive network of dike roads and trails. The Ducks Unlimited and Job Corps Ponds have roads that can be driven. Autumn brings some 28 species of shorebirds to the area, and winter is a great time to spot rough-legged hawks, prairie falcons and gyrfalcons.

**HABITATS**  
Primarily wetlands consisting of cattail, rush, sedge and willow, as well as riparian areas of willow, alder, water birch, aspen and cottonwood.

**BEST VIEWING SEASONS**  
April — October; spring and fall for waterfowl; late summer for shorebirds; June for songbirds.

**CONTACT**  
Warm Springs Wildlife Management Area  
406-693-7395

For a guide to the wildlife area, email [ddziak@mt.gov](mailto:ddziak@mt.gov).  
[tiny.cc/Birds-WarmSprings](http://tiny.cc/Birds-WarmSprings) (Warm Springs WMA)



## 11 TIZER BOTANIC GARDENS & ARBORETUM

Located 18 miles south of Helena on Tizer Lake Road, Tizer is one of only three privately owned internationally accredited arboreta in the United States. It is also a hummingbird research facility where you'll find Calliope, rufous and black-chinned varieties. With more than 400 different conifers and more than 1,000 varieties of clematis, roses and perennials, Tizer offers great habitat for a variety of other birds. The gardens sit at the entrance to the Elkhorn Wildlife Management Area, accessing 600 square miles of public lands to bike, hike and enjoy additional bird and wildlife watching. Tizer is open to the public April through September (and, depending on weather, into October) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, including all holidays. Information: [tiny.cc/Birds-Tizer](http://tiny.cc/Birds-Tizer).

## 12 LEWIS & CLARK CAVERNS STATE PARK

Located midway between Butte and Bozeman, Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park is best known for the spectacular limestone cave and the bats that reside within. But this rugged chunk of displaced Great Basin habitat is home to a diversity of bird life. From the towering limestone cliffs to the Jefferson River, the park encompasses six diverse habitat types and gives access to some of Southwest Montana's more unusual bird species. The park's 10 miles of hiking trails and visitor center are open year-round. Information: [tiny.cc/Birds-Caverns](http://tiny.cc/Birds-Caverns).



## OTHER NOTABLE BIRDING AREAS

**JEFFERSON VALLEY** is a great place to spot sandhill cranes and other species of birds and waterfowl. Information: [tiny.cc/Birds-Boulder](http://tiny.cc/Birds-Boulder).

**BEAVERHEAD SAGE-STEPPE AUDUBON IMPORTANT BIRD AREA**, arrayed across a complex of high-elevation basins south of Dillon, is home to a thriving population of greater sage-grouse. Information: [tiny.cc/Birds-MtAudubon](http://tiny.cc/Birds-MtAudubon).

**WILLOW CREEK RESERVOIR** (also called Harrison Lake) is one of a chain of lakes and reservoirs that serve as critical stopovers for waterfowl, shorebirds and other migrants traveling from the Rocky Mountain Front through the mountain valleys of west-central Montana. Audubon Important Bird Area. Information: [tiny.cc/Birds-MtAudubon](http://tiny.cc/Birds-MtAudubon).

**MISSOURI HEADWATERS STATE PARK** is located where the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin rivers join to form the Missouri River. Camp where Lewis and Clark stayed on their journey westward, and marvel at the abundance of birds and other wildlife that call this area home. Audubon Important Bird Area. Information: [tiny.cc/Birds-MissouriHead](http://tiny.cc/Birds-MissouriHead).

|  |                |  |          |
|--|----------------|--|----------|
|  | Picnic area    |  | Restroom |
|  | Bicycling      |  | Hiking   |
|  | Visitor center |  | Camping  |