

may be found, especially on the east side. Some of the county's most notable rarities have been sighted at Agate Lake.

8. Shale City Road and Grizzly Peak

From the junction of I-5 and OR 66 at Exit 14 in Ashland, take OR 66 towards Klamath Falls. Turn left after 0.6 mi. on to Dead Indian Memorial Rd. After 12 mi. look for the sign for Buck Prairie Rd. on your right. The entrance to Shale City Rd. is about 100 yds. beyond that on your left. It is a ten-mile paved loop road, which returns to Dead Indian Memorial Rd. After 7 mi. look for the trail-head for the Grizzly Peak Trail. Limited access in winter.

The road passes through conifer forest and mixed woodland. Early morning is the best time to look for Mountain Quail, Ruffed Grouse, and Sooty Grouse along the sides of the road. Lincoln's Sparrows have bred here.



Lazuli Bunting, Western Bluebirds, Western Tanager, and Lewis's Woodpecker are regulars. Great Gray Owls have been seen and are known to breed along the Grizzly Peak trail.

9. Howard Prairie and Hyatt Lake

Follow the above directions for Shale City but continue for 3 mi to Howard Prairie. Turn right on Hyatt Prairie Rd. Howard Prairie Lake is on the left with several access points. Hyatt Lake is a short distance farther on this road.

Howard Prairie has breeding Sandhill Cranes in summer. It is also good for Mountain Bluebird, Vesper Sparrow and Lazuli Bunting. American White Pelicans are often present on the eastern end of Howard Prairie Lake (best viewed from the Lily Glen Equestrian Campground, which is on Dead Indian Memorial Rd a short distance beyond the Hyatt Prairie turnoff). Conifers and willows near the lakes host woodpeckers, warblers, raptors and montane species. An observation pull-out at Hyatt Lake permits good views of the lake birds. Williamson's Sapsucker may be seen nearby.



10. Holy Water and McGregor Park

This section of the Rogue River is reached from OR 62, about 29 mi. north of Medford. Follow the sign for "Cole Rivers Fish Hatchery" on Takelma Drive.

"Holy Water" is the quiet stretch of the river below the dam. It can be viewed from both sides of Riverside Park. In winter it attracts a variety of ducks, including Hooded and Common Mergansers, Barrow's and Common Goldeneye.



Nearby McGregor Park has a Visitor Center and pleasant trails beside the river to see sparrows, wrens, woodpeckers, kingfishers. American Dippers are often seen near the road bridge which crosses the Rogue River.

11. Lost Creek Lake

To reach the viewpoint for the lake, continue on Takelma Drive (see above directions for Holy Water) to the top of Lost Creek Dam.

The lake may have loons, grebes and many different duck species as well as Osprey and Bald Eagle. It is possible to walk across the dam for closer views of the lake. A spotting scope is helpful.

12. TouVelle State Park & Denman Wildlife Area

From I-5 take Exit 33 and drive east on E. Pine St. to the intersection with Table Rock Rd. Turn left and continue 4.5 mi. to TouVelle State Park. The main entrance is on your right. There is an entry fee. TouVelle State Park has a paved trail along the river that is wheelchair accessible. The paths at Denman are unpaved and may not be wheelchair accessible.

This area is known for the big "granary tree" at the far end of the parking area which is used by large numbers of Acorn Woodpeckers. Belted Kingfisher and Osprey are regulars as are sparrows, creepers, nuthatches, swallows. Lazuli Bunting and Yellow-breasted Chat may be found in the open areas beyond the parking lot. Easy trails lead out of the park (east along the river and south) into the adjacent Denman Wildlife Area which can be good for raptors.



13. Lower Table Rock

Follow the directions for TouVelle State Park (above) and continue on Table Rock Rd. for 3.2 mi. Turn left on Wheeler Rd. The parking lot for the trailhead will be on your left.

An easy trail loops through oak savanna, home to Western Bluebird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Blue-gray gnatcatcher, Acorn Woodpecker, California and Spotted Towhees, swifts and swallows. The trail to the top of the rock is about 1.5 mi. long with an elevation gain of 800 ft.



The last two hundred yards are steep. The flat top of the rock is known for rare wildflowers and for its Rock Wrens.

14. Forest Rd. 37 and Fish Lake

Forest Rd. 37 is 8 mi. long and connects OR 140 and Dead Indian Memorial Rd. On OR 140 the turn off is 28 mi. from the intersection of OR 62 and OR 140. It is not accessible in winter. Fish Lake Campground (fee area) is 2 mi. farther along OR 140.

The outflow from Fish Lake (Little Butte Creek) may have American Dippers and there are campgrounds with streams which can be explored for montane birds and spring migrants. Small clumps of willows are good for Yellow and Hermit Warblers.



15. Salt Creek Road

From the intersection of OR 62 and OR 140 go 12.3 mi. to left turn on Salt Creek Rd. After about 11.5 mi. a right fork leads to Wasson Canyon Rd. which loops back to OR 140. Higher elevations may not be accessible year-round.

This road leads through different habitats - oak woodland, chaparral and pine forest and there is good birding all the way. Look for owls, grouse, Wrentit, Common Poorwill, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Wild Turkey, and Lewis's Woodpecker.



16. Kirtland Lagoon

Traveling North on I-5, take exit 35 to OR-99/Blackwell Rd. Follow OR-99/Blackwell Rd for 1.2 miles, then continue straight onto Kirtland Rd. Follow Kirtland Rd. for 2.8 miles. The ponds will be on your left. If traveling South on I-5, take exit 40 into Gold Hill and take a left on Access Rd. Continue for 0.3 miles, then go right on OR-99 S. Continue on OR-99 for 4.9 miles, then go left on Kirtland Rd. The Kirtland Lagoon will be on your left after 2.8 miles. Limited parking. Do not block gate.

The Kirtland Lagoon is a collection of water treatment ponds that, despite being a human made landscape feature, contains some of the best shorebird watching in Jackson County. Look for migrating sandpipers, plovers, phalaropes and other shorebirds as well as many species of ducks, raptors, and gulls.

BIRDING HOT SPOTS of Jackson County



Rogue Valley AUDUBON SOCIETY

In September of 2020, two major fires burned the vegetation along much of the Bear Creek Greenway including most of Lynn Newbry Park, Mingus Pond, and Ashland Pond. These sites are still accessible and contain plenty of bird life, but the scenery and species composition has changed dramatically. Rogue Valley Audubon encourages birders to visit these sites and submit your sighting to eBird, and/or participate in the Bear Creek Community Bird Survey. Find out more how you can help monitor the recovery of these sites at roguevalleyaudubon.org

1. Bear Creek Greenway (Mingus Pond)

From I-5 take Exit 33 and head East on E. Pine St. Turn left at the first traffic light and park in the large dirt lot opposite the Pilot Station. Access to the paved path is at the east end of this lot.

Walk south for 0.6 mi. to the covered viewing area at Mingus Pond. Look for Black-crowned Night Herons and Green Herons. The pond often has interesting waterfowl in winter.

An unpaved trail just south of the pond circles the east side and reconnects to the paved path on the way back to the parking area. Good for spring migrants, woodpeckers, and raptors.

2. Bear Creek Greenway (Lynn Newbry Park)

From I-5, take Exit 21 and turn toward Talent. Turn left on Siskiyou View Rd. (very near to the freeway) to access the parking area.

The paved path extends over two miles south to Ashland, passing through riparian woodland. Good birding year-round for passerines. Spring brings migrants like Bullock's Oriole, Black-headed Grosbeak and Yellow-breasted Chat. The area around the large pond about 0.5 mi. from the parking area has willows which attract Yellow and Wilson's Warblers. The pond is good for waterfowl in winter. Look for Ring-necked Duck, American Wigeon, Wood Duck. The bridge 250 yds. beyond the pond is a good place to turn back. Look for American Dipper here.



3. Ashland Pond

From N. Main St. in Ashland, take N. Laurel St. for approximately one mile to W. Nevada. Turn left, then look for Glendower St. on your right. Go to the end of Glendower where there is a gate and limited street parking.

An easy trail leads to and encircles the pond, which may have Hooded Merganser and Ring-necked Duck in winter. The riparian habitat is good for migrants, woodpeckers; nearby open hillside area has assorted sparrows; bird feeders at houses nearby bring in finches galore. Green Heron, Black Phoebe are regularly seen.

4. North Mountain Park

From Siskiyou Blvd. in Ashland, take N. Mountain Ave. 0.9 mi. to the Nature Center on the right.

This area lies adjacent to Bear Creek and has two small ponds. A large poster on the outside wall of the Nature Center shows the birds which may be seen there. Habitat is carefully conserved to attract migrants. Because of the Center's active participation in Project FeederWatch, it is an excellent place for close-up viewing of winter birds.

5. Emigrant Lake

From I-5 take Exit 14 and follow OR 66 toward Klamath Falls for 3.2 mi. to the main entrance for the Recreation Area (this is a fee area).

This large reservoir is good for waterfowl, grebes, and raptors such as Osprey and Bald Eagle.

Bird activity at the main area is reduced by the large numbers of people who use the area in summer, but a short trail leads from the RV campground to an old quarry where Rock Wrens are regularly found. This trail is good for viewing grebes and loons on the lake.

The shoreline for other parts of the lake may be reached (without fee) by travelling along OR 66. Old Siskiyou Hwy. is 1.8 mi. past the park's main entrance. The old (gated) paved road leads through willows and rosebushes (the area is often called "Rosebud Lane") to the water's edge. In late summer and fall, as mud becomes exposed, migrating shorebirds may be found.

The tangle of willows may be good for small migrants like warblers and gnatcatchers.

Another mile beyond Rosebud Lane is a dirt road turning off to the left, marked "Greensprings Spur". This can be excellent for kingbirds, Western Bluebird, sparrows and California Quail. The road leads to a small parking area and a boat ramp - a good place to scope the lake.

6. Mt. Ashland

From I-5, take Exit 6 and follow the road for the Mt. Ashland Ski area. Two excellent birding areas are the Bull Gap trail, which starts at a large pullout 7 mi. from the ski road turn-off, and Forest Rd. 20 which begins at the end of the ski area parking lot. Neither road is accessible to cars until late June.

There are several pullouts to stop to look for montane species. Western Tanagers, various empidonax flycatchers, and Red-breasted Nuthatches are all found along this road.

The Bull Gap Road (Forest Rd. 2080) has seeps on the left-hand side with alders, wildflowers and running water which attract warblers and hummingbirds. This is an excellent area to look for Hermit, Nashville, Townsend's and MacGillivray's Warblers, Warbling and Cassin's Vireos, and Rufous Hummingbirds. White-headed Woodpeckers also breed here. Clark's Nutcrackers may be seen.



At the ski-area parking lot check the surrounding areas for Mountain Bluebird, Mountain Chickadee, Cassin's Finch and Northern Goshawk.

Forest Rd. 20 goes through alpine meadows which attract Green-tailed Towhee, Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds, Fox Sparrow, Townsend's Solitaire, Hermit Thrush. White-headed Woodpeckers are often seen here.

7. Agate Lake

From the junction of OR 62 and OR 140 drive 3.5 mi. east on OR 140 to E. Antelope Rd. Turn right. after 0.7 mi. the entrance to Agate Lake is on your right. The far side of the lake can be accessed from Dry Creek Rd. (follow the sign for the Landfill). The dirt access road is 0.5 mi. on the right. Gate is locked in winter but walk-in is possible.



Birding is reliably good all year. Waterfowl, herons, egrets, gulls and grebes are present in good numbers. Osprey, Bald Eagle and other raptors are regulars. The trees near the parking area and restroom on the east side regularly have Western Bluebirds and Lewis's Woodpeckers.

In fall, when the mud is exposed, migrating shorebirds

