

Baker County, Oregon



Baker County Birding Locations

[Open a Map That Shows All Baker County Locations](#)

IMPORTANT!! THIS TABLE IS MEANT TO BE READ LEFT TO RIGHT (ROWS), NOT UP AND DOWN (COLUMNS)!!

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<u>EAST COUNTY</u>	Oregon Trail Interpretive Center	Virtue Flat OHV Area
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Brownlee Reservoir	Snake R. - Brownlee Reservoir	Big Lookout Mt.
Snake R. Road to Richland	Farewell Bend State Rec. Area	

Caveat for ponds that are not dredged: These ponds are not deep and generally rely on snow melt, heavy rainfall/high water table or flood irrigation. They may not be present every year or in the same place cited below. When water levels are high, unexpected birds such as White-faced Ibis and Black-bellied Plover may be present.

If you have only a short time in our county, try these locations first!			
SPRING	Snake River - Oxbow Res.	Durkee and Burnt R. Canyon	Best Frontage Road
SUMMER	Farewell Bend SRA	Snake R. Road to Richland	Unity Reservoir State Park
FALL	Phillips Reservoir	Farewell Bend SRA	Snake R. Road to Richland
WINTER	Virtue Flat OHV Area	Best Frontage Road	Baker City

[Baker County Website](#)

Authors/Editors: Mike Denny, Joanne Britton, Chuck Gates, Linda Fink

County Seat: Baker City

County Size: 3,088 Square Miles

High Elevation : Red Mt. (9560 ft)

Rarities : Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Blue Jay, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Black-throated Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Common Grackle, Great-tailed Grackle, Black Rosy-Finch, White-winged Crossbill

Top County Lister : Ann Ward (231)

Year List Record : James Laurence 2013 (211)

County Contact Person: Email Joanne Britton

NORTH COUNTY

Thief Valley Reservoir [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 87 D-5 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 75 F-7
geographic coordinates 45°00'47.5"N 117°46'48.8"W

([45.013184, -117.780228](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for Thief Valley Reservoir](#)

Location: To get to the undeveloped west side of the reservoir, travel north from Baker City on I-84 to Exit 285 (North Powder). Take 2nd street for 2 blocks and turn right on Ice Plant Road. This road quickly becomes Bidwell Road. Take Bidwell for 4.0 miles to Thief Valley Reservoir Road. Take this road another 5 miles to the reservoir. The developed east side is in Union County.

Habitat and Birds: Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, a dozen other duck species, grebes, Great Egret, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, Spotted Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, several species of gull, and a few others might be found here. Check the sagebrush surrounding the reservoir for Gray Partridge, Chukar and sage-related species.

North Powder Ponds [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 87 D-5 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 75 F-6
geographic coordinates 45 00' 48" N 117 55' 46" W

Pond #1 45°00'48.6"N 117°55'53.2"W [45.013510, -117.931437](#)

Pond #2 44°59'44.4"N 117°59'35.1"W [44.995670, -117.993087](#)

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: There are two ponds called North Powder Pond #1 and North Powder Pond #2. **North Powder Pond #2 is technically in Union County** but both will be addressed here. To find Pond #1, take exit 285 and go to the west side of the freeway. Take Hwy 30 south for 0.9 miles and look for a dirt road to your right (also signed). Take this road to Pond #1. To find Pond #2, return to the freeway exit on Hwy 30 and take Hwy 237 west. Travel 4 miles on this road to a left hand turn (south) onto Ellis Road. The pond is just 0.5 miles south on Ellis Road.

Habitat and Birds: Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, a dozen other duck species, grebes, Great Egret, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, Spotted Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, several species of gull, and a few others might be found here.

Haines Sewage Ponds [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 A-5 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 A-6
geographic coordinates 44°54'39.6"N 117°54'42.1"W
([44.910992, -117.911689](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: Haines is about 10 miles north of Baker City on Hwy 30. Once in the town, turn right (east) on 3rd Street, which becomes Coffey Road. Leave town and travel about 1.5 miles. Go past the dump road and the ponds will be on the right side. There is no reason to enter the property and entrance is not allowed.

Habitat and Birds: These ponds have not been birded much but standing water in Baker County is at a premium so they might produce some good birds.

BAKER CITY AREA

ODFW Pond 203 [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 A-5 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 A-7
geographic coordinates 44°51'33.4"N 117°48'47.1"W
([44.85927, -117.81309](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: From Baker City travel north on I-84 approximately 5 miles to Hwy 203 (Exit 298 going to Medical Springs). This Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife pond is just off Hwy 203 to the south. Take a right on Airport Road. There is a designated parking area on the north side of the pond but no other developed facilities. A foot path developed by anglers goes around the pond. Other privately owned dredge ponds are also located just east of Baker City along Best Frontage Road that is just off Hwy 86 at Exit 302 (See Best Frontage Road).

Habitat and Birds: A good spot to check for waterfowl and shorebirds. Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, a dozen other duck species, grebes, Great Egret, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, Spotted Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Several species of gull, and a few others might be found here.

Lake Bob [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 A-5 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 B-7

geographic coordinates 44°50'22.6"N 117°49'01.5"W

([44.839598](#), [-117.817094](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

eBird Hotspot Checklist for Bob's Lake

Location: From I-84, take Exit 302 and go west on Hwy 86 for 0.1 miles. Turn right (north) on Old Trail Road and go 2.4 miles to the pond.

Habitat and Birds: Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, a dozen other duck species, grebes, Great Egret, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, Spotted Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Several species of gull, and a few others might be found here. If there is flood irrigation or high water table conditions, there is an opportunity to see a variety of wading birds around the pond.

Baker City Airport Ponds [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79

geographic coordinates 44°49'57.1"N 117°48'31.8"W

([44.832519](#), [-117.808830](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: From I-84, take Exit 302 and go east on Hwy 86 for 0.1 miles. Turn left (north) on Airport Road, which parallels I-84. Within a half mile, you will see a pond on your right with a home nearby. Check this one for

Ring-necked Ducks and Double Crested Cormorants. Continue on Airport Road for 1.5 miles and turn right on S. Airport Lane. More ponds will soon appear on your right. Check these and continue east to Lindley Road. Directly across Lindley is an entrance to a sand and gravel business. The road goes between dredge ponds. It is best to approach the office first and ask permission to bird these ponds. If the gate is closed, turn left on Lindley and go 0.25 miles and turn right on S. Airport Lane. Check the northernmost dredge pond or drive past the pond and turn right to the entrance of the sand and gravel site to ask permission to bird the ponds. Return to S. Airport Lane traveling east. Check the cattails at the end of the pavement for Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Virginia Rails and Sora. Go 1.5 miles east to Sunnyslope Road. Turn right and go 0.5 miles to the last pond. There could be standing water along any of these roads, depending on snowmelt and heavy rains. Conversely, these ponds may be completely empty in dry conditions.

Habitat and Birds: Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, a dozen other duck species, grebes, Great Egret, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, Spotted Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, several species of gull, and a few others might be found here.

Baker Sewer Ponds [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 A-5 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 B-6
geographic coordinates 44°48'38.8"N 117°50'37.8"W
([44.810772](#), [-117.843835](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: From the west side of Baker City, go to 10th Street and travel north out of town. 10th becomes the La Grande-Baker Hwy or Hwy 30 as it leaves Baker City. Hughes Lane marks the northern edge of Baker City. From the intersection of Hughes and Hwy 30, go .7 miles to Imnaha Road and take a right. Go 0.5 miles and you will see the ponds on your right. If you want better access to these ponds, call city hall at 541-524-2034 for a permit.

Habitat and Birds: This, like most of the small ponds around Baker City, can produce just about any form of waterfowl, shorebird, or wader one might expect to find in Baker County. Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, a dozen other duck species, grebes, Great Egret, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, Spotted Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Several species of gull, and a few others might be found here. Winter visitors have included Red-necked Phalaropes.

Best Frontage Road & Smith Lake [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 A-5 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 B-7
geographic coordinates 44°48'10.2"N 117°48'34.7"W
([44.80284, -117.80965](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: From I-84, take Exit 302 and travel east on Hwy 86 for about 0.1 miles. Turn south on Best Frontage Road and scan the ponds on your left. There are a total of 4 ponds but the eastern-most pond is difficult to see. You may get a better look if you turn left (east) on "H" Street and circle around to Atwood Road. To find Smith Lake, go to the south end of Best Frontage Road and turn left on "H" Street. Take "H" to Atwood Road and turn right. The road quickly turns east and becomes Sunset Lane. Turn right between the two farm houses and go 0.25 miles to the lake. All these ponds and access to Smith Lake are on private land. Occasionally, access to Smith Lake is challenged.

Habitat and Birds: This, like most of the small ponds around Baker City, can produce just about any form of waterfowl, shorebird, or wader one might expect to find in Baker County. Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, a dozen other duck species, grebes, Common Loons, Great Egret, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, Spotted Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, several species of gull, and a few others might be found here. Occasional visitors have included Eurasian Wigeon, Wood Duck and Long-tailed Duck.

Pocahontas Road [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 A-5 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 B-6
geographic coordinates 44°47'46.4"N 117°50'37.7"W
([44.79621, -117.84381](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: From the west side of Baker City, take Hwy 30 (10th Street) north to the edge of the city. Turn left (use the left turn lane) on Pocahontas Road (Look for the local Dept. of Forestry/Fish & Wildlife buildings on the right and a livestock supply store on the left.) Keep to this road as it winds through farmland. Near mile 13.5 look for a right turn on the Anthony Lakes Hwy and this will get you to Haines (see the Haines Sewer Ponds below) and then back to Baker City.

Habitat and Birds: Most of this area is open farmland but there are several riparian strips and some dry scrub-land. Long-billed Curlew are plentiful here in season. This might be a good area to check for Burrowing Owl and Short-eared Owl.

Baker City [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 A-5 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 B-6
geographic coordinates 44 46' 28" N 117 49' 47" W

([44.774220, -117.831349](#))

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[City Information](#)

Location: Baker City is in NE Oregon about 42 miles south of La Grande and 72 miles north of Ontario off I-84. The Powder River runs right through town and there is a bike path that follows it ([Leo Adler Memorial Parkway](#)). This path is about 2 miles long and is paved. Access points include (north to south)

Sports Complex - [44.790349, -117.835156](#)

Geiser Pullman Park - [44.780841, -117.825959](#)

Central Park - [44.776758, -117.827646](#)

Habitat and Birds: As is typical of most Eastern Oregon towns, winter is the best time to find rare birds in Baker City. Check the various neighborhoods for fruiting trees and watch for wintering finches, warblers, sparrows, and Bohemian Waxwings. Vaux's Swift are notable in the spring and spiral into local chimneys in the fall. Walk the trail mentioned above for migrant passerines and common nesters.

Kolb Reservoir [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 A-5 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 B-6
geographic coordinates 44°46'01.8"N 117°51'12.6"W

([44.767163, -117.853486](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: Kolb Reservoir is just east of the Baker City Golf Club in SW Baker City. Take Hwy 7 south to the southern edge of town. Turn right (west) on Indiana Avenue and go past the golf course. Look for Reservoir Road on the right. The entrance to Kolb Reservoir is on the left across from Reservoir Road.

Habitat and Birds: This small pond is well used by locals but can sometimes harbor waterfowl or shorebirds.

Mt. Hope Cemetery [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 A-5 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 B-7
geographic coordinates 44°46'01.8"N 117°49'23.7"W
([44.767160, -117.823255](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: From the center of Baker City, travel south on Main Street (Hwy 7) to Auburn Avenue. Turn left (east) and immediately turn right (south) onto Bridge Street (Hwy 30). Take Bridge Street south about 4 blocks and turn left on Indiana Avenue. The cemetery is two blocks to the east.

Habitat and Birds: Though not many trees, there are a few and they could harbor a migrant or two and might be a place to find a winter visitor.

Bowen Valley [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 B-5 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 B-6
geographic coordinates 44°43'36.7"N 117°50'21.6"W
([44.726852, -117.839331](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: South of Baker City, Hwy 7 goes through a canyon and then opens up with farmland on to the west and the Powder River to the east. This is Bowen Valley. This small valley is only 4 miles long but can produce some good birds. At the south end of this valley is the Beaver Creek Road junction which heads east. This road branches to turn back north on the back side of Bowen Valley as the Bear Creek Road (about 4 miles back to Hwy 7). There is a good view of a Great Blue Heron rookery and a Great Horned Owl nest. **Do not use this loop following heavy rains or snowfalls.**

Habitat and Birds: Riparian stream sides and farmland. Look for Western and Eastern Kingbirds here. Bobolinks are possible here and raptors like Ferruginous Hawk and Rough-legged Hawk might be found in season. This can be a good winter sparrow area along the fence lines and Gray Partridge and Chukars feed in the snow-covered winter fields. Also, watch for Golden Eagles, Bald Eagles, Brewer's Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow on the loop road.

EAST COUNTY

National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 A-6 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 B-7
geographic coordinates 44°48'50.1"N 117°43'43.4"W

([44.813908, -117.728725](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: This is one of those locations that must be visited. The birding is typical desert fare; go early in the morning, carry lots of water, expect much of the activity to die off by 9:00 AM. Once finished, don't pass up the interpretive center itself. This center tells the whole Oregon Trail story and is a moving and powerful exhibit. To get here, take I-84 north of Baker to Exit 302. Take Hwy 86 east for 5 miles to the interpretive center. There are several parking areas and hiking loops but take plenty of water in summer and dress warmly in winter.

Habitat and Birds: Open sage and grassland. Look for sage species like Sagebrush Sparrow and Sage Thrasher. Other sparrows include Vesper, Lark, Savannah, Brewer's, and *Zonotrichias* (winter).

Virtue Flat OHV Area [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 A-6 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 B-7
geographic coordinates 44°48'28.7"N 117°43'55.5"W

([44.807977, -117.732077](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for Virtue Flat](#)

Location: Across Hwy 86 from the entrance to the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is Ruckles Creek Road. This is the access road to the OHV area. On weekends, this area can be full of noisy OHVs but weekdays can offer a good, quiet place to bird. This is also an access road to Love Reservoir (see below).

Habitat and Birds: Open sage and grassland. Look for sage species like Sagebrush Sparrow, Sage Grouse, Horned Lark and Sage Thrasher. Sparrows include Vesper, Lark, Savannah, Brewer's, and *Zonotrichias* (winter).

Balm Creek Reservoir [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 A-7 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 A-8
geographic coordinates 44°58'14.6"N 117°29'26.8"W

[\(44.970712, -117.490781\)](#)

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: From I-84 Exit 302 in Baker City, take I-84 north for 3.5 miles. Take exit 298 to Medical Springs Hwy 203. Travel east on Hwy 203 for 18 miles. Turn right at Big Creek Road. In two miles, the road will change to Collins Road/NFR 70. Stay on this road for 9 miles to Balm Creek Reservoir. Take a local Forest Service map with you to explore the surrounding area or you can bird only around the lake. Any of the accessible creeks (Goose Creek, for example) offer good riparian birds and the surrounding forest habitat is worth checking.

Habitat and Birds: Care should be taken when attempting access to this lake in early spring as snow may block your path. From mid-summer to late fall, the lake sometimes dries up. Forest species in this area include Ruffed Grouse, Dusky Grouse, Wild Turkey, Northern Goshawk, White-throated Swift, Lewis's Woodpecker, Mountain Quail, Flammulated Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Calliope Hummingbird, Williamson's Sapsucker, Red-naped Sapsucker, White-headed Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Hammond's Flycatcher, Dusky Flycatcher, Cassin's Vireo, Mountain Chickadee, all 3 nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Townsend's Solitaire, Hermit Thrush, Veery, Townsend's Warbler, Western Tanager, Cassin's Finch, Red Crossbill and many more.

Halfway [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 A-8 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 A-10
geographic coordinates 44°52'38.0"N 117°06'28.9"W

[\(44.877207, -117.108026\)](#)

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: From Richland, take Hwy 86 NW for 11 miles and look for Hwy 12 and the sign to Halfway.

Habitat and Birds: This is a small town at the edge of the Wallowa Whitman National Forest. Though a Prothonotary Warbler was found here in 2001, the more standard fare will likely be birds that wander down from the

forest. Winter specialties here include Bohemian Waxwing, Common Redpoll, and Pine Siskin is possible. Stop in at the USFS campground just south of town and check for birds like House Wren, Gray Catbird, Say's Phoebe and others. Drive due east of the campground and check the hay fields for Bobolinks.

Snake River Homestead Road [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 88 D-1 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 88 F-1
geographic coordinates 44°58'47.8"N 116°51'35.6"W

([44.979956, -116.859892](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: From Richland, take Hwy 86 NW for 28 miles to the Snake River. Bird the area just north of the junction between Hwy 86 and the Brownlee-Oxbow Hwy (Hwy 71). This is the tiny town of Copperfield. Then proceed north on Homestead Road for 6.5 miles. At this point, the road forks. You can take the right fork (closest to the river) and continue north along the river before the road runs out after another 2 miles or you can take the left fork and follow it 4 miles to a "T" in the road at the edge of the forest. The Baker-Wallowa county line is only about 100 yards north of this junction.

Habitat and Birds: Birds you might expect to see along this stretch would include Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, a dozen other duck species, Chukar, Gray Partridge, Ruffed Grouse, Dusky Grouse, Wild Turkey, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Egret, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Spotted Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, California Gull, Herring Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Long-eared Owl, Common Nighthawk, Vaux's and White-throated Swift, Lewis's Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Red-eyed Vireo, Horned Lark, swallows, House Wren, Canyon Wren, Rock Wren, Sage Thrasher, Mountain Bluebird, migrating warblers, Lazuli Bunting, and Bullock's Oriole.

Snake River Oxbow Reservoir/Hwy 71 [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 88 D-1 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 88 F-1
geographic coordinates 44°56'54.3"N 116°50'46.4"W

([44.948422, -116.846221](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: From Richland, take Hwy 86 NW for 28 miles to the Snake River. Bird the area just north of the junction between Hwy 86 and the Brownlee-Oxbow Hwy (Hwy 71). This is the tiny town of Copperfield. Then take the

Brownlee-Oxbow Hwy south for 10 miles before it crosses into Idaho. Keep in mind the eastern half of the river is in Idaho.

Habitat and Birds: There are three attractions here: the river, the rocky canyon, and the green seeps that are scattered among the canyons. Birds you might expect to see along this stretch would include Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, a dozen other duck species, Chukar, Gray Partridge, Ruffed Grouse, Dusky Grouse, Wild Turkey, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Egret, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Spotted Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, California Gull, Herring Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Screech-Owl, Great-horned Owl, Long-eared Owl, Common Nighthawk, Vaux's and White-throated Swift, Lewis's Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Red-eyed Vireo, Horned Lark, swallows, House Wren, Canyon Wren, Rock Wren, Sage Thrasher, Mountain Bluebird, migrating warblers, Lazuli Bunting, and Bullock's Oriole.

New Bridge/Eagle Creek Road/Sparta Road [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 A-8 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 B-10
geographic coordinates 44°48'08.4"N 117°11'23.6"W

[\(44.802334, -117.189892\)](#)

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: From Richland, travel west on Hwy 86 for .3 miles to New Bridge Road. A half mile north on this road is a good pond that can have waterfowl. Bird along this road including the tiny town of New Bridge. For further adventure, cross the bridge and take the road uphill to Sparta. There is a nice pond on the flat top east of Sparta which attracts warblers and waterfowl. Sparta hosts hummingbirds and bluebirds. The road drops down to connect with Hwy 86, about 21 miles from I-84. Take along a National Forest map and explore some of the creeks accessible from Sparta.

Habitat and Birds: Ornamental vegetation provides good hummingbird habitat and fruiting trees often have waxwings and orioles. The hillsides will have Lazuli Bunting and possibly Yellow-breasted Chat. The town of New Bridge is known to be a good place to find Western Screech-Owl. Just north of New Bridge, there are large cottonwoods which attract Lewis's Woodpecker among other species. Red-eyed Vireo has been spotted here more than once. Eventually, Eagle Creek Road enters timber and a variety of forest birds will greet you. This is the favorite Baker County location for at least one of the authors of this document.

Love Reservoir [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 B-6 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 B-8
geographic coordinates 44°45'24.1"N 117°31'01.0"W

[\(44.756688, -117.516940\)](#)

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for Ruckles Creek Road](#)

Location: *Please don't try this location if the road is wet. When muddy, it can trap you.* From the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center (see above), you can get to Love Reservoir two ways. 1) Take the Virtue Flat OHV Area road (Ruckles Creek Road) east for about 7 miles to Love Reservoir Road (sometimes this sign is missing). Take Love Reservoir Road 5.7 miles to the reservoir (watch for Ferruginous Hawk along the way). 2) For the less adventurous types, travel 7.6 miles past the interpretive center and turn south on Ruckles Creek Road. Take Ruckles Creek Rd. for 3.2 miles and turn left onto Love Reservoir Road. Follow this road 5.7 miles to the water. There are no developed facilities at this location. Continue past the lake and investigate Love Ditch as it meanders near the road. It can harbor more waterfowl. From Virtue Flat, check hollows in the gulch bank for Barn Owls.

Habitat and Birds: Open sage and a shallow lake. Species expected here: Eared Grebe, various waterfowl, Horned Lark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Marsh Wren, Virginia Rail. In the spring, wildflowers are attractive in this high valley basin.

Hole-in-the-Wall [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 A-7 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 B-9
geographic coordinates 44°48'24.3"N 117°19'14.0"W

[\(44.806748, -117.320567\)](#)

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: On your way to this site, stop in at the Bishop Springs Rest Stop for a quick look for Rock Wrens and Bullock's Orioles. Twenty-three miles east of the interpretive center and 11 miles west of Richland is Hole-in-the-Wall Gulch. Look for the Landslide Interpretive sign. The birding area is below the sign on the Powder River. You can drive down to this area by using the old stretch of abandoned highway downhill (east) from the interpretive overlook that runs a short distance before stopping at the landslide.

Habitat and Birds: Upland sage and riparian vegetation. Yellow-breasted Chats like this area as do Gray Catbirds, Rock Wrens and Bullock's Orioles. Look and listen for Gray Partridge and Chukar.

UNITY AND SUMPTER AREAS

Sumpter/Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area

[return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 82 B-4 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 78 B-5
geographic coordinates 44°44'31.2"N 118°12'11.3"W

([44.742011, -118.203137](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: To reach the city of Sumpter, take Hwy 7 south of Baker City and then west for about 25 miles to the Jct of Hwy 7 and Hwy 220 (Hwy 410). Take 220 another 3 miles into Sumpter. To find the Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area, look for signs about 0.5 miles before entering Sumpter. The State site in the City of Sumpter has small graveled trails paralleling the Powder River and Cracker Creek. Some facilities are available in the city and at the park. In summer, you can take the train for a tour of the old gold mine area.

Habitat and Birds: Conifer Forests and cottonwood-willow riparian areas along the Powder River. Species that can be seen here include Black-headed Grosbeaks, Gray Catbirds, swallows, vireos, and forest finches. There are some ponds in the area that may contain cattails. Look for American Bittern and various waterfowl.

Phillips Reservoir [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 82 B-4 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 78 B-5
geographic coordinates 44°41'06.6"N 118°01'29.1"W

([44.685158, -118.024744](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for Union Creek Campground](#)

Location: Take Hwy 7 south and then west out of Baker City for about 20 miles. Phillips Reservoir is next to Hwy 7. There are several areas to bird around the reservoir. On the north side, the Union Creek Campground has paved roads that make walking easy. There is a trail that goes all around the

lake and that trail can be accessed from Union Creek. On the south side, Southwest Shore and Millers Lane campgrounds provide good birding. Access these by taking Hudspeth Lane on the west side of the lake. Hudspeth goes through some tailings and has many small pools of water. Take the first left after rounding the lake and follow the signs to the other campgrounds. Mowich Loop Picnic Area provides additional good birding on your way back to Hwy 7.

Habitat and Birds: Ponderosa pines and riparian vegetation are the big draws along with the lake itself. In fall when the lake is drawn down and the floodplain is exposed, there are good views of wading birds from Social Security Point on the north side of the end of the lake. Possible species here include: Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Common Loon, Mountain Bluebird, Western Bluebird, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red Crossbill, Dark-eyed Junco, Pine Siskin, Cassin's Finch, Mountain Chickadee, Evening Grosbeak, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Song Sparrow, Calliope Hummingbird, Common Yellowthroat, Sandhill Crane and varieties of warblers and woodpeckers.

Powder River Recreation Trail [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 B-5 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 B-6
geographic coordinates 44°40'13.9"N 117°58'38.2"W
([44.670522, -117.977283](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: From Baker City, take Hwy 7 south and then west for about 15 miles and look for a parking area on your left (another parking area is available at the west end of the loop). The Loop Trail goes west from this location. The section on the north side of the river across the wooden bridge is more rugged but the section on the south side is suitable for most birders and has a restroom facility. The paved south portion is mostly open while the north portion is a dirt trail and forested.

Habitat and Birds: Riparian and conifer habitat. Possible birds here include: American Dipper, Song Sparrow, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red Crossbill, Vaux's Swift, Western Wood-pewee, forest warblers and flycatchers, swallows, Common Merganser, and Belted Kingfisher. There is a chance of a flyover Bald Eagle or Osprey at this location.

Dooley Mt. Summit [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 B-5 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 C-6

geographic coordinates 44°34'20.4"N 117°50'18.9"W
([44.572343, -117.838578](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: Take Hwy 7 south of Baker City to Salisbury Junction. Along this route in May and June, watch for Bobolinks in the wet hay meadows (see Bowen Valley below). At Salisbury, turn south onto SR 245 and you will go up and over Dooley Mountain Summit (5392'). During late spring through late September, it can be very productive to bird the many U.S. Forest Service Roads that take off from the summit area. FS Road 11 runs east and west from the summit and offers very good June birding with all the southeastern Blue Mountain birds in abundance. ***Please note: some sections of the road are very rocky and require a high clearance vehicle.***

The eastern portion of FS Road 11 runs through the top of a 1989 burn. Also bird FS Road 1115 as it crosses several eco-zones and is worth your time.

Habitat and Birds: This is a great owling area Sept-October. This area is loaded with woodpeckers such as Hairy, Black-backed, White-headed and Pileated. Watch out for ticks in late May.

Unity Reservoir State Park [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 82 B-4 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 78 C-5
geographic coordinates 44°30'21.2"N 118°13'05.6"W
([44.50972, -118.20327](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: From Baker City, travel 7.8 miles south on Hwy 7 to Hwy 245 (Salisbury Junction). Take 245 south for 15 miles through the Wallowa Whitman NF (bird as much as you like in this forest). Hwy 245 will turn west at this point. Go another 18 miles to Unity Reservoir. About halfway to Unity Reservoir is the tiny berg of Hereford. Just west of Hereford look for a side road called Hereford Loop. This area is good for Bobolink and Sandhill Cranes.

Habitat and Birds: Birds you might expect to see along this stretch would include Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, a dozen other duck species, Chukar, Gray Partridge, Ruffed Grouse, Dusky Grouse, Wild Turkey, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Egret, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Spotted Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, California Gull, Herring Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Screech-Owl, Great-horned Owl, Long-eared Owl, Common Nighthawk, Vaux's and White-throated Swift, Lewis's Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, Eastern

Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Red-eyed Vireo, Horned Lark, swallows, House Wren, Canyon Wren, Rock Wren, Sage Thrasher, Mountain Bluebird, migrating warblers, Lazuli Bunting, and Bullock's Oriole.

From Unity Reservoir to Whitney [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 82 B-4 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 78 C-5
geographic coordinates south end Hwy 245 Unity Reservoir) 44°30'18.4"N 118°08'18.8"W (North end Hwy 7 Whitney Wetlands) 44 39' 39" N 118° 17' 29" W ([44.505099, -118.138564](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: From Baker City, travel 7.8 miles south on Hwy 7 to Hwy 245 (Salisbury Junction). Take Hwy 245 south for 15 miles through the Wallowa Whitman NF (bird as much as you like in this forest). Hwy 245 will turn west at this point. Go another 16 miles toward Unity Reservoir. About 2 miles before the reservoir, turn right (north) on Whitney Road (This road is also called the 507 Road or the Big Flat Road). Take this road north for about 15 miles to the ghost town of Whitney and Hwy 7. About halfway on this road the name changes to Burnt River Road on some maps. This road follows the north fork of the Burnt River. You can take Hwy 7 back to Baker City.

Habitat and Birds: This is a good route for forest birds. ***Care should be taken when attempting access to this area in early spring as snow may block your path.*** Watch for Ruffed Grouse, Dusky Grouse, Wild Turkey, Northern Goshawk, White-throated Swift, Mountain Quail, Flammulated Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Calliope Hummingbird, Lewis's Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Red-naped Sapsucker, White-headed Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Hammond's Flycatcher, Dusky Flycatcher, Cassin's Vireo, Mountain Chickadee, all 3 nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Townsend's Solitaire, Hermit Thrush, Townsend's Warbler, Western Tanager, Cassin's Finch, Red Crossbill and many more. In the Whitney Wetlands near Hwy 7 you can often find Wilson's Phalaropes, waterfowl, Sandhill Cranes, and both bluebirds.

Camp Creek Group Campground [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 B-5 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 C-6
geographic coordinates 44°20'40.5"N 118°12'02.8"W
([44.34459, -118.20078](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: South and east of Unity off Hwy 26 is West Camp Creek Rd., which goes south and becomes FS Road 1680. Follow it south for five miles until you reach South Camp Creek. Parallel it for one mile then turn left at the sign into the campground. The 1.75 miles into the campground is well worth walking and birding June -August.

Habitat and Birds: Check each hummingbird as there may be Broad-tailed Hummingbirds here. There are good numbers of Flammulated Owls calling in late May into early June. This is a great birding/camping site that deserves your attention. Watch for amphibians along the creek and the wild flower bloom is spectacular in May and June.

Murray Reservoir [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 B-5 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 C-6
geographic coordinates 44°21'04.6"N 118°06'15.3"W

([44.351284, -118.104247](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for Murray Reservoir](#)

Location: This is a privately owned lake that is open to the public for fishing and birding. From Unity, travel southeast 9 miles on Hwy 26. The lake is right next to the road so you can't miss it.

Habitat and Birds: There are large trees on the NW side of the lake and smaller trees along the edge. Search these trees for owls and passerines. Search the shoreline for shorebirds and the deeper water for waterfowl.

SOUTH COUNTY/SNAKE RIVER

Durkee and Burnt River Canyon [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 B-6 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 C-8
geographic coordinates 44°35'22.9"N 117°29'06.6"W

([44.589702, -117.485176](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: Drive 22 miles south of Baker City on I-84 and take Exit 327. Take Durkee Road west to Old US Hwy 30. Turn right (north) on 30 and go 1.6 miles to Burnt River Canyon Lane. Take a left and drive this road for 20 miles through Burnt River Canyon. An alternate way to get to Durkee, and

enjoy some good birding along the way, is to take Hwy 30 out of Baker and follow it all the way to Durkee.

Habitat and Birds: The rich farmland around Durkee can provide good birding. The canyon itself offers opportunities to find Chukar, Canyon Wren, Rock Wren, and Bushtit. Ash-throated and Gray Flycatchers may be found here as well. The contrast between the dry hillsides and wet riparian areas around the river make this a beautiful drive and pretty good birding as well. Watch for breeding Lewis's Woodpecker, White-throated Swift, and "Western-type" Flycatcher (the distribution of Cordilleran and Pacific-slope Flycatcher in Eastern Oregon is not well understood) along this route.

Brownlee Reservoir & Hewitt Memorial Park

[return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 A-8 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 B-10

geographic coordinates 44°35'22.1"N 117°07'56.9"W

([44.589466, -117.132471](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: From Richland, travel east on Hwy 86 to the point at which the road begins to bend north (less than a mile from Richland). Robinette Road goes straight instead of bending north. Take Robinette for 1.1 miles to a fork. Take the right fork (Hewitt Road) to the boat ramp and scan the lake. Return to the fork in the road and take the left fork to another boat ramp and scan here. To access the less developed south side of the reservoir, take 1st Street out of Richland south for .75 miles and the road will take a right angle turn to the right. Follow this turn and stay on this road for a short distance until it takes another right angle turn and heads south. Take this road (still 1st St.) south until it crosses the Powder River. At the bridge, reset your odometer and travel south and then east for 2 miles. Look for a dirt road that will follow the south bank of the reservoir. Along the way, note the old cottonwood trees and look for roosting Bald Eagles.

Habitat and Birds: Open water and riparian areas mixed with dry sage and rocky areas. Look for phalaropes, gulls, terns, waterfowl, herons, and shorebirds along the lake. The few trees that line the river and the parking area can produce migrants and might yield a Gray Catbird or a Bullock's Oriole.

Snake River Road/Brownlee Reservoir [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 A-8 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 B-10
Pg 79 **geographic coordinates** 44°40'21.0"N 117°06'11.7"W

([44.672500, -117.103240](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: Take 1st Street out of Richland south for .75 miles and the road will take a right angle turn to the right. Follow this turn and stay on this road for a short distance until it takes another right angle turn and heads south. Take this road (still 1st St.) south until it crosses the Powder River. At the bridge, reset your odometer and travel south and then east for 2 miles. The road (still 1st St.) then turns south for 5 miles as it makes its way to the reservoir. The road changes names to Snake River Road just before it reaches the reservoir (1st St. turns and goes north). If you are inclined to do so, you can drive south for 30 miles along the river to Huntington in Southern Baker County.

Habitat and Birds: Like the other roads that follow the Snake River, extreme canyons are bordered by open water. Birds you might expect to see along this stretch would include Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, a dozen other duck species, Chukar, Gray Partridge, Ruffed Grouse, Dusky Grouse, Wild Turkey, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Egret, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Spotted Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, California Gull, Herring Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Screech-Owl, Great-horned Owl, Long-eared Owl, Common Nighthawk, Vaux's and White-throated Swift, Lewis's Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Red-eyed Vireo, Horned Lark, swallows, House Wren, Canyon Wren, Rock Wren, Sage Thrasher, Mountain Bluebird, migrating warblers, Lazuli Bunting, and Bullock's Oriole.

Basser Diggins CG Big Lookout Mt. [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 B-7 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 C-9
geographic coordinates 44°36'32.1"N 117°16'41.8"W

([44.60892, -117.27828](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

Location: From I-84 at Durkee cross under I-84 onto the Manning Basin Rd. heading east. Drive northeast 13 miles to Basser Diggins Campground. This BLM campground is atop Big Lookout Mountain (7120') and the view is spectacular!

Habitat and Birds: The habitat is a mix of Western Juniper, Douglas Fir, Aspen and bitter brush. This is a very isolated birding experience, as there

are very few people in this area. The birding is never dull, as there are very unique plant communities in this area. Green-tailed Towhees, Gray Flycatchers, Red-naped Sapsucker, Dusky Flycatchers, Brewers Sparrows and Cassin's Vireo have been seen here along with Cassin's Finch. The area is seldom birded and should be looked over in late spring through October. Looks like an outstanding fall raptor passage site. This is a fair weather road and should never be attempted in winter with snow on the ground. Because this is a high elevation site be prepared for unexpected weather in the summer.

Snake River Road to Richland [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 C-8 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 D-9
geographic coordinates 44°21'23.6"N 117°15'10.8"W

([44.356549, -117.253006](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[This should probably be an eBird hotspot. Be the first to make it so!](#)

Location: This trip should be in conjunction with Farewell Bend (see below) Start birding Farewell Bend SRA. Then take I-84 north to Huntington (exit 345). Drive into Huntington and stay on the main road as it goes through this tiny town. About 5 blocks into the town, take a left on Washington Street (There's a brown sign that says, "Spring Rec. Site). This road will quickly become Snake River Road. Shortly after leaving Huntington, a dirt road will branch off to the left. This short road leads to the sewer ponds. Continue on River Road for about 30 miles (Make sure you have gas and water) to the small community of Richland. Just a few miles to the east is Harry M. Hewitt Memorial Park. If you have time, this park, right along the river, can be productive.

Habitat and Birds: This route, taken in the spring, summer or fall, will offer some of the best birding in the county. The river is lined with vegetation and the steep, dry slopes offer more diverse habitats. Look for migrants of all kinds, waterfowl in the river and dry canyon species like Canyon and Rock Wren, Chukars (go early) and raptors. Nesting species include Bullock's Oriole, Yellow-breasted Chat, Lazuli Bunting and Eastern Kingbird. Gulls and swallows are abundant.

Farewell Bend State Recreational Area [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 83 C-8 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 79 D-9
geographic coordinates 44°18'12.6"N 117°13'39.2"W

([44.303500, -117.227566](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for Farewell Bend SRA](#)

Location: Farewell Bend is south of Huntington near the confluence of Hwy 30 and I-84. Take Exit 353 on I-84 and travel north on Hwy 30 for one mile to the park.

Habitat and Birds: Large trees bordering the Snake River. Gulls will often loaf here and the trees in the park offer migrants a good resting location near the river. Good views of the river proper are offered here and just about any waterfowl known to visit Baker County could be found here.