

# Columbia County, Oregon

## Columbia County Birding Locations

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



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

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**If you have only a short time in our county, try these locations first!**  
**[Sauvie Island](#) and [Scappoose Bottoms](#) are probably the best two locations in the county regardless of the season. Other seasonal hotspots include:**

|               |  |  |   |
|---------------|--|--|---|
| <b>SPRING</b> | <a href="#">St Helens McCormick Park</a> | <a href="#">Trojan Park</a>            | <a href="#">Crown Zellerbach Trail</a>        |
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| <b>WINTER</b> | <a href="#">Nicolai Wetlands</a>         | <a href="#">Scappoose WTP</a>          | <a href="#">St Helens WTP</a>                 |

**Authors/Editors:** Greg Haworth and Chuck Gates

**County Seat:** St. Helens

**County Size:** 688 square miles

**High Elevation :** Long Mt. (2265 ft)

**Rarities :** Emperor Goose, Tufted Duck, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Cattle Egret, Gyrfalcon, Common Moorhen, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Ruff, Northern Mockingbird, Clay-colored Sparrow

**Top County Lister :** Don Coggsell (235)

**Year Record List:** Don Coggsell 2014 (206)

**County Contact Person:** Email [Greg Haworth](#) or [Donald Coggsell](#)

Columbia County is bordered on the north and east by the Columbia River, on the south by Multnomah County and Washington County, and on the west by Clatsop County. The southern County line is approximately 30 minutes from Portland, the largest metropolitan area in Oregon. The western County line is approximately 30 minutes from the Pacific coast.

The County's northern and eastern boundaries are outlined by 62 miles of Columbia River shoreline. Columbia County enjoys the longest stretch of the Columbia River in the State of Oregon. The Columbia River is a major route of ocean-going vessels and is a popular fishing ground, as well as a popular boating and windsurfing river. The County offers the only two marine parks in Oregon: Sand Island on the Columbia River and J.J. Collins Memorial Marine Park on the Multnomah Channel. This is known locally as Coon Island.

(Source: [ColumbiaCounty.or.us](http://ColumbiaCounty.or.us))

According to the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), the county has a total area of 688 square miles (1,781.9 km<sup>2</sup>), of which 657 square miles (1,701.6 km<sup>2</sup>) is land and 32 square miles (82.9 km<sup>2</sup>) (4.59%) is water. The vast majority of this is in managed coast range forest with limited accessibility.

#### **Habitats of Columbia County**

There are three [EPA Level IV designated ecoregions](#) in the county:

##### **Level IV: (1d) Coast Range Volcanics**

The Volcanics ecoregion consists of steeply sloping mountains and capes underlain by fractured [basaltic rocks](#). Elevation generally varies from 600 to 4100 feet (180 to 1250 m), although in some places the volcanic rock extends down to [sea level](#). The region is marked by columnar and pillow basalt [outcrops](#). Its mountains may have been offshore [seamounts](#) engulfed by continental [sediments](#) about [200 million years ago](#). High gradient, cascading streams and rivers occur, and the basaltic [substrate](#) preserves summer flows that are more consistent than streams on the sedimentary rocks in surrounding ecoregions.

The streams still support [runs](#) of spring [Chinook salmon](#) and summer [steelhead](#). The region's Douglas-fir plantations are heavily logged. Mature forests consist of Douglas-fir, western hemlock, salal, sword fern, vine maple, Oregon grape, and rhododendron. Wetter slopes and riparian areas may support western red cedar, big leaf maple, red alder, salmonberry, and [oxalis](#). Grassy coastal headlands and mountaintop balds feature [Roemer's fescue](#), [thin bentgrass](#), [California oatgrass](#), and diverse [forbs](#).

##### **Level IV: (1f) Willapa Hills**

The Willapa Hills ecoregion (named for the [Willapa Hills](#)) consists of low, rolling hills and low, gently sloping mountains with medium gradient streams and rivers. It rises to an elevation of approximately 1,300 feet (396 m). This region has a lower [drainage density](#) than other upland areas in the Coast Range. Logging is relatively easy and less expensive in this accessible terrain, and industrial timberland has almost completely replaced the historic forests. When disturbed, the silt- and clay-textured soils are easily [eroded](#), thereby degrading stream quality. The vegetation consists of Douglas-fir and western hemlock forests, with sword fern, vine maple, salal, Oregon grape, and rhododendron shrub layer. Wetter slopes and riparian areas support red alder, western red cedar, big leaf maple, salmonberry, and oxalis.

Large herds of [Roosevelt elk](#) winter in the region.

##### **Level IV: (3a) Portland/Vancouver Basin**

The Portland/Vancouver Basin ecoregion (named for the cities of [Portland](#) and [Vancouver](#)) is a [geological depression](#) at the base of the [Portland Hills fault-block](#). The region covers 305 square miles (790 km<sup>2</sup>) in Washington and 269

square miles (697 km<sup>2</sup>) in Oregon, including the northern and eastern suburbs of the [Portland metropolitan area](#). It contains the confluence of the Willamette and [Columbia Rivers](#) and is composed of [deltaic](#) sands and gravels deposited by [Pleistocene](#) floods, notably the [Missoula Floods](#). Elevation varies from 0 to 300 feet (0 to 90 m), with buttes as high as 650 feet (200 m).

Historically, the basin was characterized by [Oregon white oak](#) groves and [Douglas-fir](#) forests on the uplands; [black cottonwood](#) groves on riverbanks and islands; [Oregon ash](#), [red alder](#), and [western red cedar](#) in riparian areas; and prairie openings maintained by Native American burning, with [camas](#), [sedges](#), [tufted hairgrass](#), [fescue](#), and [California oatgrass](#). Numerous wetlands, oxbow lakes, and ponds can still be found, but today the region is dominated by urban and suburban development, pastures, cropland, and [tree farms](#).

The climate is usually [marine-influenced](#), but easterly winds from the [Columbia River Gorge](#) periodically bring [continental temperature extremes](#). It contains several National Wildlife Refuges within the [Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex](#).<sup>[2][3]</sup>

**OBT = Oregon Birding Trail**

## Clatskanie Area

### **Marshland Drainage District** [Back to the Top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 71 D-8 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 18 F-4  
**geographic coordinates** 46°07'18.7"N 123°17'50.9"W  
([46.121872, -123.297477](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** If Sauvie Island is the Crown Jewel of Columbia County then this overlooked patch is a diamond in the rough. [Here is a map](#) with suggested stops. This bottomland is unique in that it is surrounded by the coast range Willapa Hills except on the north where it borders the Columbia River. I believe this configuration draws in some higher elevation birds like Ravens

### Marshland -- Bergman's Hole

Location/Directions: ([46.127218, -123.241928](#)) 2.0 miles west of Hwy 47 in Clatskanie on Hwy 30 turn north onto Pt. Adams Road. Drive 0.5 miles to pull off at Bergman's Hole.

Habitat and Birds: Passerines are found in the alders and cottonwoods that line the sloughs. You'll find ducks and waders on the slough and sparrows along the road.

### Marshland – River Front Road. ([46.136745, -123.238174](#))

Location/Directions: Continuing on Point Adams Rd in 0.9 miles it becomes River Front Rd. This follows the Columbia River Channel south of Wallace Island for 2.5 miles where Midland Dist. Rd connects. At 2.6 miles Webb Dist Rd connects. At 3.3 miles is the entrance to Jones Beach. At 4.1 miles it ends at Woodson Rd. 0.8 miles along Woodson Rd the Webb Dist Rd comes back in. This is 1.0 mile from Hwy 30.

Habitat and Birds: The River view will have Loons, grebes and rafts of ducks in winter; Bonaparte's Gulls have been seen once and Caspian Terns

frequently in season. There can be lots of Bald Eagles perched in the trees along the river. To the south is pasture land and cottonwood plantations. A scan of the plantations and the perching pylons can turn up raptors, possibly a Rough-legged Hawk.

#### Marshland – Jones Beach

Location/Directions: ([46.138339](#), [-123.299172](#))

Habitat and Birds: There is an expansive river view here bordered by a Cottonwood gallery forest. There is excellent sparrow kack along the road. American Pipits can occasionally turn up along the beach. Great Horned Owls have nested in the large cottonwoods on the south side of the road.

#### Marshland – Webb District Wetlands

Location/Directions: ([46.12589](#), [-123.30239](#)) 0.6 miles from the Woodson Rd. junction is a place to park next to the pump station. Webb Dist Rd is 2.2 miles long from River Front Rd to the Woodson Rd junction.

Habitat and Birds: Savannah Sparrows can thicken along the southern section of the road. There is good duck habitat in the winter on the wetlands. It is very reliable for Rudy Duck. Check for raptors in the tree tops. Wintering Rough-legged Hawks, Bald Eagles, Northern Harriers, and Red-tails cruise the area. Watch out for odd birds as a local rancher raises all manners of fowl.

#### Marshland – Woodson Rd

Location/Directions: ([46.114959](#), [-123.323791](#)). 1.8 miles long from Hwy 30 to River Front Rd.

Habitat and Birds: The flooded fields and sloughs harbor ducks and possible Horned Grebes. Open country raptors like Rough-legged Hawk in winter cruise the pasture land.

#### Marshland – Midland Dist. Rd

Location/Directions: ([46.121470](#), [-123.255255](#)) Midland Rd. is 3.2 miles long from Bergman Hole to River Front Rd.

Habitat and Birds: There is a good variety of habitat with the flooded fields and the slough holding water fowl and plenty of brushy kack for passerines. Scanning for raptors can be productive.

### **Erickson Dike Road**

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 71 D-8 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 18 E-5

**geographic coordinates** 46°07'12.8"N 123°11'58.9"W

([46.120218](#), [-123.199701](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** From the center of Clatskanie, turn north

onto Nehalem. Drive to the end of the road (a few blocks) and it becomes 5<sup>th</sup>. Go west on 5<sup>th</sup> which becomes Beaver Falls Road. At 0.8 miles from Hwy 30 take a left turn onto Depot Road. Staying to the right, go 0.5 miles and turn left onto Erikson Dike Rd. This is a drive along a dike that follows the channeled Clatskanie River. The rest is agricultural, cottonwood plantations and one decent gallery type woodlot. Ducks and divers, sparrows, and open country raptors are to be expected.

Go to the [Oregon Birding Trails](#) website Choose the Willamette Valley Birding Trail. Click on the Trail Guide and choose the Columbia Loop Guide. Section C-10.

## **John Slough**      [Back to the Top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 71 D-8 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 18 F-4

**geographic coordinates**      46°07'13.2"N 123°12'00.1"W

([46.120335, -123.200040](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** From the center of Clatskanie turn north onto Nehalem. Drive to the end of the road (a few blocks) and it becomes 5<sup>th</sup>. Go west on 5<sup>th</sup> which becomes Beaver Falls Rd. At 0.8 miles from Hwy 30 take a left turn onto Depot Rd. Staying to the right, go 0.5 miles and turn left onto Erikson Dike Rd. This is a 9.3 mile drive along a dike that follows the channeled Clatskanie River. On the east edge, the road becomes Kallunki Road. At the south end of Kallunki, turn right (west) and return to Clatskanie. The rest is agricultural, cottonwood plantations, and one decent gallery type woodlot. Ducks and divers, sparrows, and open country raptors are to be expected.

## **Rainier Area**

### **Dibblee Point**      [Back to the Top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 71 B-8 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 19 F-7

**geographic coordinates**      46°06'58.1"N 123°00'26.1"W

([46.116153, -123.007262](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** On Hwy 30 just 0.25 miles east of the Lewis & Clark Bridge turnoff, turn north on Rock Crest Street (46.095086, -122.963431) and drive north for 0.2 miles. Turn left on Dike Road. Stay on Dike for 2.0 miles and you will find open fields. Take this road to the end. Return to Hwy 30 by retracing your steps. There are river views and a Cottonwood gallery forest. There are rafts of ducks on the river, with gulls, loons and grebes in winter. The Cottonwoods have typical gallery birds. It's a good place for woodpeckers as well. No patch list has been generated.

## **Ranier Waterfront**

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 71 B-8 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 19 F-7

**geographic coordinates** 46°05'28.8"N 122°56'28.8"W

([46.091331, -122.941335](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** This is a small downtown park. From West Rainier, take Veteran's Way north for a block and turn right on W A Street. The park entrance is on your left. The river view can produce Ducks, Gulls, and Grebes. If you get lucky the docks will have roosting gulls in the winter that can be easily picked through. If not, there are still a ton of gulls around but usually on the wing or way out in the channel. This is the best chance of finding a Thayer's gull in the county, especially if the gulls are roosting on the docks. The Waterfront road to the south of the commercial district can have decent passerines around the buildings and residences.

## **Laurel Beach County Park**

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 71 B-8 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 19 F-7

**geographic coordinates** 46°04'18.1"N 122°54'01.9"W

([46.071690, -122.900527](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** This park is poorly mapped on Google Maps. 1.5 miles east of Rainier, turn east onto Lindberg Road. Stay left at the Y and access Laurel Wood Road. After 0.1 miles, turn south onto Laurel Wood Beach Road and go about 0.1 miles to the park entrance road – there is a sign for the park. Follow the gravel road down to the parking area. Rafts of ducks can be found in winter as there is a bit of a sheltered cove. Both scaup and Common Goldeneye are regular. Some woodland birds can be found in the parking area. This is the easiest place for goldeneye in the county and Barrow's is possible (one report from this vantage point).

## **Carr Slough – Graham Road (OBT)**

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 71 B-8 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 19 F-7

**geographic coordinates** 46°02'52.0"N 122°53'53.3"W

([46.04777, -122.89815](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[Big Eddy Park & Campground](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist For Carr Slough](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** Drive 0.9 miles north of Trojan Park (3.5 miles east of Rainier) turn east onto Graham Road. There is a small parking area just as you start on Graham Rd. on the south side. Graham Rd. is 0.4 miles long to the RR tracks. This is excellent duck habitat in the winter. It is a major wintering ground for Tundra Swan. Trumpeters can be mixed in as well. Scan tree tops for the local Bald Eagles. Great Egrets and Great Blue

Hérons can be thick at times. Congregations of Hooded Merganser can get north of 50 birds. The roadside kack is productive year round for passerines. Swallows are numerous in the spring and Purple Martins have been recorded here.

### **Trojan Park**      [Back to the Top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 71 B-8 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 19 F-7  
**geographic coordinates** 46°02'08.7"N 122°53'38.3"W  
([46.035759, -122.893973](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist For Trojan Park](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** Entrance to the park is 1.5 miles north of Goble off of Hwy 30 (old Trojan Nuclear Plant site). There are a few ponds and a cottonwood gallery forest with walking trails for woodland birds. Ponds hold ducks and the occasional Horned Grebe. Bald Eagles nest in the area. You can also walk north along a paved trail that will take you to a blind and an overlook of the Carr Slough wetlands. **You may consider avoiding this location on the weekends. It gets a little crowded.**

Go to the [Oregon Birding Trails](#) website. Choose the Willamette Valley Birding Trail. Click on the Trail Guide and choose the Columbia Loop Guide. Section C-11.

### **Prescott Beach County Park**      [Back to the Top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 71 B-8 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 19 F-7  
**geographic coordinates** 46°03'17.2"N 122°53'20.1"W  
([46.054785, -122.888921](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist For Prescott Beach County Park](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** 3.5 miles east of Raineer, turn north on Graham Road and travel 0.6 miles from Hwy 30 to the entrance of the park. Stay left and access several river view locations. Day use fee is required. The river view can have any manner of river birds, loons, grebes, gulls and ducks in season. The passerine habitat here is decent. No patch list has been generated. Go to the [Oregon Birding Trails](#) website. Choose the Willamette Valley Birding Trail. Click on the Trail Guide and choose the Columbia Loop Guide. Section C-11.

### **Goble Marina**      [Back to the Top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 71 B-8 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 19 F-7  
**geographic coordinates** 46°00'57.5"N 122°52'27.1"W  
([46.01597, -122.87418](#))

[View A Google Map](#)



**Location, Habitat and Birds:** Turn off of Hwy 30 into the marina area at the only cross road in town. 15 minutes free parking. This is a good area to scope the sheltered bay. The river can have all manner of river birds, loons, grebes, gulls and ducks in season. Purple Martins nest in the area.

Go to the [Oregon Birding Trails](#) website. Choose the Willamette Valley Birding Trail. Click on the Trail Guide and choose the Columbia Loop Guide. Section C-12.

### **Nicolai Wetlands** [Back to the Top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 66 A-2 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 22 B-3  
**geographic coordinates** 45°59'32.1"N 122°52'28.7"W  
([45.99224, -122.87464](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** There is a pull-off along Hwy 30 which overlooks this wetland - 1.7 miles south of Gobel and 4.3 miles north of Deer Island. Viewing conditions are limited and difficult as it's right on Hwy 30. The wetlands have geese, swans, and ducks in winter; waders all year, and passerines in the trees along the Hwy. This area can be very productive but the birding is challenging because of the highway.

## **St Helens Area**

### **Dyno Nobel Dike Road** [Back to the Top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 66 A-2 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 22 B-3  
**geographic coordinates** 45°54'56.1"N 122°49'38.4"W  
([45.91558, -122.82734](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** 1.7 miles north of the stop light on Hwy 30 in Columbia City. This is a new patch. It looks like a dike road with bottomland woodlands and a view of the Columbia - limited knowledge.

### **Columbia City Waterfront** [Back to the Top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 66 B-2 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 22 B-3  
**geographic coordinates** 45°53'25.3"N 122°48'22.9"W  
([45.890368, -122.806362](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** In Columbia City off of Hwy 30 take First St. to the east, drive a few blocks to the end and park at the little city park here that overlooks the river. This is just a tiny city park. The river view can have all manner of river birds, loons, grebes, gulls and ducks in season. An adjacent park area holds residential type passerines. It's a good place to



scan the Columbia.

### **Dalton Lake Trail (OBT)**

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 66 B-2 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 22 B-3

**geographic coordinates** 45°52'27.7"N 122°48'45.4"W

([45.874365, -122.812598](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** At the north end of St Helens there is a stop light intersection. Deer Island Rd goes to the east and Liberty Hill Dr to the west. Take Deer Island Rd and just after crossing the RR tracks turn left onto Oregon St. Drive a short distance to a parking area directly across from the Humane Society animal shelter. A paved trail (which parallels highway 30) heads north for a while. There is a wooded trail that leads down to an impoundment lake. Expect woodland birds, migrants, and the lake can have ducks and grebes. There is a view of the river which can be scanned for all manner of river birds, loons, grebes, gulls and ducks in season. I've only been here once so I don't have a good feel for the possible birds but would not expect it to be much different than many locations with the same habitat. A Clark's Grebe has been reported from here.

### **Columbia Botanical Gardens**

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 66 B-2 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 22 B-3

**geographic coordinates** 45°52'28.5"N 122°48'20.2"W

([45.874595, -122.805610](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** Go to the [Oregon Birding Trails](#) website. Choose the Willamette Valley Birding Trail. Click on the Trail Guide and choose the Columbia Loop Guide. Section C-13.

### **Grey Cliffs Waterfront Park**

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 66 B-2 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 22 B-3

**geographic coordinates** 45°52'05.4"N 122°47'55.7"W

([45.86816, -122.7988](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** At the end of the St. Helens Marina in Old Town. Turn west on to Columbia Blvd off of Hwy 30 and go 1.3 miles to St. Helens St., turn left down to the marinas and park at the parking lot at the end of the road. The river view can have all manner of river birds, loons, grebes, gulls and ducks in season. Bald Eagles and Osprey are regular. A few passerines are in the area along the bank and up the cliff in the residential trees. A scan of Sand Island Marine Park can also turn something up. If you drive to the end of Columbia there is a little park. This affords a better view of the south end of Sand Island. Caspian Terns (in spring) and gulls roost on the sand spit here. It's worth the stop.

## **Knob Hill Park**

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 66 B-2 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 22 C-3  
**geographic coordinates** 45°51'23.3"N 122°47'58.2"W  
([45.856477, -122.799509](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** Adjacent to the St. Helens WTP. This is a small scrub Oak grove with a walking loop trail. Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatch, migrant and breeding passerines can be expected here. A couple of vantage points allow for a scan of the Columbia which can have all manner of river birds; loons, grebes, gulls and ducks in season. Frequently Bald Eagles can be seen soaring past or perched in the area trees.

## **St. Helens Waste Treatment Plant**

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 66 B-2 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 22 B-3  
**geographic coordinates** 45°51'23.4"N 122°47'59.5"W  
([45.85649, -122.79985](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist For St. Helens Waste Treatment Plant](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** In St Helens turn west on to Columbia Blvd off of Hwy 30 and go 1.3 miles to St. Helens St (Old Portland Rd), turn right and go 0.4 miles to 7<sup>th</sup> St., turn left and follow 7<sup>th</sup> for 0.25 miles, past the Armory to Plymouth St. Then turn left down to the St. Helens WTP and Knob Hill Park. The main attraction is the water works ponds for ducks and gulls in winter. Mew Gulls can number in the 100's in winter. The edges of the impounded water can have an irregular shore bird in the rip rap... Rarities include Heerman's Gull and Surf Scoter.

## **St. Helens McCormick Park**

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 66 B-2 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 22 B-3  
**geographic coordinates** 45°51'07.2"N 122°48'57.8"W  
([45.852005, -122.816046](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist For St. Helens McCormick Park](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** From SW St Helens (near Walmart and Safeway) turn east on Gable Road. In 0.6 miles the road curves to the NE and becomes the Old Portland Road. Take this road NE for 0.5 miles and turn left on 18<sup>th</sup> Street. Go 0.1 miles and look for the entrance into the park on your left. Park and explore the large grove of trees to the west. Milton Creek flows through the park so watch for riparian species. This is a top migrant location in the spring. If possible, avoid the weekends because the frisbee golf course is very popular. Warblers, vireos, flycatchers and other

migrants can be abundant here in migration.

### **Scappoose Bay Marine Park Nature Trail**

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 66 B-2 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 22 C-3

**geographic coordinates** 45°49'41.2"N 122°50'16.6"W

([45.828123, -122.837938](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist For Scappoose Bay](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** Go to the [Oregon Birding Trails](#) website.

Choose the Willamette Valley Birding Trail. Click on the Trail Guide and choose the Columbia Loop Guide. Section C-14.

### **Also Check Out Scappoose Bay Marina (OBT)**

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 66 B-2 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 22 C-3

**geographic coordinates** 45°49'39.9"N 122°50'16.2"W

([45.827762, -122.837824](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** South of St. Helens, turn east onto Bennett St. and take Old Portland Rd North to the Scappoose Bay Marina. There is a day use fee required. Next to the rest rooms are a set of parking places that allow free 10 minute parking. I confess to stretching this to a half an hour. There is a small paved trail through a Cottonwood gallery woods. There are views of Scappoose Bay which can have all manner of river birds, loons, grebes, gulls and ducks. A Red-necked Grebe has been seen here. Pileated Woodpeckers are regular and for some reason Steller's Jays love this place and to find a dozen or so is common in winter. The Cottonwoods hold White-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, and the usual migrant and breeding passerines.

## **Scappoose Area**

### **Santosh Quarry Lake**

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 66 B-2 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 22 C-3

**geographic coordinates** 45°47'13.5"N 122°51'03.7"W

([45.787077, -122.851038](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** This is directly across from the Cal Portland offices on Honeyman Rd just about a mile past the Preserve. Here there is an old quarry that fills with water in winter. The main attraction is the hundreds of Tundra Swans that use it in the winter. Other water fowl can be found as well. There are nice stands of Oak trees along the road in the rural residential area. A walk along the road here can produce both west side Nuthatches, Kinglets, Thrushes, Sparrows, Jays, both Chickadees and

Woodpeckers. The site species list is contained in the Scappoose Bottoms list.

### **Crown Zellerbach Trail – East End (OBT) [Back to the Top](#)**

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 66 B-1 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 22 C-3

**geographic coordinates** 45°45'00.1"N 122°50'37.6"W  
([45.750022, -122.843766](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist For Crown Zellerbach Trail](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** A large parking area is another 0.7 miles from the Waste Treatment Plant. Parking is on the east side of the road. The trail can also be accessed from the west end off of W. Lane Road, or in the middle at the end of Miller Rd, which is a road off of Columbia. From the Columbia Avenue parking area, the trail goes both east to the Multnomah Channel and west past some wetlands. The flooded fields and ponds hold ducks, geese and swans. Polygynum bogs host American Bittern, Virginia Rails, and Sora. Raptors cruise the fields and use the trees for roosting; Red-shouldered and Rough-legged Hawks in winter, and Northern Harrier, Red-tails, Bald Eagles and nesting Osprey all occur here. There are good woodpecker habitats along the trail and Piliated are common. At the east end, overlooking the channel, a Great Blue Heron rookery has been established on Sauvie Island (2012-2014), the Osprey have a platform and Purple Martins use the old dock pylons as nesting sites. At the far west end around West Lane Road, there is a stand of Douglas fir that will add a touch of variety for your list. A Brambling was seen along the trail in 2011. Overall this is a very productive couple of miles of trail.

### **Crown Zellerbach Trail – West End (OBT)**

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 66 B-1 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 22 C-3

**geographic coordinates** 45°45'40.4"N 122°52'12.9"W  
([45.761214, -122.870250](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** There are multiple access points along the Scappoose – Vernonia Hwy. Most of the trail is heavily wooded so birding is kind of sparse, but the walk is nice. The lower elevation areas that follow Scappoose Creek are the most productive. No patch list has been generated.

### **Scappoose Waste Treatment Pond and Kessi Pond**

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 66 B-1 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 22 D-3

**geographic coordinates** 45°45'07.7"N 122°51'23.1"W  
([45.752134, -122.856424](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

## [eBird Hotspot Checklist for Scappoose Waste Treatment Pond and Kessi Pond](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** A parking area is located next to a pretty useless observation platform 1.0 miles east of Hwy 30 on Columbia Ave. The pond to the north is marshier than Kessi pond to the south. It tends to hold a different set of birds. This area is good for ducks, geese and swans in the winter, and Green Herons are regular in the spring. Rarities include Black Pheobe and American Tree Sparrow. The area is pretty good for migrant and breeding passerines in the willows and cottonwoods along the road. The cottonwoods have hosted most of the woodpeckers. Kessi pond is getting harder to scan as vegetation grows in along the road. Great Horned Owls have nested in the woods to the north.

## **Scappoose Bottoms Honeyman Road**

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 66 B-2 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 22 C-3

**geographic coordinates** 45°46'29.6"N 122°52'05.7"W

([45.774876](#), [-122.868255](#))

## [eBird Hotspot Checklist for Scappoose Bottoms](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** Location/Directions: The loop starts at the Dike Rd intersection right next to the Crown Z trail, 1.7 miles from Hwy 30 where it is Columbia Avenue. [Here is a map](#) of the area with suggested stops. Honeyman is 7.5 miles long from Dike Rd (zero your odometer) to when it intersects with W Lane Rd. It is mainly agricultural land managed for cattle. The last 1.4 miles is up out of the bottoms and into a rural residential area described in site #5 below. There are numerous places to pull off the road and all are worth the stop to scan the fields and scrub plantations for raptors, herons, egrets and ducks. Sparrows can be thick and a special stop should be made 1.4 – 1.5 miles past Dike Rd. There is a small pullout on the west side of the road just past the line of tall Cottonwoods. These trees and the field to the east can be very productive. Especially in winter for sparrows where you can easily pick up all regular wintering sparrows including White-throated. Scan all of the visible tree tops for raptors, eagles, and falcons. Continuing on the road north there are all manner of opportunities to pull over and search the road sides for sparrows, scan for raptors and ducks in the flooded fields and sloughs. Traffic is typically light so stopping on the road is usually safe. At 3.6 miles past Dike road there is another place to pull over on the west, just past the Ellis' ponded slough. There are usually ducks on the pond in winter and the willow thickets to the south are productive in migration. The fields should be scanned for geese, ducks and waders. At 3.9 miles at the 90 degree property line curve is a great place to pull out. Scanning the fence posts and trees in this area usually produces a Rough-legged Hawk in the winter. Short eared owls have been reported here as well and Northern Shrikes have turned up now and then in winter. The Ellis' manure sprinkler draws large concentrations of gulls, but it is usually pretty far from the road but not

always. A Glaucous Gull was reported from this area. The rest of the road is about the same; ponds, sloughs, and road side kack. At mile 4.9 there is another little pull off on the north and across the road is a stand of Garry Oaks. Who knows what can turn up here? I keep hoping for Acorn Woodpeckers. Note needs to be made of the Cal Portland Wildlife Preserve which is just another 1000 ft up the road. I personally do not know what this place holds as permission is required to enter and the office is always closed on the weekends. Maybe one could call ahead of time. Go to the [Oregon Birding Trails](#) website. Choose the Willamette Valley Birding Trail. Click on the Trail Guide and choose the Columbia Loop Guide. Section C-15.

## **Sauvie Island**

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(CHECK YOUR MAP. ONLY THE VERY NORTH END OF THE ISLAND IS IN COLUMBIA COUNTY) DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 66 C-2 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 22 D-4 **geographic coordinates Sauvie Island**

**Bridge** 45°37'36.0"N 122°49'06.0"W

([45.626661, -122.818332](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for Sauvie Island](#)

So below are links to the other nine eBird Hotspots for Sauvie Island in Columbia County, listed in descending species count order.

[Sauvie Island--Rentenaar Rd.](#)

[Sauvie Island--Reeder Rd. Observation Shelter](#)

[Sauvie Island--Oak Island \(Columbia Co.\)](#)

[Sauvie Island--Sturgeon Lake \(NE side\)](#)

[Sauvie Island--Willow Bar \(Columbia Co.\)](#)

[Sauvie Island--The Narrows](#)

[Sauvie Island--Steelman Lake](#)

[Sauvie Island--The Wash](#)

[Racetrack Lake](#)

[Sauvie Island Website](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** Go to the [Oregon Birding Trails](#) website. Choose the Willamette Valley Birding Trail. Click on the Trail Guide and choose the Columbia Loop Guide. Sections C-16 through 18.

([Map of S.I. Sites Listed](#)) Undoubtedly, Sauvie Island is the crown jewel of Columbia County. Anybody looking to build a substantial County list will want to allocate a large portion of their time birding on Sauvie Island. Only the north end of the Island is within Columbia County, but it is, arguably, the most productive. Most of it is in the [ODFW Wildlife Management Area](#) but there are a few parcels of private land. There are three access points: Sauvie Island Rd on the west, Oak Island Rd. in the middle, and Reeder Rd on the east. Some, but not all areas require an ODFW Parking Permit.



These areas are well marked. Permits can be purchased at [ODFW License Agents](#) (pdf), at [ODFW offices that sell licenses](#) and [online](#). Some of the establishments on the Island are ODFW License Agents. Permits are good for any ODFW managed areas in the state, such as Summer Lake in Lake County. Some of the areas on the Island are closed to the general public from Oct 1 through April 30. To access these areas during closure you will need a valid hunting license and a hunting permit. However, you don't have to have a gun, a retriever and a set of decoys to access these areas.

**Note:** If you're a county tigger, ABA rule abiding lister you may want to closely check just where the county line is. I'm not sure that any of the bodies of water that have free flow with Sturgeon Lake in this area are designated as lying in Columbia County. It's possible they are in Multnomah County and that Columbia County starts at the shoreline. It depends on which map you consult. For the purposes of this guide it is assumed that the County line cuts a straight line across Sturgeon Lake.

#### Sauvie Island - Steelman Rd

Location/Directions: ([45.73494](#), [-122.84218](#)) Starts at the end of Sauvie Island Rd where it turns to gravel. Closed Oct 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>

Habitat and Birds: There are little lakes and a view of the Multnomah Channel. This provides varied habitats on the drive out to The Wash: Ash Swales, Gallery Cottonwoods and open fields. Shorebirds can be found on some of the shallow lake edges during migration. The area is good for migrant and breeding passerines and raptors.

#### Sauvie Island - The Wash

Location/Directions: ([45.743292](#), [-122.815395](#)) Closed Oct 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>  
Off of Steelman Rd look for the sign to the Wash. Drive this road to the end and park at the Gilbert River public fishing dock. A foot trail heading west out of the parking area leads to the Wash which is where the Gilbert River empties into Sturgeon Lake.

Habitat and Birds: Shorebirds in migration on the exposed mud edges of the lake, Pelicans, ducks, and gulls out on the lake. The Ash swales are good for migrant and breeding passerines. The puddle lake along the access road can be good for shorebirds and waders as well. The ash swales in the area are good for migrant and breeding passerines.

#### Sauvie Island - Oak Island Nature Trail (OBT)

Location/Directions: ([45.719357](#), [-122.815791](#)) Closed Oct 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>.  
Parking Permit required. Accessed from the end of Oak Island Rd. Follow the gravel road after the pavement ends and stay parallel to the dike. There is a parking area at the trail head. Columbia County starts somewhere north of the first Oak grove you pass through.

Habitat and Birds: This is a 3 mile loop trail with views of Sturgeon Lake.



There is great migrant and breeding passerine habitat in remnant Oak Savanna. Bullock's Orioles nest here every year. There are a couple of places where Sturgeon Lake can be scanned. There are nice willow thickets along the edge of Sturgeon Lake. The north section of the trail overlooks a broad expanse of open country. There are also large tracts of wildlife managed grasslands that harbor nesting Savannah Sparrows and possible Vesper Sparrow habitat. There is a large lake, Wagon Wheel Hole, which can have water fowl on it depending on the time of the year. Rarities include Bonapart's, Franklin's and Sabine's Gulls on Sturgeon Lake.

#### Sauvie Island – Willow Bar

Location/Directions: ([45.72900](#), [-122.77256](#)) Open year round, Parking Permit required. After just passing the County Line (marked) there is a gravel road that heads east off of Reeder Rd. You can opt to park at the entrance or drive the length of the road to a parking area at the Columbia River's edge. When open, driving is permitted along a jeep track that heads north up the beach.

Habitat and Birds: Cottonwood gallery woods and a trail along the beach to the north. The woodland trail up off of the beach is the most productive after scanning the river. The river view can have all manner of river birds, loons, grebes, gulls and ducks in season. The area is good for woodpeckers and sparrows. A secluded pond can hold Hooded Mergansers, Wood Ducks and waders. There are lots of fly-over birds crossing the Columbia to and from Ridgefield NWR – Swans and Snow Geese are regular in winter. The best way to cover the area is to park at the entrance next to Reeder Rd and walk the short road to the river, walk the jeep track to the north scanning the river, then move inland to the woodland trail and walk back to the road. Also, just across the street from the entrance there is a hunter's path cut through the blackberries that affords a scope view of Gay Lake. Here you can find the same birds as listed below at the Observation Platform.

#### Sauvie Island –Observation Platform

Location/Directions: ([45.73253](#), [-122.77386](#)) Open year round, Parking Permit required. The platform is well marked and just a little north of Willow Bar. It has a large parking area on the west side of Reeder Rd. It has a portable restroom facility here as well.

Habitat and Birds: Wetland/seasonal overlook of Gay Lake. This spot is mainly good for Ducks, Geese, and raptors. Winter hunt days can drastically reduce the return in effort here. Up to 5000 Snow Geese can be seen at times. There is a decent chance for Rudy Ducks, Canvasbacks and more rarely, Redheads as well as the regular pantheon including Tundra, and the occasional Trumpeter Swan. Dusky Canada Geese favor this area as well. The occasional American Bittern can be seen moving through the marsh. Soras and Virginia Rails can be heard (rarely seen) as spring approaches.

There are lots of raptors in the tree tops with an occasional Peregrine Falcon. Shorebirds can also be found on the lake edges in migration.

#### Sauvie Island – Racetrack Lake

Location/Directions: Closed Oct 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>. Walk in access only either from the Stuzer Unit parking area (Parking Permit required) or from the end of Rentenaar Rd. ([45.757366](#), [-122.787831](#))

Habitat and Birds: This area is basically a seasonal wetland sump surrounded by scattered wood lots on the higher ground. Productivity greatly depends on water levels which are affected both by rainfall and sluice gate management. Shore birds in migration are the main attraction here. It can have large concentrations of Great Egrets at times.

#### Sauvie Island – Rentenaar Rd

Location/Directions: ([45.75769](#), [-122.77083](#)) Open year round to the top of the dike. The road begins approximately 2.0 miles from County line. Look for the white hunter check station. The road runs west from Reeder Rd.

Habitat and Birds: This road is mostly lined with blackberry kack. There is a new scrape lake. There are a couple of small woodlots and a marsh. This is a Sparrow haven in winter. Near the end of the road there are seasonal lakes that will have large concentrations of water fowl. Winter hunt days can drastically reduce the return in effort here. Wetlands and seasonal lake edges harbor migrant shore birds. It's always worth the effort to spend some time on the top of the dike to scan the open fields, tree tops, and arms of Sturgeon Lake that lie beyond. Rarities include Bobolink, Clay-colored, Swamp and Harris's Sparrows, Say's Pheobe.

#### Sauvie Island – Rentenaar Point

Location/Directions: ([45.75144](#), [-122.79789](#)) Closed Oct 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>. Walk-in access only on a set of informal foot treads and cow trails.

Habitat and Birds: Views of Sturgeon Lake at the point and associated birds. You'll find shorebirds in migration on the lake edges. The area is good for migrant and breeding passerines as well in the Ash swales and willow thickets on the walk out to the point.

#### Sauvie Island – Walton Beach

Location/Directions: ([45.77227](#), [-122.77338](#)) Open year round, Parking Permit required. Access is about 0.7 miles north of Rentenaar Rd. There are multiple access points with stairs leading up over the dike. There are portable restroom facilities here as well.

Habitat and Birds: Along the north end of the open strand is the only place in the county that I've seen Horned Larks. The river view can have all manner of river birds, loons, grebes, gulls and ducks in season... 2014 update: the dike has been brutally cleared of brush and most pockets of

habitat have been removed or disturbed by cat tracks.

#### Sauvie Island – Collin’s Beach

Location/Directions: ([45.78850, -122.78681](#)) Open year round, Parking Permit required. There are multiple access points with trails leading through the woodlands bordering the beach. Parking areas start just after Reeder road turns to gravel. There are portable restroom facilities here as well.

Habitat and Birds: Cottonwood gallery and willow thickets, open beach with a river view that can have all manner of river birds, loons, grebes, gulls and ducks in season. Great Horned Owls have nested in the Cottonwoods; Bald Eagles use them as perches, and are pretty good for woodpeckers and migrant and breeding passerines.

#### Sauvie Island – Gilbert Boat Ramp

Location/Directions: ([45.79172, -122.79861](#)) Access road is at the north end of the parking area for Collins Beach. Access road heads west. There is a pit toilet facility here as well.

Habitat and Birds: Channel views with Cormorants, Common Mergansers and Pied-billed Grebes, The view of McNary Lake can have ducks, but not many. There is a small system of fishing trails through the Ash swales and are pretty good for migrant and breeding passerines.

#### Sauvie Island – Warrior Rock Trail

Location/Directions: ([45.80878, -122.79778](#)) Open year round, Parking Permit required. Parking area is at the end of Reeder Rd. Trail head starts on the beach. It’s a 3 mile hike to the lighthouse. 2014 Update: there is work being done on the trail and it is a muddy mess. Best tactic is to walk as far down the beach as you can and then climb the bank to access the trail.

Habitat and Birds: Cottonwood gallery, Ash swales and river views. There are a few secluded lakes that can have ducks, shorebirds and waders along the edges. The trail is good for Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatch, and migrant and breeding passerines. The river view can have all manner of river birds, loons, grebes, gulls and ducks in season, rarely a Red-breasted Merganser.

### **Bonnie Falls**      [Back to the Top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 66 B-1 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 22 C-3

**geographic coordinates** 45°48'14.7"N 122°56'14.5"W

([45.80407, -122.93736](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** Location/Directions: 4.1 miles west of Hwy 30 along the Scappoose – Vernonia Hwy. There is a pull off on the south side of the road. There is not much here, but County listers will want to make the stop for the American Dippers that have been seen here (2011 – 2013). Woodland birds are also possible.

# Vernonia Area

## Clatskanie Mountain

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 71 D-7 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 18 F-4

**geographic coordinates** 46°02'44.1"N 123°15'08.5"W  
([46.04559, -123.25235](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** Go to the [Oregon Birding Trails](#) website. Choose the Willamette Valley Birding Trail. Click on the Trail Guide and choose the Columbia Loop Guide. Section C-9.

## Hwy 47 Clatskanie to Vernonia (OBT)

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 66 B-2 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 22 B-4

**geographic coordinates** 46°02'20.0"N 123°14'49.6"W  
([46.038890, -123.247111](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** This road has many forested walk-in opportunities behind gates, and Big Eddy County Park along the Nehalem. Out of Clatskanie, it climbs Clatskanie Mt. into the Coast Range with managed Douglas fir forest lands where higher elevation birds like grouse, Gray Jay, Hermit Warbler and Red Crossbills are possible. Mile post 4 to 8 has the best access. The road then descends down to the Nehalem River. It is 27 miles from Vernonia to Clatskanie.

**Go to the [Oregon Birding Trails](#) website. Choose the Willamette Valley Birding Trail. Click on the Trail Guide and choose the Columbia Loop Guide. Section C-13.**

## Big Eddy County Park

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 65 A-7 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 21 B-10

**geographic coordinates** 45°55'58.9"N 123°09'44.0"W  
([45.933016, -123.162221](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[Big Eddy Park & Campground](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** Go to the [Oregon Birding Trails](#) website. Choose the Willamette Valley Birding Trail. Click on the Trail Guide and choose the Columbia Loop Guide. Section C-8.

## Pittsburg Road

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 65 A-7 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 21 B-10

**geographic coordinates** 45°53'60.0"N 123°08'32.0"W  
([45.89999, -123.14221](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** Location/Directions: 15.8 miles from Scappoose, and 0.1 mile from Hwy 47 on the Scappoose – Vernonia Hwy. From this point to Canaan Rd is 13.2 miles.

**Habitat and Birds:** All but the last mile or so of the road is heavily managed Coast Range Douglas Fir forest in varying stages of harvest. The best strategy is to just get out at promising looking areas. Any place is subject to radical change from year to year. Sooty and Ruffed Grouse, Mountain Quail, Gray Jays, Hermit Warblers, Hutton’s Vireos, Band-tailed Pigeons and Western Bluebirds are the highlights. From the junction with Canaan Rd it is 10.7 miles along Pittsburg Rd into St. Helens and 9.6 miles into Deer Island along Canaan Rd.

### **Canaan Marsh (PL)**

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 66 A-1 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 22 B-2

**geographic coordinates** 45°54'23.9"N 122°58'15.4"W

([45.906639, -122.970932](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** (45.90558, -122.97058) Located along Canaan Road 0.4 miles north of the junction with Pittsburg Rd (see site 5, Pittsburg Rd. above). The marshy area is just past the tree farm. This is an interesting patch of land. Surrounded by Douglas fir forests a small set of creeks flood a small plain for about a quarter mile. It is filled with willows and Hard Hack shrubs. On one recent and brief stop, a dozen Ruby-crowned Kinglets, half a dozen Orange-crowned Warblers, Varied Thrush, Pacific Wrens, Ravens and a few more species were observed. Little is known of this site so please report your findings.

### **Vernonia Lake**

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 65 B-7 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 65 B-7

**geographic coordinates** 45°51'25.4"N 123°10'28.3"W

([45.857048, -123.174533](#))

[eBird Hotspot checklist for Vernonia Lake](#)

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** Take the Nehalem Hwy (Hwy 47) east through town. It will go right by the lake. Turn off and park. View the lake for migrating and wintering waterfowl. The Banks-Vernonia Trail goes all the way around the lake and a wide variety of birds can be seen from this trail. See the eBird list above.

## **Scaponia County Park/Scaponia Recreation Site**

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 65 B-8 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 22 C-1  
**geographic coordinates** 45°50'47.8"N 123°06'00.5"W  
([45.84662, -123.10014](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[Scaponia County Park Camping Guide & Photos](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** Go to the [Oregon Birding Trails](#) website. Choose the Willamette Valley Birding Trail. Click on the Trail Guide and choose the Columbia Loop Guide. Section C-7. (45.84695, -123.0999) 5.2 miles from Hwy 47 and 14.7 miles from Hwy 30 on the Scappoose – Vernonia Hwy – MP 5.4. Seasonal closure but walk in is allowed. Habitat and Birds: Coast Range: Douglas Fir\Red Cedar, Big-leaf Maple\Alder riparian habitat with some trails. Here are mainly woodland birds with American Dippers possible. It's not terribly birdy but worth a quick stop.

## **Beaver Creek Trailhead Banks-Vernonia State Trail**

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 65 B-7 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 21 D-9  
**geographic coordinates** 45°48'38.5"N 123°13'52.2"W  
([45.81069, -123.23116](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[Banks-Vernonia State Trail](#) - All Trailheads

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** Location/Directions: ([45.81069, -123.23116](#)) About 4 miles south of the town of Vernonia – MP 62.8. There is a parking area on east side of the road with a foot bridge over the stream. This area is good for woodland and riparian birds along an easy paved path. Go to the [Oregon Birding Trails](#) website. Choose the Willamette Valley Birding Trail. Click on the Trail Guide and choose the Columbia Loop Guide. Section C-5.

## **Gunners Lakes**

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DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 65 B-8 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 22 C-1  
**geographic coordinates** 45°48'18.7"N 123°03'33.5"W  
([45.805204, -123.059302](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** Location/Directions: (45.80568, -123.0585) Take the Scappoose – Vernonia Hwy 9.4 miles west from Hwy 30. Turn left onto Pisgah Lookout Rd (not signed). This is pretty much at the top of the pass. On the south side of the Hwy there is a big school bus turn around and parking for the Crown Z trail if one is so inclined to walk the trail. The lakes are about 1.9 miles from the Scappoose – Vernonia Hwy. Habitat and Birds: This whole area can be explored. The lakes can have

Wood Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, Mallards, and other ducks possible. The wooded shore lines are great for Woodpeckers, and migrant and breeding songbirds. High elevation birds like Evening Grosbeaks, Red Crossbills and Band-tailed Pigeons have all been recorded in this area.