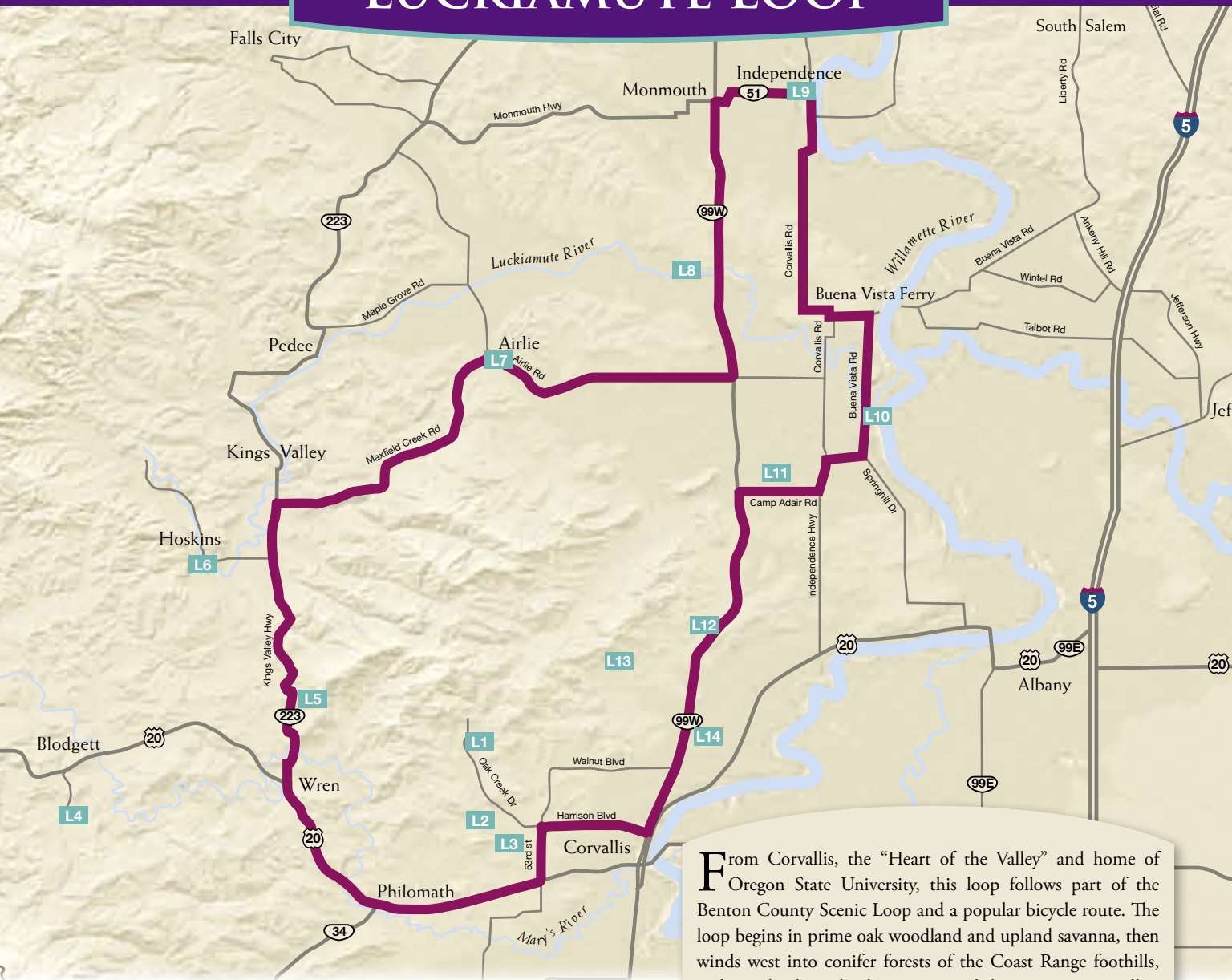


LUCKIAMUTE LOOP



L1. Oak Creek Rd access, McDonald State Forest

From downtown Corvallis, go W on Harrison Blvd past OSU dairy on edge of town, to the stoplight at 53rd St. Continue straight ahead on Oak Creek Dr for 3 mi, bearing R at 1.9 mi to stay on Oak Creek Dr all the way to the forest access.

McDonald State Forest is mostly second-growth Douglas-fir, with variation from logging sites and thinning research

projects. The forks of Oak Creek have dense riparian growth with big-leaf maple. The Homestead Loop is good for Steller's Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Winter Wren, thrushes, and kinglets. Ranging further you may find Pileated Woodpecker and Red-breasted Sapsucker. During migration, look for Hammond's and Pacific-slope Flycatchers, and all 11 of western Oregon's warblers, including Hermit and MacGillivray's as forest specialties. Gray Jay are often seen on the slopes

From Corvallis, the "Heart of the Valley" and home of Oregon State University, this loop follows part of the Benton County Scenic Loop and a popular bicycle route. The loop begins in prime oak woodland and upland savanna, then winds west into conifer forests of the Coast Range foothills, and north through the scenic and historic Kings Valley. Turning east you'll pass through vineyards into the rolling grass-seed farms of Polk County, a prime area for wintering raptors and swans. After a stop in the historic riverboat town of Independence, you'll enjoy one of the most extensive surviving tracts of bottomland riparian forest where the Luckiamute River joins the Willamette. Wetlands and brushland in a WW II era Army cantonment, and an arboretum with trails leading into a salient of the Coast Range forests, will complete your loop back to Corvallis.

Loop sponsorship available

of McCulloch Peak, and sometimes Sooty and Ruffed Grouse too. On your way back down Oak Creek Dr, stop by Audubon Society of Corvallis' Hesthavn Nature Center, where bird feeders and native plant restorations attract riparian bird species.



Sponsor: Audubon Society of Corvallis

L2. Fitton Green

From the stoplight at 53rd St/Harrison/Walnut/Oak Creek Dr, travel 1.9 mi W on Oak Creek Dr. Fork L on Cardwell Hill Rd and follow signs for 2.3 mi. Turn L on Chinook, then R on Chaparral, which becomes Panorama. The road dead ends in the parking lot.

This site features oak savanna/grassland and also includes mixed Douglas-fir/hardwood and riparian forest. The grasslands host nesting Chipping and White-crowned Sparrows, and wintering Golden-crowned Sparrow with Dark-eyed Junco year-round. House and Purple Finches are common along with both goldfinch species. Watch overhead for flocks of Evening Grosbeak or Band-tailed Pigeon. Wooded areas have Red-breasted Sapsucker, Olive-sided and Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, Lazuli Bunting and Chestnut-backed Chickadee. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks patrol the area. Spring migration brings diverse

warblers and vireos. The Allen Throop Loop (1 mi) has mostly gentle grades. For a longer loop, from a signed junction at the lower (W) end follow the Allen Throop Trail 1 mi to the Cardwell Hill Trail, then E to Cardwell Hill Rd and back to the Fitton Green trailhead.



Sponsorship available

L3. Bald Hill Park

From the stoplight at 53rd St/Harrison/Walnut/Oak Creek Dr, either (1) go S 0.3 mi on 53rd St and turn R into the parking lot for the Benton County Fairgrounds, where the paved Midge Cramer Memorial Path leads to Bald Hill from the W end of the lot; or (2) go W 0.9 mi on Oak Creek Dr and turn L into parking lot at Oak Creek access. Transit: Corvallis Bus Route C3 stops at 53rd St and Reservoir Rd (limited service times); walk N 0.25 mi to fairgrounds.

This park is one of the largest tracts of oak woodland that is open to the public in the mid-Willamette Valley. Oak savanna remnants are managed for rare endemic plant species; other habitats include mixed conifer/maple forest, riparian woodlands, creek, pastures and fields. The site offers a wide variety of birds along with splendid views and hiking on 10 mi of trails. Oak-associated species that nest here include Western Scrub-Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch, Chipping



Merlin

PHOTO BY: KEVIN SMITH

Black-throated Gray Warbler

PHOTO BY: KEVIN SMITH

Sparrow, Western Wood-Pewee, Western Bluebird, House Wren, Lazuli Bunting, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Purple Finch, and Lesser Goldfinch. Acorn Woodpecker has not yet been recorded on site but is reliably found just across 53rd St from the fairgrounds. Swainson's Thrush, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat and Oregon Vesper Sparrow can be found in adjoining habitats. Raptors, including hawks and eagles, use thermals over the butte. Additional species including warblers and sparrows occur in migration.



Sponsorship available

L4. Starker Forestry Tour

From Philomath go W on US Hwy 20 for 11 mi to Blodgett. Continue 0.5 mi past the Blodgett Store and turn L on Blodgett Rd. Turn R at the T intersection (about 100 ft) and then L on Tum Tum Rd just past the school (less than 0.1 mi). Follow Tum Tum Rd (gravel) 1.5 mi and turn R at sign for Starker Forest Tour. Follow this road 0.1 mi to a gravel parking lot on L.

This site provides insight into managed forest habitats on the fringe of the valley. The range of forest ages host a good variety of bird species, including Hairy Woodpecker in the mature stands, and Hermit Warbler during migration. Signboards inform on the life cycle of managed forests. A free entry permit is required and can be picked up at the office, at 7240 Philomath Highway (US 20) between Corvallis and Philomath. Office hours are 8-4:30 M-F. You may also call 541-929-2477 ahead of time and ask for a permit to be mailed or faxed. The permit is good for access to the entire forest, not just the self-guided hiking loop.



Sponsorship available

L5. Beazell Memorial Forest

From Philomath go W on US Hwy 20 for 5 mi to Wren (village, no services). Turn R on Hwy 223 (Kings Valley Hwy). Go 4.7 mi and turn R into paved parking area.

This 586-ac demonstration forest is managed by Benton County Parks for environmental education and research. Habitats include riparian forest, streams, Douglas-fir forest, mixed forest, oak savanna, and grassland. Firm gravel trails provide good access on trail portions near the parking lot. More challenging loops of up to 5 mi extend to the upper park. Watch for resident Varied Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Chestnut-backed and Black-capped Chickadees, Red-breasted Sapsucker and Pileated Woodpecker. In spring look for Hermit, Wilson's and MacGillivray's Warblers, and listen for courtship calls of the resident Sooty Grouse and Mountain Quail, as well as Barred Owls, which have expanded into the Coast Range.



Sponsorship available

L6. Fort Hoskins County Historical Park

From US Hwy 20 at Wren, go N on Hwy 223 for 6.3 mi. Turn L on Hoskins Rd and go W 1.9 mi. Follow a paved turnout to the N for 0.3 mi to a paved parking lot near the picnic shelter.

The site of historic Fort Hoskins (1856-1865), this 128-ac Benton County Park is largely wooded and undeveloped, with an 1870s era farm house and the ruins of a schoolhouse and farm buildings. A small, seasonal wetland is near the farm house; the rest of the site is mixed grassland and forest. A 0.6 mi interpretive trail is graveled and fairly rough; another 1.2 mi loop has



Western Scrub Jay
PHOTO BY:
JIM LEONARD

L8. Sarah Helmick State Park

At MP 67.8 on Hwy 99W between Monmouth and Corvallis, turn W on Old Fort Rd. After 0.2 mi, turn L on Helmick Rd. Go 0.2 mi to park entrance on R. GPS 44° 46.894 N, 123° 14.135' W.

This 30-ac park on the Luckiamute River is popular in summer for its picnic facilities and swimming hole (swim with caution as the current is deceptively strong). Birders will be most interested in the mature Douglas-firs and big-leaf maples with natural understory. Check for Swainson's Thrush, Pacific-slope Flycatcher and Black-throated Gray Warbler in summer, and Varied and Hermit Thrush in winter. Steller's Jay, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Brown Creeper are here year-round. In early winter, a flood pond SW of the park, which can be scoped from Simpson Rd (gravel), often has swans and thousands of dabbling ducks.



Sponsorship available

L9. Riverview Park

From Hwy 99W in downtown Monmouth, at stoplight turn E on Monmouth-Independence Hwy and go 2.3 mi. In downtown Independence, turn L on Main St, go one block and look for park entrance on R.

This traditional town park with tall shade trees was historically a landing point for steamboats on the Willamette River. Now you can explore the river by canoe from the boat ramp. Look for Spotted Sandpiper, Green Heron, and waterfowl along the river's edge. A universally accessible municipal trail is being developed to give birders access to riparian forest, brushland and oaks on reclaimed industrial lands to the NW of this park. Plans include an overlook of the municipal wastewater treatment ponds, which have historically been a local birding hotspot for waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds in migration. The bridge over the Willamette River 0.4 mi S on Main St provides a link to the Willamette Loop (between sites W1 and W2).



Sponsorship available

L10. Luckiamute State Natural Area

From Independence, go S on Corvallis Rd 6 mi to a series of corners where the road turns E, S, then E, passing a large dairy. At the next turn, where Corvallis Rd turns S again, continue straight E on Prather Rd for 0.8 mi, and turn S on Buena Vista Rd just W of the small town of Buena Vista. **Entrance for North Unit** is 3 mi S of Buena Vista, via a wooden timber bridge on L just S of concrete bridge over the Luckiamute River (GPS 44° 43.784' N, 123° 09.747' W); follow this for 0.5 mi along S bank of Luckiamute River to reach signed parking area (note that property to S of access road is private). **Entrance for South Unit** is 1.2 mi farther S on Buena Vista Rd, with signed parking area on L (GPS 44° 42.776' N, 123° 09.782' W); note that plans call for this parking area to be moved 0.5 mi to N.

The two units of this natural area hold distinct habitats. The north unit has one of the Willamette Valley's largest intact tracts of bottomland cottonwood-maple-ash gallery forest (accessed by a trail leading NE 1 mi from the parking area), with remarkable wildflowers in spring. The forest hosts nesting Wood Duck, Ruffed Grouse, Western Screech-Owl, and five woodpecker species. Red-eyed Vireo is heard almost annually, and Band-tailed Pigeon visits in summer to feast on elderberries. Paddlers can overnight at a boat-in campground just above the Willamette's confluence with the Santiam and Luckiamute rivers, where Northern Rough-winged Swallow



Brown Creeper

PHOTO BY: STEVE DOWLAN

nest. In the south unit, oaks grow on high ground; check for White-breasted Nuthatch and Western Bluebird. Ponds in former gravel quarries are home to a significant population of Western Pond Turtle; please heed the signs to avoid disturbing the turtles. Ash swales in both units host nesting Swainson's Thrush and Black-headed Grosbeak. Look for nesting Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow and wintering Western Meadowlark in the native meadow restorations. Brushy areas make this one of the valley's best wintering sparrow patches, with chance of White-throated, Lincoln's and Swamp Sparrow along with more common species. In winter, both units can flood which limits access, unless you bring a canoe; on weekends there can be many duck hunters.



Sponsor: Oregon Field Ornithologists

Trumpeter Swan family

PHOTO BY:
STEVE DOWLAN



moderately steep grades. In spring and summer look and listen for Willow Flycatcher, Cassin's Vireo, Hermit and MacGillivray's Warblers, Chipping Sparrow and Purple Finch. In winter you can find Steller's Jay, Varied Thrush, and Common Raven.



Sponsorship available

L7. Airlie & vicinity

From Kings Valley Hwy just S of the Kings Valley Store, turn E at the old church opposite the elementary school, onto Maxfield Creek Rd. Proceed 7 mi to intersection with Airlie Rd in the hamlet of Airlie. From here bird along Airlie Rd either N for 2 mi to Maple Grove, or S and then E for 6 mi to Hwy 99W at Suver Junction.

The rolling agricultural lands along Airlie Rd are best known for wintering raptors and swans. Along with American Kestrel and Red-tailed Hawk at roadside, watch for Rough-legged Hawk, Prairie and Peregrine Falcon; Ferruginous and Swainson's Hawk have also been found. From Nov–Feb, up to 60 Trumpeter Swan are regular, often with Tundra Swan, at varying spots from Maple Grove (4 mi N of Airlie) E to Corvallis-Independence Hwy (2 mi E of Hwy 99W). Also watch for Northern Shrike, Streaked Horned Lark (resident), American Pipit, and Short-eared Owl, and gull flocks. In spring and summer, check for Vesper Sparrow at the edges of weedy Christmas tree farms. Airlie Rd is part of a popular bicycle touring loop, despite narrow shoulders that also limit places to stop safely while birding by car.



Sponsorship available

L11. E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area

From L10 go S on Buena Vista Rd to T at Springhill Dr. Turn L and go 1 mi to T at Corvallis Independence Hwy. Turn L and go 1 mi S. Turn R on Camp Adair Rd. Go 1 mi and turn R into paved parking area for Camp Adair Memorial Garden (GPS 44° 41.980' N, 123° 12.517' W). **From Hwy 99W** midway between Monmouth and Corvallis, at MP 73.8 turn E on Camp Adair Rd. Go 0.5 mi and turn L into parking area. Additional turnouts with parking along W part of Camp Adair Rd provide access to both S and N parts of wildlife area. **Coffin Butte trail** starts from a small gravel lot on W side of Hwy 99W, 0.3 mi N of Camp Adair Rd.

This wildlife area is on the site of Camp Adair, a US Army training cantonment, which for a few years in the 1940s was effectively Oregon's second-largest city.

The area is now a complex of brushland, riparian woods, and restored wetlands. The street grid from Camp Adair still remains, providing more than 20 mi of mostly level paths (many paved) that are ideal for bicycle birding. In winter, Song and Sooty Fox Sparrows are abundant in the brushy hedgerows. Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, and Merlin prey on the large sparrow and finch flocks. Wood Duck and Hooded Merganser are especially easy to find here in spring. Solitary Sandpiper shows up regularly in late April and again in early fall; check wooded ponds. This is the Willamette Valley's most important nesting area for Yellow-breasted Chat; they are easy to hear March – June, but good luck spotting one! For a more vigorous hike, the Coffin Butte trail climbs 200 ft into oak woodland with a remnant upland prairie. Look here for nesting Cassin's Vireo, Chipping Sparrow and Lazuli Bunting along with resident Hutton's Vireo. Fallouts of migrant warbler occur in April when oaks and maples are budding.



Sponsorship: Wild Birds Unlimited, Corvallis

L12. Peavy Arboretum access, McDonald State Forest

From Hwy 99W MP 76.3, S of Adair Village, turn W on Arboretum Rd. Go 0.7 mi and turn R into signed entrance for Peavy Arboretum. GPS 44° 39.312' N, 123° 13.775' W. From there bear R to gravel parking lot above Peavy Lodge to access Woodland Trail, or bear L and follow signs for Forestry Club Cabin to access longer trails.

Both the Arboretum and the State Forest are managed by the Oregon State University College of Forestry. The extensive collection of trees and shrubs in the arboretum's park-like setting make for an interesting birding stop, especially in spring when migrant Townsend's Warbler and nesting Hermit and Black-throated Gray Warblers can all be heard singing in the treetops, while Wilson's and MacGillivray's Warblers forage in the understory. The Woodland Trail (0.4 mi, unpaved with gentle grades) has Winter Wren and Hairy Woodpecker year-round. The



Acorn Woodpecker
PHOTO BY:
GARY KRAMER-USFWF



Northern Shrike
PHOTO BY:
BRUCE CRAIG

Section 36 Loop Trail (2.8 mi, 800 ft elevation gain) is a more challenging hike (or mountain bike route). Ruffed and Sooty Grouse, Gray Jay, and Red Crossbill are possibilities on this loop.



Sponsorship available

L13. Lewisburg Saddle access, McDonald State Forest

From Hwy 99W turn W at stoplight onto Lewisburg Rd. Go W 1.4 mi and bear R at fork onto Sulphur Springs Rd. Follow uphill 1.5 mi and park in roadside parking in topographic saddle at top of ridge. From here walk or bicycle along forest roads on either side of main road.

This popular starting point for trail runners and mountain bikers gives direct access to the higher elevations of the State Forest. A short walk in either direction from the saddle during April or May can yield Olive-sided, Hammond's and Pacific-slope Flycatchers, Hermit, Black-throated Gray, Wilson's and MacGillivray's Warblers, as well as Band-tailed Pigeon, Evening Grosbeak, and Pileated and Hairy Woodpeckers. A stand of old-growth forest is reached by bearing L when the road branches just E of the saddle parking area, and walking 0.4 mi NE. In winter Gray Jay is sometimes seen in this area; you may want to bring skis or snowshoes in some years!



Sponsorship available

L14. Jackson-Frazier Wetlands

From intersection of Hwy 99W with Conifer Blvd on N end of Corvallis, turn E on Conifer and go 0.5 mi. Turn L on Lancaster St and follow 0.3 mi to

end, with parking on street. Trail into wetlands starts here. GPS 44° 36.244' N, 123° 14.330' W.

This site includes cattail marshes, ash forest, shrubs, and wet prairie that harbor endangered wildflowers. A boardwalk loops 0.7 mi through part of the wetlands, providing universal access while preserving the rare and fragile plant community. In spring listen for numerous Virginia Rail and Marsh Wren with occasional Sora. Look for Rufous Hummingbird and migrant flocks of Yellow-rumped Warbler and Warbling Vireo. In winter, brushrows along the E side of the park are good for sparrows including Song, Lincoln's, Sooty Fox, Golden-crowned, and White-throated Sparrows, while Varied Thrush, Hutton's Vireo, Western Scrub-Jay and sometimes Western Screech-Owl can be encountered along the boardwalk. Bicycles are not permitted on the boardwalk but a bike lane provides good access to the entrance.



Sponsor: Audubon Society of Corvallis



Sooty Fox Sparrow

PHOTO BY: GLEN LINDEMAN