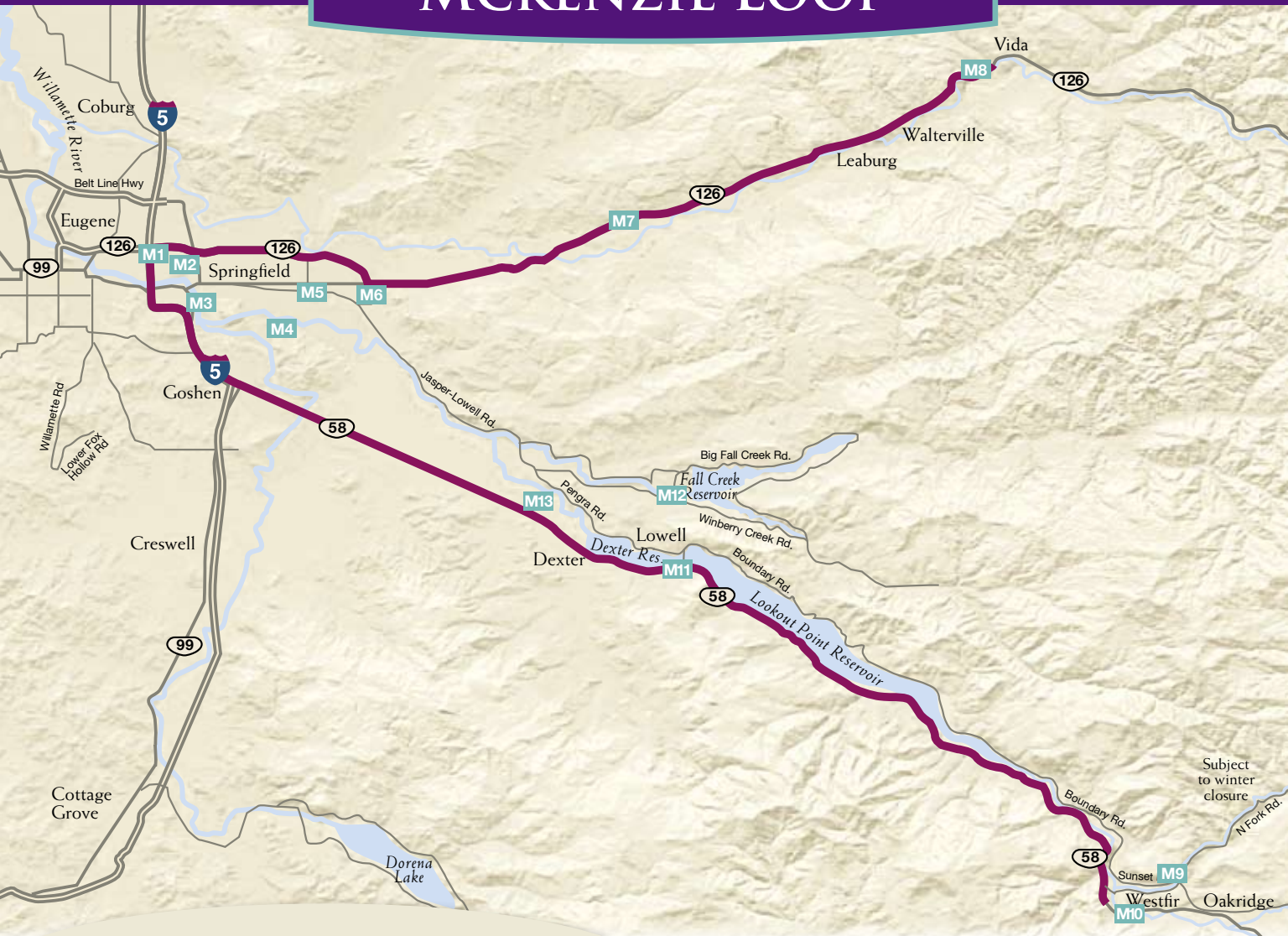


MCKENZIE LOOP



From the Eugene-Springfield area, there are two routes that lead east into the Cascades: one along the McKenzie River and the other along the Middle Fork of the Willamette River. In late spring, summer, and fall, you can experience both of these routes as a loop, connected via the scenic Aufderheide Forest Drive which features several sites for the threatened Northern Spotted Owl. In winter or for shorter treks, you'll find plenty of birds at lower elevations, including one of the valley's best remaining examples of oak woodland and savanna at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum, and extensive riparian habitats at Elijah Bristow State Park. The communities of Oakridge-Westfir along the Middle Fork, and Vida along the McKenzie River, will serve as your base for longer journeys into the Cascades.

Loop sponsorship available

M1. Eastgate Woodlands/ West D Street Greenway

From the intersection of Main and Mill St near downtown Springfield, drive N on Mill St 0.2 mi to D St. Turn L (W) on D St and proceed 0.9 mi to the stop sign at Aspen St. Turn L (S) onto Aspen and follow the road into the park and the parking area (0.2 mi). From the parking area, Eastgate Woodlands is to the W, while West D Street Greenway is to the E. From the extensive Eugene/Springfield riverbank trail system, the bike path enters Eastgate Woodlands under I-5. From the E, the bike path

enters West D Street Greenway from West D St, 0.4 mi W of Mill St.

In Eastgate Woodlands, a small Great Blue Heron nesting colony is directly above the W end of Riverbank Trail. Brown Creeper, Western Wood-Pewee, Black-headed Grosbeak and Wilson's Warbler nest here. Swainson's Thrush sings its beautiful dawn song in late spring, and hummingbirds frequent the delphiniums. Violet-green, Tree and Barn Swallows are common over the river in summer. Downy Woodpecker, Spotted Towhee, Song Sparrow, Bewick's Wren, Bushtit



Lesser Goldfinch
PHOTO BY:
KEVIN SMITH

parking area near the kiosk. Expect occasional closures of the ranch for orchard spraying.

Extensive trails and a variety of habitat—including filbert orchards, a riparian strip, and oak woodland with native understory shrubs and plants—make the 258-ac Dorris Ranch a superb birding location. An upland hill slope is dotted with wild-rose and blackberry thickets, and wet prairie and ash woods where seeps come off the hill. Pileated Woodpecker is frequently seen, along with Spotted Sandpiper at river's edge. Owls and winter raptors can also be observed. Willow Flycatcher frequents ash and hawthorn thickets. Swainson's Thrush, Steller's Jay, Mourning Dove, Cooper's Hawk, Varied Thrush, and Cassin's Vireo can also be found in the appropriate season.



Sponsorship available

M4. Mt Pisgah Arboretum

The arboretum is part of the Howard Buford Recreation Area. From Eugene, follow 30th Ave in a SE direction, past Lane Community College. Cross the freeway overpass and turn L at the blinking light. Turn R after the Shell Station on E Franklin Blvd. Follow for 0.3 mi. Turn L onto Seavey Loop Rd, then continue straight for 2 mi to the Arboretum.

This 209-ac site includes one of the best remaining examples of oak woodland and savanna in the Willamette Valley, as well as river riparian, mixed conifer/deciduous forest, and wildflower meadows. Watch for Pileated Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Great Blue Heron, Western Wood-Pewee, Western Meadowlark, Lazuli Bunting, and, in winter, numerous



Lazuli Bunting

PHOTO BY: JIM LEONARD

and Black-capped Chickadee can be found all year. Deer and river otter are occasionally seen. In winter, gulls and Double-crested Cormorant feed and rest along the river.



Sponsor: Willamalane Park & Recreation District

M2. Willamette Heights Overlook

In Springfield, from South A St, go S on South 2nd St for 0.2 mi. Turn L on South D St, then R onto South 4th St. Where South 4th St ends in a T junction, turn R on Union St. Almost immediately, turn L onto Perry St. At the top of the hill, as the street bends R onto Valley View Ave, you can see the park and gravel parking area.

Spring migration in April produces waves of warblers and other species, similar to those found on Skinner's Butte in Eugene. Common Yellowthroat sings from brushy areas in summer. Scan the open sky to the south for Turkey Vulture and winter raptors. Great-horned and Western Screech-Owls reside in the forested area, along with Golden-crowned Kinglet in winter. Residents include Mourning Dove, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Downy Woodpecker, Steller's Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Bewick's Wren, and Spotted Towhee. Dorris Ranch, the Willamette River, and Quarry Hill can all be seen from the hilltop.



Sponsorship available

M3. Dorris Ranch Living Historical Farm

From South A St near downtown Springfield, go S on South 2nd St for 0.9 mi to the entrance to Dorris Ranch. Take the R fork and park in the gravel

sparrow species. More than 9 mi of well-maintained trails provide ample access. Classes and guided walks are available; the Arboretum also hosts a spring Wildflower Festival and a fall Mushroom Festival. A \$2 daily parking fee applies.



Sponsorship available

M5. Clearwater Park

From Main St in Springfield, turn S on S 42nd St. Drive 0.8 mi to a roundabout at Jasper Rd and proceed E (L) for 0.3 mi to Clearwater Ln. Turn S (R) for 0.5 mi, then jog slightly to the R into Clearwater Park, and proceed 0.2 mi to the parking area near the boat ramp.

This 50-ac park, with several undeveloped trails, is dominated by older riparian habitat of black cottonwood and Oregon ash, with an extensive understory of snowberry, blackberry, and willow. Wrentit, Bald Eagle, Pileated Woodpecker, Great Horned Owl, Brown Creeper, and Spotted Sandpiper are known to occur, and Red-eyed Vireo is a possibility. Deer and other wildlife use the riparian habitat. Sedges and rushes line the pond edges and shallow water supports good populations of dragonflies and damselflies. Additional improvements planned for construction in 2009 include another paved parking area, a paved Middle Fork Willamette River multi-use path, restrooms and interpretive kiosk.



Sponsorship available

M6. Jasper Meadows

From Main St in Springfield, go S for 0.8 mi to Bob Straub Pkwy. Turn R on Mt Vernon Rd. Go 1 block and turn L on 57th Pl. The wetland on the R is part of Jasper Meadows Park. There is limited on-street parking.

This 14-ac publicly owned wetland (with more acquisitions planned) is a significant community resource. Habitats include Oregon ash wetlands, willow thickets and black cottonwood, with small areas of emergent wetland and wet prairie. Look for Northern Flicker, Western Wood-Pewee, Cedar Waxwing and Black-headed Grosbeak in the taller ash and cottonwoods,

Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat and Spotted Towhee in the willows and blackberry thickets, and Killdeer and Red-winged Blackbird around marshes.



Sponsorship available

M7. Walterville Reservoir & Canal Birding Trail

From 58th St and Main St (Hwy 126) in Springfield, drive E on Hwy 126 for 6.9 mi to Walterville Reservoir. As you continue E from Walterville for 0.4 mi, you will cross Eugene Water & Electric Board's Walterville Canal. At the E end of the bridge over the canal, make a very immediate and sharp L turn onto a road that heads W along the N bank of the canal. Proceed 0.2 mi to the parking area. From the parking area, Walterville Pond is up the slight incline ahead of you to the W.

The 70-ac pond has open water habitat, with willow thickets at the E edge.



Western Tanager

PHOTO BY: PAUL RENTZ

Young Douglas-fir grow on the hills to the N of the pond. Other habitats include white oak woodland, orchards and farm fields. Common winter birds include Great Blue Heron, Pied-billed and Western Grebes, Double-crested Cormorant, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Hooded and Common Mergansers, and American Coot. Canvasback and American Wigeon sometimes visit, and Barrow's Goldeneye, Forster's Tern and Pacific Loon have also been seen. Common summer birds include Osprey, four species of swallows, Western Wood-Pewee, House Wren, Yellow-breasted Chat, Wrentit, Black-headed Grosbeak and Common Yellowthroat.



Sponsor: Eugene Water & Electric Bd.

M8. Wayfarer Lodge

On Hwy 126 3 mi W of Vida.

This privately owned lodge is a portal site to the Oregon Cascades Birding Trail. The park-like yard and riparian habitats host residential species like Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbird, Downy Woodpecker, Hutton's and Warbling Vireo, Western Scrub-Jay, and also Red-breasted Sapsucker, Wood Duck, and Purple Finch. Please check in with owners when birding.



Site sponsor: Wayfarer Lodge



PHOTO BY: KEVIN SMITH

Bullock's Oriole

M9. Aufderheide Forest Drive

The Aufderheide Forest Drive (Forest Road 19), a designated National Scenic Byway, connects between Hwy 126, 17 mi E of Vida, to Hwy 58 just W of Westfir and Oakridge. The distance between highways is 63 mi. The middle part of the drive reaches an elevation of 3300 ft and is often closed due to snow, November through April.

In late spring through fall, this scenic forest drive provides a way to close the loop between the McKenzie and Middle Fork Willamette links. Birding opportunities along this drive are described in the Oregon Cascades Birding Trail guide (see www.oregonbirdingtrails.org for a downloadable copy). The Delta Old-Growth Trail (Cascades Trail Site 87) is a good site for Northern Spotted-Owl. Cliffs near Cougar Reservoir (Cascades Trail Site 88) sometimes have Rock and Canyon Wrens. Terwilliger Hot Springs just above the dam is good for a rejuvenating soak before you continue birding south, watching for Harlequin Duck and Northern Goshawk along the South Fork McKenzie River (Cascades Trail Site 89). Box Canyon Meadows

(Cascades Trail Site 91) offer chance of Spotted and Great Gray Owls, as well as Northern Waterthrush. More common forest species include Sooty Grouse, Mountain Quail, Rufous Hummingbird, Hammond's Flycatcher, Gray Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee and Hermit and MacGillivray's Warblers. Gas and other services are not available along this scenic forest drive, so be sure to fuel up in Vida or Oakridge. Check at either the McKenzie Ranger Station (7 mi of FR 19 on Hwy 126) or Oakridge Ranger Station (on Hwy 58) for information on road conditions.



Sponsor: Eugene, Cascades & Coast

M10. Oakridge-Westfir Trails

MP 34 on Hwy 58, 43 mi E of Eugene.

An ambitious network of mixed-use trails is under development in these Cascades gateway communities; check www.oregonbirdingtrails.org for updates. A levee path along Salmon Creek at the E end of Oakridge gives access to riparian thickets, with nesting songbirds such as Yellow Warbler and Warbling Vireo. Brushy slopes in logged areas above Oakridge and Westfir are a prime area for Mountain Quail; one Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in the late 1970s found 235, which still stands as the all-time CBC record, although the Oakridge CBC was discontinued in the late 1980s. Western Scrub-Jay and Acorn Woodpecker reach the edge of their Willamette Valley range in oak woodlands around these two towns.



Sponsor: National Park Service Rivers & Trails Program



PHOTO BY: STEVE DOWLAN

Mountain Quail



MacGillivray's Warbler

PHOTO BY: STEVE DOWLAN

M11. Dexter Reservoir

From I-5 at Goshen, take Hwy 58 E for 11 mi. Turn L into Dexter State Recreation Site, or continue E 1 mi on Hwy 58 and turn L on Jasper-Lowell Rd to park at the covered bridge.

Dexter Reservoir is best viewed in winter, when waterfowl are plentiful. Scan the lake for Redhead, Canvasback, Goldeneye, both species of scaup, Bufflehead, American Wigeon, and more. Long-tailed Duck has shown up in fall. In summer, look for nesting Bald Eagle and Osprey. At Dexter State Recreation Site, view the open water from the boat ramp area. On the way back to the hwy, turn R and go 0.5 mi to the base of the dam; walk through the first yellow gate to several gravel pit ponds. A riverside trail leads from here 5 mi to Elijah Bristow State Park (Site M12). The covered bridge 1 mi upstream also offers good look at open water. From here, cross N to small town of Lowell, and either go 1 mi E to Lowell State Recreation Site (for concentrations of Ring-billed, California, and Glaucous-winged Gulls in winter) or go R on Main St 1 block, turn R on North Shore and continue 0.5 mi to Orchard Park for another look at open water.



Sponsorship available

M12. Fall Creek Reservoir

From I-5 at Goshen, take Hwy 58 E for 12 mi. Turn L onto Jasper-Lowell Rd at the covered bridge, and follow 2 mi as it jogs through Lowell to Big Fall Creek Rd. Turn R and go 0.75 mi to the base of the dam. Turn R onto N Shore Rd. Go 2 mi to N Shore Park. Just inside

the park, turn R toward the dam and park on L. Walk 100 yds to the dam and follow the user-made trail down to the meadow below the dam.

This little-known jewel has Western Bluebird and Tree Swallow nesting side by side in nest boxes. Vesper Sparrow and many other passerines can be found in migration. Migrant Rock Wren has occurred several times. Also scan the reservoir for waterfowl, waders, and Osprey in season, and check for typical conifer-forest species around the reservoir. Primitive camping sites are available at Cascara Park at the top end of the reservoir, May through September.



Sponsorship available

M13. Elijah Bristow State Park

From I-5 at Goshen, take Hwy 58 E for 8.5 mi to Rattlesnake Rd and turn L. Turn R on Wheeler Rd and then L into the park. Westbound on Hwy 58, turn R onto Wheeler Rd. GPS 43° 56.268' N, 122° 50.725' W.

This natural park has open meadows, riparian forest, oxbow and abandoned gravel pits along the Riverside Trail leading upstream to Dexter Reservoir. Along with common birds, including Great Blue Heron, Mourning Dove, Rufous Hummingbird and Violet-green Swallow, this is the prime location in the valley to find nesting Red-eyed Vireo. Look for them in May and June in the tall cottonwoods along Lost Creek and the pond trails. Other nesting species include Western Wood-Pewee, Willow and Pacific-slope Flycatchers, Hutton's, Cassin's and Warbling Vireos, MacGillivray's Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat and Lazuli Bunting.



Sponsor: Salmonberry Restoration



Red-eyed Vireo

PHOTO BY: KEVIN SMITH