

## Utah's Autumn Hotspots for Birds

Fall in many ways is spring's opposite, but one thing they have in common is the abundance of birds. From late August to early October, birds are migrating to their wintering grounds and Utah is a great state to see many fall migrants from shorebirds to songbirds to hawks. Two big differences, though, are the lack of noise as the birds will not be singing since they won't be looking for mates or territory, and the lack of color since many songbirds and shorebirds are in their drab non-breeding plumage. Here are a few great spots to go see fall migrants in Northern Utah:

### Yellow Fork Canyon

Where: In Herriman at the end of Rose Creek Rd, there lies a series of hiking trails for bikers, hikers, and horse riders. Yellow Fork Canyon is one of the best (and busiest).

What: Unique scrub-oak species including Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay, Juniper Titmouse, Bushtit, Virginia's Warbler, Spotted Towhee, MacGillivray's Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco, and fall specialties like Townsend's Warbler and Nashville Warbler.

### Antelope Island

Where: At the west end of Antelope Drive off of exit 332 from I-15 lies one of Utah's best birding hotspots with plenty of areas to see birds from the Causeway to the Bison Corals to Fielding Garr Ranch. A \$10 fee or pass is required.

What: Bullock's Oriole, Wilson's Warbler, Virginia Rail, Long-billed Curlew, Northern Harrier, Loggerhead Shrike, Lark Sparrow, Western Kingbird, Burrowing Owl, Red Knot, Eared Grebe, Sanderling, Wilson's Phalarope, Red-necked Phalarope, and if you are lucky in September, the rare Sabine's Gull.

### Willard Bay

Where: On the southern outskirts of Box Elder County before you get to Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge (also a great place to go any time of year) is another wetland hideaway known as Willard Bay. Like other state parks, a fee is required.

What: Bald Eagle, Western & Clark's Grebe, Orange-crowned Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Eastern Kingbird, terns, swallows, gulls, and shorebirds.

### Utah Lake State Park

Where: Utah Lake State Park is on Center St. north of Provo west of I-15 and on the eastern shore of Utah Lake. Any wetland around Utah Lake is great for birds, but this particular area is one of the easiest to drive to. Like all state parks, an entry fee or pass is required.

What: Waterfowl such as grebes, ducks, and geese; gulls, Great Blue Herons, Bullock's Oriole, Northern Flicker, and many shorebirds.

### City Creek Canyon

Where: Close to the Utah State Capitol up Bonneville Blvd is City Creek Canyon, a place for hikers, bikers and birders alike. Parking is limited, so it is good to go early.

What: Swainson's Hawk, Golden Eagle, Pacific Wren, American Dipper, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Common Nighthawk (more common at dawn and dusk).

### East Canyon Reservoir

Where: Up in Morgan County near the border with Salt Lake County lies East Canyon Reservoir, one of the many mountain reservoirs in the Wasatch Mountains. The easiest way to get there is by taking I-80

East and taking the Mountain Dell exit and driving past Little Dell Reservoir and Mountain Dell Golf Course up a winding road to get to East Canyon. There are many free pull off points as you get closer to the reservoir, but if you want to get into the state park itself, you will need to pay a fee or bring a pass. What: Bald Eagle, Common Loon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Gadwall, Western Grebe, Black-billed Magpie, Grey Partridge, Osprey.