

# Benton County, Oregon



## Benton County Birding Locations

[Open a map that shows all Benton 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!			
<b>SPRING</b>	<a href="#">Mary's Peak</a>	<a href="#">Philomath Sewage Ponds</a>	<a href="#">Finley NWR - Bruce Access</a>
<b>SUMMER</b>	<a href="#">Mary's Peak</a>	<a href="#">Finley NWR - Bruce Access</a>	<a href="#">Bald Hill Park</a>
<b>FALL</b>	<a href="#">Philomath Sewage Ponds</a>	<a href="#">Finley NWR - Bruce Access</a>	<a href="#">Mary's Peak</a>
<b>WINTER</b>	<a href="#">Philomath Sewage Ponds</a>	<a href="#">Finley NWR - Bruce Access</a>	<a href="#">EE Wilson Wildlife Area</a>

**Authors/Editors:** Joel Geier, Hendrik Herlyn, Marcia Cutler, Linda Fink, Thomas Snetsinger, Chuck Gates, Darrel Faxon, Adrian Hinkle

**County Seat:** Corvallis

**County Size:** 679 square miles

**High Elevation :** Mary's Peak (4097 ft)

**Rarities :** Baikal Teal, Tricolored Heron, Broad-winged Hawk, Mountain Plover, Northern Wheatear, Blue Grosbeak

**Top County Lister :** Hendrik Herlyn (275)

**Year List Record :** W. Douglas Robinson (240)

**County Contact Person:** Email [Joel Geier](#) [return to the top](#)

## **NORTH COUNTY**

### **Fort Hoskins County Historical Park** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 53 C-5 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 33 D-7

**geographic coordinates** 44°40'33.0"N 123°27'47.7"W

([44.675839](#), [-123.463262](#))

[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 Luckiamute Loop Guide. Section L-6.

### **Beazell Memorial Forest** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 53 C-5 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 33 E-7

**geographic coordinates** 44°39'09.0"N 123°25'37.1"W

([44.652491](#), [-123.426986](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for Beazell Memorial Forest](#) (more eBird data is needed for this site)

**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 Luckiamute Loop Guide. Section L-5.

### **Coffin Butte Regional Landfill** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 53 C-7 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 33 D-9

**geographic coordinates** 44°41'47.2"N 123°14'19.2"W

([44.696457, -123.238676](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for Coffin Butte Landfill](#)

**Location:** From downtown Corvallis, take Hwy 99W for about 10 miles to Coffin Butte/Camp Adair Road (this is right across from EE Wilson). Turn left onto Coffin Butte and you will see the landfill. Bird the wetlands and trees in the area.

**Habitat and Birds:** Some of the birds seen in this area include Greater White-fronted Goose, 12 duck species, California Quail, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Egret, Green Heron, Osprey, Rough-legged Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, both yellowlegs, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, 8 species of gull, Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat, Savannah Sparrow, Lincoln Sparrow, and both goldfinches.

## **E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 53 C-7 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 33 D-10  
**geographic coordinates** 44°42'05.1"N 123°12'40.5"W

([44.701423, -123.211257](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for EE Wilson WA](#)

**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 Luckiamute Loop Guide. Section L-11.

## **Peavy Arboretum Access McDonald State Forest** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 53 C-7 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 33 E-9  
**geographic coordinates** 44°39'31.1"N 123°14'07.6"W

([44.658646, -123.235440](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for Peavy Arboretum \(more eBird data is needed for this site\)](#)

**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 Luckiamute Loop Guide. Section L12.

## **Lewisburg Saddle Access McDonald State Forest**

[return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 53 C-6 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 33 E-9

**geographic coordinates** 44°38'12.8"N 123°17'45.5"W

([44.636885, -123.295963](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for McDonald State Forest-Lewisburg Saddle](#)

**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 Luckiamute Loop Guide. Section L13.

## **Oak Creek Drive Access McDonald State Forest**

[return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 53 D-6 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 33 E-8

**geographic coordinates** 44°36'12.9"N 123°19'57.7"W

([44.603595, -123.332685](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for Oak Creek Access McDonald SF](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** After Hwy 34 crosses the Willamette River, take Harrison St. all the way west through town. As you emerge from Corvallis proper, the road will become Oak Creek Drive. Continue on this road for another 5 miles as it winds into the McDonald State Forest. Make stops as you like and look and listen for forest birds. Birds you might find here include Mountain Quail, Accipiters, Band-tailed Pigeon, Northern Pygmy Owl, Rufous Hummingbird, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Hammond's Flycatcher, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Hutton's Vireo, Cassin's Vireo, Gray Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Brown Creeper, both kinglets, Western Bluebird, Wrentit, Orange-crowned Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Hermit Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Red Crossbill, and Evening Grosbeak.

# **CORVALLIS AREA**

## **Fitton Green** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 53 D-5 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 33 E-8  
**geographic coordinates** 44°34'26.5"N 123°22'31.7"W  
([44.574034, -123.375464](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for Fitton Green](#)

**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 Luckiamute Loop Guide. Section L-2.

## **Bald Hill Park** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 53 D-6 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 33 F-8  
**geographic coordinates** 44°34'35"N 123°19'34"W

North Access - 44°34'35.0"N 123°19'34.0"W ([44.576400, -123.326126](#))

Fairgrounds Access - 44°34'01.9"N 123°18'43.9"W ([44.567201, -123.312184](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for Bald Hill Park](#)

**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 Luckiamute Loop Guide Section L-3.

## **Benton County Fairgrounds** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 53 D-6 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 33 F-8  
**geographic coordinates** 44°34'01.9"N 123°18'43.9"W  
([44.567201, -123.312184](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** Coming west from I-5, If coming east from the coast on Hwys 20/34 it's a north(left) turn onto SW 53rd Street. Go about a mile to the fairgrounds. If traveling west from I-5 the bridge into Corvallis turns into Harrison Street which continues west without any tricks to 53rd, a left turn again. The oak grove to the east of the fairgrounds (east of 53rd) is on OSU property and had Acorn Woodpeckers as well in the past.

For someone in Corvallis without unlimited access to auto transportation, an excellent bicycle path connects 35th St (the western edge of OSU) with the fairgrounds. If you have the time and no bicycle it's a fine walk through undeveloped landscape. Coming into Corvallis on 99W from the north take Walnut Blvd west for several miles. It eventually bends south and forms a crossroads with 53rd and Harrison. The main draw here is a reliable flock of ACORN WOODPECKERS that have been very reliable for many years. The oak grove is on the north side of the fairgrounds, north of the main arena and there's plenty of parking between the arena and the oak grove. You can usually get the woodpeckers right near this parking area. The west end of the oak grove is a public campground for RVer's called Benton Oaks and the turn-off to this campground is probably the best one to use. They can also be seen at the oak grove across 53rd and occasionally on telephone poles at the intersection of 53rd and Harrison, also flying across over to the oaks north of Harrison.

### **Corvallis Jackson-Frazier Wetlands** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 53 D-7 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 33 E-9  
**geographic coordinates** 44°36'14.8"N 123°14'23.4"W

([44.60412, -123.23982](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for Jackson-Frazier Wetlands](#)

**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 Luckiamute Loop Guide. Section L-14.

### **Corvallis Sewage Ponds** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 53 D-6 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 33 E-9  
**geographic coordinates** 44°34'36.5"N 123°15'16.6"W

([44.576791, -123.254605](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location:** These directions are from Bill Tice's book "A Birders Guide to the Sewage Ponds of Oregon" (no longer in print). From the Junction of Rt 34 and 99W in the Center of Corvallis, go north on Rt 99W. In .5 miles turn Rt just as you are going up on the overpass. After turning right on this unmarked road, bear left immediately at the fork. Then go right at the T, and the ponds will be on the left. You can view the ponds from the road and access inside is not allowed.

**Habitat and Birds:** Lots of waterfowl here and Harris's Sparrow has been found in the area. Look for shorebirds, gulls, swallows, and quite a few passerines.

### **Mary's River Natural Area** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 53 D-6 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 33 F-9  
**geographic coordinates** 44°32'33.2"N 123°17'01.3"W  
([44.542552, -123.283690](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for Mary's River NA](#) (more eBird data is needed for this site)

**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 Alsea Falls Loop Guide. Section A-1.

### **Corvallis Willamette Park** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 53 D-6 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 33 F-9  
**geographic coordinates** 44°33'04.6"N 123°15'08.1"W  
([44.551285, -123.252259](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for Corvallis Willamette Park](#)

[Corvallis City Web Site](#)

**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 Alsea Falls Loop Guide. Section A-2

### **Philomath Sewage Ponds** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 53 D-6 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 33 F-8  
**geographic coordinates** 44°31'02.0"N 123°20'15.9"W  
([44.517237, -123.337757](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for Philomath Sewage Ponds](#)

**Location:** In order to gain access to these ponds, you will need to check in at the Philomath Public Works Building. From Hwy 34 in central Philomath, go south on 15th Street for 0.3 miles. Turn left on Willow Lane and round the corner to the Public Works building. Check in at the office for permission.

To find the ponds from the Public Works Building, turn left (south) onto 15th St and travel 0.25 miles to a "T". At the "T", turn left onto Chapel. Stay on Chapel for 1.5 miles to a T at Bellfountain. Turn right (south) onto Bellfountain. Go south on Bellfountain for about 1 mile, crossing the Marys River in an S-curve, then heading south again. At this point the dikes of the ponds can be seen across the field to the right (west). Turn right off Bellfountain at a gate (often open) just before a row of tall trees intersects Bellfountain and follow those tall trees to the inner gate. (Thanks to Bill Tice and Jamie Simmons for these directions)

**Habitat and Birds:** Check the trees along the entrance road. Some good birds occasionally show up there. A partial list of birds seen at this site includes Greater White-fronted Goose, Cackling Goose, Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Barrow's Goldeneye, Surf Scoter, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Peregrine Falcon, Greater Yellowlegs, Red-necked Phalarope, Red Phalarope, Bonaparte's Gull, Heerman's Gull, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat, Savannah Sparrow, Lesser Goldfinch, and Evening Grosbeak.

## **Evergreen Mitigation Bank** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 53 D-6 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 33 F-8

**geographic coordinates** 44°30'08.8"N 123°20'16.0"W

([44.502456, -123.337768](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for Evergreen Mitigation Wetlands](#)

**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 Alsea Falls Loop Guide. Section A-10.

## **WEST COUNTY**

### **Mary's River-Blodgett Area** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 52 D-4 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 52 D-4

**geographic coordinates** 44°35'59.9"N 123°33'07.3"W

([44.599964, -123.552040](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

**Location, Habitat and Birds:** For birders taking the Newport-Corvallis route on U.S. Highway 20 there is a short side trip in Benton County which



has excellent birding potential. From the west, one can begin the route by turning right off U.S. 20 at milepost 36.7 onto Old Blodgett Road. the first 0.5 miles the road passes a wet field bordered by a thick hedgerow. Common Yellowthroat and Red-winged Blackbird are regular here. At 0.3 miles there is a large barn on the right which hosts a colony of Cliff Swallows. At the half mile mark the road begins to climb through a mixed conifer/deciduous forest. Follow this road 2.1 miles. Then take a right on Harris Road. At this junction there is good habitat for Hammond's Flycatcher. Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch and Dark-eyed Junco have been recorded, and just a little to the east on Old Blodgett Road, White-breasted Nuthatch has been found in pines.

As you follow Harris Road south and east, for the next four miles it passes through a variety of conifer and mixed forest. as well as several clear cuts and young regenerating forests. This is a very birdy stretch of road, and it is likely that all the breeding species native to the Coast Range can be found along it. One of the most birdy spots is at the two mile mark, where the road crosses Mary's River.

At 4.1 miles you begin to break out of the forest into an area of small fields bordered by woods. For the next mile, watch and listen for Wild Turkey, which is regular in the area. At the 5 mile mark, the road runs parallel for a time with Mary's River. At 5.4 miles there is a good stretch of riparian habitat near Harris Bridge. From here on the habitat is a bit more like that found in the Willamette Valley, with some fields and a mix of primarily deciduous trees, with a lot of ash trees and some oaks.

At 7.8 miles the road passes under Highway 20. At 7.9 miles turn left on Wren Road. at 8.0 miles turn left again. Go 0.1 miles to Oregon Highway 223. Turn left again, and in 0.2 miles you will complete the route with a return to U.S. 20.

Birders wishing to approach the route from the east should turn north off U.S, 20 one half mile west of MP 46 onto Oregon Highway 223.

## **Starker Forestry Tour** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 52 D-4 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 33 F-6

**geographic coordinates** 44°34'17.4"N 123°31'52.1"W

([44.571510](#), [-123.531154](#))

[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 Luckiamute Loop Guide. Section L4.

## **Mary's Peak Recreational Area** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 52 C-4 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 33 F-6  
**geographic coordinates** 44°30'16.5"N 123°33'09.5"W

([44.504593, -123.552647](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for Mary's Peak](#)

**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 Alsea Falls Loop Guide. Section A-9.

## **SOUTH COUNTY**

### **Salmonberry County Park** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 46 B-3 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 38 B-5  
**geographic coordinates** 44°20'32.5"N 123°41'08.8"W

([44.34235, -123.68579](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[Salmonberry 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 Alsea Falls Loop Guide. Section A-7.

### **Clemens County Park** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 46 A-4 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 39 A-6  
**geographic coordinates** 44°24'23.1"N 123°33'59.0"W

([44.406420, -123.566398](#))

[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 Alsea Falls Loop Guide. Section A-8.

### **Alsea Falls** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 46 B-4 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 39 B-6  
**geographic coordinates** 44°19'32.1"N 123°29'26.3"W

([44.325591, -123.490650](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[Planet Oregon Link Alsea Falls](#)

**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 Alsea Falls Loop Guide. Section A-6.

### **Tyee Winery** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 47 A-6 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 39 A-8  
**geographic coordinates** 44°27'30.0"N 123°19'23.2"W

([44.458345, -123.323123](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[Tyee Winery 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 Alsea Falls Loop Guide. Section A-3.

### **William Finley NWR (Finley Rd. Access)** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 47 A-6 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 39 A-9  
**geographic coordinates** 44°25'43.9"N 123°16'41.3"W

([44.42887, -123.27814](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for William Finley NWR](#)

[Finley National Wildlife Refuge Website](#)

[Finley Trails](#)

[Homer Campbell Trail](#)

**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 Alsea Falls Loop Guide. Section A-4.

### **William Finley NWR (Bruce Rd. Access)** [return to the top](#)

DeLorme (copyright 2001) Pg 47 A-6 DeLorme (copyright 2008) Pg 39 B-8  
**geographic coordinates** 44°23'22.6"N 123°18'18.3"W

([44.389609, -123.305082](#))

[View A Google Map](#)

[eBird Hotspot Checklist for William Finley NWR](#)

[Finley Trails](#)

[Homer Campbell Trail](#)

**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 Alsea Falls Loop Guide. Section A-5.