

Birding Vacation Guide

Boulder Area Birds

The following is a listing of birds seen or heard around Boulder Hot Springs:

American Robin	Franklin's Gull
American Goldfinch	Rock Dove (pigeon)
Red-Tailed Hawk	Wilson's Snipe
Sand Hill Crane	Canada Goose
Bank Swallow	Sora
Barn Swallow	Killdeer
Cliff Swallow	European Starling
Tree Swallow	Marsh Wren
Violet-Green Swallow	Common Nighthawk
Golden-Crowned Sparrow	Western Wood Pewee
Chipping Sparrow	Raven
Song Sparrow	Common Yellowthroat
Savannah Sparrow	Yellow Warbler
Mourning Dove	Mountain Bluebird
Brewer's Blackbird	Red-Breasted Nuthatch
Red-Winged Blackbird	Willow Flycatcher
Great Blue Heron	

Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area

About an hour drive towards Townsend, a network of dikes and ponds around a reservoir attracts a bevy of nesting birds. The area also serves as a stopover along one of North America's major north-south avian migration routes. A detailed guide can be downloaded found on the [Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks page](#).

Helena Area Birding

A detailed guide of birds in the Helena area can be downloaded at the same website above for the Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area.

Warm Springs Wildlife Management Area

Located immediately adjacent to I-90, Exit 201 at Warm Springs, approximately 20 miles west of Butte. This is one of the premier bird watching destinations and the largest area for waterfowl production in the upper Clark Fork Valley. A map insert and checklist entitled, "The Birds of Warm Springs Ponds" by Montana Audubon and Atlantic Richfield can be obtained by contacting the Warm Springs FWP Office at ddziak@mt.gov.

[Red Rocks Lake National Wildlife Refuge](#)

Red Rocks Lake National Wildlife Refuge is home to the largest population of trumpeter swans in the lower 48 states. The Upper Lake Campground, located just three miles east of the refuge headquarters, is an excellent spot for birding due to its mix of lakeside habitats.

The trip to Red Rocks National Wildlife Refuge is approximately 170 miles south on Interstate 15 from Boulder. The Refuge headquarters and visitor contact station can be reached by turning off Interstate Highway 15 at Monida, MT, (exit 0) and driving 28 miles east on an improved dirt road.

The South Valley Road from Interstate 15 to the Refuge headquarters (Lakeview, MT) is periodically closed throughout the winter and is closed throughout the winter to the east of the headquarters. Please call the Refuge staff to inquire about road conditions before proceeding to the Refuge (406-276-3536).

Two hundred thirty-two bird species have been recorded at the Refuge. Of those, 53 are considered rare or accidental.