

## **ROSEBURG-SUTHERLIN CBC AREA BIRDING DESCRIPTIONS**

**Dec 2016**

**THIS DOCUMENT HAS FAIRLY UNORGANIZED NOTES ABOUT BIRDING EACH OF THE AREAS. PLEASE SUBMIT IMPROVEMENTS.**

### **AREA 1E**

In the 1980s there was a Black-crowned Night-Heron roost along the river between Brown's Bridge and River Fork's Park, on the north side. We would go in to someone's driveway and behind their house to take a look. I don't know anyone that has looked there for years and I don't recall the people's name or exactly where they lived. It might be worth a look West from Brown's Bridge (the bridge over the North Umpqua), scanning the trees.

Garden Valley Road—Use pullouts as you can. Get out and walk a bit. At the north end of the area the road is adjacent to the Umpqua River; get out and scan the river, look and listen for ducks, and especially Spotted Sandpiper, which is hard to find in winter.

Old Garden Valley Road and offshoots

Twin Rivers Campground/Vacation Park

Pitchford Boys Ranch

River Forks Park

Master Gardeners

Lark Lane, etc.

Arcadia Dr/Oakview Dr/Garden Grove Dr

Fox Lane

Poison Oak Lane

Labrie Rd

Morning Glory Lane

Yew Lane/Sinclair Lane

Healy Rd.

Upper Cleveland Rapids Rd./Karenza Ln/Klahowya Ln

(Lower) Cleveland Rapids Rd/Cleveland Rapids Park/Lower Garden Valley Rd.—This is a loop, with the park in the middle. This is a very productive area, with riparian habitat,

orchards, agricultural fields, and river. Walk as much as you can; otherwise, cruise slowly in your vehicle and scan fields and shrubs. Be sure to get out at the park (requires a \$4 day use fee or \$30 annual County Park Pass), and bird the full length of the park from S to N (or vice versa).

Turkey Crick Lane—It is a beautiful private rd along a creek through a narrow valley with great diversity of riparian, fields, conifers and deciduous trees. It even has a marsh area and a pond. I do however get permission (???please give name and phone to compiler???) from some people I have met to drive up the road as there are only about 10 properties on it and it is labeled no trespassing. It is a long road over a mile and narrow so it is not easy to stop and get out.

Cal Henry Road—Stop, get out and walk lower ¼ mile or so especially; there is often a good sparrow flock at the lower 100 yds and sometimes other things, such as a wintering Hermit Warbler one year. About 0.4 miles up there is a pond on the left that usually has ducks. This lower section often has Wrentit and Hutton's Vireo. Farther up, in the oak woods there are small pullouts good for getting out to look and listen. At about 0.9 miles, just past the driveway to Reustle Winery on the left is a small pond that sometimes has a few ducks, heron, etc. Just at the 1 mile marker on the left is a private driveway that belongs to Claudia Hunter, Matt Hunter's mom. If you call for permission ahead of time (ask compiler for number) you can drive up to her parking area and look around. She often has Acorn Woodpeckers, Western Bluebirds, Pileated Woodpecker, etc.

Reustle Winery—This large patch of property has an access road that goes between Cal Henry Road and Oakhill Road (intersecting just under a mile up each). There is one pond right near the winery and residences, as well as conifer, oak, and mixed woods, as well as some grass and shrubland. The road is open Tuesday to Saturday for wine tours, and you can drive through and look without a problem. If you want to walk around more, you should call to get permission (ask compiler for number)

Oakhill Road—Only the lower 1 mile is in this team area, but it is a great area. Contact Paul or Sandy Norris (ask compiler for number) to request permission to drive in to view their pond up close (it can be partly seen from Oakhill Rd). The lower open part of Oakhill is often a good place for sparrows. Chipping Sparrows have been found several winters in the fenced blueberry area at the east end of the complex, and along the road.

[Forest View Lane (where is that???) is hard to drive and turn around on. I usually don't get out although I now know someone who lives there so I may see what is available on their property this year.]

## **AREA 1W**

Old Melrose Road--Entering the circle from the south, stop along the river several places. Look and listen for Spotted Sandpiper, Green Heron, other herons/egrets, waterfowl. Spish and hoot for songbirds such as Hermit Thrush, kinglets, chickadees. There are three small ponds on the way north, before you get to the Berry Patch, each usually with a few ducks. Be careful pulling off the road and counting the ducks. I would highly recommend

taking a walk (with boots!) at the Berry Patch. You might call them to ask permission ahead of time. There is often a group of Great Egrets in the field between the Berry Patch and Melrose Rd.

Melrose School—pull into the parking area, scan trees, vinyards, etc.

Melrose—Just before the junction with Melqua Road, there is a pond on the north side and a couple on the south (harder to see). The pond on the north side usually has a nice assortment of ducks, sometimes including a Eurasian Wigeon.

Melqua Road--Melqua Road travels all the way through to Umpqua, meeting up with Hubbard Creek Road (this intersection is barely out of the circle). (Note that about 0.3 mi either side of Joelson Rd. is outside the circle.) The road will yield multiple flocks of juncos and/or sparrows to look through, bluebirds, Acorn Woodpeckers, etc. The more you can stop, get out, and listen and look around the better. On Melqua, when you get near the river at River Forks, go ahead and check out the river there. The team across the river will look there too, but go ahead and record what you see. Otherwise, along both roads, stop at good, safe pullouts and look and listen. Definitely look for different habitats as you go along. There are oak woods, conifer or mixed woods, oak savannah, riverside riparian, grassy pasture, ag fields. Each of these may yield a few different species.

On Cleveland Hill Rd., Matt Hunter's place is at 1330 Cleveland Hill Rd., west side; you can stop in and wander around (doesn't hurt to call first, ask compiler for number). There are resident Acorn Woodpeckers and a variety of other species. Also, Shawn Howell across the road from the Hunters, has all the little pine trees and sometimes there are things foraging and perching there (view from Hunter's).

Cleveland Loop Road—comes off Cleveland Hill Rd. on the east side and is the shape of a lasoo, with one arterial and a loop at the end.

Donruss Rd—comes off Cleveland Hill Rd on the west side and has a couple small spurs off it.

Valley Road—Often has a good variety of birds. Get to it off Orchard, west of Cleveland Hill Rd. The first 0.4 miles of Valley Rd. are not in the circle, but the rest to the north IS in the circle. Drive to the end of the pavement and park on the right side there (don't block the gate). From there you can walk up or down looking for birds. Birds to expect include Hutton's Vireo, chickadees, kinglets, etc. At the very end, before the gate, on the right is what looks like an old logging road with a small phone cable stretched across it. This is Matt Hunter's property; you can go in there with permission.

Young's Lane

Woodruff Mountain Road.

Note that about 0.3 mi either side of Joelson Rd. is outside the circle. Just as you re-enter the circle 0.3 mi north of Joelson Rd on Melqua, this area in the past has sometimes had White-tailed Kite. Unfortunately, the northernmost 3/4 mi of Melqua Rd where it intersects Hubbard Creek Rd, is out of the circle, as there are often interesting flocks of sparrows there and often a raptor or two. Stop anywhere along Hubbard Cr. Rd (more than 0.3 mi east of Melqua Rd) that looks interesting. Sometimes there are flocks of robins and sometimes a Peregrine Falcon in the area. You can walk the grounds at Henry Winery and the Umpqua Community Center, if the gate/door is open. Ask permission from Henry Winery to look in their barns for Barn Owl. Have one person stay outside with a good view of the barn, as often when one person begins to go in the barn, the owl flies out!

Mode Road, Iverson Road—Spend good time along Iverson and Mode Roads, looking through sparrow flocks and scanning for raptors. Look and listen for American Pipits. Scan any dirt or short-grass fields for pipits, killdeer, other shorebirds, robins, meadowlarks, blackbirds, etc. There are now a lot of blueberries to the north... scan these areas too, as there may be sparrow and blackbird flocks there. [This area was once open fields, with much more likelihood of pipits, meadowlarks, raptors, etc.]

## **AREA 2N**

Umpqua Sand & Gravel. Obviously a great area. Need permission a couple weeks ahead of time (ask compiler for number). On way in and out check little sparrow/junco flocks for Chipping Sparrows. US&G continues to change the ponds, so you just have to find your way to get views of most of the ponds. Best access is usually from roads leading from the plant area. Spish weedy patches for all sorts of sparrows. Lots of ducks on river, raptors.... Spish up any wet marshy weedy brushy lowland sumpy kack for Swamp Sparrow. This is one of only two areas (the other Ford's Pond) where we usually are able to get that species. Orange-crowned Warbler is also one that is likely here. Scrutinize all the waterbirds on the ponds for all sorts of ducks, grebes. Check shores for shorebirds (yellowlegs, spotted, least).

Residential Areas. There are a couple good residential areas in this area. One is right near the entry to US&G, so is easy to combine with that location. If weather is adequate, I recommend a walk through, or drive until you see concentrations of birds, then get out and walk a bit. Another is up Ridgewood Drive and the loop up top there in the oak woods. In 2013 there were 6 White-throated Sparrows up there!!! Problem is, it is difficult to find a "public" place to park. I had parked in a location at the NE end that looked like a neighborhood association pool or something (and I had asked another neighbor about it), but it turned out it was owned by someone across the street. Anyway, he was fine with it, but it would be good to find a more inconspicuous location to park. Lastly, there is a nice loop at the north end of Fisher Rd. (River Bend Rd). In 2013 there were 4 White-throated Sparrows out there; in 2014 a Northern Mockingbird. There are other residential areas in the area, but these three are areas that are easily walked and very productive. Other roads you can just cruise until you find concentrations of birds (sparrows, blackbirds, etc.) and look through them.

Roads east of Garden Valley, such as Cross Creek Drive, we currently don't have permission to go up.

Golf Course, ponds. Scan from road.

Curry Rd and Quail Lane. Excellent area. Lots of good weedy areas for sparrows (including the county storage area right behind River Forks Market), agricultural areas for sparrows, pipits, raptors, etc. Trees with Acorn Woodpeckers. Stop wherever you can and spish up the brush for sparrows of every kind. This is one of the few areas in the count circle where we can get Savannah Sparrows. They are usually along the road/ditch/fence somewhere, such as along Curry toward Garden Valley.

## **AREA 2S**

Melrose Rd. Park near the bridge over the S. Umpqua River and view to the S. You may look N too, but that is a different area, so note birds on the back of your tally sheet in case the other team doesn't get there. // Stop at the flood slough "bridge" (guard rails) just west of Kruse Farm Stand. Scan fields to the south for raptors, waterfowl, meadowlarks, doves, etc. // Stop at Kruse Farm Stand and look around; especially for blackbird flocks.

Jones Rd. This is a private road. Call ahead to get permission from Don Bailey (located at 0.4 mi, 510 Jones Rd.). (Ask compiler for phone numbers). The beginning of this road often has a flock of blackbirds, sparrows, etc., sometimes Black Phoebe and Say's Phoebe. The Baileys have had Barn Owls in their barns. Inquire about that species, and about counting a couple places along the road. In 2013 and briefly in 2014, Don Bailey had a Burrowing Owl near a small concrete culvert at about 0.3 mi up Jones Rd. Scan area for raptors, sparrows, etc.

Hucrest area. This is a large area of mostly residential neighborhoods S of Garden Valley Blvd, west of Stewart Parkway, and N of the S Umpqua River and Newton Cr. Walk as much as possible. Typical approach can be to drive slowly until you see or hear a group of birds, then park, get out and walk around. Smile at people and tell them what you are doing!

West end of Troost St. Troost works its way through Hucrest, then comes out into a wide open grassland/hay/pasture area, and ends to the west in a small neighborhood on the S Umpqua River. The open areas are good for sparrows, raptors, possibly a shrike; stop several places to scan. The neighborhood to the west usually has plenty of birds. Park near the end of Troost and walk around the neighborhood. This neighborhood has also been a reliable place for a day roost of Black-crowned Night-Herons. They move around from year to year. Recently they have been down the gravel alley/driveway that goes west from Harlan St., one house S of the end of Troost. Down that driveway about 200 ft on the right (N) is a line of pines that they sometimes use. About 500 ft down the driveway, on the left, is a small grove of cedars (?) where they have often been found.

Hills North of Roseburg Cinemas/Kline St. This is an area with some commercial, residential, and above... broadleaf woods and oak savannah, as well as associated hillside brushy areas. Main access is NW Kline St. All habitats worth checking out. Some of the roads, like Daysha Dr., get you up near some more open, brushy, and near woods. Roads that go up to the ridge to the NW ... some become those "private" road maintenance district roads. Use your own discretion on which roads to drive on.

N and W of Stewart Parkway. Most of this area is fairly "commercial." Plenty of Brewer's Blackbirds to count! Might be something else in with them. There actually is a small wetland area on the east side of Mercy Dr. I wouldn't expect much in there, but who knows!

W and N of Edenbower. There are some good looking residential areas (for birds) west of Edenbower and north along Broad Street. Main problem I would think would be the freeway noise. There are also some roads here that go up into the hillside a bit, but again the freeway noise might make it unproductive, I don't know.

Prioritize the area south of Garden Valley Rd., and cover the north side if you end up with some time. Remember to look for different habitats.

Target Birds: Barn Owl, Burrowing Owl, Say's Phoebe, Black-crowned Night-Heron

### **AREA 3E**

Gaddis Park and vicinity. Good area to find bluebirds and view the river. Cruise the neighborhood for birds; stop and walk where birdy. Can also walk up the bike path along the river a ways.

Laurelwood. Accessed via Madrone St W of I-5 and E of the S Umpqua River. Great neighborhood with a few feeders. Townsend's Warblers usually present.

Elk Island. If water is high or moderately so, Elk Island will not be accessible (until they put their zip lines from Pine Street!). Whether birding below the Washington and Oak Street bridges, or going out to Oak Island, obtain permission ahead of time from the Elk Island Ecoretreat and Resort. Ask compiler for name and number. Area is good for waterfowl, sparrows, and other passerines. A Western Tanager was found here in the 2013 CBC. The Elk Island Ecoretreat and Resort also owns houses at 290, 292, and 310 Pine Street (park at 310), where we can walk through and view the river.

Bike Path/Deer Creek. Off the north end of SE Pine Street is the confluence with Deer Creek, and the bike path that goes downstream on the river-right side of the S Umpqua River, toward Gaddis Park and on to Stewart Park. The area at and below the confluence with Deer Creek is a good area for sparrows, Black Phoebe, waterfowl on the river, and a possible Orange-crowned Warbler among the blackberries and willows.

Neighborhoods. The area just E of Stephens or Winchester and N of Diamond Lake is a pretty birdy area. The hills to the north of there are good also (Rocky Dr and Rocky Ridge Rd?). Drive and stop several places up Rifle Range St. Just at and below the “top” of the steep drive has been good because someone has a feeder on the W side of the road.

Cummins St and Miguel Ave access some residential and rural habitats.

Kincaid Dr. is worth a short drive out.

Industrial. There are a few little streets on the S side of Diamond Lake, close into town that get close to Deer Creek. These are worth a quick look. The lower part of Rifle Range St, just before it turns east, is a good spot to get out and look around.

ODFW Office. They usually have feeders and the willows just west of the building often houses sparrows. One can walk just on the west side up a gravel road up to a gate for sparrows, raptors, etc.

Kester Rd. Drive out. Can get permission to walk into rock quarry (?????). We should try to get permission to go out the continuation of Kester Rd to the left then north.

## **AREA 3W-N**

### **.....Notes from Keith**

I am not sure I have a lot to add to your descriptions of areas in 3W. I basically started at the Fred Meyer Ponds about 7 am playing for rails while I waited for it to lighten up. At about 8 we left for the Alameda neighborhood which was really birdy in the am. We then hit the airport area and the area behind Sherms and Walmart. By 10:30 I was getting panicky because I was just getting to check on the gulls at Fred Meyer ponds for the first time. I had planned to be there by 9:45 but meeting Claudia confusion and numbers of birds slowed us down. As well as not knowing are way perfectly. We did Fred Meyer pond area for about an hour, then headed to Stewart Park. Did the riverfront, but there were so many people at the disc course we decided to save that for later. So about 12:30 we headed over to Oriole areas but the warm weather made birding slow. So after a few more stops along Harvard ie. Catholic church area which showed some promise we headed to the golf course. I have never seen so many people there. There must have been 75 to 100 people playing while we walked through. We then took one of the gates into the VA forested area behind the memorials. My parents told me afterwards they have been kicked out of there. I guess they are concerned about vandalism? I haven't noticed any no trespassing signs. This area in the VA forest along I-5 has really been cleared out and is not nearly as birdy as I remember. But it was still full of Acorn Wood Peckers and Varied thrush. Besides that I think we saw Juncos there. Next we went to the hill behind Carl's Jr which was the most productive spot in the afternoon. After that I went back to FM Ponds for another round of gulls probably around 3 pm at which time Claudia and Mike left me. So after I had my fill on gulls I drove around to various spots

like Sherms parking lot hoping for another chance at a Rusty BB and then the airport checking views from the opposite side and then went to check out military rd off Harvard before heading in to the library.

Keith

I felt like the area was a nice size. Not too big or small for one group.

If doing again I might think about trying get to FM ponds a little earlier and the disc golf course before it gets so busy.

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Stewart Pkwy. There are some very small mitigation wetlands, labeled, which can have ducks, and could have other associated species (e.g. snipe, swamp sparrow, marsh wren, rails, phoebe). There is a paved trail along the creek/riparian in Charles Gardiner Park. I'm hoping someday someone will find a B&W warbler along this trail. :-). The "Unimproved roads and trails" you can explore if you like. Access is by parking at the Carl's Jr. There are a couple residential areas worth checking out. There are usually flocks of mainly Brewer's Blackbirds somewhere in the area. Check them out for other species. You can guide yourself to other good looking and different habitats in the area.

Stephens St. I have rarely "birded" the airport, and have wanted to explore around it. 15-20 yrs ago there was a burrowing owl there, but I don't know any details. I have seen/heard pipits in the area. I have labeled a bunch of good residential areas. They are all a little different. The north-central ones are more "dumpy" and often have more variety of birds. The areas near what I have labeled "HILLSIDES" are some newer developments or undeveloped areas that get you up on the hillsides. The southwest RES is usually good too.

## **AREA 3W-S**

Stewart Park Wildlife Ponds and Nature Trail. Diligently look through the waterbirds for a variety of ducks. Sift through gulls to get all species present. Note the gulls sometimes perch on top of Fred Meyer building. Feed some bread to bring the gulls in. Diligently search the edges for any shorebirds and herons. Spish the marshy areas for Swamp Sparrow and Common Yellowthroat. Walk the trail loop, search for Orange-crowned Warbler along the creek, both north and south of the north-end trail.

Golf Course. Drive or walk to east of the tennis center to the golf course parking area. Scan for wigeon and other waterfowl, and look for Eurasian Wigeon.

Bike Path. Walk the bike path that goes from Stewart Parkway to I-5 (and beyond in another team's area). Search the river for waterbirds and spish for songbirds in the brush and trees along the path.



A Loop Option. One can make a loop along the bike path starting at Centennial Dr, east to then under I-5, zig-zag through neighborhoods S of the river and W of I-5, then back across the river at Centennial Dr.

Riverview Dr Neighborhood. Drive in, park, and walk.

Fullerton Elementary Neighborhood. Drive in, park, and walk. Good, birdy neighborhood.

Neighborhoods S of Harvard. These are good, birdy areas with good numbers of feeders. Park and walk. Be aware of the edge of the circle!

Target Birds: Herring Gull, Thayer's Gull, Western Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Swamp Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, Marsh Wren, Eurasian Wigeon, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Virginia Rail, Sora, Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitcher, Rusty Blackbird, White-throated Sparrow, Wilson's Snipe.

#### **AREA 4**

Umpqua Community College area. This is an enjoyable place to bird. One target species for this area--not guaranteed, but sometimes present--is one or the other or both: Common and/or Barrow's Goldeneye. These are sometimes along the river below the college. Park in the upper/north parking lot. From there you can walk several directions, including north up the hill (see all my random walking dots), and down to the river on a (gated) paved road. From the bottom, you can scan the river for goldeneye and other waterfowl. From there, there is a primitive trail that goes downstream along the river that has great habitat. Of course don't risk your life if the river is flooding, but I would recommend this loop, which will eventually come up to the parking area, then you can walk back through campus to where you parked.

River Drive. Park somewhere down where you can access River Drive. That is a good walk, or you can cruise in your vehicle and get out here and there. You need to get out to hear the birds to get attracted to where they are. Several folks have feeders along this road and it usually has a good variety. Also along this loop there is a spot where there is an access again to the river bottom area. It is a private homeowner association area, but I have been told it is okay to walk in there.

Bud and Sharon Smith usually grant permission to view the river from their lawn or dock. They are at 725 Umpqua College Rd Roseburg, OR 97470-9477. There is a little sign near the top of their driveway that says Bud & Sharon. Ask compiler for phone number (You can try to call, but Sharon responds best to a text).

Fish ladder. Go over to the overlook and scan the river area for ducks, dippers, etc. You don't need to hike down to the fish ladder, unless you want to see if you can see some winter steelhead.

Amacher Park. You can go down in there, take a walk, look for Varied Thrushes, ducks along river, etc.

Page Rd. This is the 2nd street on the left after you cross the river going south. Page Rd goes for several miles and at about 1.3-1.7 miles Page Rd is right next to the river, just across from UCC where you were before. Again, look for goldeneye if you have not found any yet. Otherwise, just explore out the road until it turns private, stopping at different looking habitat to see what you see.

Winchester Residential. There is a "patch" of residential habitat (called Winchester) about a half-mile wide (E-W) and 1.5 miles long (N-S), extending from the North Umpqua River south to Costco. I would recommend cruising the neighborhoods until you see groups of birds, then get out and see what you find, then move on. I would recommend spending some time in the more expensive district to the north, as well as some time in the more run down area to the south. Basically you are looking for birds which are most frequently concentrated around feeders. Get out and walk around a couple blocks. Wave and tell people you are birdwatching. If you get to the east side of the residential area you will be up at the base of some oak woods and savannah where you may encounter some bluebirds, acorn woodpecker, etc. There is also a small wetland area with walking access at the north end, just south of Page Rd and Village Drive (see in Google Earth).

Newton Creek Rd. If you look on Google Earth you will see the neighborhoods off the base (west end) of Newton Creek Rd.; these usually have quite a few birds. Then, you can drive up Newton Creek Rd. where it gets more rural, stopping wherever looks good. I don't recall how far up the road you can get; go as far as you can.

Notes from Jimmy Billstine: Umpqua Community College- Start at UCC birding the entire campus in one long walk. Walk from the southernmost parking lot along the edge of the gully to the blacktop path that leads down to the river. Hermit Thrush and Pacific Wren are found under the trees. I have found Hutton's Vireo here two years in a row. Scope the island in the river and the edges. As with all river stops in this area, many times waterfowl are skirting the vegetation overhanging the river.

Walk up past the tennis courts and follow the path up above the track pishing for passerines. This is a good place for Bluebirds, YR-Warblers, and Red-Shouldered Hawks. On the slope below the trail there are some hedge and willow rows which would be worth checking out. Follow the trail to the maintenance sheds then walk back to the parking lot along the winery and through campus. WB Nuthatch and Acorn Woodpeckers should be plentiful throughout the campus.

Walk River Drive- Drive down River Drive to the Homeowners Association riverfront and scope for waterfowl. Walk down River Drive for a bit; there is a feeder across the road.

**PRIVATE HOUSE RIVERFRONT-** (Matt I never stopped here maybe you can fill in this info?)

Fish ladder- Drive to 99 and take the immediate left to the fish ladder. Scope for waterfowl; the parking area has nice blackberry hedges for passerines.

Amacher Park- This is now a County fee site. To avoid the fee drive to the barber shop just up the road and walk across the railroad tracks to the park. Bird the camping area and the short trail in the back of the park. This was one of the few places I had WCSP in 2015.

Page Road- Just past Winchester Elementary School on the right there is an extremely productive feeder yard at 399 Page Road. You can park and check it out from your car. The home owners are Dwayne and Virginia. We have had TOWA, LASP, RBSA, and MOCH here. I wouldn't be surprised if many more good birds are found in years to come. This is a good place to take some time; possibly eating lunch in the car while watching the feeders.

Keep going on Page Road and navigate the narrow pull-offs for spots to scope the river.

Singing Waters Road- Turn left and bird the fields. At the end I called in a DOWO using my speaker.

Page Road- Continue on page road and drive through the oak savannah; keep your eyes peeled for wild turkey and other oak savannah species.

Strauss Avenue- Drive back page road to 99, then turn left on Strauss Avenue, and then take an immediate left on La Quinta Court. Park and walk through the pathway to the small ponds. This has the potential to be a very productive area as lots of the backyards abutting the ponds had feeders. Get back onto Strauss and follow it on a long loop up onto north view drive and then back to 99 South. There are some empty lots abutting the forest that may have some good species. The hilltop vista of the valley is also worth a scan for raptors.

Hooker Road- Get back onto 99 South and follow it until you take a quick right onto Keller and then a quick left onto Hooker Road. There are some small fields between Hooker and 99 that may be worth checking. (Use any pull-offs you can to check it out). Turn right on Blossom Avenue and park, then walk and bird NW Joseph Street. There are a lot of overrun yards that offer good habitat. Walk back to the car and drive down Joseph, then cross General Avenue into the National Guard Armory parking lot. Bird the hedges in the adjacent field. This is the only place I had LISP in area 4 in 2015.

Newton Creek Road- Get back onto 99S and turn left on Newton Creek Road. Bird the fields leading out to the end. There is a barn on the south side of the road near the end that gave our group our only California Quail and RW Blackbird in 2014.

Finishing up the day- Both in 2014 and 2015 using this route we had maybe 2 hours of daylight left. I believe re-checking the Page Road Feeder House and the river scoping spots is a good use of this time. Check appropriate habitat for any species missed. Many of the neighborhoods are newer, but there are a few smaller "patches" that you may have noticed that you might want to check again. There are also a lot of roads that begin going up into the hills but end as private/no trespassing. The higher reaches of these roads may be worth checking out as well.

## **AREA 5N**

There are about 12-13 miles or so of North Bank Road within the count circle. There are only a few accessible roads off of North Bank. Sable Dr., and Impala Dr. that comes off of Sable, are not actually public roads, but one of those road districts where the landowners all chip in to keep up the road. Stan and Kathy Vejtasa live on Impala Dr., and Kathy said you can go on those roads and don't need permission. I'm not sure, but Echo Dr. may be the same way, as may the little Acorn Dr. The driveway down to the Short's quarry is private. I don't know if anyone has ever asked permission to go down there. Then there is the North Bank Habitat Management Area, east and west entrances.

So, where to go and how to spend your time? Here's my recommendation. Roughly, spend about 1/4 time (2 hrs most) in the NBHMA, 1/2 time (4 hrs) along N. Bank Rd. itself, and 1/4 time (2 hrs) on the side roads mentioned above. Here are some of my

thoughts/reasoning. There are several species in your area that probably no one else will find, so we want to emphasize searching for those species in this area: Common and/or Barrow's Goldeneye, Lewis's Woodpecker, and Say's Phoebe. Golden Eagle is another one, but sometimes the folks to the south of you get that species too, so look for that one too. Anyway, the goldeneye will of course be on the river. So, that requires stopping here and there where you can scope the river--you will need a spotting scope to get decent views. You will also probably want to brush up on how to tell female goldeneye apart, should you not be "blessed" with males. :-). Lewis's Woodpeckers typically occur from several miles in from Wilbur and east to the edge of the count circle. These are best located by stopping here and there in oak woods and savannahs and scanning around to spot the "crow-like woodpecker." Say's Phoebes are typically just perched on a fence or fence post, so keep your eyes peeled as you drive and whenever you stop, check out any birds perched on fence lines and posts. So, if you figure, say 12 miles at 4 hrs, that's 3 miles per hour. Well, just walk it. Ha, just kidding. No, I would suggest driving about a half mile (approximately), find a good pullout, pull over, get out, and look around for about 10 minutes, then move on and do it again. And, of course keep a look out as you are driving for Phoebe's, raptors, meadowlarks, sparrow flocks (stop and look through them), etc. When you are near the river, scan the river for goldeneye and other waterfowl. When you get to one of the side roads, spend some limited time down there too. The benefit of some of these areas with residences is that they also often have one or more people with bird feeders. You may or may not see the feeders, but if they are feeding the birds, you will come upon groups of birds (sparrows, towhees, usually) that are part of the feeder flock. If you see such a group of birds. Stop, get out, and check out the flock, looking for anything different, such as a White-throated Sparrow or something even more unusual.

I don't have a good recommendation on how/when to include the NBHMA into the plan. It is pretty much at the east end of the circle. You could start there and then work west. Or, if you started at the west end, you could work east, stopping only every mile or so, then visit the NBHMA, then do the same on the way back west, stopping in between the areas you stopped before. However, ... this is nearly the shortest day of the year. Time is of the essence. Doing the latter approach would mean double the time driving. So, it would probably be best to start at one end and work to the other.

Lastly, while one could hike for days in the NBHMA, it is only one area and should be covered somewhat proportionally, i.e., not a whole lot of time really. But it is a cool area, so maybe you could just look around--take a short walk--from each of the entrances.

## **AREA 5S**

S Bank Rd and Pond. The road goes through both open grassland and some woodlands and shrubs, so has a variety of birds in the different habitats. Part way out the road on the east side is a large pond, which sometimes has a Redhead or two, and when it does these are usually the only ones on the count, so look closely!

Sunshine Rd area is often a good place to find Golden Eagle, so keep an eye out, and remember to distinguish from an immature Bald Eagle.

This area could potentially also have Lewis' s Woodpecker flying among the oaks, and Says Phoebe, which are usually perched on a fence line or post.

Rio Nes Lane is private and currently not accessible.

Stillwater Road is very short and very birdy and there are feeders at the end.

Wild Iris Lane. Unknown.

Wild Iris Lane is mixed forest, predominately hardwoods. The first couple hundred yards has good brush patches and teasel for goldfinches and siskins.

Part way down the last downhill stretch of Sunshine Road there is a turnout on the west side which is a good spot to scope some manmade ponds. Just before Stillwater Road there are some more small ponds.

South Bank Road: At the top of the hill just past the pond is a driveway. The people there (didn't get names) said a Pileated Woodpecker hangs out around there (we missed it).

The river in the park is good for mergansers (both) and goldeneye.

The park road from the circle boundary (an old shed on north side) to junction with South Bank Road sometimes is very birdy. It's primarily open oak woods with lots of yards on the river side. Haven't spotted any feeders.

## **AREA 6E**

East Sutherlin Residential. (NW part of this sector). In general, E 6<sup>th</sup> avenue, which skirts the foot of the hill, is a good place, as are the 2 or 3 blocks below (S) of that. Mardonna Way, at the W end of the sector, usually has a good variety of birds, but much of the area can be checked by driving slowly through, then stopping at areas of bird activity or a change in habitat (larger more diverse trees, more shrubs, etc.).

[Sutherlin Creek Path. Access off Sunny Lane from Nonpariel]??? *We checked this out at the end of the day on the 2015 CBC and saw some sparrows along Sutherlin Creek. The habitat varies from riparian trees to urban yards along the creek and homes, and it might be worth it to drop off one team member at Sunny Lane and pick them up west of there at the end of the path. It crosses Sutherlin Creek at Sea Street just east of the created wetland on Waite Street (MJ 1/10/2016).*

Valley View Rd. [?] Be aware of the edge of the circle! Unfortunately, the cemetery there is just outside the edge of the circle.

Plat I Rd and Reservoir. There are several good vantage points. One is the parking lot near the boat ramp at the E end of the dam. Scan the reservoir, and one can walk E on the road, looking for birds in the pines and along the brushy shoreline along the way. **The caretaker has feeders at the mobile home at the parking area, and is a good source of information about birds visiting the reservoir. In December 2015, Mountain Chickadee was poaching one sunflower seed at a time, darting in from a perch among the Black-capped Chickadees(MJ 1/10/2016).** At the end of the road is a small loop surrounded by lots of good blackberry/willow habitat. Spish this up good, looking for sparrows, wrentit, and possible Orange-crowned Warbler. Another good location is along Plat I Rd at the W end of the dam. There is a small side gravel road area just south of here too. Park, scope the reservoir, and spish along the brush on the W side of the road; and scan the field and fence rows to the SW. The third good location is at the end of a driveway on the W side of the S end of the reservoir, S side of Plat I Rd. Park out of the way and walk along the road between the two sections of reservoir, scanning the water/flats and spishing for landbirds. If water level is low enough

Lee Pond. [Currently no access]

Denley Reservoir. [Currently no access]

Fraser Canyon Rd. [Currently no access]

Cooper Creek Rd and Reservoir. The dam area is a good vantage point for some waterfowl, as well as sparrows and sometimes bluebirds out on the dam. This is also the north access to the trail that goes around the west and south sides of the reservoir. There are several good pullouts, as well as a couple picnic and/or boat ramp areas on the way to the south end. These are good for looking/listening for forest birds, including Hutton's Vireo. The boat ramp area is a good vantage point to scan for mid-reservoir waterfowl. Several decades ago, a few goldeneye could sometimes be found in the two largest southern arms/coves of the reservoir, but it is hard to get a good view of these. Perhaps the goldeneye ended up there when the rivers were quite swollen (?).

The south end of the reservoir usually hosts the most abundant and diverse waterfowl. It also has a marshy area and sometimes some edge where Wilson's Snipe can be found. This is also the southern access to the trail that goes around the west side of the reservoir. The initial walk south along the road gives good access to some shrubby habitat (Wrentit)

and some marsh (Marsh Wrens, rails), and woods as well as grassy areas. *On the 2015 CBC, we found Brown Creeper, and both Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets by the creek at the inlet to the reservoir (MJ 1/10/2016).*

S of W end of Southside Rd there is some new development which may provide some access.

East segment of Southside Rd goes through a low flat field/pasture. This area often has Savannah Sparrows, and sometimes open-country raptors. There are not many good places to park, but try to get out and look/listen for sparrows along the road and scan the posts and treetops in the area.

Red Rd and Hosanna Rd. Uncertain. *We usually stop at the 90 degree turn on Red Road, and have had hawks on powerlines, Killdeer and Wilson's Snipe in fields (and lots of American Robins), plus occasional Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, and waterfowl when there is standing water in the fields south of here. The landowner met us in 2015 and gave us permission to continue west through the gate for CBC birding (MJ 1/10/2016).*

## **AREA 6W**

Deady Crossing Rd. (See attached Area6Wdeady.pdf). There are often sparrows, bluebirds, and such along the road as you go through the bottomland pasture; take a good look and look through the sparrows. At the "end" of Deady, take a left up to the quarry, which often has some ducks and a variety of songbirds.

Area6W south (see attached with similar name). There are a couple areas that look really intriguing, that I have circled in orange and put a question mark. If you have any time to find out how to access either of these, especially the big north pond (just south of the N. Douglas Log Ponds), that would be really great. Otherwise, it is something we will want to work on over time. Anyway, that whole south part of the south half has a lot of open fields, fencerows, brushy areas, old orchards, wet areas, etc. Those old orchards just north on Hwy99 from where the I-5 onramp/exit is have always looked interesting. Good place for sparrows or a shrike. Both Hwy 99 and Taylor road have spots you can pull over and look around in brushy areas or scan the fields.

The North Douglas Log Ponds, along Hastings Avenue. You can park just on the west side of the railroad tracks. From there you can walk to the NE corner of the pond where there is some great wet brushy wetland habitat, and of course blackberries everywhere. This is a great place for waterfowl, shorebirds, and lots of sparrows, maybe a winter Orange-crowned Warbler, and who knows what else. You may also know that some years there is a flock of Cackling Geese that spend time in Lauren Young Fields (between the ponds and Hwy 99) and in the general vicinity. Keep your eyes/ears open for them. Also just look up and down the creek that is next to the railroad tracks. Find other places nearby with some brush and sparrows and/or blackbirds and look through them.

Taylor Rd. to the west, is also a good place to cruise along, stop here and there for sparrows, meadowlarks, and look for raptors.

Red Rock Trail. There is a paved trail that goes along the south side of the slough/canal/creek in town. It goes from State St. on the west to Waite St. at the east end of your area. It might be a good place to walk, check out the slough, wetlands, sparrows, blackbirds, Black Phoebe, Red-shouldered Hawk.

Residential Areas. Many of these have a very good variety of birds. You will just need to check these out yourself. I will just tell you a couple things to keep in mind. 1) try to bird different types of residential habitats (some are clean, some are dumpy, some have lots of trees, some very little). Stay with the areas that have lots of birds, but at least cruise through some others too. Make sure to spend some time in the 200 block of E 2nd street, just west of the High School. This is where the Yellow-headed Blackbird was hanging out in November 2014. Scrutinize those blackbird flocks, as other things can show up as well, such as a Rusty Blackbird, or Tricolored. [From Ken & Sharon Phifer----Driving up Comstock proved good for us - met a lady just north of Harm's Way who has feeders on her property - somewhat visible from the road. She knew her species and enjoyed talking with us about birds. Near there in the forested area were some Golden-crowned Kinglets.]

Hartley Park. I'm not sure exactly how to access this park, but it looks like ... from Central Avenue just west of I-5, take Comstock north, right on 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, then left on Maple, then see if it looks like there is an area to park (it may not be developed at all, I don't know). In any case, if I remember right, this area has a lot of big ponderosa pines, and years ago there would be a large flock of Townsend's Warblers in there, and they would occasionally have a Hermit Warbler with them.

[Some notes from Ken and Sharon Phifer regarding the private inaccessible pond--- Access to the one on private land - Sutherlin Log Pond. We stopped at the organic bean processing plant and talked to Perry Sterner. He was eager to help us get out there on Saturday, but referred us to his parents - Mark and Evelyn Sterner. Evelyn referred us to Mark who did meet us Saturday morning and opened the gate for us to access the Sutherlin Log Pond. The pond is not actually their property though there has never been any problem with them walking back there. Mark was a bit reluctant, but gracious. He left us there to close and lock the two gates when we left which we did. The pond was full of waterfowl - a number of species not found at the North Douglas Log Pond. They used to have lots of pheasants in that area, but we did not find any. Did find a nice flock of California Quail. The pond cavity is 15 feet deep but only had about a foot of water in it. I suspect that it is dry most of the summer.]

Page Road and Taylor Road area - raptors and blackbirds.

Recommend checking a couple of weeks early with the SKP Park on Cooper Creek. Apparently they own the property where the road goes through that is visible on a map. There is a birder there who keeps a cumulative list. Permission is needed by the Board for



access to the area. Looks like a good area to walk through. 800 South State Street, Sutherlin, OR 97479; (ask compiler for phone number).

Pond off of Hwy 99 - only access we found was walking the RR tracks - access behind the gravel storage area. Checked it once on a trial run only a few Ring-neck ducks; did not revisit for the CBC.

Recommend walking RR tracks along North Douglas Log Pond. We didn't get to that.

Park on W. 6th Street - (and surrounding area - including walking along the creek east of the Park) could be productive but was not for us.

Feeders we spotted:

W. 6th Street and Kruse St.

Miller St off W. Central - part way down the block

265 W. 2nd Ave - lots of feeders and nesting boxes, many birds

## **AREA 7**

Evan's Pond. Several years ago Evan's Pond (an old log pond) was completely drained and filled in, so perhaps another name should be chosen for the area. Not only has Evan's Pond been destroyed since David Fix wrote his description in 1988 of birding the pond, but there has also been a concomitant loss of feeding grounds for many ducks, herons, and shorebirds in the surrounding wet areas, and Western Meadowlarks and Wilson's Snipe in the grassy areas. The pond was drained to make way for industrial development and the railroad switchyard. In 2011 the new interchange was built to connect UCC directly with I-5, and to attract industry to the immediate area.

Below is a list of the likely places to visit starting from the intersection of Del Rio Road and Garden Valley Road at the fire station. Note that Del Rio Road, Wilbur Road, Oakhill Road, Westview Drive, Brozio Road and Rogers Road are well-traveled and there are not many places to pull off. Use caution. Check the ridge line trees frequently for raptors. It is good to bird Roseburg Rod & Gun Club and Loosely Ponds early in the day to avoid encountering too many people who might scare the birds; also, the Gun Club may be holding a noisy event on Saturday. The usual number of species seen in this area is 50 to 55.

Del Rio Road area:

Lake Katchafishee (yes, really) is a man-made pond on Roband Lane that can have large numbers of ducks, geese, and occasionally shorebirds. Immediately to the east of the lake is a small low area that was illegally drained in 2007; with luck, it will fill in again and provide habitat for Green-winged Teal and other ducks. Look in the trees and shrubs in the pasture north of Del Rio for White-tailed Kites and other raptors.

Rio Vista Lane usually has lots of lawn birds (American Robins, Brewer's Blackbirds, European Starlings) and did have Lark Sparrows several years ago. At the bottom where there is now a group of large houses shoulder to shoulder along the river there can be Killdeer and sometimes a Great Blue Heron.

Country Hill Lane used to have quite a few feeders but hasn't in recent years. Based on our experience, residents here may be suspicious of people in a car peering in the direction of their houses with binoculars.

Hestness Landing should have Black-capped Chickadees, Spotted Towhees, Song Sparrows, small bands of both kinglets, Dark-eyed Juncos, jays and perhaps warblers. Watch the river for birds flying and floating up and down, and check the trees for hawks and Bald Eagles.

Bonifacio Lane may have Killdeer and Canada Geese.

If there has been a lot of rain there will be standing water in the yards on the south side of Del Rio in the vicinity of the Wilbur Road turnoff, and there may be ducks or shorebirds there.

Clearview Drive is in an open area that might have Western Bluebirds and raptors.

Julina Lane sometimes has birds in the shrubs, and Akin Lane should have water standing in the meadows near the road with ducks and perhaps a shorebird, Great Blue Heron or Black Phoebe. Just east of Julina Lane is an overgrown path through blackberries that provides you with a look at the west end of Loosely Ponds.

Continue along Old Del Rio Road. (Matt once saw a Swamp Sparrow along the road in this area.) At the foot of the road up to the animal shelter there may be sparrows and Spotted Towhees in the blackberries; Lincoln's Sparrows have been seen there. The entrance to Loosely Ponds is directly across Del Rio from the animal shelter road; the use of this area is changing so it is difficult to predict what the area will look like or what birds will be there. You can see most of the largest pond from the east end of the pond. Also walk down the road on the east side of the pond to the river; you used to be able to walk all the way around both ponds, but it is now overgrown. There should be various sparrows, jays, Spotted Towhees and perhaps Bushtits and Wrentits. The second, smaller, pond is to the east of the main pond and can be scoped from the old road that winds around the ponds and also from the path between the ponds near the river; Hooded Mergansers, Ring-neck Ducks, Buffleheads and Wood Ducks like this pond, and Wilson's Snipe are seen sometimes. There is also a road down to the river on the east side of this pond. Then go further east along the cleared area between the shrubs and trees where there are usually sparrows and woodpeckers. Note on Loosely Ponds: Knife River owns the area, and it is in flux with different industries coming and going; since there is fishing and hunting at the ponds, the area hasn't been closed off. We have contacted Carl Hancock, a leasee, at Winchester Bark (ask compiler for number) to ask for permission to bird the area. He told us that he has had a lot of trouble with people

illegally dumping trash, stealing his equipment and even killing his favorite blacktail buck, so he is thinking about closing off the opening in the fence where you can walk in. He seems to like the idea of UVAS doing the Christmas Count at Loosely Ponds, but we think it is good to ask him for permission each year.

Roseburg Rod & Gun Club (ask compiler for number and contact) is happy to open the gate and let you drive in and walk around. There is a large pond and the picnic area gives access to the river. Because of the gunfire there on Saturdays, it is best to do this area starting at 8am.

Return to the new Del Rio Road overpass and turn east. There are a couple of places to pull off on the north side (they may become entrances to the industrial area) where there may still be a Western Meadowlark in the grass or Wilson's Snipe if there are pools of water. Scan the trees on the hills for raptors. Do not go into the Douglas Forest Products area because it is private property with a security guard who will stop you.

Another road to check if you have time is Cherokee Avenue off Garden Valley just north of the river. Some houses have feeders although it hasn't been a good area recently.

Brozio-Wilbur Road-Oakhill Road area:

Brozio Road has had Acorn Woodpeckers and California Quail. The first house on the right usually has feeders up that are popular with House Finches, Dark-eyed Juncos and goldfinches. Go all the way to the top if the road is in good condition.

Immediately after turning onto Wilbur Road, turn left and go up Westview Drive where there may be woodpeckers and Wild Turkeys.

Wilbur Road has yielded Western Bluebirds and Northern Flickers in the past. At the end of Wilbur Road turn south on Hwy 99 and go one mile until you cross the railroad tracks; turn west immediately and go under I-5. Park there and scope the ridges and shrubs to the north for raptors. Most of the blackberries have been removed along the dirt road paralleling I-5 to the south, but with luck they will grow back and provide cover for several species of sparrows that have been there in the past. Check the open area to the southwest in case there is enough water for a shorebird. This is a place where there used to be a lot of Western Meadowlarks and Wilson's Snipe. Go a bit farther south on Hwy 99 and drive east on Weyerhauser Road to check the field there.

Go back north on Hwy 99 to Wilbur and check the marshy area behind the Wilbur store and the cemeteries to the north. If you continue on past the cemeteries, the road turns into gravel and parallels Oerding Popcorn Swale on the north, about 15 acres owned by The Nature Conservancy. There is a lot of potential in this area, but it hasn't been counted in the past.

Return to Wilbur and turn west onto Oakhill Road and check Sutherlin Creek. After you go under I-5, there is a small pond on the right that sometimes has Mallards, Hooded

Mergansers and Ring-neck Ducks. Some residents on Oakhill Road put feeders out, but, again, it is an area where the homeowners might not be happy with a car stopping and people staring at their house. Drive north to the intersection with Gross Lane which is at the northern edge of Area 7. Along the way look for Wild Turkeys and raptors. Near the end of the road on the northeast side below road level is a small pond that sometimes has Ring-neck Ducks and Hooded Mergansers.

Return along Oakhill Road, turn east onto Rogers Road; check the surrounding fields and a small pond on the south side about a mile along the road. The field north of the sewage processing plant was a favorite area for large flocks of Canada Geese (Common) and Cacklers (and once a Brant), but a large building and truck parking yard has been built there by State Representative Heard and it may not be attractive to geese any longer. There may be Bald Eagles in the trees around the sewage ponds. In late November once there was a flock of American Pipits in the fields. It might be worth asking for permission to walk around the Heard sewage ponds (578 Rogers Road, ask compiler for phone number), although we did not see much the two times we did it. Rogers Road ends at Hwy 99, so turn south and bird the west side of Hwy 99 to Wilbur.

## **AREA 8N**

We cannot walk the golf course. One time I got permission from the pro who was in the shop to take a golf cart out there, but that was because his boss was not around! ha ha .... Anyway, you can ask, but the pro shop does not normally let anyone on the golf course as the golfers complain about people wandering around out there. So, I have just scoped from the cul-de-sac (Arnie Ct.) off Culver Lp, and get pretty good views. Somewhere up there, ... I can't tell from Google Earth, there is sometimes a large "heard" of wigeon, like you get at Safari sometimes, grazing on the grass.

There are several people that have feeders, but one of the best in 2013 was on Culver Lp, just east of the jct with Divot Loop. These folks are adjacent to a small draw with shrubs, etc. A White-throated Sparrow was there last winter.

Also, if you look on google earth or google maps (maps.google.com), you will see a couple dirt roads/paths going north from the high part of Scardi Blvd. They both go quite a ways, so you can walk as short or far as you want. People walk their dogs or take walks out there.

Stearns City Park is out Goodman Avenue, on the north side of Stearns Lane, just over a quarter mile west of the tracks at Oakland. There should be a sign marking the park. In the winter months they often have part of it gated or blocked off because they discharge sewage into the creek in the area then.

## **AREA 8S**

This is by far the most diverse and species-rich location in ... maybe the count circle. Basically, if the weather is suitable for walking around the entire pond, I would

recommend it. A scope is necessary for the waterbirds. I usually start on Church Rd., as it starts at an elevated position from which you can do an initial scoping of the pond to see if there is anything you want to be sure to get another closer look at on your walk around. Swamp Sparrows theoretically could be nearly anywhere around the pond, but I have had most of mine somewhere along the dike. Virginia Rails are certainly in the marsh at the south end; play a tape for Sora as well. There are several locations along the south dike where there are deer trails that dive north off the dike through the blackberries. These are good places to stand and look down into the marshy kack. If the water is not too high, go ahead and walk down in there. Otherwise, just look from there.

The south pond also has lots of ducks, Black Phoebe, Pileated Woodpecker in the woods. Just about anything can be in the shrubs, grass, kack, etc., around Ford's Pond. Work it well. Watch for Peregrines, White-tailed Kites, and other raptors.

If you don't feel like walking the entire pond, then from Church Rd walk at least half of the south dike, some of the east dike, and from Hwy138 (Sutherlin-Elkton Hwy) walk up on at least one of the main dam accesses to scope the deeper water.

Back at Church Rd., several years running there has been a Say's Phoebe mostly on the east side of Church Rd, near the Jehovah's Witness building, and/or a little north or south.

You can also walk north on Church to the little pond on the east side of the road, affectionately called "Chevy's Pond." Check trees for BCN Heron. Call for rails (they are there), spish for Marsh Wrens and yellowthroats (as in the south end of Ford's Pond).

There are two very different residential areas you can hit. One is the relatively new and "clean" area just east of Ford's Pond. It is less than a half-mile N-S and about a quarter-mile E-W. See [FordsPondResidential.pdf](#). I would recommend cruising through and looking for groups of birds.

The more "dumpy" residential area is just west of I-5, south of Hwy138. To access the area, you follow signs pointing you south from Hwy138 just on the west side of I-5. You travel south a couple hundred yards, then you either need to get onto I-5, or continue on south to access the residential areas. This area is a lot more weedy, etc. You know the routine. You can go all the way to Trails End Lane, even up that a bit if you want. See [SWSutherlin.pdf](#).

You can also check out Shudeiske Rd., which is just south of the newer neighborhood and west of the more dumpy area, accessed off of Fort McKay Rd.

Okay, that's it for the walking and urban birding; the rest will require mostly driving and stopping.

Here is some info on the different roads and a few spots to check out....

Hwy138. Pretty much don't need to do much here, but I like to stop just NW of Ford's Pond where it crosses Calapooya Creek and take a quick look and listen. If it is flooded, probably not worth it.

Wilcox Rd. (says Stephens Hwy on some maps) has some nice hillsides, shrub patches, pastures.

Cole Road loops NW and back S to Ft. McKay Rd. It is predominantly forested--get your Hutton's Vireo here--with a few smaller pastures. Maybe worth getting some conifer forest species, especially near the top.

Ft. McKay Rd to Umpqua (says Sutherlin-Umpqua on paper some maps). This is a good wide-open area. Look for raptors and open area sparrows. Stop here and there to scan, and whenever you flush up something from the ditches. There is a small loop road, Crouch Rd., which is just west of where Ft. McKay crosses Calapooya Creek (farther west than Cole Rd., which comes in right at the creek crossing). Crouch Rd. is often good to check. Sometimes at the west end of the road there is a good flock of Savannah Sparrows, not one that many people get on this count. West from Crouch Rd., the fields to the south of Ft. McKay are floodplain level, and sometimes are wet, sometimes with flocks of geese, sometimes Cacklers, which we also don't get much in the Umpqua Valleys. Sometimes near cattle areas there will be flocks of blackbirds that should be looked through. Hillsides above (N of) Ft McKay sometimes have raptors, meadowlarks, etc. Again, check sparrow flocks.

Once you get to Umpqua, the Lighthouse Cafe & Bakery is a good place to warm up with a bowl of soup and/or a sticky bun or veggie burger. Often Meadowlarks nearby.

If you continue west past the Lighthouse, past Garden Valley Rd on the left (S), about 0.35 mi past Garden Valley Rd. you will approach a bridge over the main Umpqua River. Before the bridge, pull into the parking area to the left, down off the road. From there you can walk up to the bridge and scan up and down the river for waterbirds, peregrines, bald eagles, etc. You can also spish around the brush in the boat ramp and parking area if it suits you.

Oakhill Rd. Starting about a mile east from Garden Valley Rd, Oakhill Rd is woodland, and you can scare up some woodland birds there. Then it breaks into the open again. In this open area, look for sparrow flocks and scan for raptors. If there are fields with short enough grass, scan and listen for pipits and other short-grass dwellers. Stop and spish brush patches and scan fields that look good. As the road climbs a little bit, there will be some hillside habitat that looks decent for shrikes. When you get to Gross Lane, turn left. In about a quarter mile there is a good place to pull off and look around. Oh, and if you want to check out the pond (see Google Earth) just NE of the jct with Gross Lane, you might need to just drive a little farther E on Oakhill to get a look down into the pond. Anyway, back to Gross Lane. Stop a couple places along there and scan and look at sparrow flocks.

My suggestions on time would be, ROUGHLY:

Ford's and Chevy Pond--3 hrs

Nicer Residential, dumpy residential--1 hr

Ft McKay Rd., Crouch Rd., Oakhill Rd., Gross Lane--3 hrs

Cole Rd., Wilcox Rd.--1 hr (or less)

Target birds: Swamp Sparrow, Say's Phoebe, Virginia Rail, Sora, waterbirds aplenty, shorebirds if any, Savannah Sparrow, oh, and did I mention Swamp Sparrow?