

Whidbey Audubon Society's Guide to 15 Special Spots

1. Deception Pass State Park. Off Hwy 20. Old growth forest, wetland, rocky/sandy shore, lakes, tide pools. Loons, grebes, murrelets, other waterfowl, eagles, kingfishers, warblers, swallows.

2. Dugualla Bay & Lake. From Hwy 20, E on Frostad Rd, N on Dike Rd. Sheltered bay, mud flats, brackish lake. Swans, dabbling ducks including canvasbacks, other waterfowl, wading birds.

3. Swan Lake, Joseph Whidbey State Park. From Hwy 20, W on Swantown Rd to West Beach Rd. Rocky/sandy beach, freshwater lake, cattail marsh. Eagles, harriers, wading birds, loons, grebes, sea ducks including harlequin ducks, dabbling ducks, oystercatchers, yellowthroats, marsh wrens.

4. Fort Ebey State Park. From Hwy 20, W on Libbey Rd, S on Hill Valley Road. Second growth forest, thickets, lake, high bluff, beach. Seabirds and waterfowl, kingfisher, crossbill, woodpeckers, other forest birds including nuthatch, creeper, kinglets.

5. Kennedy Lagoon. From Hwy 20, E on Madrona Way. Sheltered lagoon. Kingfishers, waterfowl including hooded mergansers, goldeneyes, bufflehead, scaup, scoters.

6. Penn Cove, Coupeville Wharf. From Hwy 20, N on Main St, W on Front St. Large saltwater cove. Kingfishers, herons, loons, goldeneyes, bufflehead, scaup, pigeon guillemots. Look for river otters, harbor seals, jellyfish, sea stars.

7. Ebey's Landing. From Hwy 20, SW on Ebey Rd. High and low bluff, beach, farm fields, hiking trail. Loons grebes, waterfowl, meadowlarks, blackbirds, raptors.

8. Fort Casey. From Hwy 20, S on Main St, becoming Engle Rd. Rocky beach, forest. Loons, grebes, auklets, guillemots, mergansers, gulls, great horned owls, passerines including chickadees, nuthatches, creepers, winter wrens, warblers.

9. Crockett Lake. Adjacent to Fort Casey (see #8). Brackish lake, large sandy spit, open bay. Lakeside: abundant wading birds, waterfowl, eagles, harriers, peregrine falcons, other raptors. On spit: swallows, savannah sparrows. Open bay: auklets, cormorants, guillemots.

10. Port Townsend Ferry. Adjacent to Fort Casey (see above). Take a break and walk aboard the ferry for 30 minutes each way on the water. Cormorants, loons, grebes, gulls, guillemots, murrelets. Watch for sea lions and harbor seals.

11. Au Sable Institute. From Hwy 20 S of Coupeville, N on Parker Rd. Open prairie and fringing woods. White crowned and savannah sparrows, swallows, harriers, kestrels, eagles, woodpeckers, occasional western bluebirds.

12. Greenbank Farm. From Hwy 525, E on Wonn Rd. Open grassland, cattail marsh, farm pond, viewing platform. Harriers, eagles, red tailed hawks, yellowthroats, marsh wrens, red winged blackbirds, swallows, herons, waterfowl.

13. South Whidbey State Park. From Hwy 525, W on Smugglers Cove Rd. Old growth forest, beach. Osprey, varied thrush, woodpeckers, swallows, passerines including nuthatches, creepers, winter wrens.

14. Lone Lake. From Hwy 525, N on Bayview Rd, then W on Andreason Rd, then S on Lone Lake Rd. Lake, woodlot, thickets. Stellers jay, bushtit, quail, waterfowl including mergansers, shovelers, scaup, bufflehead.

15. Langley City Beach and Marina. Beach access off First St, and Marina at E end of Wharf St. Saltwater, thickets. Loons, grebes, cormorants, eagles, waterfowl including mergansers, scoters. Look for harbor seals, gray whales in spring. Sea stars, jellyfish visible from marina pier.

