



Idaho

WILDLIFE VIEWING GUIDE



Watchable Wildlife Series
Edited by Aimee L. Pope

IDAHO WILDLIFE VIEWING GUIDE



IDAHO'S WATCHABLE WILDLIFE by Ward P. Hooper

Idaho artist Ward Hooper painted a masterpiece in honor of Idaho's Watchable Wildlife. The acrylic painting, almost three feet by four feet, depicts various Idaho plant, fish, and wildlife species. The artist attempted to place creatures and plants near the travel regions they might likely exist. If you look closely, the outline of Idaho can be seen. For a poster of this artwork, please see page 5.

IDAHO'S WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

copyright Ward P. Hooper



- ① Great horned owl
- ② Mountain lion
- ③ Syringa (state flower)
- ④ Mountain bluebird (state bird)
- ⑤ California quail
- ⑥ Ring-necked pheasant
- ⑦ Mountain goat
- ⑧ Moose
- ⑨ Swainson's hawk
- ⑩ Rainbow trout
- ⑪ Pika
- ⑫ Dark-eyed junco
- ⑬ Mallards
- ⑭ Golden eagle
- ⑮ Rocky Mountain elk
- ⑯ Lewis's woodpecker
- ⑰ Mule deer
- ⑱ Collared lizard
- ⑲ Pacific tree frog
- ⑳ Sage grouse
- ㉑ Pronghorn

ABOUT THE ART...

A poster of this art is available from the Idaho Watchable Wildlife Committee. Proceeds from the sales will benefit future reprints of the Idaho Wildlife Viewing Guide and Idaho's Watchable Wildlife Program. Contact the Idaho Department of Fish and Game at 208/334-2920 for more information.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

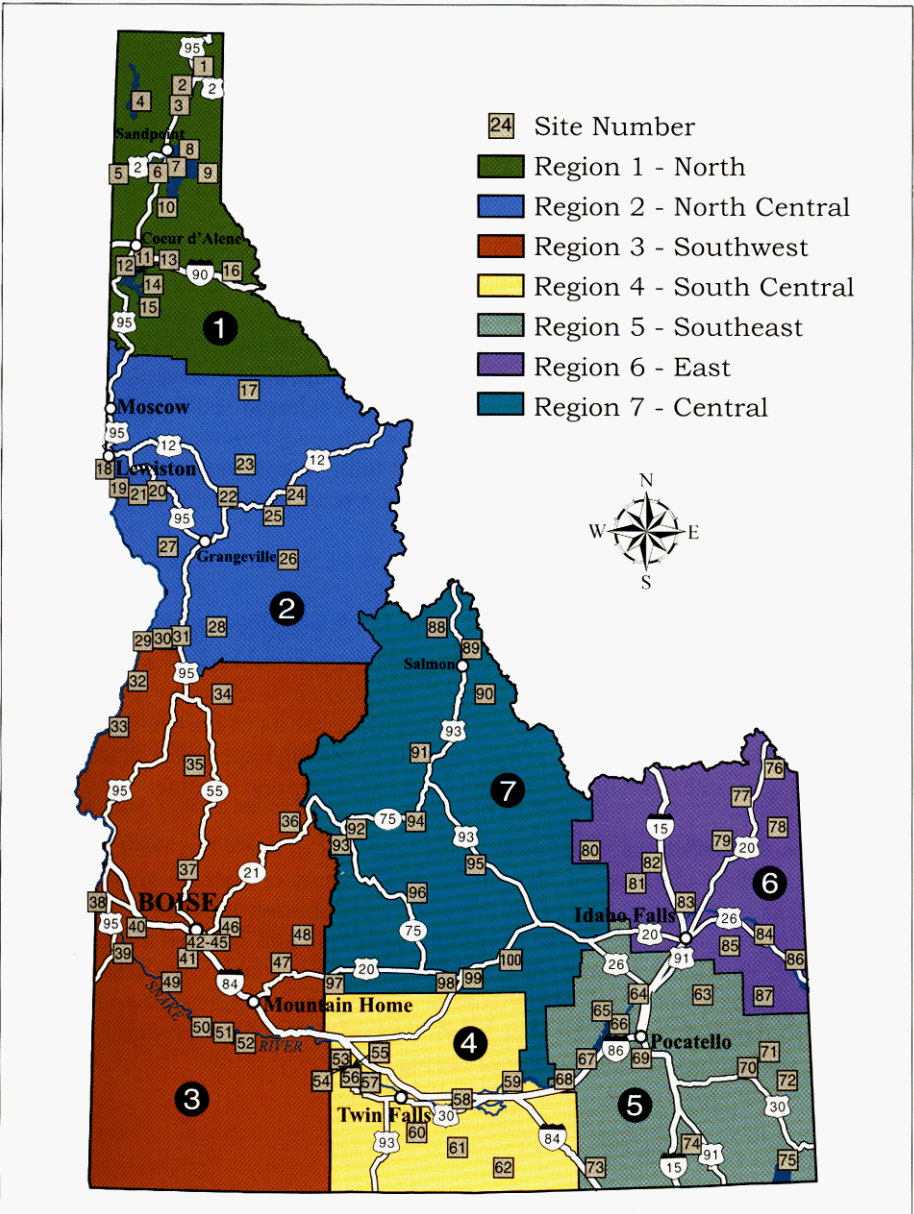
About Watchable Wildlife, Inc.	1
Idaho Watchable Wildlife Guide Sponsors	2
Idaho Watchable Wildlife Committee Members	3
Idaho Watchable Wildlife Art by Ward P. Hooper	4
Idaho State Map	9
INTRODUCTION	10
National Watchable Wildlife Program	10
Responsible Viewing and Outdoor Ethics	10
Viewing Hints	11
Idaho's Ecosystems	13
How to Use This Book	20
Symbols	21
REGION 1 NORTH	22
Site 1. Purcell Mountains Area	24
2. Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge	25
3. McArthur Wildlife Management Area	26
4. Priest Lake Area	27
5. Albeni Falls Dam and Vicinity	28
6. Round Lake State Park	29
7. Gamlin Lake Preserve	30
8. Lake Pend Oreille — Pack River Delta	31
9. Lake Pend Oreille — Clark Fork Delta/Fish Hatchery	32
10. Farragut State Park	33
11. Coeur d'Alene Lake — Tubbs Hill Nature Park	34
12. Coeur d'Alene Lake — Cougar Bay	35
13. Coeur d'Alene Lake — Wolf Lodge Bay	36
14. Coeur d'Alene River — Chain of Lakes/Old Mission St. Park	37
15. Heyburn State Park	38
16. Settler's Grove of Ancient Cedars	39
REGION 2 NORTH CENTRAL	40
Site 17. Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area	42
18. Hells Gate State Park	43
19. Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area	44
20. Winchester Lake State Park	45
21. Wolf Education and Research Center	46
22. Nez Perce Natl. Historical Park — Heart of the Monster Unit	47
23. Musselshell Meadows	48
24. Lochsa River Canyon	49
25. Selway River Canyon	50
26. Elk City Area/Red River Wildlife Management Area	51
27. Lower Salmon River Canyon	52
28. Middle Salmon River Canyon	53
29. Snake River in Hells Canyon National Recreation Area	54
30. Seven Devils Mountains in Hells Canyon National Recreation Area	55
31. Rapid River Fish Hatchery	56

REGION 3 SOUTHWEST	58
Site 32. Brownlee, Oxbow, and Hells Canyon Reservoirs	60
33. Cecil D. Andrus Wildlife Management Area	61
34. Ponderosa State Park	62
35. Lake Cascade	63
36. Bear Valley	64
37. Montour Wildlife Management and Recreation Area	65
38. Fort Boise Wildlife Management Area	66
39. Owyhee Mountains Loop	67
40. Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge	68
41. World Center for Birds of Prey	69
42. Boise River Greenbelt	70
43. Barber Park	71
44. Morrison Knudsen Nature Center	72
45. Kathryn Albertson Park	73
46. Boise River Wildlife Management Area	74
47. South Fork Boise River	75
48. Upper South Fork Boise River	76
49. Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area	77
50. Ted Trueblood Wildlife Area	78
51. C.J. Strike Wildlife Management Area	79
52. Bruneau Dunes State Park	80
REGION 4 SOUTH CENTRAL	82
Site 53. Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument	84
54. Hagerman Wildlife Management Area	85
55. Hagerman National Fish Hatchery	86
56. Thousand Springs Preserve	87
57. Niagara Springs Area	88
58. Milner Lake	89
59. Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge	90
60. Rock Creek Canyon/Shoshone Basin	91
61. Big Cottonwood Wildlife Management Area	92
62. City of Rocks National Reserve	93
REGION 5 SOUTHEAST	94
Site 63. Lower Blackfoot River	96
64. Snake River at Blackfoot	97
65. Springfield Reservoir	98
66. Springfield Bottoms — American Falls Reservoir	99
67. American Falls Dam and Vicinity	100
68. Massacre Rocks State Park	101
69. Cherry Springs Nature Area	102
70. Formation Springs Preserve	103
71. Blackfoot River Wildlife Management Area	104
72. Diamond Creek/Elk Valley Marsh	105
73. Juniper Rest Area	106

74. Oxford Slough/Twin Lakes/Swan Lake	107
75. Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge	108
REGION 6 EAST	110
Site 76. Big Springs	112
77. Harriman State Park	113
78. Warm River Fish Observation/Island Park Siding	114
79. Sand Creek Wildlife Management Area	115
80. Birch Creek Valley	116
81. Mud Lake Wildlife Management Area	117
82. Camas National Wildlife Refuge	118
83. Market Lake Wildlife Management Area	119
84. South Fork Snake River	120
85. Tex Creek Wildlife Management Area	121
86. Palisades Reservoir	122
87. Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge	123
REGION 7 CENTRAL	124
Site 88. Main Salmon River — Deadwater Slough	126
89. Upper Salmon River — Salmon to North Fork	127
90. Lemhi River — Salmon to Leadore	128
91. Morgan Creek	129
92. Sawtooth Fish Hatchery/Indian Riffles	130
93. Redfish Lake/Sawtooth Valley	131
94. East Fork Salmon River Canyon	132
95. Mackay Reservoir/Chilly Slough	133
96. Trail Creek/Corral Creek	134
97. Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh	135
98. Silver Creek Preserve	136
99. Carey Lake Wildlife Management Area	137
100. Craters of the Moon National Monument	138
Where to Find Popular Wildlife of Idaho	140
Acknowledgments	143

IDAHO STATE MAP

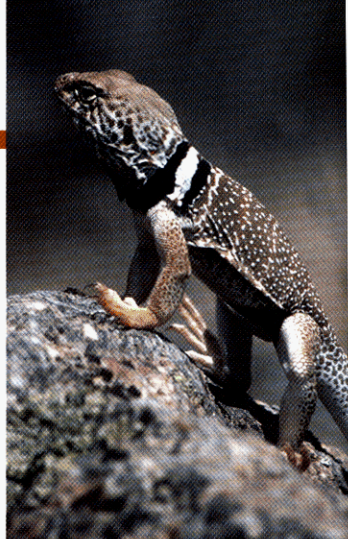
Idaho's wildlife viewing sites have been organized into seven regions, using the names adopted by the Idaho Department of Travel and Tourism. Each region is introduced by a regional map showing major roads and cities, as well as the location of each wildlife viewing site. Each region is also color-coded by easy-find strips along the page edges of this guide. The wildlife viewing sites are numbered consecutively from north to south for easier reference.



INTRODUCTION

Idaho is a state rich in numbers and diversity of wildlife with 357 bird, 109 mammal, 22 reptile, 15 amphibian, and 68 fish species. Wildlife occupy vast expanses of uncrowded, unspoiled natural areas, as much of the state is public land and Idaho's population is relatively low.

This guide will direct you to the best wildlife viewing opportunities in Idaho. It is designed for both the casual and experienced wildlife viewer, for planning specific viewing trips, or simply carrying in your car to help you find wildlife as you travel. Idaho has outstanding scenic wonders that provide great wildlife viewing opportunities.



Mojave black-collared lizard

© Colleen Sweeney

NATIONAL WATCHABLE WILDLIFE PROGRAM

The increased public interest in wildlife viewing led to a U.S. Watchable Wildlife Initiative of 1990. Fourteen governmental agencies and conservation organizations cooperate to promote conservation, recreation, and education through wildlife viewing programs. Nature tourists can pick up wildlife viewing guides for 41 states and three Canadian provinces. The mission of the Watchable Wildlife Program is to enhance, elevate, and promote wildlife viewing and nature appreciation for the benefit of society, while building community awareness, understanding, and support for the conservation of the wildlife and habitats upon which these activities depend.

RESPONSIBLE VIEWING AND OUTDOOR ETHICS

Most birders, wildlife photographers, sportsmen, and others who venture outdoors share a genuine appreciation of wildlife. Unintentionally, wildlife watchers can harm wildlife through direct disturbance, feeding the animals, littering, or disobeying laws. People may place themselves in danger by approaching wildlife too closely or may spoil the viewing experience of others. The following guidelines will help avoid harm to people and wildlife:

- **Minimize disturbances to wildlife.** Allow animals to carry out their normal behavior without interruption. Watch for subtle signs of distress such as head raised, ears pointed in direction of the observers, skittish movements, or alarm calls. Animals are very sensitive to human presence and will flee if approached too closely. This leads to animals using valuable energy at a time when they may already be stressed by winter cold or limited food supplies, abandoning eggs or young that need to be kept warm and protected from predators, or injuring themselves in the process of fleeing.

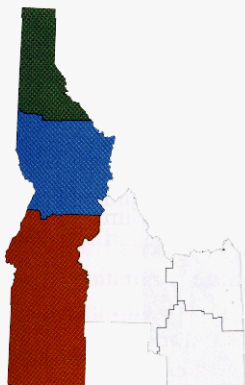
-
- Use quiet, slow movements to avoid startling wildlife. A car or boat makes a great blind in which to hide yourself, and you may actually see more by remaining in it.
 - Keep far enough away from nests and dens to avoid disturbing breeding wildlife.
 - Never chase, repeatedly flush, or attempt to capture animals. Harassing animals is punishable by state and federal laws.
 - Do not pick up sick or orphaned animals. You should phone the local IDFG conservation officer to evaluate a distressed animal properly.
 - **Obey posted rules.** Many of the sites in this book have rules posted that explain when and where people can go. Some of these rules are designed to avoid disturbing wildlife during important periods such as the breeding season.
 - Observe road closed signs. Closures give animals space to prevent being disturbed by vehicle traffic.
 - Always obtain permission from landowners before entering private property.
 - **Never feed wildlife.** Animals accustomed to being fed by or being close to humans have a good chance of being hit by a car, ingesting plastic and other litter, starving to death when that food source is no longer present, or becoming a nuisance and having to be removed from the area.
 - **Keep pets leashed.** Do not allow them to chase or harass wildlife.
 - **Avoid dangerous wildlife.** Always keep a good distance between yourself and rattlesnakes, bears with cubs, rutting elk and moose, and moose with calves. These animals may charge if threatened and can inflict serious injury. If entering grizzly bear country, talk to the local management agency and familiarize yourself with bear safety.
 - **Respect the rights of others.** Be considerate when approaching wildlife already under observation by other viewers or photographers.

VIEWING HINTS

- The most important equipment for wildlife viewing is a pair of binoculars. Higher powered spotting telescopes are useful in areas where the wildlife is expected to be a good distance away, but may be too heavy to carry on long hikes. Field guides can greatly enhance the experience, especially if you are learning wildlife identification.

- Each wildlife species in Idaho has different daily and seasonal activity periods. Typically, the best time of the day to view wildlife is when they are feeding, usually in the early morning and late afternoon. The best seasons for seeing large numbers of wildlife, especially birds, are during the spring and fall migrations. Wetlands, lakes, rivers, marshes, and mudflats are good places to look for wildlife. In winter, look for open water as animals, especially waterfowl and wading birds, congregate in these areas. Foothills at the base of mountain ranges can harbor hooved mammals such as elk, deer, and pronghorn that move downslope to avoid poor foraging conditions in the deep snow.
- Awareness of habitats is a valuable tool for wildlife watchers. Simply stated, an animal's habitat is where the creature lives. Habitat provides the four basics for survival: food, water, shelter, and space. Within a habitat type, special features may be required so that a particular species can even occupy the area. Important features might include snags (dead, standing trees), logs, rocky cliff areas, a stream or water source, a burrow in the ground, or a cave. Looking for these types of habitat features when you visit the viewing sites will help you to spot wildlife.
- Some types of animals live only in very few kinds of habitats and are called specialists. Generalists, on the other hand, thrive in a variety of habitats. Because there are so many wildlife species in Idaho, it would be impossible to list all of those that occur at each site. By becoming familiar with Idaho's habitats and the different species that live in them, you can predict what you will likely see at a particular site. By doing a little pre-trip planning, you can avoid the disappointment of not seeing much wildlife.

ALPINE FOREST ECOSYSTEM



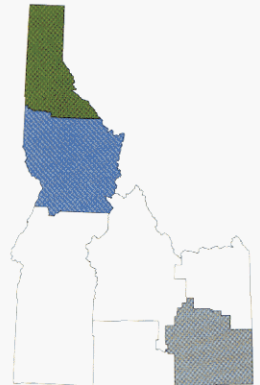
Alpine forests cover much of Idaho's high-elevation areas over 9,000 feet. "Above-treeline" forests can include rock or talus slopes but also are interspersed with wildflower-laden meadows. This land of high sun and wind has few trees and very low shrubs that provide excellent habitat for large mammals such as mountain goats. An occasional marmot, golden-mantled ground squirrel, or pika may scurry across the land, while the Clark's nutcracker, Townsend's solitaire and black rosy-finch flit about. The bright lapis-colored mountain bluebird may be seen in alpine forest areas, but they do not breed in such harsh, high country. Mountain lakes may also harbor spotted frogs and long-toed salamanders.



GRASSLAND ECOSYSTEM



Idaho's northern ecosystem is often referred to as the "Palouse Country." Prairie and canyon grassland areas are fertile grounds for plant species such as Idaho fescue, sego lily, Sandberg's bluegrass, yarrow, and the colorful lupine and camas. White-tailed deer, mule deer, bobcat, and black-tailed jackrabbit are the primary mammals in this ecosystem. Distinctive Idaho prairieland birds include the western meadowlark, sharp-tailed grouse, bobolink, northern harrier, and barn owl. Harvest mice dine on bountiful grasshoppers while fence lizards and painted turtles amble along.



1 PURCELL MOUNTAINS AREA

DESCRIPTION: This scenic route through the Purcell Mountains leads you to four mountain lakes, past a prairie marsh, along the Moyie River, and up to an alpine lake.

VIEWING INFORMATION: The lower lakes offer good opportunities to view moose, wood duck, common golden-eye, mergansers, and osprey. While driving by Round Prairie, a marshy meadow along U.S. 95, look for waterfowl and wading birds. Take the short loop trails from the Robinson Lake day use area to view a heron rookery and osprey nest. Meadow Creek Campground has hiking and mountain bike trails along the Moyie River; look for riparian songbirds and white-tailed deer. Queen Lake is a high mountain lake with moose, boreal chickadees, and boreal owls. Although owls are not likely to be seen, at night they may respond to imitated calls. Most of the lakes have camping and/or day use areas, fishing, and small boating opportunities. A side trip to Perkins Lake features a floating boardwalk with interpretive signs describing the unique plant species in the area. Wildlife species include common goldeneye, bald eagle, osprey, and moose.



Copper Falls in the Purcell Mountains
© George Wuertner

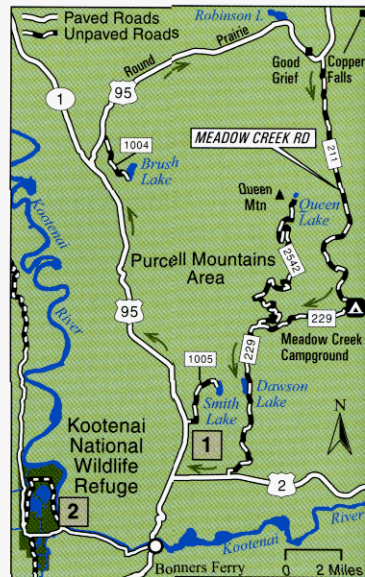


SITE NOTES: Roads are not maintained in winter; the best viewing is from late spring through fall. If time permits, visit the scenic Copper Falls, which features a loop trail that is universally accessible. The turnoff for the falls is 3 miles north of Good Grief.

CONTACT INFORMATION: USFS (208/267-5561), The Nature Conservancy (208/676-8176), and PVT

SIZE: 45+ mile loop

CLOSEST TOWN: Bonners Ferry



2 KOOTENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

DESCRIPTION: The wide variety of habitats in this scenic refuge support abundant and diverse wildlife. Meadows are interspersed with grain fields and wetlands in the valley bottom adjacent to the Kootenai River. Wetlands feature open-water ponds, cattail marshes, tree-lined ponds, and rushing creeks. A small portion of the refuge ascends the foothills of the densely forested Selkirk Mountains.

VIEWING INFORMATION: Approximately 220 bird and 45 mammal species are found on the refuge. Tundra swans, Canada geese, and ducks are most abundant during spring and fall migrations. Common summertime birds include the great blue heron, Canada goose, ruffed grouse, osprey, northern harrier, great horned owl, and numerous songbirds. Bald eagles, which nest on the refuge, and rough-legged hawks are present in higher numbers from November through March. Look for elk, deer, moose, beaver, coyote, and black bear during fall and spring, especially in the morning and evening hours. View the refuge via a 4.5-mile auto tour or from 5.5 miles of walking trails. A wildlife viewing blind is located about 0.25 mile past the refuge office. There are mountain biking trails to the west of the refuge; check with the USFS for best routes. Refuge use is restricted during fall waterfowl hunting season on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and weekends.



SITE NOTES: See map on page 24. The refuge office (open Monday through Friday) is two miles beyond the entrance. Brochures, maps, and a wildlife checklist are available at the office and at several sites on the refuge.

CONTACT INFORMATION: USFWS
(208/267-3888)

SIZE: 2,774 acres

CLOSEST TOWN: Bonners Ferry

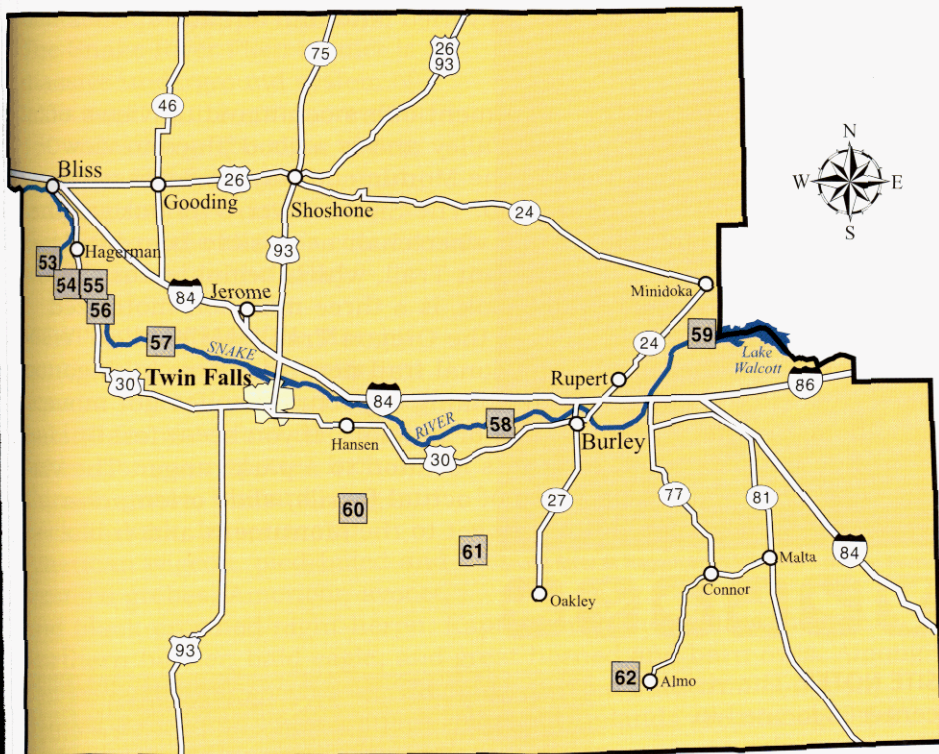


White-tailed ptarmigan

© Gary Kramer

REGION FOUR

SOUTH CENTRAL



WILDLIFE VIEWING SITES

- 53 Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument
- 54 Hagerman Wildlife Management Area
- 55 Hagerman National Fish Hatchery
- 56 Thousand Springs Preserve
- 57 Niagara Springs Area
- 58 Milner Lake
- 59 Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge
- 60 Rock Creek Canyon/Shoshone Basin
- 61 Big Cottonwood Wildlife Management Area
- 62 City of Rocks National Reserve

WHERE TO FIND POPULAR WILDLIFE OF IDAHO

The index below lists some featured species in Idaho. The site numbers listed include areas where viewing opportunities are good. If the site is listed here, the species can be found there even if it's not listed in the text. This site list does not constitute the only places these species can be viewed. The numbers following each listing are site numbers. Check the Table of Contents to find the page numbers.

WATER BIRDS

SITE NUMBER

Canada goose . . . . .	.3, 27, 42, 58, 64, 84, 89
Common loon . . . . .	.8, 20, 35, 54, 65, 81, 93
Hooded merganser . . . . .	.11, 35, 75, 99
Snow goose . . . . .	.23, 39, 81, 83, 97, 99
Trumpeter swan . . . . .	.65, 71, 74, 77, 79, 81, 82
Black tern . . . . .	.74, 81, 99
Franklin's gull . . . . .	.75, 87
American white pelican . . . . .	.35, 48, 57, 58, 67, 81, 99

WADING BIRDS

SITE NUMBER

American bittern . . . . .	.23, 80, 83, 98, 99
Sandhill crane . . . . .	.35, 39, 72, 75, 78, 87, 97
Snowy egret . . . . .	.74, 81
White-faced ibis . . . . .	.38, 39, 67, 74, 75, 81, 83

UPLAND BIRDS

SITE NUMBER

Grey partridge . . . . .	.19, 31, 33, 85
Long-billed curlew . . . . .	.39, 52, 77, 80, 97, 99
Sage grouse . . . . .	.63, 79, 80, 85, 98, 100

SONGBIRDS

SITE NUMBER

Gray jay . . . . .	.6, 11, 17, 24, 36, 60
Lark bunting . . . . .	.47, 87, 90
Lewis's woodpecker . . . . .	.35, 47, 88, 90
Mountain bluebird . . . . .	.24, 36, 48, 62, 71, 73, 90
Steller's jay . . . . .	.6, 11, 17, 20, 24, 60
Willow flycatcher . . . . .	.47, 80, 91
Yellow-rumped warbler . . . . .	.24, 65, 85, 91, 93, 98

SHOREBIRDS

SITE NUMBER

Killdeer . . . . .	.12, 50, 52, 66, 97
Willet . . . . .	.66, 75, 80, 87, 95, 97, 99
Wilson's phalarope . . . . .	.37, 52, 75, 97
Yellowlegs . . . . .	.66, 99

RAPTORS**SITE NUMBER**

Bald eagle . . . . .	.5, 26, 32, 54, 67, 86, 89
Burrowing owl . . . . .	.39, 41, 49, 50, 62
Golden eagle . . . . .	.6, 25, 46, 56, 63, 79, 94
Osprey . . . . .	.1, 14, 25, 37, 64, 76, 89
Peregrine falcon.	20, 40, 41, 66, 81, 84, 87

MAMMALS**SITE NUMBER**

Badger . . . . .	.15, 34, 68, 77, 85, 87, 97
Black bear . . . . .	.2, 7, 17, 30, 33, 86, 93
Gray wolf . . . . .	.21
Mink . . . . .	.6, 18, 22, 34, 39, 42, 79
Mountain lion . . . . .	.10, 15, 28, 88
Red fox . . . . .	.34, 42, 69, 77, 85, 93, 97
River otter . . . . .	.15, 22, 27, 32, 64, 78, 98
White-tailed jackrabbit . . . . .	.18, 68, 69, 79, 85

HOOFED MAMMALS**SITE NUMBER**

Bighorn sheep . . . . .	.19, 28, 29, 61, 88, 91, 94
Elk . . . . .	.12, 14, 25, 29, 36, 70, 96
Moose . . . . .	.23, 26, 28, 72, 76, 86, 96
Mountain goat . . . . .	.4, 10, 17, 28, 84, 88, 96
Pronghorn . . . . .	.39, 59, 76, 79, 82, 91, 95
White-tailed deer . . . . .	.1, 5, 9, 14, 30, 38, 51
Woodland caribou . . . . .	.4

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS**SITE NUMBER**

Sagebrush lizard . . . . .	.68, 69, 100
Short-horned lizard . . . . .	.52, 100
Western toad . . . . .	.12, 34

FISH**SITE NUMBER**

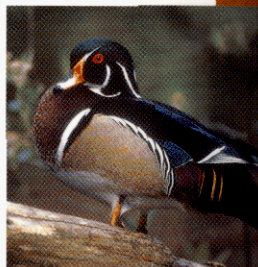
Chinook salmon . . . . .	.13, 24, 26, 31, 34, 35, 92
Cutthroat trout . . . . .	.9, 61, 71, 72, 78
Hatcheries . . . . .	.9, 31, 34, 51, 55, 92
Kokanee salmon . . . . .	.9, 13, 48, 93



WATCHABLE WILDLIFE SERIES

Idaho is beauty and wildlife!

Idaho has some of the most beautifully scenic country, much of which is public land. Breathtaking views of forests, mountains, springs, grasslands, hot springs, and rivers abound. And all this means great habitat for wildlife, and great wildlife viewing.



This Idaho Wildlife Viewing Guide is your ticket to the premier places to see Idaho's wildlife, which includes:

- 100 sites with descriptions of habitats
- lists of species to view in the area
- numerous color photos of wildlife and scenery
- color maps for each site
- site notes with specific directions and information
- complete contact information with phone numbers
- size of site and nearest town



ABOUT THE WATCHABLE WILDLIFE SERIES

This book was produced in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Watchable Wildlife, Inc. with the support of all the agencies listed at the front of the book.

\$11.95

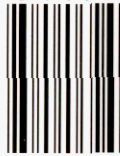
Adventure

Adventure Publications, Inc.
1-800-678-7006

ISBN 1-59193-029-4



5 1 1 9 5 >



9 781591 930297