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Red Deer River Naturalists
www.rdrn.fanweb.ca

Red Deer Birding Trail



Birding Guide for
 the City of Red Deer
 & Area

1 KERRY WOOD NATURE CENTRE: (waterfowl, woodpeckers, kinglets, sparrows)

The Kerry Wood Nature Centre is the interpretive centre for the Waskasoo Park system and is the gateway to the Gaetz Lakes Sanctuary. If the Centre is not open, the trails in the Sanctuary are accessible from an outdoor gate to the north of the building. The main features are two oxbow lakes separated by boreal forest. The sanctuary is encircled by a well-maintained trail, part of which is a boardwalk. There is a lake viewing blind close to the Nature Centre and an overview point on the Wishart Trail. Kerry Wood Nature Centre web site is: www.waskasooenvironmental.homestead.com

2 MCKENZIE TRAILS (loons, ducks, herons, osprey, kingfisher, warblers, sparrows, beaver, muskrat)

As is the case with most of the park areas in Red Deer, this park is located on the flood plain of the Red Deer River and has been reclaimed from old gravel pits. There is a canoe launch and connections to the extensive trails of Waskasoo Park.

3 KIN KANYON AND BOWER WOODS (warblers, sparrows, merlins)

Heading south from the parking lot will take you through Kin Canyon into Bower Woods. Go through the tunnel under 32 Street to arrive at Bower Woods. Both these parks consist of a wooded ravine bisected by Piper Creek. The entire area can be easily walked in an hour. Beaver activity, especially down at the south end of the park, has created a great deal of biodiversity.

4 BOWER PONDS AND GREAT CHIEF PARK (waterfowl, osprey, gulls, muskrats)

Bower Ponds is another reclaimed gravel pit. Although large tracts of this park are manicured lawn-like areas, some thick woods remain. There are many trails, all of which connect to the extensive trail system that runs through much of the city. There is a hiking/biking trail connecting Bower Ponds with Heritage Ranch.



5 HERITAGE RANCH (sparrows, warblers, woodpeckers, possibly owls)

Heritage Ranch boasts escarpment, the river, fishing ponds, open grassy fields and dense old growth forests. You can walk along the paved path to the north, which leads down to the grasslands and the ponds. You can also take the stairs down to the Red Deer River. A bridge at the bottom of the escarpment connects to the walking/biking trail to Bower Ponds which, in turn, connects to most parts of the city.

6 THREE MILE BEND (osprey, loons, herons, waterfowl, beaver)

This section of Waskasoo Park has been reclaimed from gravel pits. It is now a dog walking park so expect off-leash dogs, especially on weekends. Osprey usually nest in one of two places in this park. Both poles are visible from the walking trails. The trail follows the river, so watch for Common Mergansers, Great Blue Herons and a wide variety of ducks. Garter Snakes are also fairly common along this stretch of the park.

7 RIVER BEND RECREATION AREA (loons, geese, shorebirds, swallows, pelicans, woodpeckers, songbirds)

The perimeter walking trail follows a large bend in the Red Deer River for about four kilometres. There are also walking trails to the south of the golf course. Cliff Swallows nest under the bridge by Discovery Canyon and Bank Swallows nest closer to the boat launch. The City of Red Deer empties its treated water back into the river at this point, so a large stretch stays open all winter. A large number of waterfowl overwinter here, making it a good spot to see Bald Eagles in the winter.

8 SLACK SLOUGH (shorebirds, ducks, grebes, avocets, stilts, wrens)

This permanent wetland bordered is easily seen from the QEII highway. It is a haven for birds from May to late autumn. Viewing from the platform requires a scope as the birds are usually in the distance. If it is dry, try walking along the south edge of the wetland, towards the highway. Please stay inside the fence.

Please check the following links for more information:

- www.rdrn.fanweb.ca
-Central Alberta Bird Trail
-Peregrine Web Cam
- www.ellisbirdfarm.ca
(Ellis Bird Farm)
- www.mrwc.ca (Medicine River Wildlife Centre)
- www.reddeer.ca

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