



VIRGINIA'S WESTERN HIGHLANDS
BIRDING TRAILS
Alleghany · Bath · Craig · Highland

· ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS ·

EVAN'S TRACT

Take Hwy 220S turn left onto VA SR 633 for 2.5 miles. After crossing the one-lane bridge over river, the tract is on the left. Parking is signed as "U.S. Forest Service Walter L. Robinson Access Point."

TOP DRIVE

From I-64 E., take exit 35 (Longdale) to U.S. Hwy 60 W. Turn left onto VA SR 770 & bear left at summit onto FR 447, to the North Mountain Overlook.

SWEET ROAD

From Covington, take State Rt. 185. Turn right at State Rt. 613 at Boiling Springs turn left where it runs into FDR 350 (*Sweet Road*) it junctions with State Rt. 18 again, turn left and follow to Covington.

LAKE MOOMAW/GATHRIGHT DAM

From Covington, take U.S. Hwy 220 N. to VA SR 687. Turn left & to VA SR 641 turn left to VA SR 666, turn right & to VA SR 605. Turn right to dam.

DOLLY ANNE HOLLOW (FR 125), SANDY SPRINGS (FR 125), LIME KILN (FR 194), DOUTHAT ROAD (FR 629)

From Covington, take I-64 Exit 16 & follow State Rt. 220 N. approximately 1.25 miles, turn right at State Rt. 625 it turns into FR 125 (*Dolly Anne Road*) it junctions with State Rt. 606, turn left approximately 2.00 miles to FR 125 Sandy Springs where it makes a right goes for 12.0 miles to Rt. 629. Turn right to Douthat State Park & Douthat Lake 10.8 miles down the road with I-64 another 4.8 miles.

· COUNTY OF BATH ·

BOLAR MOUNTAIN AREA/LAKE MOOMAW

Rt. 220 to Warm Springs, Rt. 39 W to 600 S.

BACK CREEK PUMPED STORAGE RECREATIONAL AREA

Rt. 220 to Warm Springs, Rt. 39 W to 600 N.

HIDDEN VALLEY DISPERSED RECREATIONAL AREA

Rt. 220 to Warm Springs, Rt. 39 W to Rt. 621 N. to Hidden Valley Rd.

DOUTHAT STATE PARK

Rt. 220 to Warm Springs, Rt. 39 E to Rt. 629 S.

POOR FARM AREA

Rt. 220 N. to Rt. 623 W. (2.3 miles to Poor Farm)

WALTON TRACT

Rt. 220 N. to Rt. 39 E. to Rt. 42 S. to Rt. 632 W. (*Crisers Gap Rd*)

GILLUM RUN TRAIL

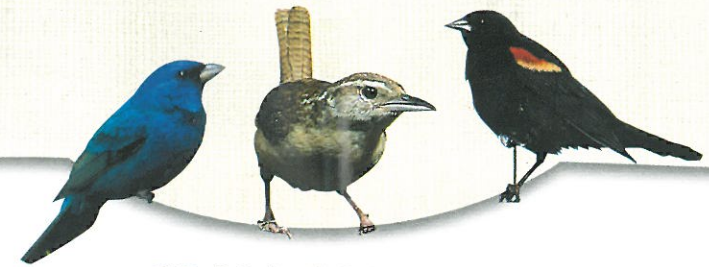
Rt. 220 to Rt. 39 E. to Rt. 629 S. to FR 361

PINEY MOUNTAIN TRAIL

Rt. 220 to Rt. 39 E. to FR 358 N.

THE VILLAGES OF HOT SPRINGS & WARM SPRINGS

Both Hot Springs and Warm Springs are registered Bird Sanctuaries.



· CRAIG COUNTY ·

Spring and fall migrations provide the most sightings. Visit www.aba.org for tips, rules and information on successful birding.

NEW CASTLE TOWN PARK

On Salem Avenue, 1/4 mile south of the intersection of Rt. 42 and Rt. 311. The brushy woodlands along Goose Creek make good habitat. Enjoy picnic tables and children's play yard.

FENWICK MINES

From New Castle, follow Rt. 615 east 5.2 miles. Turn left onto Rt. 611 for 0.1 mile to Rt. 685. Turn right and continue 1.3 miles. Fishing ponds, handicapped-accessible trails and parking areas. Owls, woodpeckers, warblers and Eastern Phoebe are frequent.

HALL ROAD RAPTOR VIEWING AREA

Leave New Castle on Rt. 42. Travel 11.3 miles to Hall Road. Turn left, go 1.3 miles to the top of the ridge with scenic views of migratory routes. Parking on left. 4WD vehicle recommended.

PAINT BANK FISH HATCHERY

From New Castle, follow Rt. 311 north for 14.7 miles to state-run hatchery on the left. Turkey vultures are plentiful in summer, osprey in Sept. The gate closes every afternoon at 3:30, but guests are welcome to use parking lot and roam the property.

PAINT BANK

From New Castle, follow Rt. 311 north for 16 miles. Explore the branch around Tingle's Mill and the fish pond, then the gardens and Potts Creek at the Depot Lodge. Drive south on Rt. 600 to Hollow Hill Farm or north on Rt. 18, which follows Potts Creek into Alleghany County.

POTTS MOUNTAIN ROAD

Follow Rt. 311 to the top of Potts Mountain, turn onto Potts Mtn. Road East. This is a 4WD-only, dirt road; great place for high-elevation sightings.

JOHNS CREEK & DICKS CREEK

From New Castle, take Rt. 311 north for 5 miles and turn left onto Rt. 658. After another 5 miles, Rt. 658 continues to the right following Dicks Creek to Maggie and Rt. 632 veers left along Johns Creek to Maggie. These country roads and area streams are home to a variety of wildlife, including Bald Eagles.



· HIGHLAND COUNTY ·

BLUE GRASS VALLEY TRAIL

From Monterey, follow US 220 North to Route 642. Turn left (*west*) on Route 642 to junction with Route 640 in Blue Grass. Follow Route 640 the length of the Blue Grass Valley, crossing US 250 at Hightown. Turn left (*east*) on Route 84 to US 220. Follow US 220 North to Monterey.

Monterey > Blue Grass Valley > Monterey = 27.87 mi.

BULLPASTURE VALLEY TRAIL

From Monterey, follow US 250 east to McDowell. Turn right (*south*) on Route 678 into the Bullpasture Valley to Williamsville. Turn left on Route 614 and follow gravel road north to US 250.

McDowell > Bullpasture/Cowpasture Valleys > McDowell = 63.11 mi.

US 220 (SOUTH) BLUEBIRD TRAIL

From Monterey, follow US 220 south to the Bath County line. (*This stretch of road is lined with bluebird boxes*)

Monterey > Bath County line > Monterey = 31.26 mi.

TOWN OF MONTEREY

Located at the junction of US Route 250 and US Route 220, the town of Monterey is a designated bird sanctuary. A number of the town's residents are keen birders, and bird feeders and nesting boxes are located in yards and gardens throughout the town.

LAUREL FORK

This is a remote wooded area requiring a lengthy scenic drive with the last 21 miles graveled road. Contact the Highland County Chamber of Commerce for a map and detailed directions.

JACK MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

The graveled road into this area is best suited to foot traffic and/or 4wheel drive. Contact the Highland County Chamber of Commerce for a map and detailed directions.

