Idaho Falls Post Register March 21,2013

Where to see birds

The peak time to see swans and snow geese is now. Ducks arrive at the end of the month and in April. Shorebirds, songbirds and wading birds show up in April and May. Here are some places to see migrating birds:

Market Lake Wildlife Management Area

5,071 acres

209 species; known for canvasbacks, pintails and mallards. Also good viewing for marsh hawks.

Best place to see birds: Marsh Road, north end of Marsh Road for owls.

Easiest directions: Interstate 15 to Roberts exit. Follow signs through town to the north.

Camas National Wildlife Refuge

220 species; known for trumpeter swans, eagles, big game.

Best place to see birds: Two-Way Pond, Center Pond. Don't disturb birds.

Easy directions: Interstate 15 to Hamer. Follow the signs.

Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge

18,910 acres

Gray's Lake is the largest hard-stem bulrush marsh in North America. It contains the largest nesting population of sandhill cranes in the world. The Franklin's gull colony may reach nearly 20,000 nests. White-faced ibis may be seen.

Directions: Take Bone Road to Long Valley Road to Gray's Lake Road east of Idaho Falls.

Mud Lake Wildlife Management Area

8,853 acres

More than 220 species; known for snow geese, diving ducks.

Best place to see birds: Green Island, North Point, north shoreline.

Directions: Interstate 15 to Sage Junction exit. West toward Terreton on state Highway 33. Follow signs.

Deer Parks Wildlife Management Area

2,700 acres tucked behind the buttes.

Known for nesting bald eagles, ducks, sandhills and swans.

Directions: 25 miles north of Idaho Falls in Jefferson County, it can accessed by state Highways 33 and 48 by taking the county roads leading to the Menan Buttes.

Cartier Slough Wildlife Management Area

1,028 acres

More than 100 species use the area; known for dabbling ducks, Canada geese.

Directions: From Rexburg, go six miles west on state Highway 33 to Beaver Dick County Park and Boat Ramp.

Can also be reached by: : Interstate 15 to Sage Junction exit. Travel east 14.8 miles on state Highway 33 to

Beaver Dick County Park and Boat Ramp.