



Trail 4: Manyberries Area

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Observation Points A. Nature Conservancy Properties B. TWP Rd 52 C. TWP Rd 42 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Amenities a. Orion b. Manyberries |
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Specialty bird species along this trail include; Sharp-tailed Grouse (do not approach the lek sites), Ferruginous Hawk (stay away from the nest sites), Short-eared Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, Say’s Phoebe, Golden Eagle, and a variety of grassland sparrows. If extremely lucky it is remotely possible to find Sage Grouse along this trail.

The area southwest of Manyberries has a mixed habitat including developed agricultural land some of which is devoted to farming, some to ranching and some to hay production. The latter is surrounded by an extensive dyking network, which in wet years, attracts thousands of waterfowl during their northward migration. The ranching areas contain large tracts of unbroken prairie interspersed with sand dunes covered with brush and silver sage. The east side of Pakowki Lake is situated at the west end of this trail but access to the lake is difficult and requires permission.

To access this trail area, proceed to the hamlet of Manyberries on Hwy 61 and then continue west. Signed Nature Conservancy property lies to the north of Hwy 61 **(A)**. This area can be hiked to look for a variety of grassland species such as Grasshopper, Brewer's and Baird's Sparrows, McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs and Long-billed Curlew. Turn south onto Hwy. 887 to TWP RD 52 **(B)**. Proceed 4.8 km west to RGE RD 73 and head south at the T-intersection to TWP RD 50 and then eastward to Hwy 887. One can also follow RGE RD 76 between TWP RDs 50 and 52. Once you have returned to Hwy 887 continue south where you may choose to travel down to the Hwy 501 intersection or perhaps proceed east on TWP RD 42 **(C)** to RGE RD 63 heading north from here back to Hwy 61. You may also wish to bird Hwy 889 south to Hwy 501 with a side route east to the T intersection.

The hamlets of Orion and Manyberries also could be birded as the brush and trees here can harbor additional bird species; recently Eurasian Collared-Doves have populated Manyberries. Rarities that have been observed in this area include Sage Thrasher and Bullock's Oriole. Animal species, which inhabit the area, include Pronghorns, White-tailed and Mule Deer, and surprisingly the odd Moose.

Gas is available at Orion at the general store. There is a hotel in Manyberries that has restricted hours in the café/bar where one might be able to get a snack and beverage. Accommodations and full meals are available at Foremost, Medicine Hat or if proceeding from this area to the Cypress Hills (via the Wildcat Trail (TWP RD 62) in Elkwater.

This area can be birded in conjunction with the Pakowki Lake Trail or perhaps even the north portion of the Pinhorn Grazing Lease (Trail 5) but this can lead to very long days.

