7. **RED ROCK LAKES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

   When this refuge was established in 1939, the trumpeter swan was on the brink of extinction. Today, North America’s heaviest bird is thriving; but there’s still no room for complacency. With a growing trumpeter swan population, habitat, and water levels, this refuge continues to be a major breeding area.

   **BEST VIEWING SEASONS**
   - June — July for breeding birds; August — September for shorebirds and migrants.

   **CONTACT**
   - Anaconda Chamber/VIC • 406-563-2400
   - Ennis Chamber and VIC • 406-693-7395

8. **CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR & BANNACK STATE PARK**

   When Lewis and Clark stopped here they dubbed it the **Missouri Breaks**. Today, anyone who comes through the area must surely feel lucky to be alive. This sweeping prairie and mountainous terrain is home to a wide variety of wildlife, including deer, antelope, eagles, and hawks.

   **BEST VIEWING SEASONS**
   - April — October — November — March for winter species.

   **CONTACT**
   - Anaconda Chamber/VIC • 406-563-2400
   - Ennis Chamber and VIC • 406-693-7395

9. **BIG HOLE NATIONAL WILDLIFE & BATTLEFIELD**

   Today, few places seem more peaceful than the Big Hole Valley of Southwest Montana. But in August 1877, this was the site of a bloody battle between the Nez Perce and U.S. Cavalry. The battlefield’s visitors center offers historic displays and artifacts — and a bird checklist. You can also take a self-guided tour of the battlefield and visit the newly opened tipi memorial along the Big Hole River. The ah ah (lodgepole) roads are well marked and lead towards the tipi.

   **BEST VIEWING SEASONS**
   - April — October — November — March for winter species.

   **CONTACT**
   - Big Hole National Battlefield
     - 406-689-3151
   - tiny-BigHole-Bannack

10. **WARM SPRINGS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA & ARBoretum**

    The largest area for waterfowl production in the upper Clark Fork valley is actually a series of man-made ponds developed for treatment of sulfuric acid waste. Currently, the ponds and surrounding riparian habitat is the preferred breeding ground for a variety of waterfowl species. The arboretum has more than 1,000 species of conifer and deciduous trees, as well as a 200-foot native plant nature trail. The arboretum provides habitat for a variety of birds, including sandhill cranes, bald eagles, osprey, and great blue heron.

    **BEST VIEWING SEASONS**
    - April — May for breeding birds; August — September for shorebirds and migrants.

    **CONTACT**
    - Warm Springs Wildlife Management Area
      - 406-693-7935

11. **TIZER BOTANIC GARDENS & ARBoretum**

    Located 16 miles south of Helena on the Missouri River, this 45-acre facility is home to a variety of native and non-native plants. The gardens are open year-round and offer a wide range of educational programs and activities. In the Arboretum, visitors can take a self-guided tour of the Garden of Native Plants, which features more than 100 different species of native plants.

    **BEST VIEWING SEASONS**
    - April — May for breeding birds; August — September for shorebirds and migrants.

    **CONTACT**
    - Tizer Botanic Gardens & Arboretum
      - 406-582-3416

12. **LEWIS & CLARK Caverns State Park**

    Located midway between Butte and Bozeman, Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park is best known for its spectacular limestone formations and the caves that reside within. This is the only site in Montana where the Jefferson River, the Madison River, and the Missouri River meet, creating a unique landscape.

    **BEST VIEWING SEASONS**
    - April — May for breeding birds; August — September for shorebirds and migrants.

    **CONTACT**
    - Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park
      - 406-582-3416

13. **MISSOURI HEADWATERS STATE PARK**

    Located just north of the quaint community of Ennis, this 3,000-acre lake beckons visitors with opportunities for fishing, bird watching, sunsets, and solitude. A spectacular wildlife haven, the Missouri River flows north through the park, offering a unique glimpse of riparian habitat along the river.

    **BEST VIEWING SEASONS**
    - April — May for breeding birds; August — September for shorebirds and migrants.

    **CONTACT**
    - Missouri Headwaters State Park
      - 406-859-3211

14. **OTHER NOTABLE BIRDING AREAS**

    **JEFFERSON VALLEY**
    - A great place to spot sandhill cranes and other species of birds and waterfowl. Information on the Jefferson River.

    **BEAVERHEAD-SAGE-STEPHE AUDUBON IMPORTANT BIRD AREA**
    - A great place to spot waterfowl, shorebirds, and other migrants. Information on the Beaverhead-Sage-Stephe Audubon Important Bird Area.

    **WILLOW CREEK RESERVOIR**
    - Located on the Jefferson River, this reservoir is a great place to spot birds, as well as other wildlife.

    **MISSOURI HEADWATERS STATE PARK**
    - Located just north of the quaint community of Ennis, this 3,000-acre lake beckons visitors with opportunities for fishing, bird watching, sunsets, and solitude. A spectacular wildlife haven, the Missouri River flows north through the park, offering a unique glimpse of riparian habitat along the river.

    **CONTACT**
    - Ennis Chamber and VIC • 406-693-7395
    - Ennis Chamber • 406-834-3413