

## **Lake Sammamish State Park (LSSP) – Cougar Mountain – Issaquah Driving Route**

**NOTE** - Drive the route slowly and record ALL species seen and the number of each species seen.

1. Start from East Parking lot in LSSP. Use map of park to walk the loop to the west and north. This can take 2-3 hours. Group can be split and another group go north along road to end and then walk east toward soccer field across the street from Costco and back to meet other group.
2. Drive west from park to West Lake Sammamish Blvd and then south to intersection with Newport Way. Continue through intersection onto Lakemont Blvd. At open area on left at top of hill turn left into Lewis Creek Park. Walk the ½ mile wetlands loop.
3. Then continue south on Lakemont about 0.5 miles to Red Town access parking lot at hairpin turn to right. Again walk one of the trails (see map) or go out 30 minutes and back.
4. Then go back north on Lakemont about 0.3 miles and turn right onto SE Cougar Mtn. Road to upper Cougar Mtn. Regional Park access, about 2.5 miles, at about 1400 ft elevation. Check map and walk one of the loops or walk about 30 minutes out on a trail and then back.
5. 5) After leaving Cougar Mtn Park continue back along SE Cougar Mtn Road and take a sharp right turn onto SE 60<sup>th</sup> Street. After about 1 mile follow road to the left (turns into 189<sup>th</sup> then 190<sup>th</sup> Place SE) and continue to the bottom of the hill (past Cougar Mtn Zoo). Turn right onto Newport Way, after about 2 miles turn right onto 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW and continue about 3 miles and turn left onto SE May Valley Road.
6. Drive and bird along road as parking allows to the entrance to Squak Mtn. State Park on the left. Bird the area around the parking lot and then take trail at west side of parking lot. This goes a short way through woods and then crosses a gravel road. Go across road and enter the Pretzel Tree Loop education trail, an interesting education trail designed for kids. Trail is only 1/3 mile. If time allows, when you get back to gravel road you could walk up the road for 15-20 minutes and then back.
7. Then back to SE May Valley Road and drive to Issaquah-Hobart Road and turn left (north) and drive road. A couple of miles up the road there is an open field with a parking lot on the right. Turn in there and bird the area.
8. Continue north on Issaquah-Hobart Road. Turn left onto Sycamore Drive - just before a bridge. (If you come to 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SE you've gone too far. Turn around and go back across bridge and turn right onto Sycamore Drive) Turn at first right into Sycamore Creek Lane . Drive to turnaround at end and bird trails both north and south along Issaquah Creek (good for American Dipper in the winter). Then back to Sycamore Drive and turn right and go short distance to bridge and park on side of road and check out the creek. Then back to main road, and if there is time left, drive to Issaquah Business Park, Costco and other Issaquah areas and bird with whatever time remains.

**NOTE** – Comments on the route are encouraged. Are there any changes to the route that you would recommend? Were some areas unproductive and could be deleted? Should more time be spent at some areas? Are there any other areas that should be included in the count? Feel free to write comments on this sheet and turn it in at the dinner.