



Trail 39--Maybird Lakes

Duration: 4 hours

Distance: 6.5 out-and-back; Mileage can be reduced by cutting down mountain rather than sticking to the trail on the return trip.

Difficulty: Difficult

Trailhead: White Pine trailhead

Elevation: White Pine trailhead 7700'; Red Pine bridge turn off 8991'; Maybird ridge 9700'

Avalanche: High: There are a couple of avalanche runs along the Maybird trail. During considerable avalanche danger don't even come into this area. Of the three trails that start from this trailhead, Maybird is the safest, but you *will* cross a number of avalanche paths.

Map: Dromedary Peak 7.5' quadrangle

GPS Coordinates: Maybird Bridge--12 T 0441187/4489201

Maybird Ridge--12 T 0440659/4488657

Dogs: Not allowed in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Introduction: Maybird Lakes is more of an area than a destination. The lakes are more pond-like than lake-like and they sit in Maybird Gulch covered with snow. The snowshoe trail brings you to the ridge with a view down Maybird Gulch. Whether you go further up the gulch, turn around after reaching the ridge, or descend to the lakes is up to you. This book tracks the trail to the ridge where a startling view of the Phifferhorn to the south, Red Pine to the east, and other surrounding peaks and bowls meet you. This White Pine area, as the trailhead is called, gives access to three primary locales. Maybird, Red Pine, and White Pine. The trailhead is well developed and highly used because the slopes in the area provide steep backcountry ski thrills. Snowshoers and skiers alike travel these trails daily. Avalanches regularly occur in the area. The joy of this trail is found in the view

from the top, and the powder run down the steep slopes on the return trip. The trek up is a consistent and vigorous climb.

How to Get There: The White Pine parking lot/trailhead is a prominent location in Little Cottonwood Canyon. It sits on the south side of the road 5.6 miles up from the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Trail Description: The trail begins over the berm on the south side of the parking area by the restrooms. The trail is very popular and well defined from all the backcountry use. Begin by crossing the bridge over Little Cottonwood Creek just after leaving the trailhead. The trail breaks down roughly into three sections. The first section ends around 1 mile when you reach a 'Y'. This junction finds many a resting skier and snowshoer. The left leg of the 'Y' will take you to White Pine, but you will take the right branch and cross over the small stream while heading into the trees. At 1.25 miles up the trail, on a clear day, the view down Little Cottonwood Canyon opens up and you can see down canyon, across the Salt Lake Valley, and to the Oquirrh on the other side. It's a grand view. You are also graced with vista of steep chutes down the north side of Little Cottonwood Canyon as you traverse this section of the trail. The second leg of the trail concludes at 2.23 miles where an easy-to-miss wooden bridge crosses Red Pine Creek. Keep your eyes open for the bridge as it will be covered in deep snow. The trail breaks here for the second time. If you continue straight up the trail you will find yourself in Red Pine Canyon, but to reach Maybird you will head to the right by crossing over the bridge and heading in a westerly direction. This is the Red Pine turnoff. The third leg of the trail continues to the ridge for a total of approximately 2.75 miles. The ridge has no strong distinguishing factors, other than you can look down to the west where Maybird Lakes reside, and the views of the surrounding mountains are beautiful. Conclude the trail at a spot where you can enjoy the view and have lunch. As you make your return to the parking lot, I recommend heading off the east side of the ridge through the powder and steeper slopes. After the climb up, you deserve a great powder run down. This powder run ends at the Red Pine turn-off bridge where you must then continue next to the trail in order to make the parking lot. The other tempting chutes along the trail will dump you much lower in Little Cottonwood Canyon than the parking area.