



Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area Wildlife by Unit

Huichica Creek

The grassland areas support a population of Western Meadowlarks, Red-Winged Blackbirds, Brewer's Blackbirds as well as Savannah Sparrows. These areas are also used for nesting by resident Mallard, Gadwall and Canada Goose. Burrowing Owls are commonly seen in this habitat as well as the Black-Shouldered Kite, Northern Harrier and Red-Tailed Hawk. Less frequent visitors include the Golden Eagle and the Peregrine Falcon. In recent years sightings of Bald Eagles have been an encouraging sign.

The tidal marsh areas and sections of the brackish water ponds provide habitat for the Black-Crowned Night Heron, Killdeer, American Bittern as well as the secretive Clapper Rail. Double-Crested Cormorant are frequently seen here as are Great Blue Heron.

Predominant bird species using these ponds vary depending on current pond salinity and pond depth as well as season of the year. Black-Bellied Plover, American Avocet, Least and Western Dunlin and the Black-Necked Stilt are among the shorebirds one might spot using the ponds. Eared Grebes, Bonaparte's gulls, Wilson's Phalaropes and Forster's Terns also may be observed. Diving ducks, particularly Bufflehead, are often seen resting on the ponds.

Napa River

The bay water intake pond to the west of this levee access road is typically shallow and within the range of salinity of San Pablo Bay. Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper and American Avocet can be seen on this pond as well as the White Pelican. Although both dabbling and diving ducks use this pond due to its relatively low salinity, primarily divers, most notably Canvasback and Scaup can be seen in large numbers from late December through February.

Ringstrom Bay

One can view ducks such as Mallard and Teal, various raptors including Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, and Golden Eagles. River otters and beavers have also been seen using this area.

Wingo

This uplands habitat provides an excellent area to view Golden Eagles, American Kestrels, Red-Tailed Hawks, California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant, and Mourning Dove. On occasion you may get a glimpse of a Cottontail Rabbit or a Black-tailed Deer. During winter rains natural seasonal ponds are created, especially on the south end of the Camp 2 area, attracting mallards, cinnamon teal, widgeon, and pintail which use the ponds for feeding and resting.



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South Tolay Creek

Historically this area was heavily used by migrating diving ducks, particularly Canvasbacks which sought refuge on the smaller ponds during storm events on the nearby bay. Black-tailed deer have also been seen on the adjacent pond levees.

North Tolay Creek

During winter rains a large portion of the unit becomes flooded grassland, attracting myriad species of ducks. Most prevalent are Mallard, Gadwall, and Cinnamon Teal. Canada Geese and the occasional Tundra Swan may also be seen during December and January.

American Canyon

American Avocets, Greater Yellowlegs, Willets and several other shorebirds can readily be seen in the surrounding mudflats. Mallards, Northern Pintail, Wigeon, and Green-winged Teal are also commonly observed in the area, while the Napa River itself affords excellent views of Great Egrets, Bufflehead, American Coots, and Common Goldeneye.