

Bird Checklist

Marin Headlands

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior

Marin Headlands
Golden Gate
National Recreation Area



Phil
Frank

SEASONS

Summer (June–August)

Fall (September–November)

Winter (December–February)

Spring (March–May)

ABUNDANCE

C (Common) Seen most days in the correct season and habitat.

U (Uncommon) Seen in low numbers in the correct season and habitat.

R (Rare) No more than a few sightings per year.

V (Vagrant) At least one record within the past 10–15 years.

I (Irruptive) Absent to common; varying from year to year.

-- No record

* Breeding confirmed

+ Breeding possible

HABITAT

a Aerial

b Beach shoreline, primarily Rodeo Beach & Tennessee Valley Beach

c Coastal scrub, Coyote bush, brambles

f Farms, grasslands and human-made structures

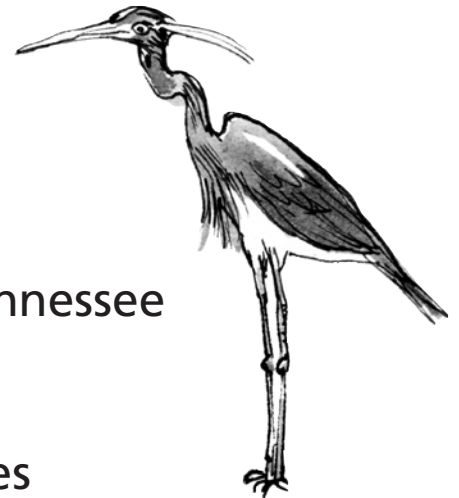
l Lagoon


r Rocky shoreline near Rodeo Beach, Point Bonita Lighthouse and Tennessee Valley Beach

s Streamside riparian habitat; includes willow thickets along streams; marsh and reeds adjacent to freshwater ponds


t Broad-leaf evergreen woods; live oak, eucalyptus. Includes conifer "islands", isolated stands of pines, cypresses and Douglas firs.


w Ocean



Groups	Species	S	F	W	Sp	Hab	✓
Geese & Ducks	Emperor Goose	-	V	-	-	lw	
	Greater White-fronted Goose 	-	R	R	-	als	
	Snow Goose	-	-	-	R	als	
	+Canada Goose	R	R	U	U	als	
	Cackling Goose	-	R	R	-	als	
	Brant	-	R	R	U	wls	
	Wood Duck	U	U	R	-	ls	
	Gadwall	-	R	R	-	ls	
	Eurasian Wigeon	-	V	R	-	ls	
	American Wigeon	-	C	C	C	ls	
	*Mallard	C	C	C	C	ls	
	Blue-winged Teal	-	R	-	-	ls	
	+Cinnamon Teal	R	R	R	R	ls	
	Northern Shoveler	-	U	U	-	ls	
	Northern Pintail	-	U	U	-	als	
	Green-winged Teal	-	R	R	R	ls	
	Redhead	-	V	V	-	ls	
	Canvasback	-	R	R	-	ls	
	Ring-necked Duck	-	U	U	U	ls	
	Tufted Duck	-	-	V	-	l	
	Greater Scaup	R	U	R	R	lw	
	Lesser Scaup	-	U	R	R	lw	
	Surf Scoter	C	C	C	C	w	
	White-winged Scoter	U	U	U	U	w	
	Black Scoter	R	R	R	R	w	
	Long-tailed Duck	-	R	R	R	w	
	Bufflehead	-	C	C	C	l	
	Common Goldeneye	-	C	U	U	l	
	Barrow's Goldeneye	-	R	R	-	l	
	Hooded Merganser	-	U	C	U	ls	
*Common Merganser	U	U	U	U	ls		
Red-breasted Merganser	R	R	U	R	ls		

Groups	Species	S	F	W	Sp	Hab	√
	+Ruddy Duck	R	U	U	U	ls	
Quail, Turkey & Pheasants	*California Quail	C	C	C	C	cf	
	Wild Turkey	U	U	R	U	cf	
	Ring-necked Pheasant	R	R	R	R	cf	
Loons	Red-throated Loon	U	C	C	C	lw	
	Pacific Loon	R	C	C	C	w	
	Common Loon	R	U	U	U	w	
Grebes	*Pied-billed Grebe	C	C	C	C	ls	
	Horned Grebe	-	U	U	U	ls	
	Red-necked Grebe	R	R	R	R	w	
	Eared Grebe	-	U	U	U	lw	
	+Western Grebe	C	C	C	C	lw	
	Clark's Grebe	U	U	U	U	lw	
Fulmars, Shearwaters & Storm-Petrels	Northern Fulmar	-	V	R	-	w	
	Sooty Shearwater	-	I	I	-	w	
	Ashy Storm-Petrel	-	V	-	-	w	
Cormorants	*Brandt's Cormorant	C	C	C	C	rw	
	+Double-crested Cormorant	C	C	C	C	rw	
	*Pelagic Cormorant	C	C	C	C	rw	
Pelicans	American White Pelican	-	R	R	-	aw	
	Brown Pelican	C	C	C	C	rw	
Hérons & Egrets	American Bittern	-	R	R	-	s	
	+Great Blue Heron	C	C	C	C	bfls	
	Great Egret	C	C	C	C	bfls	
	Snowy Egret	C	C	C	C	bls	
	+Green Heron	R	U	R	R	ls	
	Black-crowned Night-Heron	R	R	R	R	ls	
Ibis	White-faced Ibis	-	V	-	-	a	
Eagles & Hawks	+Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	C	acst	
	Osprey	R	U	V	U	a	
	+White-tailed Kite	U	U	U	U	af?	
	Mississippi Kite	-	V	-	-	a	
	Golden Eagle	R	R	R	R	a	

Groups	Species	S	F	W	Sp	Hab	√
	Bald Eagle	-	R	R	R	a	
	*Northern Harrier	U	U	U	U	afs	
	Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	C	C	C	ast	
	*Cooper's Hawk	C	C	C	C	ast	
	Northern Goshawk	-	V	-	-	a	
	Common Black-Hawk	-	-	-	V	a	
	*Red-shouldered Hawk	C	C	C	C	afst	
	Broad-winged Hawk	-	U	-	R	a	
	Swainson's Hawk	-	R	-	R	a	
	*Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C	afst	
	Ferruginous Hawk	-	U	-	R	a	
	Rough-legged Hawk	-	R	-	-	a	
Rails, Gallinules & Coots	*Virginia Rail	U	U	U	U	ls	
	+Sora	R	U	-	R	ls	
	Common Gallinule	-	R	R	R	ls	
	*American Coot	C	C	C	U	ls	
Cranes	Sandhill Crane	-	V	-	-	a	
Shorebirds	Black-bellied Plover	R	R	-	-	b	
	American Golden-Plover	-	V	-	-	bl	
	Pacific Golden-Plover	V	-	-	-	bl	
	Snowy Plover	-	V	V	-	b	
	Semipalmated Plover	R	U	R	R	bl	
	*Killdeer	C	C	C	C	bl	
	*Black Oystercatcher	U	U	U	U	r	
	Black-necked Stilt	-	R	R	-	bls	
	American Avocet	R	R	R	-	ls	
	Spotted Sandpiper	R	R	R	R	bl	
	Wandering Tattler	R	R	-	R	r	
	Greater Yellowlegs	R	U	R	R	ls	
	Lesser Yellowlegs	-	R	-	-	ls	
	Willet	U	U	R	R	lr	
	Whimbrel	R	U	R	R	bl	
Long-billed Curlew	U	U	R	R	bl		
Marbled Godwit	R	U	R	R	bl		

Groups	Species	S	F	W	Sp	Hab	√
	Ruddy Turnstone	V	-	-	-	lr	
	Black Turnstone	R	U	R	R	r	
	Surfbird	-	R	R	R	r	
	Sanderling	-	R	U	R	bl	
	Western Sandpiper	U	U	R	R	bl	
	Least Sandpiper	U	U	R	R	bl	
	Baird's Sandpiper	R	-	-	-	l	
	Pectoral Sandpiper	-	R	-	-	l	
	Dunlin	-	R	-	R	bl	
	Short-billed Dowitcher	U	R	-	R	bls	
	Long-billed Dowitcher	R	U	R	R	bls	
	Wilson's Snipe	-	U	U	R	ls	
	Red-necked Phalarope	U	U	-	R	blw	
	Red Phalarope	R	R	R	R	blw	
	 Gulls, Terns & Jaegers	Black-legged Kittiwake	-	-	V	-	aw
Bonaparte's Gull		R	U	R	R	blw	
Heermann's Gull		C	C	R	R	blrw	
Mew Gull		-	U	C	R	blw	
+Ring-billed Gull		U	C	C	C	blw	
*Western Gull		C	C	C	C	blw	
California Gull		U	C	C	C	blw	
Herring Gull		R	U	C	R	blw	
Thayer's Gull		-	U	U	R	blw	
Iceland Gull		-	-	V	-	w	
Slaty-backed Gull		-	-	V	-	w	
Glaucous-winged Gull		R	C	C	U	blw	
Least Tern		-	-	-	V	lw	
+Caspian Tern		C	R	-	C	abl	
Black Tern		V	V	-	-	l	
Common Tern		R	R	-	-	al	
+Forster's Tern		R	R	-	U	al	
Elegant Tern		U	U	-	-	lw	
Black Skimmer	V	-	-	-	bl		
Pomarine Jaeger	-	R	-	-	w		

Groups	Species	S	F	W	Sp	Hab	√
	Parasitic Jaeger	R	U	-	-	w	
Alcids	*Common Murre	C	C	C	C	rw	
	*Pigeon Guillemot	C	U	R	C	rw	
	Marbled Murrelet	-	R	U	R	w	
	Cassin's Auklet	V	V	-	-	w	
	Rhinoceros Auklet	V	-	V	-	w	
Doves	*Rock Pigeon	U	U	U	U	af	
	+Band-tailed Pigeon	U	C	C	U	at	
	Eurasian Collared-Dove	R	R	R	R	at	
	*Mourning Dove	C	C	U	C	aft	
Owls	+Barn Owl	U	U	U	R	fs	
	*Great Horned Owl	C	C	C	C	fst	
	Burrowing Owl	-	V	V	V	c	
	Spotted Owl	-	V	-	-	at	
	Long-eared Owl	-	R	R	-	st	
	Short-eared Owl	-	R	R	-	af	
	Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	V	V	V	at	
Swifts & Hummingbirds	Common Poorwill	-	V	V	-	a	
	Black Swift	-	U	-	-	a	
	Vaux's Swift	R	C	-	R	a	
	*White-throated Swift	C	C	U	C	a	
	Black-chinned Hummingbird	-	-	-	V	ac	
	*Anna's Hummingbird	C	C	C	C	acfst	
	Rufous Hummingbird	R	-	-	R	cst	
	*Allen's Hummingbird	C	-	R	C	cst	
Kingfishers	+Belted Kingfisher	U	U	R	U	ls	
Woodpeckers	Lewis's Woodpecker	-	R	-	-	st	
	Acorn Woodpecker	-	R	-	R	st	
	Red-breasted Sapsucker	-	R	R	-	st	
	+Nuttall's Woodpecker	U	U	U	R	st	
	*Downy Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	cst	
	Hairy Woodpecker	R	R	-	R	st	
	*Northern Flicker	C	C	C	C	fst	
	Pileated Woodpecker	-	-	-	R	t	

Groups	Species	S	F	W	Sp	Hab	√
Chickadees & Titmice	*Chestnut-backed Chickadee	C	C	C	C	cst	
	Oak Titmouse	R	R	R	R	ct	
	*Bushtit	C	C	C	C	cst	
Nuthatches & Creepers	+Red-breasted Nuthatch	R	U	U	R	st	
	*Pygmy Nuthatch	R	U	U	R	st	
	+Brown Creeper	R	R	R	R	st	
Wrens	Rock Wren	R	R	R	R	c	
	*House Wren	R	R	R	R	cfs	
	*Pacific Wren	U	U	U	R	st	
	*Marsh Wren	C	C	C	C	ls	
	*Bewick's Wren	C	C	C	C	cst	
Gnatcatchers & Kinglets	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	U	U	R	R	c	
	+Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	R	R	R	cst	
	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	C	C	C	cst	
	*Wrentit	C	C	C	C	c	
Thrushes	*Western Bluebird	U	U	U	U	cf	
	*Swainson's Thrush	C	U	-	C	cst	
	Hermit Thrush	R	U	U	U	cst	
	*American Robin	C	U	C	C	cfst	
	Varied Thrush	-	V	V	-	st	
Mimics	*Northern Mockingbird	U	U	-	U	ft	
Starlings	*European Starling	C	C	C	C	f	
Pipits & Waxwings	American Pipit	-	U	R	-	als	
	+Cedar Waxwing	I	I	I	I	st	
Warblers	Northern Waterthrush	-	V	-	V	s	
	Black-and-white Warbler	-	V	-	-	st	
	*Orange-crowned Warbler	C	C	R	C	cst	
	Nashville Warbler	-	R	-	V	cst	
	MacGillivray's Warbler	R	R	-	R	cst	
	*Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	C	cls	
	American Redstart	V	V	-	-	s	
	Magnolia Warbler	-	V	-	-	s	
	Blackburnian Warbler	-	V	-	-	s	

Groups	Species	S	F	W	Sp	Hab	√
	+Yellow Warbler	R	C	-	U	cst	
	Chestnut-sided Warbler	-	V	-	-	cst	
	Blackpoll Warbler	-	V	-	-	cst	
	Yellow-rumped Warbler	R	C	C	C	cfst	
	Prairie Warbler	-	-	-	V	ct	
	Black-throated Gray Warbler	V	R	-	V	cst	
	Townsend's Warbler	-	C	C	U	st	
	Hermit Warbler	R	R	R	R	st	
	Palm Warbler	-	R	V	-	cst	
	*Wilson's Warbler	C	C	-	C	cst	
	Yellow-breasted Chat	V	V	-	V		
Tanagers	Western Tanager	R	U	-	R	t	
Sparrows & Allies	*Spotted Towhee	C	C	C	C	cst	
	*Rufous-crowned Sparrow	R	R	R	R	fs	
	*California Towhee	C	C	C	C	cfs	
	Clay-colored Sparrow	-	V	-	-	cs	
	Brewer's Sparrow	-	-	-	V	c	
	*Lark Sparrow	-	R	-	-	c	
	*Savannah Sparrow	U	U	U	U	cs	
	*Grasshopper Sparrow	R	-	-	-	c	
	Fox Sparrow	-	C	C	C	cfst	
	*Song Sparrow	C	C	C	C	cfst	
	Lincoln's Sparrow	-	U	R	R	s	
	Swamp Sparrow	-	R	R	-	ls	
	White-throated Sparrow	-	R	R	-	fs	
	*White-crowned Sparrow	C	C	C	C	cfst	
Golden-crowned Sparrow	-	C	C	C	cfst		
*Dark-eyed Junco	U	U	U	U	cfst		
Grosbeaks & Buntings	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	V	-	-	-	st	
	*Black-headed Grosbeak	R	-	-	U	t	
	*Lazuli Bunting	R	-	-	R	ft	
Blackbirds & Allies	*Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	C	cflst	
	Tricolored Blackbird	R	R	-	R	cflst	
	*Western Meadowlark	-	R	R	R	f	

Groups	Species	S	F	W	Sp	Hab	√
	Yellow-headed Blackbird	V	V	-	-	cfls	
	*Brewer's Blackbird	C	C	C	C	fs	
	*Brown-headed Cowbird	C	U	U	C	fs	
	Hooded Oriole	-	-	-	R	t	
	Bullock's Oriole	R	V	-	R	t	
Finches & Old World Sparrows	*Purple Finch	C	U	U	C	ft	
	*House Finch	C	C	C	C	ft	
	Red Crossbill	-	I	I	I	t	
	*Pine Siskin	I	I	I	I	st	
	*Lesser Goldfinch	U	U	U	U	cst	
	*American Goldfinch	C	C	U	C	cfst	
	*House Sparrow	U	U	U	U	cflst	

WELCOME TO THE MARIN HEADLANDS!

One of the premiere locations in the Golden Gate, the Headlands' coastal ecosystems supports a rich assemblage of wildlife including more than 250 species of birds. Wildlife use the park as a natural corridor in their yearly migration routes. Directly in the middle of the Pacific Flyway, hundreds of bird species use Golden Gate as open space to rest and refuel. With explosions of wildflowers in the spring and raptor migration in the fall, the headlands are filled with year round excitement. We invite you to explore the Marin Headlands and see what new and exciting birds you may find.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Marin Headlands

www.nps.gov/goga/marin-headlands.htm

Golden Gate Raptor Observatory

www.ggro.org

Golden Gate Audubon Society

www.goldengateaudubon.org

Marin Audubon Society

www.audubon.org

Northern California Bird Alert

(415) 681-7422

Point Blue (Formerly PRBO)

www.pointblue.org

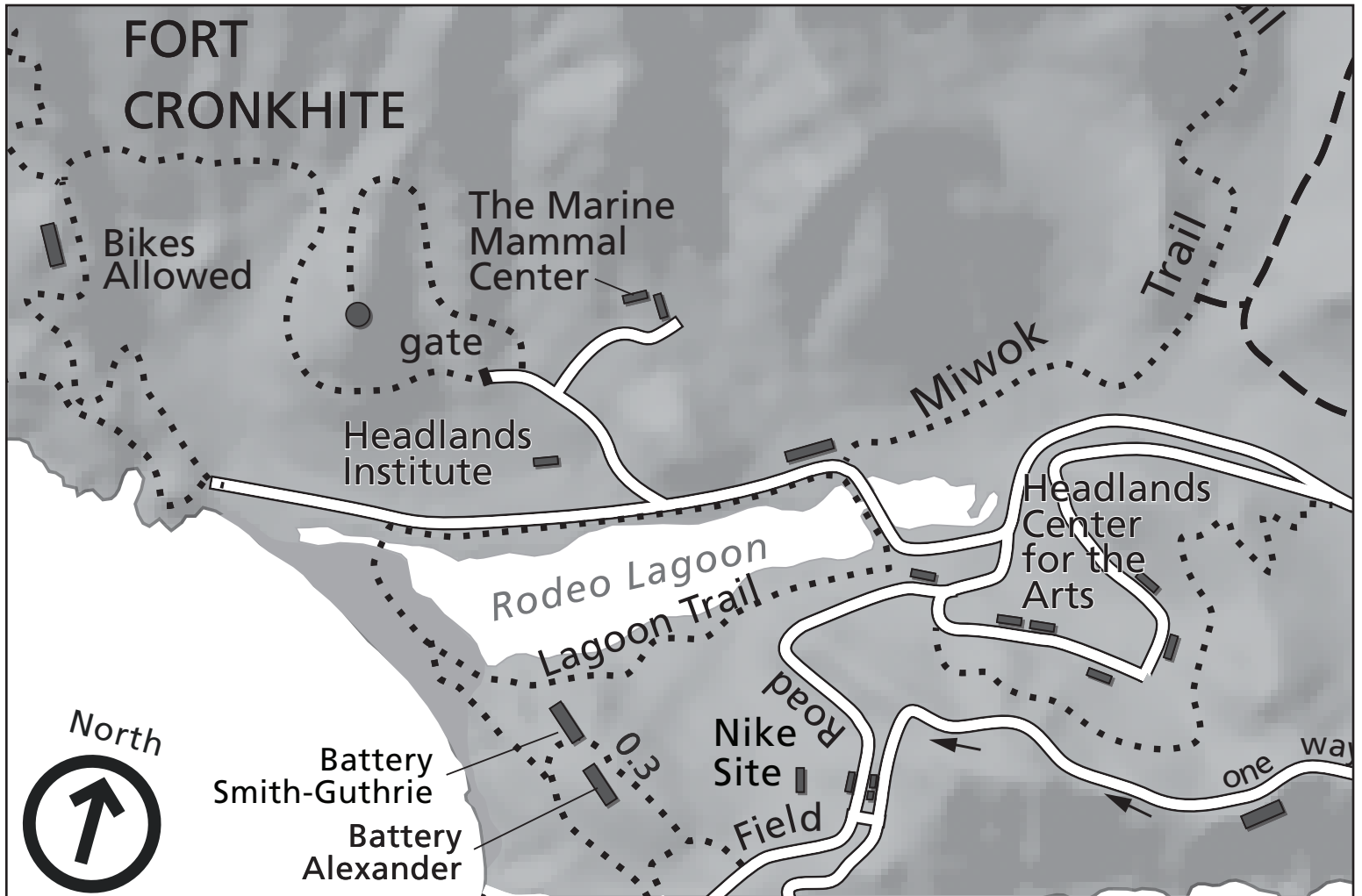


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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

No checklist is ever complete. Please report your well-documented sightings to the Marin Headlands Visitor Center.

This checklist covers the Marin Headlands from Wolf Ridge south to the Golden Gate and the near offshores, except Sausalito.

Key birding spots include the south-side Lagoon Trail, Rodeo and Bobcat Trails in Gerbode Valley, the Coastal Trail, Hawk Hill in the fall, and Tennessee Valley.

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