



# SF BAY STATE OF THE BIRDS

New website tracks bird population trends as a sign of habitat health to inform restoration and land management decisions across the region.



Photo: Megan Elrod

## Why Birds?

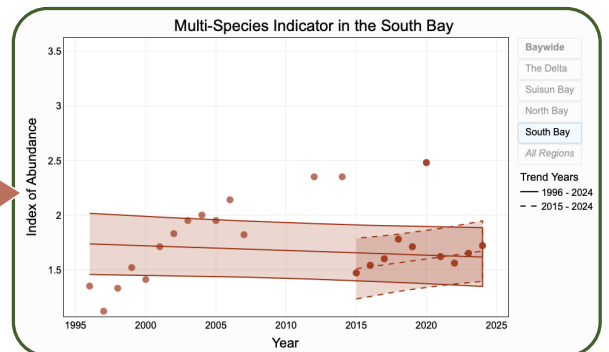
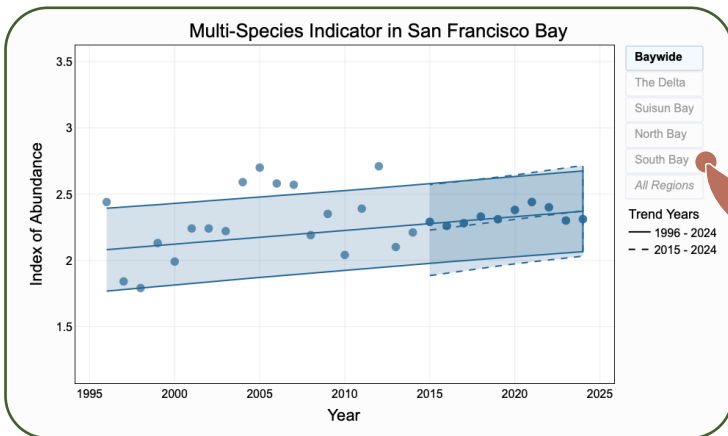
Because birds tend to be sensitive to habitat changes and respond quickly, they are great indicators of overall habitat health. The SF Bay State of the Birds website reveals timely insights that guide restoration and management across San Francisco Bay. Built for land managers, funders, scientists, and policy makers, it supports coordination and delivers frequent updates to advance conservation goals.

## Bird Trend Data

The website includes high-level, baywide information about bird population trends as well as region- and species-specific details for those who want to learn more.

How Bay Birds Are Doing		Status
<b>Tidal Marsh</b>		
	<b>Tidal Marsh Birds</b> The multi-species indicator trend was positive, suggesting that tidal marshes support a diverse assemblage of bird species.	↑ Increasing
	<b>Ridgway's Rail</b> The Ridgway's Rail population remains critically low and a more recent short-term decline is cause for concern. Continuing tidal marsh restoration will help increase their population.	↓ Decreasing
<b>Tidal Flat</b>		
	<b>Shorebirds: Large, Medium, and Small</b> Wintering shorebirds decreased baywide, especially in the Central Bay where there is limited tidal flat habitat.	↓ Decreasing
<b>Subtidal</b>		
	<b>Diving Ducks</b> Diving ducks that forage in subtidal habitats declined in the North and Central Bay and were relatively stable in the South Bay.	↔ Mixed
<b>Non-Tidal Wetlands and Waters</b>		
	<b>Wintering Dabbling Ducks</b> Dabbling ducks are increasing overall and especially in the South Bay, indicating that non-tidal wetlands and waters are providing quality habitat.	↑ Increasing
	<b>Breeding Dabbling Ducks in Suisun Marsh</b> The non-tidal wetlands and waters in Suisun are struggling to provide quality habitat for a key indicator species, breeding dabbling ducks.	↓ Decreasing
	<b>Breeding Waterbirds in the South Bay</b> American avocet and black-necked still breeding has decreased in South Bay managed ponds, and was relatively stable for Forster's tern.	↔ Mixed

SF Bay State of the Birds 2025



The SF Bay State of the Birds is led by the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture and Point Blue Conservation Science



SFBAYSTATEOFTHEBIRDS.ORG



## What's in the SF Bay State of the Birds?

This new website details the trends of key bird populations in four important San Francisco Bay habitats. These bird populations help serve as indicators of habitat health. Specific datasets and analyses will be updated every 3 to 5 years, allowing for a flexible response to the pressing and evolving challenges facing bird populations and their habitats throughout the region.

## Restoration Creates Measurable Improvements

Since 2017, over 7,800 acres of SF Bay habitat have been restored, thanks to voter-approved funding from Measure AA. Much of this restoration has happened in tidal marsh habitat, where bird indicators were most robust. This progress demonstrates what is possible when science, collaboration, and public support unite for the stewardship of the bay.

## Recommended Actions

The SF Bay State of the Birds report identifies specific actions that restoration practitioners, public agencies, scientists, policymakers, and others can take to improve ecosystem health, decrease threats to bird populations, and increase our understanding of species' needs.

## Success Story: Hamilton Wetlands

In the Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project, a former army airfield has been transformed into an avian oasis. The 650-acre site includes a 2.5-mile stretch of the Bay Trail, providing outdoor recreation to area residents. Read more about this success story and others, including the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and Sonoma Baylands, on the site.



Photo: Matt Keller

## San Francisco Bay Habitats

The report includes interactive imagery and information about each featured habitat.

### Tidal Marsh



### Tidal Flats



### Subtidal



### Non-Tidal Wetlands & Waters



Art by Christina Burnham



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