

Wetlands, Winds and Wings

Bay Point lies at a great natural convergence that supports a vast parade of birds from near and far.

Fresh water, draining from half of California's surface, funnels down the great San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers to meet the mighty upstream tidal surge of the

Pacific Ocean just off Bay Point's shores. The narrow river outflow drains into the wide shallows of Suisun Bay. The riches of ocean, bay, mountain, valley, and river mix here in Delta waterways and wetlands of Bay Point.

These fertile marshes sustain some of the millions of resident and migrating shorebirds (sandpipers and relatives), waterfowl (ducks and geese), and raptors

(hawks and eagles) gracing the skies of the Pacific Flyway. Birds from as far as Alaska and Canada spend a day or a season here during migration routes that may take them to Central America, or even Antarctica, and back. They, like resident birds from our backyards, depend upon these wetlands, an invaluable local bounty, to eat, rest, and reproduce.



least sandpiper



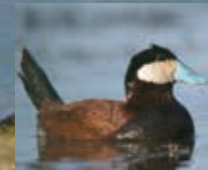
white-tailed kite



kildeer



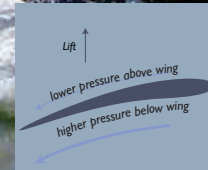
Suisun means "land of the west wind" in the language of the local Karkine Indians. The dependable winds, plentiful food and narrow river crossing, support the largest raptor population on earth in the hills and skies above and south of Bay Point.



ruddy duck



northern harrier



physics of flight

photos by Jim Dunn