

# Nature's Resilience and Spring Wildlife at Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge

A Guide for ESL Learners

March 8, 2022, 4 – 5 p.m.

Sunnyvale Public Library



Did you know we have a very special place here in the South Bay that protects and manages our **bayland habitats**? The Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National **Wildlife Refuge** is the nation's first and largest **urban** National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge provides a safe place for thousands of **migratory** birds and numerous **endangered** species. Today's virtual tour will introduce you to this beautiful place and introduce you to some of the sights, sounds, and **creatures** that will greet you there.

As a **bayland** community, there is so much we can do to help protect our local **habitats**, **wildlife**, and our families. The **rivers**, **creeks**, and **storm drain** systems that run through our community pour into the San Francisco Bay. Join us to learn from an interpretive ranger with the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society about the spring wildlife and take a virtual visit to Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge.

But first, let's get to know the **wildlife refuge**. Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is a wonderful place to hear the sounds and smell the scents of the San Francisco Bay. Sniff the salt air, see the marshland **grasses**, and check out the many-colored **salts** dried on the **mudflats**. You might get lucky and see a salt marsh harvest mouse, but they're pretty shy. More likely, you'll notice the **pickleweed** they eat and thrive on.

Winter at the Refuge is a prime time to view **waterfowl** and **shorebirds** along the Bay, **sloughs**, and **marshes**. **Surf scoters**, **lesser scaups**, **ruddy ducks**, and **buffleheads** float along the Bay, while flocks of **eared grebes** drift in nearby **salt** ponds. With luck, you may see a **golden eagle** soaring overhead, scanning for **rabbits** and other **prey**.

Spring at the Refuge is transformative. Barn swallows, salt marsh song sparrows, and the common yellowthroat can be heard throughout the marsh and upland habitats. Many birds are making nests in the marsh for the **mating season**. March through May is the best time to see wildflowers and to view the millions of birds that stop at the Refuge to rest and refuel during their northern **migration**.

Now that you have had a virtual tour, we invite you to visit Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge at [1751 Grand Blvd in Alviso \(San Jose\)](#) and see it for yourself!

**Text adapted from:**

[https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Don\\_Edwards\\_San\\_Francisco\\_Bay/seasons\\_of\\_wildlife/index.html](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Don_Edwards_San_Francisco_Bay/seasons_of_wildlife/index.html)

Definitions from: [Merriam Webster's Learner's Dictionary](#)

## Vocabulary

**Bay (noun):** a large area of water that is part of an ocean or lake and partly surrounded by land.

**Bayland (noun):** the land that surrounds the Bay, marsh.

**Bufflehead, golden-crowned sparrow, yellow-rumped warbler, surf scoters, lesser scaups, ruddy ducks, eared grebes, golden eagle (noun):** Types of birds that can be found at Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

**Creature (noun):** an animal of any type.

**Creek (noun):** a small stream, a small flowing section of water. *The creek flows into the ocean.*

**Grasses (noun):** plants that have narrow green leaves, that are eaten by cows, sheep, horses, etc., and that are commonly grown on lawns and in gardens.

**Duck (noun):** any one of many different kinds of birds that swim and have a flat beak, a short neck, a heavy body, short legs, and webbed feet.

**Endangered (adjective):** used to describe a type of animal or plant that has become very rare and that could die out completely.

**Habitat (noun):** the place or type of place where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives or grows.

**Marsh (noun):** an area of soft, wet land that has many grasses and other plants. They host a wide variety of wildlife and plants.

**Migration (noun):** movement from one area to another at different times of the year.

**Migratory (adjective):** moving from one place to another at different times of the year.

**Pickleweed (noun):** a plant that absorbs salt and tastes salty. It grows in Don Edwards SF Bay NWR and is food for the salt marsh harvest mouse.

**Prey (noun):** an animal that is hunted or killed by another animal for food.

**Rabbit (noun):** a small animal that usually lives in holes in the ground and has long ears, soft fur, and back legs that are longer than its front legs.

**Refuge (noun):** a place that provides shelter or protection. *Plants and animals find shelter in the wildlife refuge.*

**Slough (noun):** a channel of water where the water level changes daily. When the water retreats with the tide, mudflats are exposed.

**Storm drain (noun):** a drain or pipe that carries water away from a street, parking lot, etc. *The storm drains were full after it rained.*

**Urban (adjective):** of or relating to cities and the people who live in them. *An urban national wildlife refuge is a wildlife refuge that is located in a highly-populated area.*

**Waterfowl (noun):** a duck or similar bird that swims and lives in or near water.

**Wetland (noun):** An area of land that is flooded with water daily, seasonally, or permanently. A marsh is a type of wetland habitat.

**Wildlife (noun):** animals living in nature, wild animals.