

Reichmuth Park

Reichmuth Park, formerly an oxbow lake, is now playing fields and a swampy, wooded nature area. The low-lying soccer fields revert to a lake in rainy winters, attracting California, Ring-billed and Mew Gulls. When dry, they attract American Crow, blackbirds, American Pipit and American Robin.

Birding the site: The nature area, for its size, is one of the great magnets for migrating landbirds in the Sacramento area. Sixteen warbler species have been recorded here, including all of the West Coast species plus Black-and-white, Northern Parula, American Redstart, Hooded Warbler and Canada Warbler. Warbling Vireo, Western Tanager, Pacific-Slope Flycatcher and Willow Flycatcher are common migrants and Olive-sided, Hammond's, and Dusky Flycatchers are regular migrants. Hutton's and Cassin's Vireos migrate through and occasionally overwinter. Hooded Orioles nesting in the fan palms in nearby yards bring their families to the park in August and September. Swainson's Thrush skulk through the thickets in May. Lazuli Bunting feed in the tall grasses in August and September. Hummingbirds are ever present: Anna's year-round; Black-chinned in spring and summer. Watch for their nests low in the blackberries. Rufous/Allen's types migrate from July through September. Winter visitors include Wood Duck, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks, thrushes, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Orange-crowned Warbler, many sparrows, and Purple Finch. Resident birds are: Red-shouldered Hawk, Downy and Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Bewick's and House Wrens, Northern Mockingbird, Spotted Towhee and House Finches. Careful scrutiny of the park's birdlife at almost any season is bound to reveal something interesting.

Directions: From the previous section, proceed south on Riverside Boulevard. Turn left at 43rd Avenue to Gloria Drive and turn right. Parking is available in the park and along Gloria Drive. If you skip William Land Park, head south on Interstate 5 for 3.6 miles from Highway 50 and exit at 43rd Avenue. Turn left, then make a right on Gloria Drive (there is no 43rd Avenue exit from northbound Interstate 5—if coming from the south, exit Interstate 5 at Florin Road; head west and turn right on Greenhaven Drive, and then turn right on Gloria Drive). The nature trail begins east of the Sump 55 building to the south of the parking lot.

Greenhaven Lake

With private homes around the lake, only a handful of spots remain where the water can be viewed, but it is worth the effort in fall and winter to see the large flocks of Common Mergansers (Red-breasted Merganser possible), a few Double-crested Cormorants, gulls (mostly California and Ring-billed, but Mew, Herring and Thayer's occasionally) plus occasional Western and Clark's Grebes, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Canvasback or other diving ducks. Green Herons and Belted Kingfishers ply the shoreline for fish. Caspian Terns visit in the spring and summer.

Directions: From the previous section, return to Riverside Boulevard (or exit Interstate 5 at 43rd Avenue and turn right). Access the lake via Havenside Drive (0.6 mile west of Interstate 5), Shoreside Drive (0.7 mile west of the interstate), Lake Vista Court (off of Shoreside Drive), and Sail Court (off of Havenside Drive).

Garcia Bend Park and Marriott Park

Garcia Bend Park is worth a visit in spring and fall to look for migrating landbirds in the riparian growth and Caspian or Forster's Terns over the river. In winter check for waterbirds you may have missed at Greenhaven Lake in the River Lake development (access via West Shore and East Shore drives off of Pocket Road). Marriott Park has large valley oaks that attract migrating warblers, vireos, tanagers and others in spring.

Directions: From the previous section, continue south on Riverside Boulevard, which turns into Pocket Road. Garcia Bend Park will be on your right at Windbridge Drive. To go directly to Garcia Bend, exit Interstate 5 at Pocket Road (6.0 miles south of Highway 50) and head west for 1.9 miles; the park will be on your left. For Marriott Park, take Greenhaven Drive, which is just west of Interstate 5, south from Pocket Road 0.2 mile, then turn left on Grand River Drive (0.2 mile) to the park.

Chorley Park

Chorley Park is a small city park that harbors migrating landbirds and nesting White-tailed Kites in spring. This area consists of weeds, willows and cottonwood trees.

Directions: From the previous section, continue east on Pocket Road, which becomes Meadowview Road at Interstate 5 (or exit Interstate 5 at Pocket Road and head east). Just east of the interstate, head north on Freeport Boulevard to Florin Road. Go east on Florin Road to 20th Street, and go north. Walk west from the parking lot, behind the playing field and elementary school, to an area of weeds, willows and cottonwoods. Returning to Freeport Boulevard, continue north back into Sacramento. You will pass Sacramento Executive Airport, which has had a substantial population of Burrowing Owls. These birds may occasionally be seen at their burrows along the drainage ditch between Freeport Boulevard and the airport, especially at dusk (they have been much harder to find in recent years).

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