

51-33. SILVER CREEK PRESERVE (IBA)

Boundaries and ownership:

Boundaries: Boundaries are clearly marked

Ownership: The Nature Conservancy

Focal species using the site and timing of use:

During the breeding season, waterfowl (Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Common Merganser), waterbirds (Pied-billed Grebe, Sandhill Crane, Great Blue Heron, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, Caspian Tern, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull), and shorebirds (Killdeer, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Wilson's Snipe) are present; majority of which are breeding on the preserve. During migration there are multiple species of waterfowl, and during spring migration one may also see Long-billed Dowitchers, Willets, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpipers, and American Avocets.

Location of type 1 and 2 habitat within the site:

Functional Group	Type 1 Habitat	Type 2 Habitat
waterbirds	open water & emergent vegetation	none
large waders	emergent vegetation	rest of shoreline
secretive marshbirds	water's edge, emergent vegetation	none
waterfowl	open water, edges during breeding season	none
shorebirds	exposed mudflats during spring/fall migration	rest of shoreline
gulls and terns	all areas, although not abundant on preserve	none

Access to the type 1 and 2 habitat and visibility of the birds:

Most waterfowl can be observed from stream banks, trails, and along roads, although canoes would be useful for monitoring some creek areas (mostly Type II habitat). The area is easily accessible to the public through a series of established trails. There are a couple good vantage points from along the road that may be best for surveying ponds and large water areas. Off-trail work would require permission from Bill Barker or preserve staff. Visibility is easier in Fall/Winter when vegetation is dormant.

Conservation issues:

- Water quality/ quantity - water usage in the surrounding areas that are being developed is a problem. Areas in close proximity (Bellevue and south of Bellevue) are developing rapidly, which affects the water usage and water recharge areas.

Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed:

- Designated nature preserve, so protected from development
- Conservation easements.
- County/state cooperation with the Nature Conservancy to preserve the watershed.

Past and current surveys:

- Christmas Bird Counts
- Raptor surveys in adjoining areas
- Bird banding took place over a two-year period in the past

Potential survey methods

Description:

- a. Nest searches for grebes and other waterbirds nesting in the emergent vegetation in small colonies. Most of this can be done from the stream bank, although a canoe may be helpful on some reaches of the creek.
- b. Census for waterfowl and other waterbirds on the open water from the stream bank or nearby roads. Additional viewing of streams can be done by canoe.
- c. Area searches for migrating shorebirds from observation points near Type 1 habitat.
- d. Systematic sampling, probably including the use of playback calls, for secretive marshbirds.

Selection bias: N/A

Measurement error and bias: Lack of experienced birders presents a potential bias, although there are a significant number of amateur birders willing and excited to be involved in monitoring.

Needed pilot studies: None are needed.

Contact:

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