

Quivira Birding Sites (see map below)

Much of the year, birds and other wildlife abound throughout Quivira. The guide below is intended to highlight and summarize some of the more notable and easy-to-access sites. Note: most of the Refuge is open to foot travel, unless marked with signs as "Closed to Public Entry". Quivira has maintained hiking trails designed especially for foot travel, as well as service roads that can be accessed on foot. When considering off-road or off-trail hiking at Quivira, remember that much of the Refuge is low and often wet, making hiking difficult.

- 1. Kids' Fishing Pond** - this area is within walking distance of the Headquarters/Visitor Center, and features a small pond and foot trail that connects to the Observation Tower (see #2). Check the pond, the cottonwoods, and a brushy slough to the west (beyond the shooting range).
- 2. Observation Tower** - offering a decent view of the south end of Little Salt Marsh, this can often be a good place to view waterfowl and pelicans during migration. Whooping Cranes sometimes use the area just to the west of the tower. A photo blind is reached via a short trail to the west, and it can be a good place to view shorebirds. A connector trail leads south to the Kids' Fishing Pond.
- 3. South boundary "Tree Tunnel"** - the Refuge's south boundary, west of the entrance road, features a nice stretch of trees and brush. Even though the trees were trimmed by the county in 2015, this can be a good place to check for migrant and breeding passerines during the warm half of the year. Please note that all land on the south side of the road is private.
- 4. Migrants Mile Trail** - this hiking trail features a paved inner loop and a grass-surfaced outer loop. All parts of the trail can potentially attract migrant passerines, and the cattail marshes in the area often have waterfowl and herons.
- 5. Unit 49** - this is one of many managed water impoundments, and its easy access for viewing makes it worth checking for waterfowl and shorebirds.
- 6. Wildlife Drive** - this is a must for any birding visit. The combination of open water, marsh, large expanses of salt grass and mud flats, and the ease of road access make this the best place at Quivira to view shorebirds and waterfowl. Any season has its specialties: shorebirds are present from spring through fall; bald eagles flock here in winter; and tens of thousands of geese, ducks, and sandhill cranes use the area in migration.
- 7. "Hay Barn" Road Junction** - from the Wildlife Drive, turn west on Marsh Road/170th to the first road going north (NE 105th Ave.). The roadsides at this junction, and north about a half mile, offer one of the area's best places to view sparrows and other migrants. Bobolinks breed in the meadow south of the junction. Please respect private property south and west of the intersection.
- 8. Deadhorse Grove** - this woodlot on the Refuge's east boundary offers good passerine viewing in migration and in summer. The woodlot has a diverse combination of walnut, redcedar, and black locust trees. Be aware that, in summer, mosquitoes can be quite thick here.
- 9. Flats along NE 170th St.** - the open areas (flats) north and south of Marsh Road/NE 170th (the east-west road along the north side of the Wildlife Drive) offer some of Quivira's best shorebird viewing. This area is also home to nesting Least Terns and Snowy Plover, as well as another hot spot for shorebirds.
- 10. Rice County unit** - this is a very open portion of the Refuge that features, among other things, two prairie dog towns. Some of the Refuge's best grasslands can be viewed in this area. Refuge boundaries are marked by signage. Please respect private property in the area.

Top Birding Sites at Quivira

