

The Birds of Hamilton Wetland: Who is Here Today?

As you walk along the trail, keep an eye out for a variety of birds that may be feeding in the wetland. When you see a bird, carefully observe its bill length, the colors on its body and wings, and its feeding behavior - all clues to help you identify who is here today.



If you are lucky enough to see a bird that walks like a chicken with an orangish bill, you have seen the shy, elusive, and endangered **CALIFORNIA CLAPPER RAIL**.



The **LONG-BILLED CURLEW** can be seen probing deeply into the mud for worms with its long down-curved bill; the **MARbled GODWIT** looks similar, but its bill curves up slightly at the tip.



The **BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER** can be distinguished by its short bill, stout body, and the way it makes short starts and stops.



The **SNOWY EGRET** is white with a slender black bill and bright yellow feet. It can be spotted advancing gracefully through the shallow waters as it stalks its next meal.



The **AMERICAN AVOCET** sweeps the surface for food with its long upturned black bill. Its black and white wings can't be missed when in flight.



The **WILLET** is most easily distinguished in flight by its dazzling black and white wings.



The small flocks of little birds with short, thin bills are **SANDPIPERS**, also commonly known as "peeps."