



**Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge**  
1 Marshlands Rd, Fremont CA 94555

## Refuge Roundup Geocache

Using a GPS unit, locate the given coordinates and answer the following questions. When you have answered all the questions, follow the instructions on how to obtain the combination to the cache. The cache box is located at the Visitor Center in Fremont. Visitor Center hours are Tuesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. It is closed on all Federal holidays. You can also log your finds at <http://www.geocaching.com>. You can find the Refuge Round Up activity by typing in the code GC1HQ1W.

### Stage 1

**Coordinates: N 37 32.008 W 122 04.217 (Near Fremont Headquarters)**

It is common to see a vast array of snowy egrets, great egrets, black-necked stilts, and waterfowl among the marshy sloughs and ponds. This is also one of the best spots to see the endangered California clapper rail during high tide. Look closely and see if you can spot one.

From the nearby sign, answer the question: What bird is one of the top predators in the food chain for the surrounding area?

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### Stage 2

**Coordinates: N 37 31.878 W 122 04.549 (Near Fremont Headquarters)**

Look around and you might spy cliff and barn swallows, Forster's terns, gulls, or waterfowl, depending on the season. Northern harriers can also be seen flying low over the marsh.

From the nearby sign, answer the question: What native group of people used to live and hunt in the immediate area surrounding you?

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### Stage 3

**Coordinates: N 37 30.608 W 122 06.705 (Near the Fremont Headquarters)**

*This area is home to an abundance of aquatic life, including leopard sharks, striped bass, white sturgeon, and more. It is also the nursery ground for dungeness crabs. It is important to keep the San Francisco Bay clean so that wildlife in the area is not harmed.*

From the nearby sign, answer the question: What are two types of fish that swim close to the bay surface?

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#### Stage 4

**Coordinates: N 37.29.267 W 121 57.870 (Near Lam Research Center, Fremont. *This will require walking 1-mile roundtrip*)** **SIGN IS MISSING. DO NOT HAVE TO ANSWER QUESTION**

If possible, take the time to further explore the path here and use binoculars to try and spot a burrowing owl. Burrowing owls are curious creatures that differ from most other owls in that they live in abandoned ground squirrel burrows and tend to be diurnal. Unfortunately due to habitat loss caused from human development, burrowing owls are listed as species of concern.

From the nearby sign, answer the question: What amphibian breeds in vernal pools during the winter and spends summer in nearby underground burrows? **SIGN IS MISSING. DO NOT HAVE TO ANSWER QUESTION**

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#### Stage 5

**Coordinates: N 37 27.800 W 121 56.263 (Near Coyote Creek Lagoon Trail. Parking lot is at the end of Fremont Blvd. *This will require walking approximately 2 miles roundtrip*)**

This area is home to the refuge's endangered salt marsh harvest mouse. This mouse feeds on pickleweed, a plant high in salt content, and is one of the only mammals that needs only salt water to live. It's a nocturnal mammal about the size of your thumb and lives up to nine months. These fascinating animals are only found in the San Francisco Bay Area.

From the nearby sign, fill in the blank: The area in front of you is part of a \_\_\_\_\_ acre wetland retention basin that was returned to tidal action in the winter of 1986.

#### Stage 6

**Coordinates: N 37 26.429 W 121.57.625 (Near the Environmental Education Center in Alviso)**

These salt ponds are part of the largest restoration project on the west coast. The pond near you has transformed into a mecca for wildlife ever since the restoration project began. Egrets, herons, pelicans and waterfowl can often be seen in abundant numbers.

From the nearby sign, answer the question: How much financial aid did a consortium of the Hewlett, Moore, and Packard Foundations and the Goldmund Fund contribute towards the initial acquisition of salt ponds for the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge and California Department of Fish and Game?

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#### Stage 7

**Coordinates: N 37 26.452 W 121 59.530 (Near the Alviso Marina in Alviso. *This will require a 2.5 mile roundtrip walk*)**

This area is a prime location for various types of birds. They thrive on the crustaceans (such as brine shrimp) and fish (such as goby) that live in some of the adjacent ponds.

From the nearby sign, answer the question: What structure has been marked off by the refuge for the protection of wildlife and their habitat?

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**Stage 8**

**Coordinates: N 37 26.096 W 122 04.041 (Near Stevens Creek, Mountain View)**

This area is a popular spot for duck hunters during the fall and winter. Though hunting on a National Wildlife Refuge may seem like an oxymoron, hunters have been important in establishing wildlife refuges. All duck hunters are required to purchase a Federal Duck Stamp in order to hunt. Approximately 98 cents of each dollar goes directly to purchasing wetlands for wildlife habitat protection. Anyone can buy a duck stamp. Stop by your local post office or National Wildlife Refuge and ask for one. Question: What man-made structures are located in the pond to the east?

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**Stage 9**

**Coordinates: N 37 28.122 W 122 07182 (Faber-Laumeister Unit in East Palo Alto)**

This marsh is home to one of the refuge's endangered species, the California clapper rail. It is estimated that only 1,500 birds are left. These birds feed on frogs, mice, and small crustaceans.

Question: What activity do many people engage in for relaxation at the end of this trail?

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**Stage 10.**

**Coordinates: N 37 29.753 W 122 07.980 (West of the Dumbarton Bridge)**

*This area is a prime nesting spot for the threatened western snowy plovers and During the summer months you might see adults walking with their chicks in search for food. American avocet chicks are also found here during the summer. In the winter, it is common to see groups of buffleheads, shovelers, and ruddy ducks.*

Question: What is the name of this unit of the Don Edwards SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge?

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**Congratulations! Now that you have visited and answered all the questions, it is time to obtain the combination for the cache box. Here are the clues:**

- 1. The first # of the combination is the first digit in the answer to question # 5.**
- 2. The second # of the combination is the second digit in the answer to question # 6.**
- 3. The third # of the combination will be given to you at the Visitor Center Desk when you hand in this answer sheet.**

**Combination to the Cache Box:**

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