

**Birds found at Lower Klamath and Tule Lake Refuge Raptor Blinds**

<i><b>SPECIES</b></i>	<b>#2 Tule Lake Raptor Blind</b>	<b>#5 Tule Lake Eagle Blind</b>	<b>#6 Lower Klamath Eagle Snag</b>
Bald Eagle	W,Sp(c)	W,Sp(c)	W,Sp(c)
Red-tailed Hawk	F,W,Sp(c)	F,W,Sp(c)	F,W,Sp(c)
Northern Harrier	W(u)	W(u)	?
Rough-legged Hawk	W (r)	?	?
American Kestrel	W(u)	W(u)	W(u)
Golden Eagle	W(r)	W(r)	W(r)
Prairie Falcon	W(r)	W(r)	W(r)
Peregrine Falcon	?	?	F,W(r)
Northern Flicker	W,Sp(c)	W,Sp(c)	W,Sp(u)
Common Raven	W(u)	W (u)	?
Loggerhead Shrike	W(r)	W(r)	?
Northern Shrike	W(r)	W(r)	?
European Starling	W,Sp(c)	W,Sp(c)	W,Sp(c)
Western Meadowlark	W,Sp(c)	W,Sp(c)	
Red-winged Blackbird	W,Sp(c)	W,Sp(c)	W,Sp(c)
Brewer's Blackbird	W,Sp(c)	W,Sp(c)	W,Sp(c)

Sp=spring Su=summer F=fall; W=winter; — c=common; u=uncommon; r=rare



**Immature Bald Eagle eating a Bufflehead duck at photo blind #2 on Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge**



**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Lower Klamath & Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuges**

# Photography Blinds



**Photo Blind #6 Lower Klamath Refuge**

**Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges  
4009 Hill Road  
Tulelake, CA 96134  
(530) 667-2231**

# Wildlife Photography Blinds

## Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges

4009 Hill Road, Tulelake, CA 96134 (530) 667-2231

### General Information

Wildlife photography opportunities at the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges are excellent. Six photography blinds are available, five on Tule Lake Refuge and one on Lower Klamath Refuge. Use of these blinds is by reservation only. An annual pass is required for anyone using refuge photo blinds. Only one blind may be reserved per day, and a given blind may be reserved for up to two days per week. Blind reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis and accepted only within three months of the first date the blind will be used.

Three blinds (Blinds #2 and #5 on Tule Lake Refuge and Blind #6 on Lower Klamath Refuge) are located to facilitate **bald eagle and raptor photography**. During December through March these blinds must be entered before 7a.m. Blinds #1 and #3 on Tule Lake provide opportunities to photograph **water birds**. Warm clothing, a telephoto lens and tripod enhance opportunities at the blinds. Although unusual, winter temperatures occasionally fall to 0 degrees F. **All blinds are situated for best lighting for photography in the morning.**

### Making a Reservation

Blind reservations may be made in person, by telephone, or mail at the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges visitor center, located 5 miles west of Tulelake, California. Telephone: (530) 667-2231. Visitor Center hours are 8am-4:30pm, weekdays and 9am-4pm weekends and holidays. Reservations by mail or telephone should be made at least 10 days prior to intended use so that reservation materials will arrive by mail prior to use.

Reservation confirmations are mailed when payment has been received. A season pass is available for \$ 25 (\$ 12.50 for those with the Golden Age, Senior Interagency or Interagency Access Pass). Full time students also qualify for half price passes. For those requesting a reservation by phone, we also accept credit cards. Checks must be made payable to the **US Fish and Wildlife Service**. The reservation includes a slip to display on the vehicle dashboard. There is no need to return reservation materials after use .

### Reducing Wildlife Disturbance

Please conduct activities so as to keep wildlife disturbance to a minimum. For example, make an effort to exit the blind/area when no wildlife is in the vicinity. Such actions will not only benefit wildlife but will help ensure continued, high quality photographic opportunities. **Photographers are encouraged to enter blinds at or prior to sunrise** which reduces disturbance and helps achieve the best results.

## Birds Found at Lower Klamath and Tule Lake Refuge Marsh Blinds

<i>SPECIES</i>	#1 Hill Rd. Marsh Blind	#3 Tule Lake Marsh Blind	#6 Lower Klamath Marsh Blind
Western/Clark's Grebe	Sp,Su,F	Sp,Su	Sp,Su
Eared Grebe	Su,F		Sp,Su
Pied-Billed Grebe	Su		Sp,Su
White Pelican	Sp,Su,F	Sp,Su,F	Sp,Su
B.Crowned Night-Heron			Sp,Su,F
Snowy Egret	Sp,Su		?
Great Egret	Sp,Su,F		Sp,Su,F
White-faced Ibis	Su		
Tundra Swan	Sp,W	W	
Canada Goose	Sp,Su,F	Sp,Su,F	Sp,Su,F
White-fronted Goose	F,W,Sp	F,W,Sp	
Snow Goose	W	F,W,Sp	
Mallard/Gadwall	Sp,Su,F	Sp,Su,F, W	Sp,Su,F
Northern Pintail	Sp,Su	?	Sp,Su,F
Northern Shoveler	Sp,Su,F	?	Sp,Su
Cinnamon Teal	Sp,Su	?	Sp,Su,F
Diving Ducks	Sp,Su,F	?	Sp,Su,F
Sora/Virginia Rail	Su,F		Sp
American Coot	Sp,Su,F	?	Sp,Su,F
American Avocet	Sp, Su,F		
Black-necked Stilt	Sp,Su		
Bonaparte's Gull	Sp,Su		
Forster's Tern	Sp,Su		
Caspian Tern	Sp,Su		
Marsh Wren	Sp,Su,		Sp,Su
Song Sparrow	Su,F		Sp,Su,F

**Sp=spring; Su=summer; F=fall; W=winter**

**NOTE: Opportunities to see an photograph some species depends on water depth and exposed shoreline near the blinds which will vary from year to year.**



Eared grebe's from the #3 waterbird blind and Bald Eagle from the #5 eagle blind

**4. Tule Lake Upland Blind:** This one-person blind is being re-established after a wildfire destroyed the previous blind and surrounding habitat. As of fall 2014, the habitat is starting to recover and show signs of improvement. Photography opportunities will become more and more productive as time passes. This blind is located on the uphill side of Hill Road and is 7.4 miles south of the refuge Visitor Center. The blind is marked with a small white plaque marked with a #4 and two red reflectors located on a power line support pole. Park off the pavement just north of the pole. The blind is on the uphill side of the road about 50 feet from the road edge. A small watering pool attracts passerine species to branches and rocks spaced 15 to 25 feet of the blind. **Best seasons:** spring, summer and fall

**5. Tule Lake Eagle Blind:** This new two person blind has two viewing ports facing the raptor tree and three additional ports for other opportunities. From the Refuge visitor center, travel 4.8 miles south on Hill Road, then turn left onto the auto tour route for 4.8 miles. At the tour route junction turn right for 1.2 miles and then left for another 2.7 miles along the south shore of Sump 1-B. Park along the road at the white post marking blind #5 leaving room for other vehicles to pass. The blind is a 600 yard walk to the north. A minimum 300mm telephoto lens is suggested. The lens opening in the blind faces a willow tree where raptors frequently perch during the winter months. **Best Season:** mid-December through mid-March. **REMINDER: this blind must be entered before 7am.**

**6. Lower Klamath Eagle Snag Blind:** This new two person blind has two viewing ports facing the raptor tree and three additional ports for other opportunities and is situated for morning photography of eagles and raptors. From the Refuge Visitor Center, travel 3.9 miles north on Hill Road to the intersection with State Line Road (Hwy 161). Turn left onto State Line Road and continue 11.2 miles. Park just off the highway on the left at the chain link fence. Hike approximately 600 yards along the dike to the blind on the dike top located near a dead tree where eagles and raptors perch in the late fall and winter. The blind is approximately 75 feet from the perching location. A minimum 300mm telephoto lens is recommended. **Best Season:** mid-December through mid-March. **REMINDER: this blind must be entered before 7am.**

## Blind Descriptions and Locations

Blind locations on roads and access trails are marked with a white fiberglass post which includes the blind number, a directional arrow, and two red reflectors.

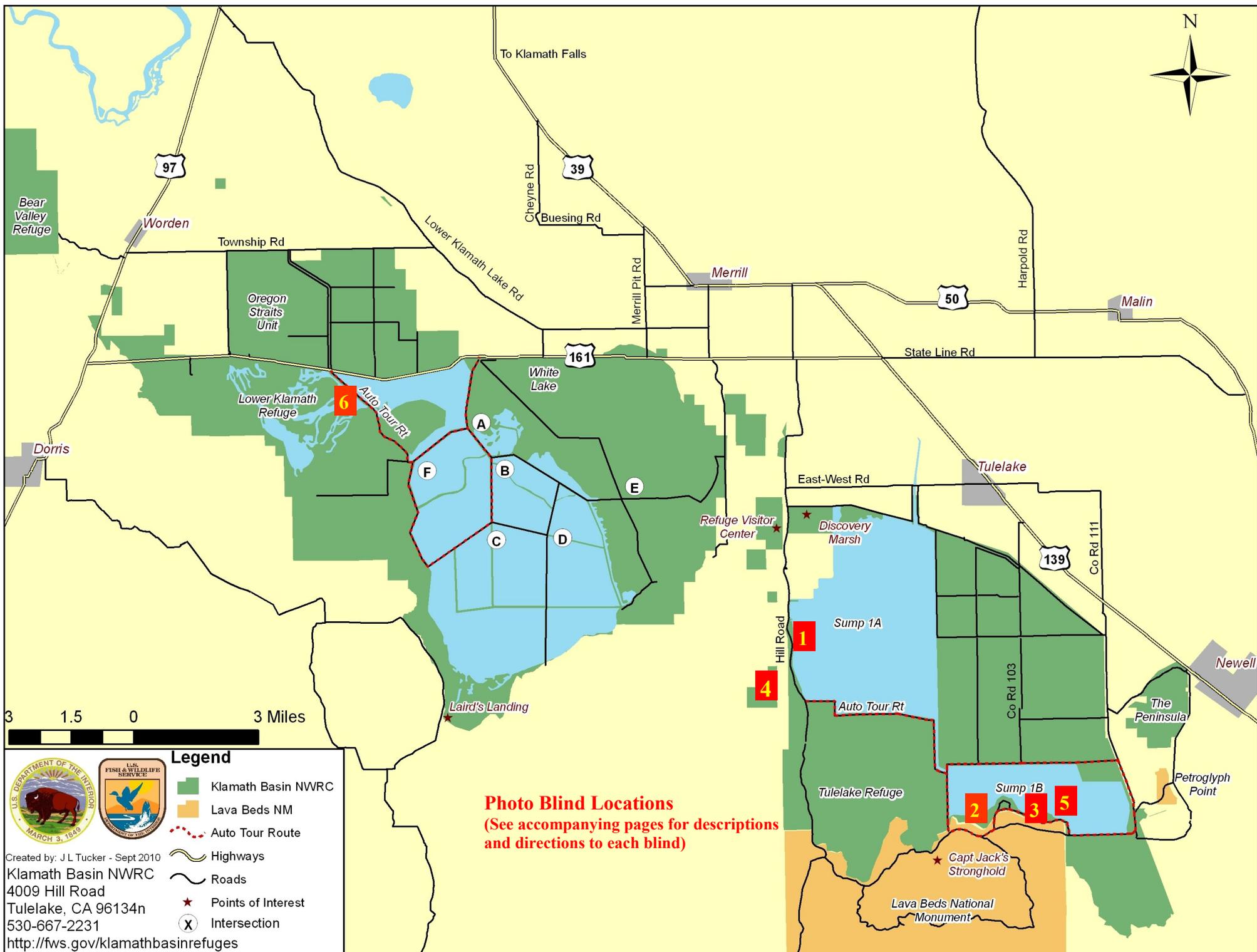
**1. Hill Road Marsh Blind:** This is a two-person blind with 4 lens ports located on the west shoreline of Tule Lake. From the Refuge Visitor Center travel 2.7 miles south on Hill Road to the boat ramp parking area on the left. Park at the ramp. The blind is a short walk (700 feet) out the dike on the north side of the boat channel. A minimum 200mm lens is suggested. The blind faces the water in a north/northwest direction. **Best Seasons:** Spring, summer and fall. During waterfowl hunting season (generally mid-October through mid-January) the boat ramp area is used by hunters and fewer birds may be present. **NOTE: This blind is wheelchair accessible.**



Virginia Rail and Sora photographed at photo blind #1 on Tule Lake Refuge

**2. Tule Lake Sump 1-B Raptor Blind:** This one-person blind is set up to photograph hawks and eagles. It is located along the south shore of Sump 1-B off the auto tour route. From the Refuge Visitor Center travel 4.8 miles south on Hill Road, then turn left (east) onto the auto tour route for 4.8 miles. At the "T" intersection turn right (south) for 1.2 miles and then left for 1.5 miles along the south shore of Sump 1-B to the road signed for Authorized Vehicles Only. Turn left onto this road and travel 0.2 miles. Park here leaving room for other vehicles to pass. The blind is located approximately 200 yards to the north across the grassland near a tree (eagle perch). A minimum 300mm lens is suggested. The blind faces north. **Best Seasons:** December through mid-March **REMINDER: this blind must be entered before 7am from January through February.**

**3. Tule Lake Sump 1-B Waterbird Blind:** This blind accommodates up to two people. It is located on the south shore of Sump 1-B along the auto tour route. From the Refuge Visitor Center, travel 4.8 miles south on Hill Road, then turn left onto the auto tour route for 4.8 miles. At the tour route junction turn right for 1.2 miles and then left for 2.3 miles along the south shore of Sump 1-B. You will see a boardwalk leading to the blind across the grasslands. Park here leaving room for other vehicles to pass. A minimum 300mm telephoto lens is suggested. The blind faces the water (north) with several openings to photograph waterbirds. **Best Seasons:** spring and fall. **NOTE: This blind is wheelchair accessible.**



**Legend**

- Klamath Basin NWRC
- Lava Beds NM
- Auto Tour Route
- Highways
- Roads
- Points of Interest
- Intersection

Created by: J.L. Tucker - Sept 2010  
 Klamath Basin NWRC  
 4009 Hill Road  
 Tulelake, CA 96134n  
 530-667-2231  
<http://fws.gov/klamathbasinrefuges>

**Photo Blind Locations**  
 (See accompanying pages for descriptions and directions to each blind)