

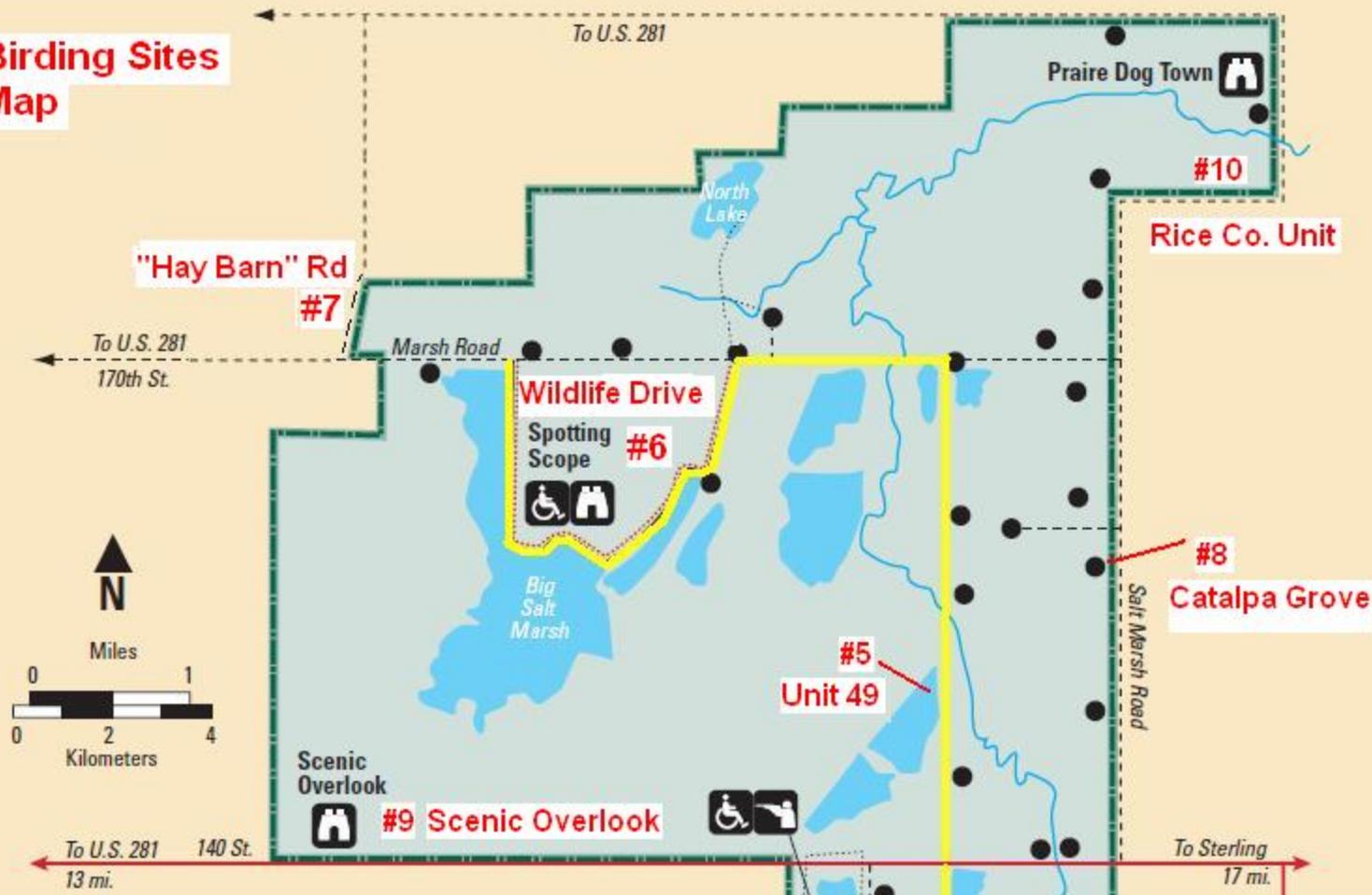
Birding Sites (see map below)

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 any areas of brush along the trail.
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 available via a short trail to the west, and this trail connects to the trail to the Kids' Fishing Pond (see #1 above).
3. **South boundary, west** - the Refuge's south boundary, west of the entrance road, features a nice stretch of trees and brush, as well as a small wetland on the south side. 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. Be sure to check the open areas (flats) north and south of Marsh Road/NE 170th (the east-west road along the north side of the Wildlife Drive). This area is home to nesting Least Terns and Snowy Plover, as well as another hot spot for shorebirds.
7. **"Hay Barn" Road** - from the Wildlife Drive, turn west on Marsh Road/170th to the first road going north. The roadsides from this junction and north about a half mile offer one of the area's best places to view sparrows and other migrants. Please respect private property along the west side of the road.
8. **Catalpa Grove** - this woodlot on the Refuge's east boundary offers good passerine viewing in migration and in summer. Barred Owls have been known to inhabit the grove. Be aware that, in summer, mosquitoes can be quite thick here.
9. **Scenic Overlook** - this site offers a spectacular view of Big Salt Marsh and environs. It can also be a good spot to view cranes and geese flying both in and out of the marsh.
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.

Birding Sites Map



Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

Refuge Boundary	Wetlands and Wildlife National Scenic Byway
Paved Road	Restroom
Gravel Road	Accessible Site
Auto Tour Route	Photo Blind
Wildlife Drive	Hunting Blind
Foot Path	Viewing Area
Refuge Headquarters and Visitor Center	Fishing Area
Parking	

