

Our Mission

The mission of California State Parks is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.



California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact the park at (415) 435-5390. If you need this publication in an alternate format, contact tours.angelisland@parks.ca.gov

Angel Island State Park

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www.parks.ca.gov

Our partners include:



Songbirds (Passerines)

Flycatchers

- ☐ Pacific-slope Flycatcher
- ☐ Black Phoebe

Corvids

- ☐ California Scrub-Jay
- ☐ Common Raven
- ☐ American Crow

Swallows

- ☐ Barn Swallow
- ☐ Violet-green Swallow

Chickadees and allies

- ☐ Chestnut-backed Chickadee
- ☐ Bushtit
- ☐ Pygmy Nuthatch
- ☐ Brown Creeper

Wrens

- ☐ House Wren
- ☐ Bewick's Wren

Thrushes

- ☐ Western Bluebird
- ☐ American Robin

Sparrows and allies

- ☐ White-crowned Sparrow
- ☐ Song Sparrow
- ☐ Dark-eyed Junco
- ☐ Spotted Towhee

Finches

- ☐ House Finch
- ☐ Lesser Goldfinch

Other songbirds

- ☐ Hutton's Vireo
- ☐ Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- ☐ European Starling

Non Passerines

Sea and shore birds

- ☐ Canada Goose
- ☐ Brandt's Cormorant
- ☐ Pelagic Cormorant
- ☐ Double-crested Cormorant
- ☐ Western Grebe
- ☐ Clark's Grebe
- ☐ Western Gull
- ☐ Caspian Tern
- ☐ Elegant Tern
- ☐ Brown Pelican
- ☐ Great Blue Heron

Pigeons and doves

- ☐ Rock Pigeon
- ☐ Band-tailed Pigeon
- ☐ Mourning Dove

Raptors and nightjars

- ☐ Red-tailed Hawk
- ☐ Red-shouldered Hawk
- ☐ Turkey Vulture
- ☐ Osprey
- ☐ Bald Eagle
- ☐ Great Horned Owl
- ☐ Barn Owl
- ☐ Common Poorwill

Woodpeckers

- ☐ Acorn Woodpecker
- ☐ Nuttall's Woodpecker
- ☐ Downy Woodpecker
- ☐ Hairy Woodpecker
- ☐ Northern Flicker

Hummingbirds

- ☐ Anna's Hummingbird

Common Birds of Angel Island State Park



Brown Pelican

Brown Pelican

With a wingspan over 6 feet (1.8 meters), these huge birds can be seen gliding gracefully in V's or lines along the water, or diving with a splash to catch fish below the surface. Juveniles have brown heads and necks; adult's heads are white.

Fifty years ago, Brown Pelicans were nearly extinct due to pesticides, but their populations have largely recovered thanks to stricter environmental regulations.



House Finch

Adult male House Finches are small but easily recognizable by the red on their head which fades down their back and chest. Females and young birds lack this coloration and are brown and tan. As with any bird that has red coloring, the male's color comes from chemicals in their food. When House Finches, Cardinals, or Flamingos are fed a diet without carotenoids (the chemicals that give carrots their orange color), their feathers have no red or pink in them!

In the springtime, House Finches are some of the most persistent and common singers on Angel Island.

California Scrub-Jay

This noisy blue and grey relative of the eastern Blue Jay is found all around the island. They are often seen gathering acorns, seeds, or insects, and will steal food from Acorn Woodpeckers (also common on Angel Island) or people. Guard your picnic closely!

When food is plentiful in the fall, a single California Scrub-Jay will hide up to five thousand acorns and other food items. When food is scarce, they will use their incredible memory to retrieve the food they have buried. This behavior keeps Scrub-Jays well fed, and also serves the oak forests by planting acorns far from the parent tree, where new oaks may grow from seeds which are left behind.



Turkey Vulture

The most commonly seen large bird circling overhead on Angel Island, Turkey Vultures shift unsteadily as they soar on air currents without flapping. They are dark chocolate brown, with slate gray on the undersides of their wings and small red heads.

As scavengers, Turkey Vultures are perfectly-suited for a diet of carrion. Their excellent sense of smell leads them to dead animals; their acidic droppings neutralize the bacteria in their meal; and their featherless heads help them stay relatively clean as they tear apart their prey. It all sounds fairly gross, but they keep their habitat - and ours - free of rotting carcasses.



Red-tailed Hawk

Although Red-tailed Hawks may range in color from nearly white to dark brown when seen from below, the dark leading edge on their shoulders are tell-tale marks in flight. When perched, they can be recognized by the band of vertical bars across their belly like a cummerbund.

Hawks soar gracefully on air currents while looking for their prey of rodents, lizards or small birds, preserving their energy by rarely flapping. If you've ever heard a Bald Eagle in a movie, odds are good that the call was actually the loud scream of a Red-tailed Hawk.

Describe, list, or draw what you saw today...