INTERIOR EAST BAY
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This subregion encompasses the steep, hilly terrain and densely populated valleys of Contra Costa and Alameda counties. It extends from the hills above the urbanized eastern shore of San Francisco Bay eastward to Mount Diablo. Several constructed reservoirs in the subregion provide freshwater habitat for herons and egrets. Much of the historic tidal wetland along Suisun Bay and the Carquinez Straits has been drained and filled for development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site #</th>
<th>Colony Site</th>
<th>Great Blue Heron</th>
<th>Great Egret</th>
<th>Snowy Egret</th>
<th>Black-crowned Night-Heron</th>
<th>Cattle Egret</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Active or year last active</th>
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<td>Alamo</td>
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<td>706</td>
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<td>707</td>
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<td>Alameda</td>
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</table>
Alamo

In the late 1990s, Great Blue Herons began nesting on Camille Lane, on the eastern edge of the San Ramon Valley, about 2 km south of downtown Alamo and 1 km from San Ramon Creek. There is a public trail adjacent to the colony.

Ownership: unknown
Public observation areas: park trail
Latitude / Longitude: N 37.8323 / W 122.0261

**Colony site description**
- Topography: suburban
- Length x width: 10 m x 5 m
- Nest substrate: *Eucalyptus* sp. (dead branches)
- Average nest height: 22 m
- Trees (dbh): 1 (100-150 cm)
- Maximum tree canopy height: 24 m
- Vegetation cover: tree 20%, shrub 25%, ground 90%

**Evidence of disturbance**
None recorded.

**Land use**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use</th>
<th>Distance from colony site (m)</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-density housing</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protected natural area</td>
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</table>
**Don Castro**

This heronry is in the Don Castro Regional Recreation Area in Hayward, managed by the East Bay Regional Park District. In recent years, a single pair of Great Blue Herons nested on the northwest side of Lake Don Castro and one or two additional pairs nested on the southern edge of the lake. All of the nests are in eucalyptus trees.

Ownership: public  
Public observation areas: public recreation area  
Latitude / Longitude: N 37.6897 / W 122.0536

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**Colony site description**

Topography: levee  
Length x width: 7 m x 1 m  
Nest substrate: *Eucalyptus* sp.  
Average nest height: 9 m  
Trees (dbh): 1 (50-100 cm)  
Maximum tree canopy height: 18 m  
Vegetation cover: tree 72%, shrub 0%, ground 0%

**Evidence of disturbance**

Human activity (boating): behavioral response

**Land use**

<table>
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Lake Chabot

This colony is in Chabot Regional Park, about 2 km east of San Leandro. The Great Blue Herons nest in an isolated eucalyptus tree growing on the shoreline of the northernmost arm of the lake. The East Bay Regional Parks District manages the property.

Ownership: public  
Public observation areas: Chabot Regional Park trail  
Latitude / Longitude: N 37.7326 / W 122.1169

Colony site description
Topography: hillside  
Length x width: 16 m x 11 m  
Nest substrate: *Eucalyptus* sp. (live and dead branches)  
Average nest height: 24 m  
Trees (dbh): 2 (3-10 cm), 3 (50-100 cm), 1 (100-150 cm)  
Maximum tree canopy height: 30 m  
Vegetation cover: tree 65%, shrub 43%, ground 14%

Evidence of disturbance
Human activity (hikers): behavioral response

Land use

<table>
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<td>Protected natural area</td>
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<td>Sports field</td>
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</table>

Nest survivorship (± SE)  
Peak nestling count (colony total)  
Peak number of active nests  

x = no data.
San Pablo Dam

Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets nest at the southeastern end of San Pablo Reservoir. The heronry is divided into two subcolonies, 105 m east and 75 m west of the East Bay Municipal Utility District Headquarters. Most nests are in eucalyptus trees, and the west subcolony borders the parking lot. Both sites are within 60 m of the reservoir.

Ownership: public
Public observation areas: none
Latitude / Longitude:
N 37.9056 / W 122.2182 (West subsite)

Colony site description
West subsite
Topography: ridge top
Length x width: 39 m x 18 m
Nest substrate: Eucalyptus sp. (live and dead branches), Monterey pine (Pinus radiata)
Average nest height: 31 m
Trees (dbh): 13 (3-50 cm), 1 (50-100 cm), 4 (100-150 cm), 1 (>150 cm)
Maximum tree canopy height: not measured
Vegetation cover: tree 43%, shrub 65%, ground 35%

East subsite
Topography: hillside
Length x width: 52 m x 27 m
Nest substrate: Eucalyptus sp.
Average nest height: 27 m
Trees (dbh): 89 (3-50 cm), 23 (50-100 cm), 5 (100-150 cm), 3 (>150 cm)
Maximum tree canopy height: not measured
Vegetation cover: tree 28%, shrub 30%, ground 45%

Evidence of disturbance
Unknown avian predator: nest failure
Golden Eagle: behavioral response
Human activity (construction): behavioral response

Land use

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<th>Distance from colony site (m)</th>
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</table>
Shadow Cliffs

Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons nest on an island in an old graveling pond, at Shadow Cliffs Recreation Area, about 1 km east of Pleasanton. The East Bay Regional Park District manages the property.

Ownership: public
Public observation areas: hiking trail between the two lakes at Shadow Cliffs Park
Latitude / Longitude: N 37.6652 / W 121.8323

Colony site description
Topography: island (without bridge)
Length x width: 46 m x 19 m
Nest substrate: cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*; live and dead branches)
Average nest height: 25 m
Trees (dbh): 28 (3-50 cm), 9 (50-100 cm), 1 (100-150 cm)
Maximum tree canopy height: 32 m
Vegetation cover: tree 68%, shrub 72%, ground 40%

Evidence of disturbance
None recorded.

Land use

<table>
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<th>Distance from colony site (m)</th>
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<th>200-</th>
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</table>

Focal nest survivorship

Peak number of active nests

Peak nestling count (colony total)
Upper San Leandro Reservoir

Great Blue Herons nest in eucalyptus trees on the eastern shore of Upper San Leandro Reservoir. The reservoir is bordered by steep hillsides of mixed oak woodland. The reservoir and the surrounding watershed belong to the East Bay Municipal Utility District.

Ownership: East Bay MUD
Public observation areas: none
Latitude / Longitude: N 37.7781 / W 122.1117

Colony site description
Topography: hillside
Length x width: not measured
Nest substrate: *Eucalyptus* sp.
Average nest height: not measured
Trees (dbh): not measured
Maximum tree canopy height: not measured
Vegetation cover: not measured

Evidence of disturbance
Golden Eagle: nest failure

Land use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance from colony site (m)</th>
<th>0-</th>
<th>100-</th>
<th>200-</th>
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<td>Protected natural area</td>
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*<n<10 and n<50% of total nests.*

![Great Blue Heron](no photo)
VA Hospital Livermore

Great Blue Herons nested in a grove of eucalyptus on the northern edge of the Livermore Veterans Hospital grounds, about 6 km south of downtown Livermore. Lake Del Valle is 2 km to the southeast. New sludge plowing procedures at a nearby sewage plant may have been associated with abandonment of the site in 2003 or 2004.

Ownership: public  
Public observation areas: none  
Latitude / Longitude: N 37.6293 / W 121.7609

Colony site description
Topography: flood plain  
Length x width: 78 m x 7 m  
Nest substrate: Eucalyptus sp.  
Average nest height: 31 m  
Trees (dbh): 41 (3-50 cm), 2 (50-100 cm), 1 (100-150 cm), 2 (>150 cm)  
Maximum tree canopy height: 34 m  
Vegetation cover: tree 79%, shrub 0%, ground 51%

Evidence of disturbance
Human activity (noise and activity from sludge plowing procedures): potential source

gPossible disturbance suggested by published accounts (see references in Methods).

Land use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use</th>
<th>Distance from colony site (m)</th>
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<td>Vineyard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grazing</td>
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Colony Sites with Limited Activity

Montair Elementary School

Great Blue Herons nested in a eucalyptus grove along a small tributary of San Ramon Creek behind Montair Elementary School in Danville. The trees were removed after the 1993 breeding season.

Ownership: San Ramon Valley Unified School District
Public observation areas: none
Latitude / Longitude: N 37.8184 / W 122.0057

<table>
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<th>Species</th>
<th>Years known to be active (number of active nests)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Great Blue Heron</td>
<td>1992 (2), 1993 (1)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Pinole Valley Road

A pair of Great Blue Herons nested along Pinole Valley Road, about 4 km from Interstate 80, 5 km northwest of San Pablo Bay and 4 km south of San Pablo Reservoir.

Ownership: private
Public observation areas: Pinole Valley Road
Latitude / Longitude: N 37.9772 / W 122.2565

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great Blue Heron</td>
<td>1996 (1)</td>
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</table>

Sunol

Great Blue Herons nested in sycamore (Platanus racemosa) and maple (Acer sp.) trees beside a pond off Alameda Creek, 1 km west of Sunol. The land is owned by Union Pacific Railroad and Western Star Nurseries.

Ownership: private
Public observation areas: none
Latitude / Longitude: N 37.5952 / W 121.9044

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Years known to be active (number of active nests)</th>
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<tbody>
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