

Let's Do Lunch!

With the birds along Alameda Creek

Fresh fish, worms, clams, or perhaps insects and algae today?

Hungry birds find a variety of tasty choices here in Alameda Creek, where food is found buried in the muddy banks, hidden in the gravelly bottom, floating on the surface, or suspended in the water.

Watch for a while and you'll notice some duck-like swimmers dabble on top of the water with their tails in the air, while others dive repeatedly. Long-legged herons stand quietly in the shallows while elegant snowy egrets actively patrol. Less conspicuous are the brownish shorebirds probing the mud with elongated bills.



Pied-billed Grebe
Fisherman's Platter: Pied-billed grebes dive for small fish, crabs, snails, and insects.



Northern Shoveler
Chunky Soup: The northern shoveler's bill has comb-like edges to strain tiny plants and animals from water and



Great Blue Heron
Surf & Turf: The great blue heron's bill is dagger-like for spearing and grasping fish, amphibians, and even snakes and rodents.



Spotted Sandpiper
Crispy Critters: With their sensitive long bills, spotted sandpipers pick through debris along the edges of the stream for small invertebrates.



American Coot
Veggie Special: Another diver, the coot (or mud hen) prefers a mostly plant diet of pondweed, algae, and grass shoots.

