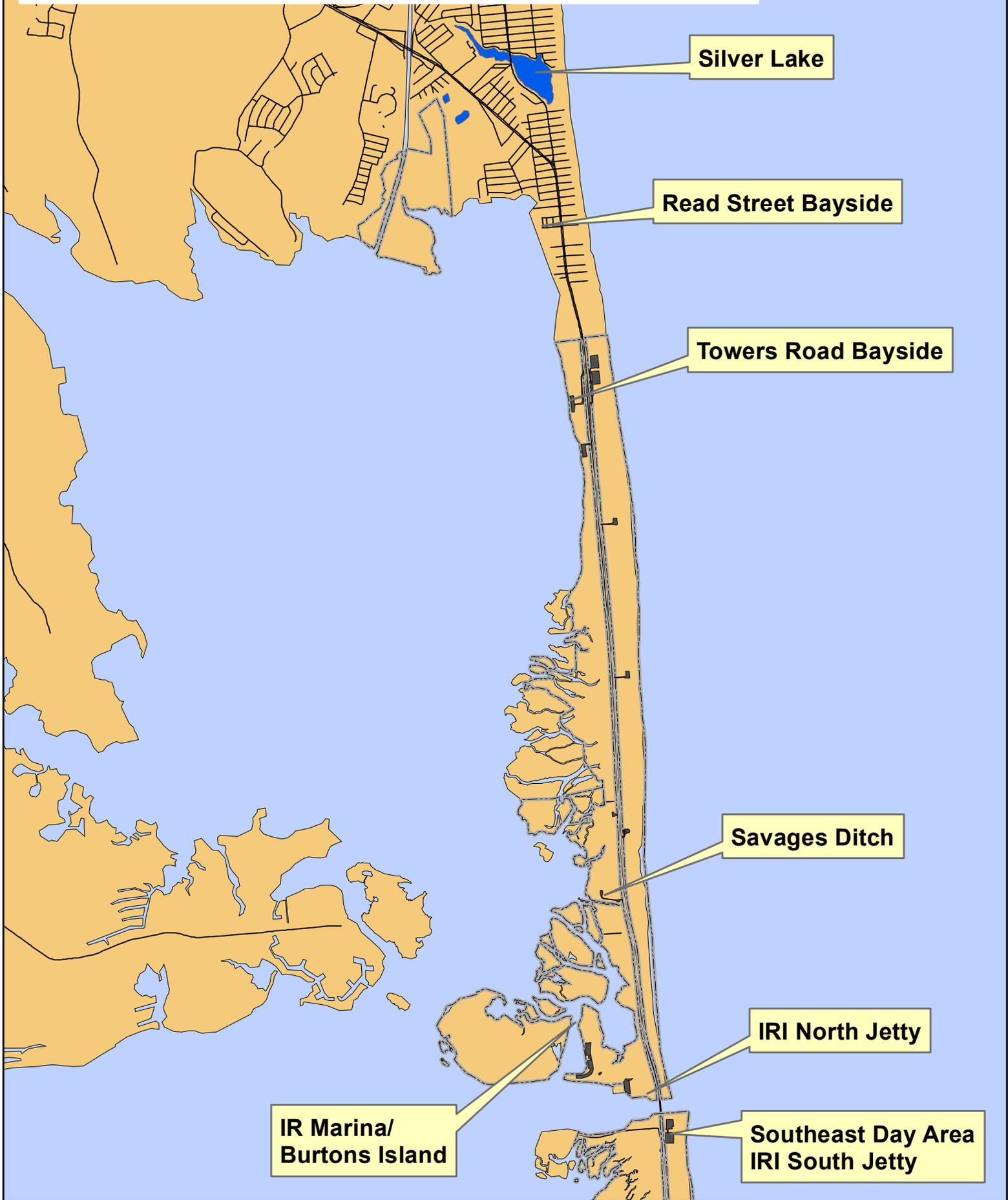


# Birding the Delaware Coast

Indian River Inlet to Silver Lake



Silver Lake

Read Street Bayside

Towers Road Bayside

Savages Ditch

IRI North Jetty

IR Marina/  
Burtons Island

Southeast Day Area  
IRI South Jetty

## **Birding the Delaware Coast**

### **Indian River Inlet to Silver Lake**

#### **Indian River Inlet – South Jetty**

This is without a doubt the most accessible site in Delaware to find scoters, Long-tailed Duck, other sea ducks, loons, gulls, Great Cormorant and Purple Sandpiper. Rarities that may show up here include Black-headed and Little Gull, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck and Razorbill. Birding is best from late October to early spring, especially during and following periods of northeasterly or easterly winds. During periods of mild winter weather the jetty is often crowded with fishermen and bird numbers tend to be lower.

#### **Indian River Inlet – North Jetty**

At low tide, birds on the north side of the North Jetty are not visible from the south jetty. The north side of the inlet is accessible from the fishermen's parking lot along the entrance road to the Indian River Marina. Birds are the same as those listed above.

#### **Indian River Marina/Burtons Island**

The relatively calm waters of the marina basin attract a nice diversity of water birds during the winter months when human activity is at a minimum. Diving ducks, Brant, loons, Horned and Red-necked Grebes and gulls might all be seen here. Rarities that have been seen here include Ross's Gull and Black Guillemot.

The marsh north of the Burtons Island causeway usually has Great Blue Herons and occasionally Tricolored Herons. Red-breasted Mergansers, Bufflehead and Common Goldeneye can usually be found in the tidal channel here. The raised spoil dike near the causeway provides a convenient raised platform for scanning the marsh and tidal channels to the north. From spring to fall look for American Oystercatcher, Willet, Osprey and foraging herons and egrets. Burtons Island can be good for songbirds in winter and during spring and fall migration. Great Horned Owls and Black-crowned Night-Herons may be flushed from trees along the trail.

#### **Savages Ditch**

Black-crowned Night-Herons may be found here year-round. Tricolored Herons are commonly seen here during the warmer months, but are also occasionally seen in winter. In spring and summer Common and Forster's Terns, American Oystercatchers, Willet, Clapper Rail, Seaside Sparrow, Laughing Gulls, Tricolored and Little Blue Herons, Snowy Egrets and Glossy Ibis nest in the marsh nearby. Willow Flycatcher has nested in the scrub habitat to the north of the parking lot. At low tide the extensive mud flats may attract shorebirds in spring and late summer to early fall.

#### **Towers Road Bayside**

This site, with its large bayside parking lot provides the opportunity to scan Rehoboth Bay from the comfort of your car – especially during inclement weather and in winter. Gulls may be found loafing here at any time of year. Look for Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Horned and Eared (very rare) Grebe and loons in winter.

**Read Street - Bayside**

This site is in the northeast corner of Rehoboth Bay and can be very productive during periods of strong northwesterly winds when water birds seek the relative calm of this part of the bay. Look for the same variety of birds listed above for Towers Road Bayside.

**Silver Lake**

Silver Lake is the best place in Delaware (maybe anywhere) to see Canvasback in winter. A large flock (up to 1,0000 birds) regularly loafs here during the day – and leaves to feed in the bays at night. Other birds that may also be found here include Mallard, American Black Duck, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail (uncommon), American Wigeon (uncommon), Ruddy Duck, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Redhead (uncommon), Red-breasted and Hooded Merganser and Double-crested Cormorant. Rarities that have been seen here include Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and Tufted Duck.