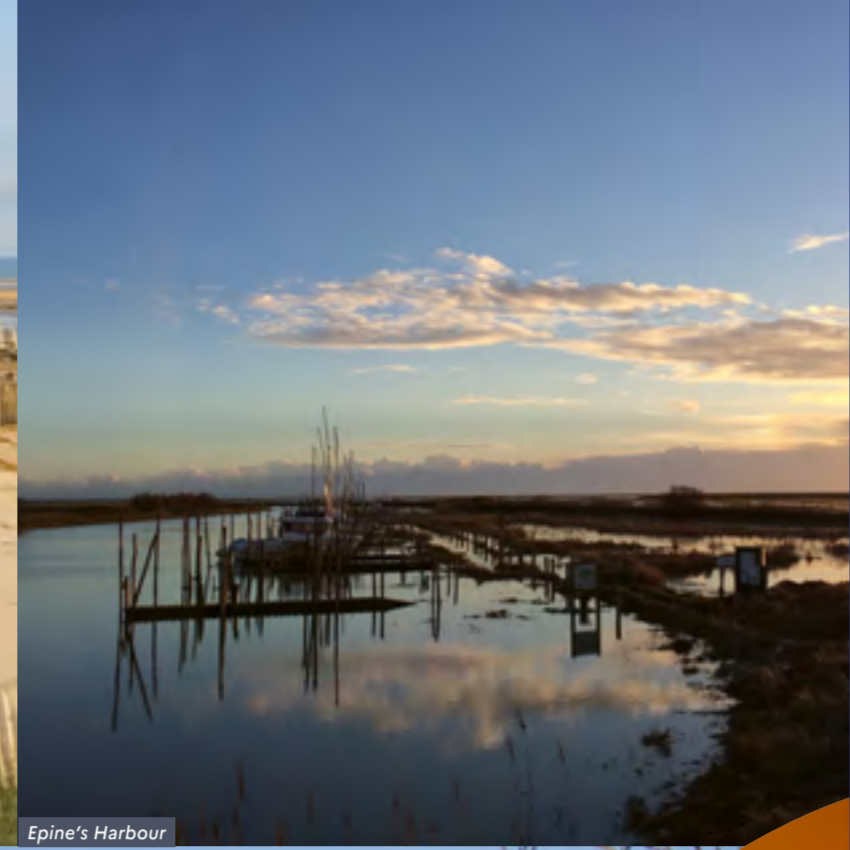




Belle-Henriette Platform



Epine's Harbour



Pied Avocet



3



Common Redshank



8

Common Crane



Saint-Denis-du-Payré Observatory



14



6

Black-tailed Godwit



4

### 1 Belle Henriette National Nature Reserve

From the beginning of spring to the end of summer, the reserve is a major site for Kentish Plover reproduction. Little Ringed Plovers, Meadow Pipits and Tawny Pipits are also here during the breeding period. At the end of summer, you can easily see the Western Osprey and the Caspian Tern during their migratory stopover. Other species can be seen at different times of the year.

- Access trails to the beach are installed for your security and comfort, and also to protect fauna and flora.

### 2 « Michel Brosselin » National Nature Reserve of Saint-Denis-du-Payré

In a hide with 18 birding scopes, the nature reserve hosts you all year round with visits and activities to discover the exceptional natural heritage of the wet meadows. There are over 140 bird species, mostly shorebirds and ducks, without forgetting the Common Crane. There is payment for access to the observatory.

- Address: Pôle des Espaces Naturels, 2 rue du 8 Mai, 85580 Saint Denis du Payré

### 3 Aiguillon Bay National Nature Reserve

A vast natural complex of 4 900 hectares, with mudflat and salt marshes, hosting many shorebirds, ducks and geese for overwintering or during migration. In spring, you can admire the Bluethroat and other birds nesting on salt marshes, especially at the Pointe de l'Aiguillon, where the Kentish Plover also nests on the upper beach or in the dunes.

- You can observe landscapes and a myriad of birds from different observation points around the bay, best time for this is 2-3 hours before the high tide.

### 4 Marais de la Vacherie Regional Nature Reserve

Farmland and vast landscape typical of wet meadows which is flooded in winter and spring, the Vacherie Nature Reserve is a remarkable place for waterfowl. During migration and overwintering, you can enjoy exceptional atmospheres with thousands of shorebirds and ducks. In the spring, it is a visual (parades) and auditory (singing) show, offered by Black Terns, Black-tailed Godwits, Northern Lapwings...

- Observatory platform accessible all year round (wheelchair access).
- Address : Le Grand Mothais, 85450 Champagné les Marais

### 5 Communal Marsh of Poiré-sur-Velluire Regional Nature Reserve

These 241 hectares of sub-brackish wet meadow (residual salt) have been preserved throughout history thanks to traditional collective grazing. This has allowed a remarkable and diverse fauna and flora to develop on this vast natural meadow. You can observe waterfowl and shorebirds during overwintering and migration as well as many other species over the seasons.

- There are 3 observatory platforms around the reserve with a discovery path

### 6 Lay's Valley Communal Marshes (Saint-Benoist-sur-Mer, Curzon and Lairoux)

These marshes, with a combined area of 626 hectares, are particularly interesting sites for bird watching. There are a multitude of birds at the end of winter in Curzon and Lairoux, that use these natural flooded meadows. They are important stopover sites for many migratory birds in spring and autumn. The communal of Saint-Benoist-sur-Mer has a loop of about 6 kilometers along the communal offering a very open view of the wet marsh.

- Saint-Benoist-sur-Mer: the walk begins at the dike close to the canoe centre
- Curzon: car park located at the entrance of the communal, south-east of Curzon, after the little Lay
- Lairoux: Le Gorgeais

The communal marshes are wet natural meadows that belong to the inhabitants of the towns. Several farmers put their flock (horses, cows, sheep, etc.) to grass from April to December.

### 7 Magnils-Reigniers Communal Marsh

This wetland of 235 hectares is a particularly interesting site in spring for its fauna and flora. A walking tour starting at Beugné-l'Abbé allows you to observe nesting shorebirds on the way, such as the Black-tailed Godwit or the Common Redshank. You may have the chance to admire the Purple Heron and the Red-backed Shrike.

- A walk from Beugné-l'Abbé is accessible from the "rue du communal".

### 8 Nalliers Communal Marsh and Biological Departmental Reserve

This wetland of 128 hectares is an interesting site for overwintering and migratory stopovers (European Golden Plover, Eurasian Whimbrel, Ruff...). The Northern Lapwing breeds here, herons and egrets often feed in wet meadows.

- From the car park of the biological departmental reserve, several discovery paths, equipped with observatories, are available.

### 9 Curé's Valley Communal Marshes (Angliers, Nuaille d'Aunis, Saint-Sauveur d'Aunis, le Gue d'Allere and Anais)

The Curé Valley includes 5 marshes over a total area of 285 hectares. This area is flooded regularly in winter and becomes attractive in early spring for waterbirds on migratory stopover.

- Access from the Communal of Angliers, Nuaille or Anais.

### 10 Marais Gatineau

This fresh water and brackish marsh is an old salt marsh converted to livestock farming. The network of wet areas, bushes and hedges hosts a wealth of fauna and flora.

- It is possible to park next to the preschool of Nieul-sur-Mer to reach the marsh.

### 11 Marais de Pampin

This ancient little cove is now a marsh composed of ponds, islets and reed beds. It is an attractive site for nesting Black-winged Stilts, Pied Avocets or Little Ringed Plovers, as well as many other species throughout the year.

- Car park at 17 rue de la Mer at L'Houmeau. Round trip rue des Marais. View from the hill.

### 12 Prée Mizottière

The farm of the Prée Mizottière has low-lying areas that host many ducks and shorebirds in winter and during migration, as well as during the breeding season.

- Observe from the road, staying hidden behind the dyke.

### 13 Le Petit Rocher

This is a tidal-cycle basin, with islets particularly attractive as nesting sites for avocets, stilts and gulls. Their tranquility is a guarantee of success.

- Thank you for watching them from the road and for not walking on the dyke

### 14 Pointe d'Arçay Reserve

The Pointe d'Arçay is a 6 km long peninsula, which regroups magnificent landscapes between dunes, forest, mudflats and salt meadows, where you can observe waders, terns, seabirds...

- The tip is only accessible by the beach, walking on the lower part to limit disturbance. The inner part of this biological reserve is forbidden to the public.

### 15 Rade d'Amour

On the east side of the Pointe d'Arçay, this ancient oyster farm, now owned by the Conservatoire du Littoral, has been developed for observing birds and the different habitats. Many shorebirds and ducks will be present in the Lay estuary, especially during migration.

- The site is well signposted from Aiguillon-la-Présqu'île and a parking is available.



Bluethroat

Nature trips and activities are organised at most of these facilities. You can find them on: [www.lpo.fr](http://www.lpo.fr) et [vendee.lpo.fr](http://vendee.lpo.fr)

To learn more about the natural reserves, visit our websites:

- [www.reserve-naturelle-belle-henriette.fr](http://www.reserve-naturelle-belle-henriette.fr)
- [www.reservenaturelle-saintdenisdupayre.fr](http://www.reservenaturelle-saintdenisdupayre.fr)
- [www.reserve-baie-aiguillon.fr](http://www.reserve-baie-aiguillon.fr)
- [www.reservenaturelle-vacherie.lpo.fr](http://www.reservenaturelle-vacherie.lpo.fr)

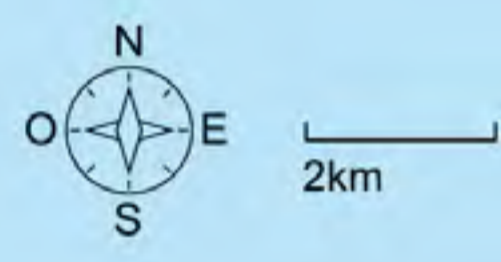
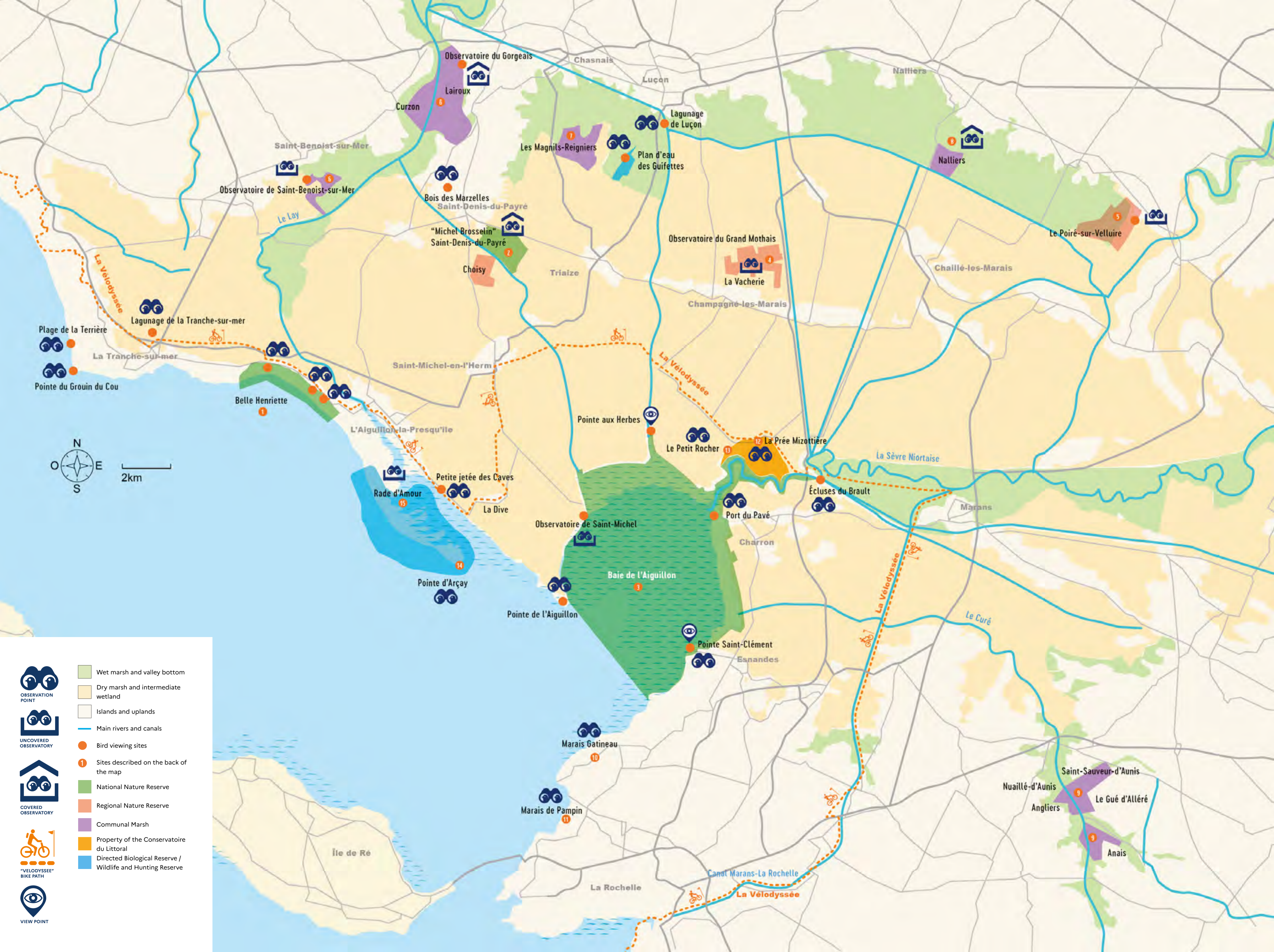
Crédits photo : Quentin GAMA, Gilles GALLAND, Julien SUDRAUD, RNN Belle Henriette, RNN Saint-Denis-du-Payré, RNN Baie de l'Aiguillon, RNR Marais de la Vacherie.

Réalisation : Parimage - Juin 2022



Best places for birdwatching around the Aiguillon Bay





-  OBSERVATION POINT
  -  UNCOVERED OBSERVATORY
  -  COVERED OBSERVATORY
  -  "VELODYSSÉE" BIKE PATH
  -  VIEW POINT
- 
-  Wet marsh and valley bottom
  -  Dry marsh and intermediate wetland
  -  Islands and uplands
  -  Main rivers and canals
  -  Bird viewing sites
  -  Sites described on the back of the map
  -  National Nature Reserve
  -  Regional Nature Reserve
  -  Communal Marsh
  -  Property of the Conservatoire du Littoral
  -  Directed Biological Reserve / Wildlife and Hunting Reserve