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Wilderness waterway



The Laguna's 230 species of birds include this soaring hawk.

Laguna vistas reward paddlers

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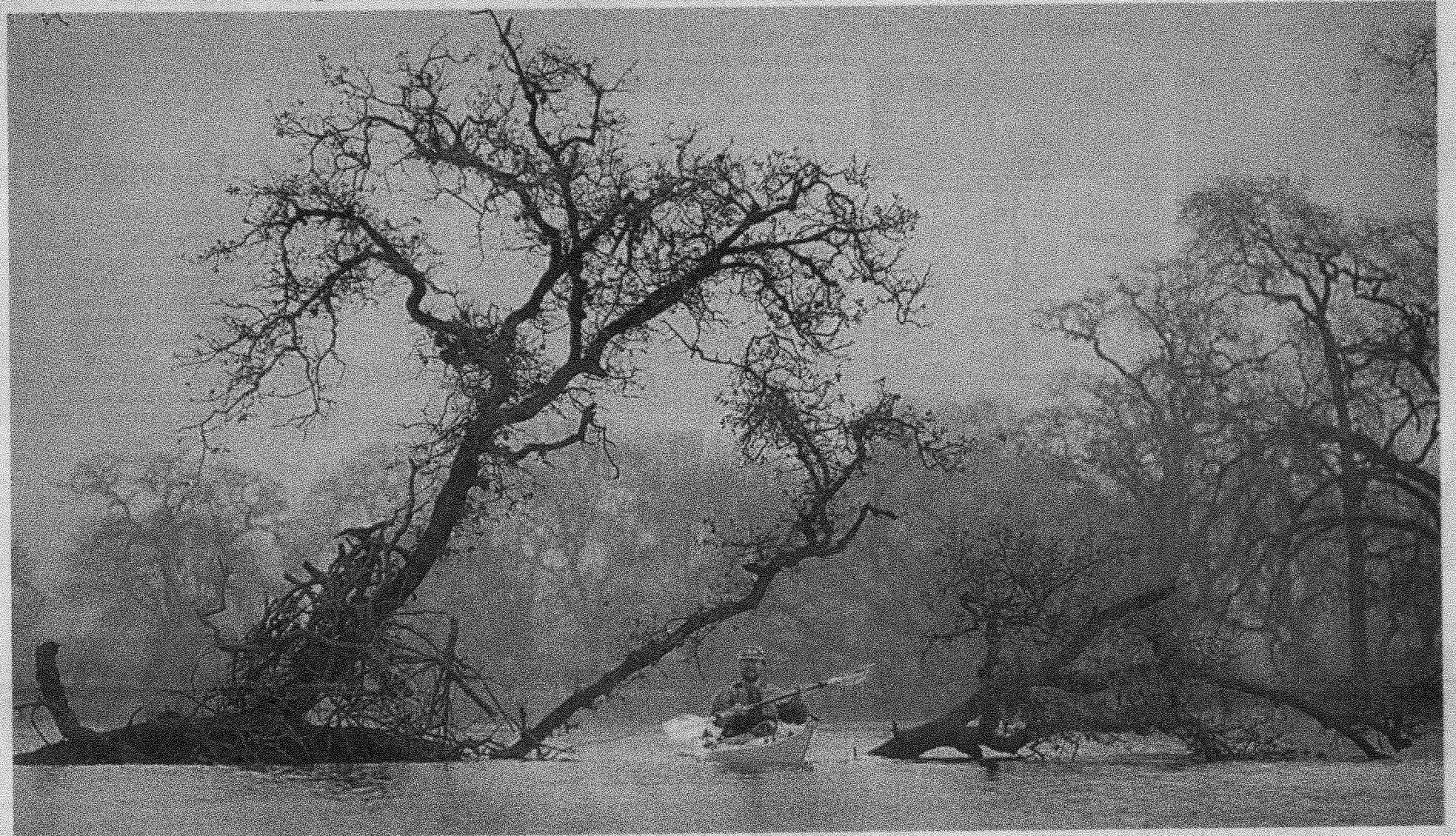
If you've lived through the Santa Rosa sewage saga of the past dozen years, you know what's in the Laguna de Santa Rosa. But do you know what's in there with it?

Minks. Otters. Badgers. Herons. Egrets. Eagles. Hawks. And ducks — thousands and thousands of ducks.

In fact, the Laguna represents one of the most diverse habitats in all of Sonoma County, according to a wildlife study

Watch out for hazards

The 14-mile-long Laguna de Santa Rosa offers peaceful paddling for much of the winter and spring, but heavy rain and wind can turn it into a malevolent maelstrom.



Brian Moe paddles through flooded oaks on the Laguna de Santa Rosa on a gray winter day.

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