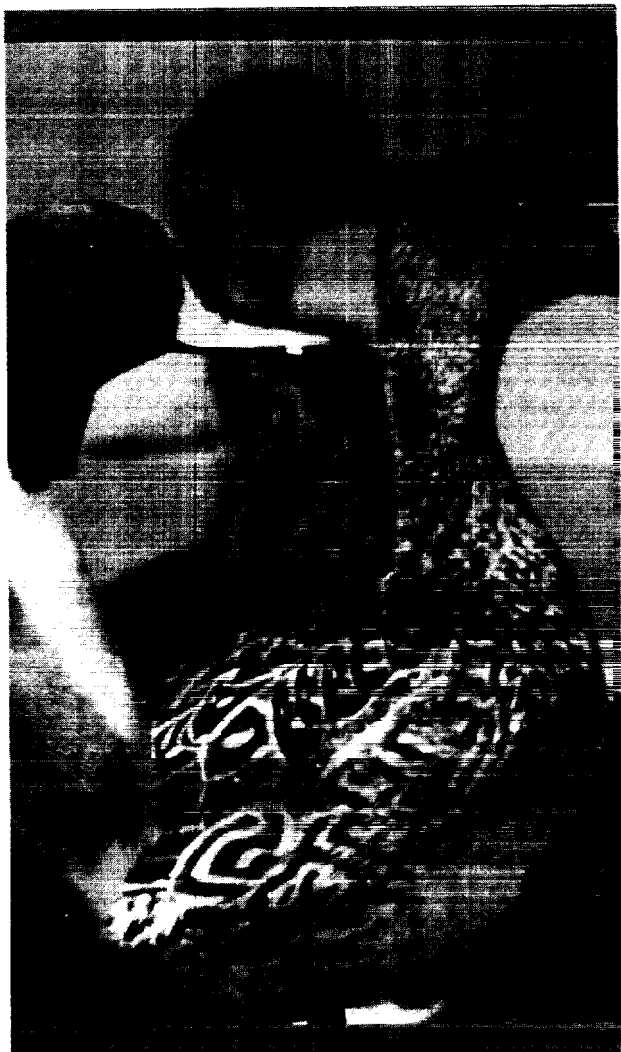


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Wildlife



of Salton Sea
National Wildlife Refuge
California

Enjoying the Refuge's Wildlife

The study of wild animals in their natural habitat has become increasingly popular. Viewing of wildlife can be greatly enhanced by a pair of binoculars or spotting scope and a good wildlife/birding guide.

Wildlife species in this brochure have been grouped into four categories: Birds, Mammals, Reptiles and Amphibians, and Fish.

Birds

Bird populations vary greatly in numbers and species according to seasons. Heavy migrations of waterfowl, marsh and shorebirds occur during spring and fall. Throughout the mild winter and spring a wide variety of smaller birds and birds of prey are present. They are attracted to the freshwater marshes and riparian habitat along the New and Alamo Rivers. The best opportunity to observe the greatest diversity of bird life is from November to May.

The following list of birds contains 380 species that have been recorded on Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and the adjacent Imperial Valley. The nomenclature and taxonomic order used in this list follow that appearing in the 6th edition of the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-List of North American Birds* published in 1983. Salton Sea NWR holds the distinction of having the most diverse array of bird species found on any national wildlife refuge in the west.

When looking at a bird, pay close attention to characteristics such as color, size, shape, and wing and head markings. Always observe first and then refer to your identification book because the bird may not remain where it can be readily observed for a long period of time. This is especially true of perching birds.

Legend

- Sp** — Spring, April through May
- S** — Summer, June through August
- F** — Fall, September through October
- W** — Winter, November through March

Spring — Some species migrate much earlier than others, appearing in the area of Salton Sea during March, but are none the less spring migrants rather than winter visitors. Their status at this time of the year is indicated under Spring rather than Winter.

Summer — Status indicated under this heading indicates the relative abundance of summering birds. Observers must remember late spring migrants can be found into early June, and that early fall migrants can occur as early as late June, but these are not summering birds. Their status as migrants is indicated under Spring and Fall rather than Summer.

Fall — Since some species, particularly shorebirds, migrate quite early in the fall, appearing in the area of the Salton Sea in July or earlier. Their status as fall migrants in July and August is indicated under Fall rather than Summer.

Winter — As indicated above, some early spring migrants may be present during March or earlier, as with the swallows. Likewise, some late fall migrants linger in November. However, these occurrences are omitted from the winter column so as to clearly indicate the status of each species as a winter visitor.

Notes — Information over and above the relative abundance shown for each season clarifies the status of some species in the area.

Abundance Codes

c — Common to Abundant, easily found in suitable habitat.

u — Uncommon to Fairly Common, found where looked for in suitable habitat, but can be missed.

r — Rare to Very Uncommon, more often missed than seen, even when looked for in suitable habitat.

o — Occasional, normally less than five individuals per season during any given year, but to be looked for.

a — Accidental, less than ten records for the entire area, and not to be expected.

Threatened/Endangered Species

Habitat Codes

o - Open Water - Restricted to the open water of the Salton Sea and larger lakes in the Imperial Valley.

b - Beach and Mudflat - Basically the shore line of the Salton Sea, but expanded to include flooded fields and other such areas of shallow water and mud.

m - Marshes - Cattail marshes and other such areas found at various locations around the Salton Sea, along the rivers and canals, and at shallow lakes.

f - Farmland - Agricultural land found extensively throughout the Imperial Valley south of the Salton Sea, including planted and unplanted fields alike.

s - Shrubland - Mesquite thickets and other brushy areas. Some shrubland contains scattered trees.

r - Riparian Vegetation - Limited to areas of salt cedar and willows along waterways, and at some points along the shore of the Salton Sea.

a - Aerial - Use limited to those strong flying species most often seen in the air.

h - Houses and Towns - Immediate area of ranch houses and the residential areas of such towns as Niland and Calipatria. It is in these areas that most of the larger trees can be found and where ornamental planting supports a variety of landbirds.

Abbreviation Listed Under Notes

b - Species regularly breeds in the area.

b+ - Species has bred in the area, and may continue to breed sporadically in the area, but is not expected to become a regular nesting species.

l - Species occurs only locally within the area.

e - An erratic species, occurring in numbers some years, and being very scarce or even absent in others.

x - Species formerly occurred in the area, but is now extirpated, occurring only as an accidental straggler if at all.

xb - An extirpated breeder formerly nesting in the area, but with no recent breeding records.

p - A post-breeding visitor to the area from the south, being most numerous in the area between July and September.

1109 - Actual number of recorded occurrences for those species listed as accidentals in the area.

y - Present year round, origin unknown.

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W	Notes
LOONS						
Red-throated Loon					a	
Pacific Loon	o		a		a	
Common Loon	o		a		a	
GREBES						
Pied-billed Grebe	m		u		u	
Horned Grebe	o		a		o	
Eared Grebe	o		u		c	
Western Grebe	o		u		u	
Clark's Grebe	o		u		u	
ALBATROSS						
Laysan Albatross			a			
FULMARS, PETRELS AND SHEARWATERS						
Cook's Petrel			a			
Buller's Shearwater			a			
Sooty Shearwater			a			
STORM-PETRELS						
Leach's Storm-Petrel			a			
Black Storm-Petrel						
Least Storm-Petrel						
BOOBIES AND GANNETS						
Blue-footed Booby			a			
Brown Booby			a			
PELICANS AND CORMORANTS						
American White Pelican ...	oa		u		u	
Brown Pelican	o		r		o	
Double-crested Cormorant	o		c		c	
Olivaceous Cormorant			a		a	
FRIGATEBIRDS						
Magnificent Frigatebird	a		o		a	
BITTERNS, HERONS AND EGRETS						
American Bittern	m		o		u	
Least Bittern	m		u		o	
Great Blue Heron	bm		c		c	
Great Egret	bm		c		c	
Snowy Egret	bm		c		c	
Little Blue Heron	m		o		a	
Tricolored Heron	bm		o		a	
Reddish Egret			a			
Cattle Egret	fm		c		c	
Green-backed Heron	m		u		u	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	m		c		c	
IBIS AND SPOONBILLS						
White Ibis			a			
White-faced Ibis	mf		u		c	
Roseate Spoonbill	bm		o		a	
STORK						
Wood Stork	bm		c		a	
FLAMINGOS						
Lesser Flamingo	ob		o		o	
Chilean Flamingo	ob		o		o	

Common Name Habitat Sp S F W Notes

WATERFOWL

Fulvous Whistling-Duck ...	m		r		a	
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck			a			
Tundra Swan	om				o	
Greater White-fronted Goose	fm		a		r	
Snow Goose	fm		o		c	
Ross' Goose	fm				c	
Brant	om		o		a	
Canada Goose	fm		o		c	
Wood Duck	om		a		o	
Green-winged Teal	om		r		c	
Baikal Teal					a	
American Black Duck					a	
Mallard	om		o		u	
Northern Pintail	om		r		c	
Blue-winged Teal	om		o		o	
Cinnamon Teal	om		u		r	
Northern Shoveler	om		r		c	
Gadwall	om		r		u	
Eurasian Wigeon	om				o	
American Wigeon	om		o		c	
Canvasback	o		o		c	
Redhead	o		u		u	
Ring-necked Duck	o		a		r	
Tufted Duck					a	
Greater Scaup	o		a		r	
Lesser Scaup	o		o		c	
Oldsquaw	o		a		o	
Black Scoter			a		a	
Surf Scoter	o		o		o	
White-winged Scoter	o		o		o	
Common Goldeneye	o		o		u	
Barrow's Goldeneye					a	
Bufflehead	o		o		u	
Hooded Merganser	o				o	
Common Merganser	o		a		r	
Red-breasted Merganser	o		r		r	
Ruddy Duck	om		c		c	

VULTURES

Turkey Vulture	af		r		r	
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OSPREY, KITES, EAGLES AND HAWKS

Osprey	ao		r		r	
Black-shouldered Kite			o		o	
Bald Eagle	ao				o	
Northern Harrier	afm		o		c	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	ars				u	
Cooper's Hawk	ars				u	
Harris' Hawk						
Red-shouldered Hawk					o	
Broad-winged Hawk					a	
Swainson's Hawk	af					
Zone-tailed Hawk					a	
Red-tailed Hawk	af		r		u	
Ferruginous Hawk	af				r	
Rough-legged Hawk	af				o	
Golden Eagle					a	
Northern Goshawk					a	

FALCONS

American Kestrel	afh		u		c	
Merlin	af				r	
Peregrine Falcon	am		o		o	
Prairie Falcon	af		o		r	

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W	Notes
GALLINACEOUS BIRDS						
Ring-necked Pheasant	f		r		r	
Gambel's Quail	s		u		u	
RAILS						
Black Rail	m		o		o	
Clapper Rail	m		r		r	u
Virginia Rail	m		r		u	c
Sora	m		r		c	u
Common Moorhen	m		u		u	c
American Coot	om		c		c	
CRANES						
Sandhill Crane	f				u	
PLOVERS						
Black-bellied Plover	bf		u		c	a
Lesser Golden-Plover	bf					r
Snowy Plover	b		u			
Wilson's Plover			a			
Semipalmated Plover	b		o		r	c
Killdeer	fb		c			u
Mountain Plover	f					
OYSTERCATCHERS						
American Oystercatcher						
STILTS AND AVOCETS						
Black-necked Stilt	mf		c		c	
American Avocet	m		c		c	
SHOREBIRDS						
Greater Yellowlegs	mf		o		c	
Lesser Yellowlegs	mf				r	
Spotted Redshank						
Solitary Sandpiper	mf				a	
Willet	mf		u		c	
Wandering Tattler	m		a			
Spotted Sandpiper	m				u	
Whimbrel	mf		o		o	
Long-billed Curlew	mf		u		c	
Hudsonian Godwit						
Marbled Godwit	b		u		u	
Ruddy Turnstone	b				a	
Black Turnstone	b		o			
Surfbird	b		a			
Red Knot	b		a		o	
Sanderling	b				o	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	b		o			
Western Sandpiper	b		o		c	
Little Stint						
Least Sandpiper	b		o		c	
White-rumped Sandpiper						
Baird's Sandpiper	b					
Pectoral Sandpiper	b				a	
Dunlin	b		o		u	
Curlew Sandpiper						
Stilt Sandpiper	b				r	
Ruff					a	
Short-billed Dowitcher	b		o			
Long-billed Dowitcher	b		o		c	
SNIFE						
Common Snipe	m				r	

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W	Notes
PHALAROPES						
Wilson's Phalarope	bo		o		a	
Red-necked Phalarope ...	bo		o		a	
Red Phalarope	o		a			
JAEGERS						
Pomarine Jaeger			a			
Parasitic Jaeger	o		a			
Long-tailed Jaeger						
GULLS AND TERNS						
Laughing Gull	ob		c		o	
Franklin's Gull	ob		o			
Little Gull					a	
Bonaparte's Gull	ob		r		o	
Heermann's Gull	ob		o		a	
Mew Gull	ob		a		o	
Ring-billed Gull	obf		u		c	
California Gull	obf		c		u	
Herring Gull	obf		o		c	
Thayer's Gull	ob		a		r	
Lesser Black-backed Gull					a	
Yellow-footed Gull	ob		c		o	
Western Gull	ob				o	
Glaucous-winged Gull	ob		o		r	
Glaucous Gull	ob		a		o	
Black-legged Kittiwake			a			
Sabine's Gull	o					
Gull-billed Tern	bf		u		a	
Caspian Tern	ob		c		u	
Elegant Tern			a			
Common Tern	ob		r			
Arctic Tern						
Forster's Tern	ob		c		u	
Least Tern	ob		o			
Black Tern	bf		c		a	
SKIMMERS						
Black Skimmer	b		u		a	
SEABIRDS						
Ancient Murrelet			a			
DOVES						
Rock Dove	h		c		c	
Band-tailed Pigeon						
Spotted Dove						
White-winged Dove	sh		u		a	
Mourning Dove	fsh		c		c	
Inca Dove	h		r		r	
Common Ground-Dove ...	sh		u		u	
CUCKOOS						
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			a			
Greater Roadrunner	sf		c		c	
Groove-billed Ani					a	
OWLS						
Common Barn-Owl	sh		r		r	
Flammulated Owl						
Western Screech-Owl	sh		r		r	
Great Horned Owl	sh				o	
Burrowing Owl	f		c		c	
Long-eared Owl	r				o	
Short-eared Owl	f				r	
Northern Saw-whet Owl ...					a	

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W	Notes
GOATSUCKERS						
Lesser Nighthawk	fs		u		a	
Common Poorwill	s					
Whip-poor-will						
SWIFTS						
Black Swift						
Vaux's Swift	a					
White-throated Swift	a				r	
HUMMINGBIRDS						
Black-chinned Hummingbird	h		r			
Anna's Hummingbird	h		r		u	
Costa's Hummingbird	hs		r		u	
Calliope Hummingbird	hs					
Rufous Hummingbird	hs		o			
Allen's Hummingbird	h					
KINGFISHERS						
Belted Kingfisher	rm				u	
WOODPECKERS						
Lewis' Woodpecker	h				o	
Red-headed Woodpecker			a			
Acorn Woodpecker						
Gila Woodpecker	h		r		r	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker					a	
Red-naped Sapsucker	h				r	
Red-breasted Sapsucker	h				o	
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	sh		u		u	
Nuttall's Woodpecker						
Northern Flicker	hs				c	
FLYCATCHERS						
Olive-sided Flycatcher	hs					
Greater Pewee						
Western Wood-Pewee	hs					
Willow Flycatcher	hs					
Least Flycatcher	hs				a	
Hammond's Flycatcher	hs					
Dusky Flycatcher	hs					
Gray Flycatcher	hs				a	
Western Flycatcher	hs					
Black Phoebe	hm		u		c	
Eastern Phoebe					a	
Say's Phoebe	f		r		c	
Vermilion Flycatcher	h		o		r	
Dusky-capped Flycatcher...						
Ash-throated Flycatcher ...	sh		r			
Brown-crested Flycatcher ..						
Tropical Kingbird						
Cassin's Kingbird	h				a	
Western Kingbird	fh		c		a	
Eastern Kingbird						
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher						
LARKS						
Horned Lark	f		u		c	
SWALLOWS						
Purple Martin	a					
Tree Swallow	a		o		c	
Violet-green Swallow	a				a	
Northern Rough-winged						
Swallow	a		c		u	
Bank Swallow	a		o		a	

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W	Notes
Cliff Swallow	a		c			
Barn Swallow	a		r		o	
JAYS, MAGPIES AND CROWS						
Scrub Jay	hs				o	
American Crow	f				r	
Common Raven	af		r		r	
CHICKADEES AND TITMICE						
Mountain Chickadee						
VERDIN						
Verdin	s		c		c	
NUTHATCHES						
Red-breasted Nuthatch	h				o	
White-breasted Nuthatch ...						
CREEPERS						
Brown Creeper	h				o	
WRENS						
Cactus Wren	s		c		c	
Rock Wren	s				r	
Canyon Wren					a	
Bewick's Wren	s				r	
House Wren	sr		r		u	
Winter Wren					a	
Marsh Wren	m		c		c	
KINGLETS, BLUEBIRDS AND THRUSHES						
Golden-crowned Kinglet ...	rh				o	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	rsh				c	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	rs				u	
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	s		u		u	
Western Bluebird	sh				o	
Mountain Bluebird	f				u	
Townsend's Solitaire	s				o	
Swainson's Thrush	rsh					
Hermit Thrush	rsh				u	
American Robin	h				u	
Varied Thrush					a	
MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS						
Northern Mockingbird	sh		c		c	
Sage Thrasher	s				o	
Brown Thrasher					a	
Bendire's Thrasher					a	
Curve-billed Thrasher					a	
Crissal Thrasher	s		r		r	
Le Conte's Thrasher						
WAGTAILS AND PIPITS						
Water Pipit	f				c	
Sprague's Pipit						
WAXWINGS						
Cedar Waxwing	h				u	
PHAINOPEPLA						
Phainopepla	s				u	
SHRIKES						
Northern Shrike					a	
Loggerhead Shrike	sf		u		u	

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W	Notes
STARLINGS AND MYNAS						
European Starling	hf		c	c	c	b
VIREOS						
Bell's Vireo					a	2
Solitary Vireo	sh				o	
Hutton's Vireo					a	1
Warbling Vireo	sh	c			a	
Red-eyed Vireo						1
WARBLERS						
Tennessee Warbler						
Orange-crowned Warbler	r			c	c	
Nashville Warbler	rs				a	
Virginia's Warbler	s					
Lucy's Warbler						4
Northern Parula					a	4
Yellow Warbler	rh				r	
Chestnut-sided Warbler					a	3
Magnolia Warbler						2
Cape May Warbler					a	2
Black-throated Blue Warbler						2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	rsh	c			c	
Black-throated Gray Warbler	sh				o	
Townsend's Warbler	sh		a		o	
Hermit Warbler	sh					
Prairie Warbler						1
Palm Warbler					a	
Bay-breasted Warbler						1
Cerulean Warbler						1
Black-and-white Warbler	hr				o	
American Redstart	rh				r	
Ovenbird						2
Northern Waterthrush	r		o			
MacGillivray's Warbler	rs					
Common Yellowthroat	mr		u	u	u	b
Wilson's Warbler	rs				o	
Painted Redstart					a	1
Yellow-breasted Chat	r		o	o		b
TANAGERS						
Summer Tanager	h		a		a	
Western Tanager	hs				o	
GROSBEAKS AND BUNTINGS						
Pyrrhuloxia			a		a	3
Rose-breasted Grosbeak						3
Black-headed Grosbeak	hs	c				
Blue Grosbeak	rs		u		a	
Blue Bunting			a			1
Lazuli Bunting	rs	c				
Indigo Bunting			a			1
Dickcissel						1
TOWHEES AND SPARROWS						
Green-tailed Towhee	s				r	
Rufous-sided Towhee	s				r	
Abert's Towhee	s	c	c		c	b
American Tree Sparrow					a	3
Chipping Sparrow	h				r	
Brewer's Sparrow	fs				u	
Black-chinned Sparrow						2
Vesper Sparrow	f				u	
Lark Sparrow	fs				r	
Black-throated Sparrow	s					

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W	Notes
Sage Sparrow	fs				u	
Lark Bunting	fs				o	
Savannah Sparrow	f		o		c	
Grasshopper Sparrow			a		a	
Fox Sparrow	rs				o	
Song Sparrow	rm		r		u	
Lincoln's Sparrow	rf				c	
Swamp Sparrow	m				o	
White-throated Sparrow	rsf				o	
Golden-crowned Sparrow	rsf				o	
White-crowned Sparrow	rsf				c	
Harris' Sparrow	sf				o	
Dark-eyed Junco	sf				u	
McCown's Longspur	f				o	
Lapland Longspur	f				o	
Chestnut-collared Longspur	f				o	

**BLACKBIRDS,
MEADOWLARKS AND ORIOLES**

Bobolink			a			
Red-winged Blackbird	fm		c		c	
Tricolored Blackbird					a	
Western Meadowlark	f		u		c	
Yellow-headed Blackbird	mf		c		u	
Brewer's Blackbird	fh		o		c	
Great-tailed Grackle	mf		u		u	
Bronzed Cowbird	h		r			
Brown-headed Cowbird	fhs		u		c	
Orchard Oriole					a	
Hooded Oriole	h		u		o	
Northern Oriole	hrs		r		a	
Scott's Oriole					a	

FINCHES

Purple Finch	rh				o	
Cassin's Finch	rh				o	
House Finch	hs		c		c	
Red Crossbill	hs				o	
Pine Siskin	rsh				r	
Lesser Goldfinch	s		r		u	
Lawrence's Goldfinch	s				r	
American Goldfinch	s				r	
Evening Grosbeak						

WEAVER FINCHES

House Sparrow	h		c		c	
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Mammals

All mammals listed are considered resident species with the exception of the bats which migrate on a seasonal basis like many of the birds. Families follow that of *A Field Guide to the Mammals* by Burt and Grossenheider.

Shrews

Desert Shrew

Cats

Bobcat

Dogs

Coyote

Desert Kit Fox

Gray Fox

Leafnose Bats

California Leafnose Bat

Long-tongued Bat

Plainnose Bats

California Myotis

Western Pipistrel

Big Brown Bat

Spotted Bat

Hoary Bat

Western Yellow Bat

Pallid Bat

Freetail Bats

Mexican Freetail Bat

Pocketed Freetail Bat

Big Freetail Bat

Rabbits/Hares

Desert Cottontail

Blacktail Jackrabbit

Raccoons

Raccoon

Squirrels/Chipmunks

Roundtail Ground Squirrel

Antelope Ground Squirrel

Weasels, Skunks, Badgers

Striped Skunk

Spotted Skunk

Badger

Pocket Gophers

Valley Pocket Gopher

White Footed Mice

Cactus Mouse

Deer Mouse

Pocket/Kangaroo Mice and Kangaroo Rats

Desert Pocket Mouse

Little Pocket Mouse

Desert Kangaroo Rat

Spiny Pocket Mouse

Merriam Kangaroo Rat

Longtail Pocket Mouse

Cotton Rats

Hispid Cotton Rat

Woodrats

Desert Woodrat

Whitethroated Woodrat

Voies and Muskrats

Muskrat

Old World Rats and Mice

House Mouse

Black Rat

Norway Rat

Amphibians and Reptiles

Reptiles are found in brushy areas on the refuge and surrounding desert habitats while amphibians are found in or near freshwater. Names used follow those found in *A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians* by Stebbins.

Amphibians

Woodhouse Toad
Red-spotted Toad
Lowland Leopard Frog
Bullfrog

Turtles

Spiny Softshell Turtle

Lizards

Side-blotched Lizard
Leopard Lizard
Long-tailed Brush Lizard
Desert Horned Lizard
Flat-tailed Horned Lizard
Desert Spiny Lizard
Western Whiptail Lizard

Snakes

Gopher Snake
Common Kingsnake
Long-nosed Snake
Checkered Garter Snake
Western Rattlesnake
Western Blind Snake
Red Racer
Western Patch-nosed Snake
Desert Glossy Snake
Western Ground Snake

Fish

Very few fish can tolerate the high salinity of the Salton Sea. In 1950 attempts were made to introduce several marine fish. These attempts resulted in the largest inland fishery in California. The introduced saltwater species are underlined. Freshwater species are found in rivers, canals and some marsh areas.

Orangemouth Corvina

Sargo

Gulf Croaker

Threadfin Shad

Sailfin Molly

Desert Pupfish

Longjaw Mudsucker

Mosquitofish

Red Shiner

California Killifish

- Tilapia

Largemouth Bass

White Catfish

Channel Catfish

Carp

- found in both fresh and saltwater

For additional information contact:

Refuge Manager

Salton Sea NWR

PO Box 120

Calipatria, CA 92233

Telephone (619) 348-5278

Notes



Date _____ No. Species _____

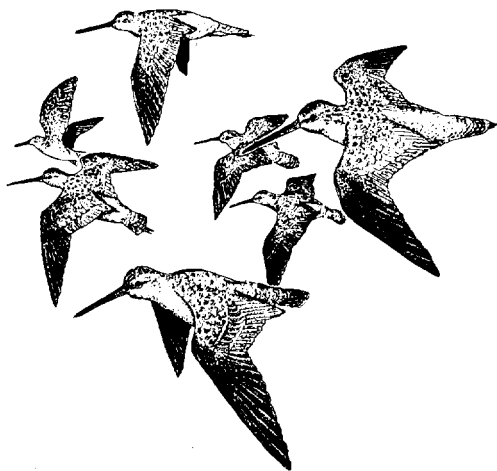
Time Afield _____

Observers _____

Weather _____

Remarks _____

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principle agency through which the Federal Government carries out its responsibilities to conserve, protect, and enhance the nation's fish and wildlife, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of people.



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No person shall, on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, physical or mental restrictions, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in any program or activity of the U.S. Department of the Interior.



U.S. Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service

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