Salton Sea Bird Viewing Sites

CALIFORNIA

1 – North Shore Beach and Yacht Club
Location: 33.51944N, 115.937W
99-155 Sea View Drive, North Shore
Habitat: open water/shoreline, desert scrub
Birds: Eared Grebe, pelicans, waders, shorebirds

2 – Salton Sea State Recreation Area – Visitor’s Center
Location: 33.50364N, 115.915W
100-225 State Park Rd., Mecca
Habitat: open water/shoreline, desert scrub
Birds: White-winged Dove, Gambel’s Quail, desert songbirds, migrants, waterbirds

3 – Salton Sea Recreation Area – Salt Creek
Location: 33.44478N, 115.847W
West of Hwy. 111 between North Shore and Bombay Beach
Habitat: open water/shoreline, lagoon
Birds: Brant (Spring), Red Knot, Yellow-footed Gull, “rocky” shorebirds, gulls, shorebirds

4 – Niland Marina County Park
Location: 33.33774N, 115.667W
End of Niland Marina Rd., west of Hwy. 111
Habitat: open water/shoreline
Birds: waterbirds

5 – Wister Rd.
Location: 33.24873N, 115.58W
Wister Rd. (aka Davis Rd.) between Hwy. 111 and Schrimp Rd. (note: dirt roads - do not attempt to drive during or after rain)
Habitat: flooded field/impoundment, freshwater marsh
Birds: Black Skimmer, Gull-billed Tern, Ridgway’s Rail, Least Bittern, ducks, migrants

6 – Imperial Irrigation District Wetlands, Niland
Location: 33.21239N, 115.52W
West side of Hwy. 111 between Hazard Rd. and McDonald Rd. (note: dirt roads - do not attempt to drive during or after rains)
Habitat: freshwater marsh
Birds: Least Bittern, ducks, rails, riparian songbirds, migrants

7 – Red Hill Area
Location: 33.18422N, 115.597W
Garst Rd. west of Calipatria
Habitat: flooded field/impoundment, freshwater marsh
Birds: Rarities (Wood Stork, Roseate Spoonbill), waterbirds, shorebirds

8 – Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge – Headquarters
Location: 33.7735N, 115.616W
End of Sinclair Rd. west of Calipatria
Habitat: fields, desert scrub, impoundments
Birds: Gambel’s Quail, Common Ground-Dove, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Abert’s Towhee, Greater Roadrunner, geese, shorebirds, migrants

9 – Seawall
Location: 33.16162W, 115.649N
Edge of Salton Sea between Young Rd. and Grubel Rd.
Habitat: open water/shoreline, lagoon, freshwater marsh
Birds: Wood Stork (occ.), Eared Grebe, Ruddy Duck, Neotropical Cormorant, waterfowl, shorebirds

10 – Ramer Lake
Location: 33.08179N, 115.51W
Enter either from the east at Quay Rd. just west of Kershaw Rd., or from the west off Hwy. 111 along an unmarked dirt road c. 500’ north of the Alamo River bridge.
Habitat: open water/shoreline, freshwater marsh, desert scrub
Birds: Neotropic Cormorant, Gull-billed Tern, Laughing Gull, herons, egrets, desert scrub birds

11 – Finney Lake
Location: 33.06481N, 115.501W
Enter from the north, at the southern end of Smith Rd. off Titsworth Rd. (note: dirt roads - do not attempt to drive during or after rains)
Habitat: lake, desert scrub
Birds: migrants, waterbirds

12 – West Lake
Location: 33.04117N, 115.487W
5351 Dietrich Rd., Brawley
Habitat: open water/shoreline, freshwater marsh
Birds: Clark’s Grebe, pelicans, Inca Dove, Common Gallinule

13 – Unit 1
Location: 33.08264N, 115.71W
End of Vendel Rd. north of Hwy. 78
Habitat: open water/shoreline, flooded fields/impoundments, freshwater marsh
Birds: Sandhill Crane, Cattle Egret, Long-billed Curlew, Burrowing Owl, White-faced Ibis, geese, shorebirds, migrants

14 – Poe Rd.
Location: 33.10791N, 115.753W
End of Poe Rd. north of Hwy. 78. (note: dirt road - do not attempt to drive during or after rains)
Habitat: open water/shoreline, freshwater marsh
Birds: Stilt Sandpiper, Snowy Plover, White-faced Ibis, Gull-billed Tern, Burrowing Owl, desert scrub birds, shorebirds

15 – Cattle Call Park
Location: 32.9691N, 115.555W
Cattle Call Dr., Brawley
Habitat: desert scrub
Birds: Gila Woodpecker, Verdin, migrants, desert species

16 – Johnson’s Landing
Location: 33.32798N, 115.945W
559 Sea Garden Ave., Thermal (reached via N. Marina Dr. in Salton City)
Habitat: open water/shoreline
Birds: Black Tern, Snowy Plover, shorebirds

17 – Capri Rd.
Location: 33.40224N, 116.033W
End of Capri Rd. (Lane) in Desert Shores; enter off Monterey Ave. east of Hwy. 86
Habitat: open water/shoreline
Birds: gulls, waterbirds

18 – 84th Ave.
Location: 33.44077N, 116.045W
Eastern end of 84th Ave. east of Hwy. 86
Habitat: shallow mudflats, shoreline/desert scrub
Birds: migrants, waterbirds, shorebirds

Warning
Do not proceed into areas marked “no trespassing” by Imperial Irrigation District or other landowners, or down dirt roads with gates as they may get locked. Much of the edge of the Salton Sea has receded, leaving large areas of mud along the shoreline. We advise not traversing the muddy areas as the mud is not as solid as it looks and can be unsafe – please view birds in these areas with a spotting scope on solid ground, such as a road or other hard surface.