

Other waterbirds

Neither duck, nor shorebird, these are some other waterbirds you may spot at the Sea.



**Double-crested
Cormorant**

Phalacrocorax auratus

Can be seen perching, flying, or diving for food. Feeds mostly on fish and other small, aquatic animals.



Eared Grebe

Podiceps nigricollis

Seen mostly in open water, feeds by diving in search of invertebrates.

Let's talk ...

Is the Sea artificial?

Before the damming of the Colorado River, its flow meandered, meaning it would change course from time to time. The Cahuilla people witnessed periods of hundreds of years when the Coachella Valley would fill with water from the meandering Colorado, today known as Ancient Lake Cahuilla.

The Salton Sea as we know it today was formed due to the breaking of a canal in the early 1900s, which allowed the Salton Trough to once again fill with water. So, the Sea is not exactly artificial, but it is certainly human-managed. People have the responsibility to create and maintain habitable, healthy environments for both wildlife and human populations living around the Sea.

About Audubon

The National Audubon Society protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow, throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation. Audubon's state programs, nature centers, chapters, and partners have an unparalleled wingspan that reaches millions of people each year to inform, inspire, and unite diverse communities in conservation action. Since 1905, Audubon's vision has been a world in which people and wildlife thrive.

Find our new Salton Sea
birding map online:

ca.audubon.org/node/26691

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BIRDING AT THE SALTON SEA

Salton Sea Common Birds Field Guide



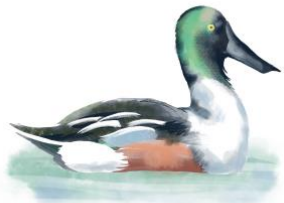
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Ducks

Anseriformes



Northern Shoveler

Anas clypeata

Dabbling duck that uses its flat bill to strain food items like seagrass from muddy, shallow water.



Northern Pintail

Anas acuta

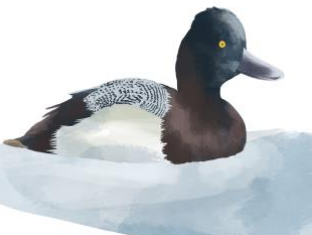
Feeds mostly on seeds and insects in underwater mud. Will also forage on land.



Ruddy Duck

Oxyura jamaicensis

This diving duck feeds mostly on seeds, roots, aquatic insects, and other invertebrates. Observed most during winter months.



Lesser Scaup

Aythya affinis

Eats mostly aquatic invertebrates like mollusks hiding in mud.

Shorebirds & Gulls

Charadriiformes



American Avocet

Recurvirostra americana

Feeds in shallow water by sweeping its upturned bill from side to side in search of insects.



Black-necked Stilt

Himantopus mexicanus

Can be seen year-round picking for food near shallow waters, including artificial habitats like fields.



Snowy Plover

Charadrius alexandrinus

Lives, feeds, and nests in dry, sandy beaches that match the color of its back feathers.



Black-bellied Plover

Pluvialis squatarola

Larger plover, feeds in shallow water by pecking for worms and other small insects.

Pelican Order

Pelecaniformes



American White Pelican

Pelecanus erythrorhynchos

Large, fish-eating bird is unmistakable with its brilliant, white plumage and massive bill.



Great Blue Heron

Ardea herodias

Large, fish-eating bird will also feed on reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals.



Great Egret

Ardea alba

Large, white wader, this bird will wait patiently for prey to come near before striking with its sharp bill.



White-faced Ibis

Plegadis chihi

Can be found in shallow waters searching for invertebrates. Striking maroon body and metallic green wings.