

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Stone Lakes

*National Wildlife Refuge*

*Bird List*



*Stone Lakes  
National Wildlife  
Refuge is one of the  
newest additions  
to the vast National  
Wildlife Refuge System.  
Its wetlands, riparian  
areas, and grasslands  
sustain a rich array  
of fish, wildlife,  
and plants.*



*Sandhill Cranes*  
©Gary Kramer

## Introduction

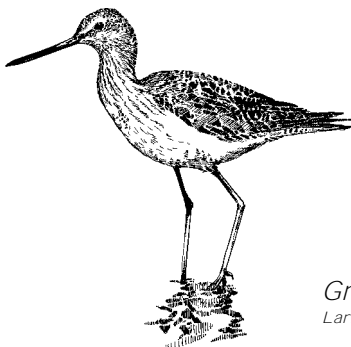
**Stone Lakes NWR** The diverse habitats of Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge are home to over 200 species of birds and numerous other fish and wildlife species. The refuge is located in the heart of California's Central Valley along the Pacific Flyway. When combined with neighboring natural areas, it is part of a vast landscape corridor that serves as a sanctuary for many resident and migratory fish, wildlife, and plant species.

### Wetland, Riparian, and Grassland Habitats

Existing and newly created wetlands are a focal point for many Pacific Flyway migrants. Waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds rest and feed on mudflats, wetlands, and lakes. Some wetland species, such as mallards, black-necked stilts, and pied-billed grebes, remain to breed.

Valley oaks, cottonwoods, and willows form lush riparian corridors along creeks, lakes, and waterways. These riparian zones support active egret, heron, and cormorant rookeries. Woodlands also support migratory forest-dependent birds, such as Wilson's warblers, and resident mammals, such as opossums, raccoons, and skunks.

Grassy uplands provide habitat for coyotes, western meadowlarks, and rodents. The skies above are patrolled by more than 15 species of birds of prey, ranging from great horned owls to Swainson's hawks.



*Greater yellowlegs*  
Larry Eifert/USFWS



*California quail*  
Ken Morris/USFWS

## Enjoy the Refuge's Wildlife

Wildlife observation is becoming increasingly popular across the nation. You will be most successful if you use binoculars or a spotting scope, go alone or in a small group, and move quietly. Please observe animals from a distance. You are a guest in their home. Many species are secretive, so you may only see signs of their presence. Best viewing times are in the morning and late afternoon, as refuge visiting hours permit.

Throughout the year you will see a rich variety of wildlife on the refuge. This checklist documents 213 bird species and 24 other wildlife species within the Stone Lakes NWR project boundary. It is a work in progress and will be revised from time to time. We encourage birders to report their observations, especially unusual birds, to the refuge headquarters.

Special thanks to checklist contributors, including Bill Grenfell, who did the initial compilation, and Chris Conard and Stan Wright, who reviewed the list.

## Bird List Key

### Habitats

- o - Open water, lakes, creeks, ponds
- m - Marshes, tule and cattail stands
- s - Seasonal wetlands, mudflats, flooded fields
- r - Riparian forests
- g - Grasslands
- a - Aerial: Usually observed in flight
- wide - Widespread, found in a variety of habitats
- u - urban

### Seasons

- Sp - Spring, March through May
- S - Summer, June through August
- F - Fall, September through November
- W - Winter, December through February

### Abundance

- a - Abundant: Expected to be observed 80 to 100 percent of the time in appropriate habitat
- c - Common: 60 to 80 percent
- u - Uncommon: 30 to 60 percent
- o - Occasionally: 10 to 30 percent
- r - Rare: 0 to 10 percent
- \* - Birds known to nest locally
- ✓ - Threatened/Endangered Species
- # - Observed less than 10 times in the past 10 years



*Mallard hen and ducklings*  
© Ken Morris

## Birds of Stone Lakes NWR

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Grebes</b>					
*Pied-billed Grebe	oms	c	u	a	a
Horned Grebe	os	r		r	r
Eared Grebe	oms	r	r	r	r
Western Grebe	o	r	r	o	o
Clark's Grebe	o	r	r	o	o
<b>Pelicans and Cormorants</b>					
American White Pelican	os	c	u	o	o
*Double-crested Cormorant	o	c	c	o	c
<b>Bitterns, Herons and Egrets</b>					
*American Bittern	m	o	o	o	u
Least Bittern	m	r	r	r	
*Great Blue Heron	wide	a	a	a	a
*Great Egret	wide	a	a	a	a
*Snowy Egret	ms	c	u	c	c
Cattle Egret	g			r	r
*Green Heron	mr	o	o	o	o
*Black-crowned Night-Heron	mr	o	o	o	o
<b>Ibises</b>					
White-faced Ibis	sg	o	o	o	
<b>Waterfowl</b>					
Greater White-fronted Goose	oga	o		u	c
Snow Goose	osga				r
Ross' Goose	osga				r
*Canada Goose	osg	o	o	o	c
Tundra Swan	osa				o
*Wood Duck	osr	c	c	c	c



*Red-tailed hawk*  
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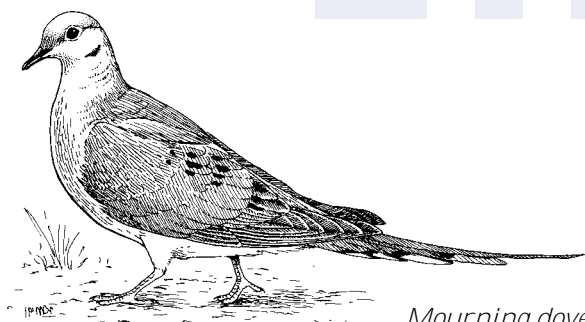
Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
*Gadwall	msg	c	r	r	c
Eurasian Wigeon	s				r
American Wigeon	s	c		c	a
*Mallard	msg	a	a	a	a
Blue-winged Teal	s	r		r	r
*Cinnamon Teal	msg	c	o	o	c
Northern Shoveler	s	a	r	u	a
Northern Pintail	s	u	r	c	c
Green-winged Teal	s	c		c	c
Canvasback	os	r			c
Redhead	os	r			r
Ring-necked Duck	os	o			c
Greater Scaup	os				#
Lesser Scaup	os	u			u
Bufflehead	os	o			c
Common Goldeneye	os				u
Barrow's Goldeneye	os				#
Hooded Merganser	os	r			o
Common Merganser	os	r			r
*Ruddy Duck	os	o	r	r	o
<b>Vultures</b>					
*Turkey Vulture	a	a	a	a	a
<b>Osprey, Kites, Eagles and Hawks</b>					
Osprey	ra	r	r	r	
*White-tailed Kite	wide	c	c	c	c
Bald Eagle	a				#
*Northern Harrier	msga	a	c	a	a
Sharp-shinned Hawk	ra	o	o	o	o
*Cooper's Hawk	ra	u	u	c	c
*Red-shouldered Hawk	ra	a	a	a	a
*Swainson's Hawk	rsga	o	c	u	
*Red-tailed Hawk	wide	a	a	a	a
Ferruginous Hawk	sa				r
Rough-legged Hawk	mga				r
Golden Eagle	sga	o	o	o	o
<b>Falcons</b>					
*American Kestrel	wide	a	a	a	a
Merlin	rga	r			o
✓Peregrine Falcon	msga	r		r	r
Prairie Falcon	msga	r			r

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Gallinaceous Birds</b>					
*Ring-necked Pheasant	rg	a	a	a	a
*California Quail	rg	c	c	c	c
<b>Rails and Coots</b>					
*Virginia Rail	m	o	o	o	o
*Sora	m	o	o	o	o
*Common Moorhen	m	o	o	o	o
*American Coot	ms	c	o	o	a
<b>Cranes</b>					
Sandhill Crane	sg	r		c	c
<b>Shorebirds</b>					
Black-bellied Plover	s	o		u	c
Semipalmated Plover	s	r		r	
*Killdeer	wide	a	a	a	a
*Black-necked Stilt	s	c	o	c	c
*American Avocet	s	o	u	o	o
Greater Yellowlegs	s	c	r	c	c
Lesser Yellowlegs	s	o		o	o
Solitary Sandpiper	s	#		#	
Willet	s	#			
Spotted Sandpiper	s	o	r	o	o
Whimbrel	sga	o		r	
Long-billed Curlew	sga	o	r	o	o
Ruddy Turnstone	s	#			
Sanderling	s	#			
Semipalmated Sandpiper	s			r	
Western Sandpiper	s	c		c	o
Least Sandpiper	s	c	o	c	a
Baird's Sandpiper	s			#	
Pectoral Sandpiper	s			#	
Dunlin	s	c		a	a



*Black-necked stilt*  
Ken Morris/USFWS

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Ruff	s	#			
Short-billed Dowitcher	s		#		
Long-billed Dowitcher	s	c		c	c
Common Snipe	s	u	r	o	c
*Wilson's Phalarope	s	o	r	r	
Red-necked Phalarope	s	r		r	
<b>Gulls and Terns</b>					
Bonaparte's Gull	osa		r	r	#
Mew Gull	osa	#		r	r
Ring-billed Gull	osa	o		c	c
California Gull	osa	o	r	c	c
Herring Gull	osa	o			c
Thayer's Gull	osa			#	
*Caspian Tern	osa	o	r	o	
Forster's Tern	osa	c	r	r	o
Black Tern	osa	#			
<b>Doves</b>					
*Rock Dove	u	c	c	c	c
*Mourning Dove	wide	c	c	c	c
<b>Owls</b>					
*Barn Owl	wide	c	c	c	c
Western Screech-Owl	r	r	r	r	r
*Great Horned Owl	r	c	c	c	c
*Burrowing Owl	f	r	r	r	r
Long-eared Owl	srg				#
Short-eared Owl	msg				r
<b>Swifts</b>					
Vaux's Swift	a	r		r	
White-throated swift	a	r	r	r	r



*Mourning dove*  
Ken Morris/USFWS

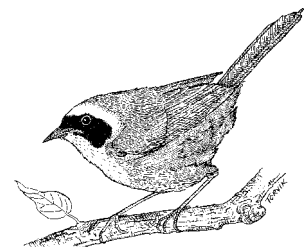
Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Hummingbirds</b>					
*Black-chinned Hummingbird	r	r	r	u	
*Anna's Hummingbird	r	c	c	c	u
Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird	r			r	
<b>Kingfishers</b>					
*Belted Kingfisher	ra	c	c	c	c
<b>Woodpeckers</b>					
Acorn Woodpecker	r				#
Red-breasted Sapsucker	r			r	r
*Nuttall's Woodpecker	r	c	c	c	c
*Downy Woodpecker	r	c	c	c	c
*Northern Flicker	r	c	o	c	c
<b>Flycatchers</b>					
Olive-sided Flycatcher	r	r		o	
*Western Wood-Pewee	r	r		o	
Willow Flycatcher	r	r		o	
Hammond's Flycatcher	r	#		r	
Dusky Flycatcher	r	#	#		
Pacific-Slope Flycatcher	r	r	r	r	
*Black Phoebe	mr	a	a	a	a
Say's Phoebe	sg			u	u
*Ash-throated Flycatcher	rg	u	c	r	
Tropical Kingbird	rg				#
*Western Kingbird	rg	u	c		
<b>Shrikes</b>					
*Loggerhead Shrike	gr	u	u	u	u
Northern Shrike	gr				#
<b>Vireos</b>					
Cassin's Vireo	r	r		r	
Hutton's Vireo	r	r	r	r	r
Warbling Vireo	r	u		u	
<b>Jays, Magpies and Crows</b>					
*Western Scrub-Jay	rs	a	a	a	a
*Yellow-billed Magpie	rsg	o	o	o	o
*American Crow	rsg	c	c	c	c
<b>Larks</b>					
Horned Lark	g	o		c	c

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Swallows</b>					
*Tree Swallow	msra	a	a	o	r
Violet-green Swallow	msra			r	
*Northern Rough-winged Swallow	msra	u	o	r	
*Cliff Swallow	msra	a	a	o	
*Barn Swallow	msra	c	c	c	
<b>Titmice and Bushtits</b>					
*Oak Titmouse	r	u	u	u	u
*Bushtit	r	a	a	a	a
<b>Nuthatches and Creepers</b>					
*White-breasted Nuthatch	r	u	u	u	u
Brown Creeper	r			#	#
<b>Wrens</b>					
*House Wren	r	c	c	c	u
Winter Wren	r				r
*Bewick's Wren	mr	u	u	u	u
*Marsh Wren	m	a	a	a	a
Rock Wren	g	#	#	#	#
<b>Kinglets and Gnatcatchers</b>					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	r	r		u	u
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	r	c		c	a
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	r	#		r	
<b>Thrushes</b>					
Western Bluebird	rg	#			#
Mountain Bluebird	r				#
Swainson's Thrush	r	o		o	
Hermit Thrush	r	o		o	o
*American Robin	rg	c	u	c	c
Varied Thrush	r			r	r



Marsh wren  
© Gary Whitley

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Babblers</b>					
*Wrentit	r	c	c	c	c
<b>Mockingbirds and Thrashers</b>					
*Northern Mockingbird	rg	o	o	o	o
<b>Starlings</b>					
*European Starling	rs	a	a	a	a
<b>Wagtails and Pipits</b>					
American Pipit	sg	c		u	c
<b>Waxwings</b>					
Cedar Waxwing	r	u		u	u
<b>Warblers</b>					
Orange-crowned Warbler	r	c	r	c	r
Nashville Warbler	r	r		r	
Yellow Warbler	r	c	r	c	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	r	c		c	a
Black-throated Gray Warbler	r	o		u	r
Townsend's Warbler	r	o		o	
Hermit Warbler	r	r		r	
MacGillivray's Warbler	r	o		u	
*Common Yellowthroat	mr	c	c	c	u
Wilson's Warbler	r	c		c	
Canada Warbler	r		#		
Northern Waterthrush	m	#			
Yellow-breasted Chat	r	#			
<b>Tanagers</b>					
Western Tanager	r	u	r	u	
<b>Towhees and Sparrows</b>					
*Spotted Towhee	r	a	a	a	a
*California Towhee	r	u	u	u	u



Common yellowthroat  
© Sharon Torvik

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Chipping Sparrow	g	#	#		
Vesper Sparrow	g	#			
Savannah Sparrow	gs	a		a	a
Fox Sparrow	r	o		r	o
*Song Sparrow	mr	c	c	c	c
Swamp Sparrow	g			#	
Lincoln's Sparrow	gs	u			o
White-throated Sparrow	gs	r			r
White-crowned Sparrow	gs	r		c	a
Golden-crowned Sparrow	gs	r		c	a
Dark-eyed Junco	r	u		u	c
<b>Grosbeaks and Buntings</b>					
*Black-headed Grosbeak	r	c	c		
*Blue Grosbeak	r	u	u		
*Lazuli Bunting	r	u	u		
<b>Icterids</b>					
*Red-winged Blackbird	mg	a	a	a	a
Tricolored Blackbird	mg	o	o	r	r
*Western Meadowlark	g	a	a	a	a
Yellow-headed Blackbird	m	r	r		
*Brewer's Blackbird	us	a	a	a	a
*Brown-headed Cowbird	wide	c	c	c	o
Hooded Oriole	r	r			
*Bullock's Oriole	r	u	u		
*Great-tailed Grackle	sg	r	r	r	r
<b>Finches</b>					
Purple Finch	r				#
*House Finch	wide	a	a	a	a
Pine Siskin	r			r	
*Lesser Goldfinch	g			r	r
*American Goldfinch	g	c	c	c	c
<b>Old World Sparrows</b>					
*House Sparrow	u	c	c	c	c

## Other Wildlife Opportunities

In addition to birds, Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge provides a home to many insects, amphibians, reptiles, fish, and mammals, some of which are species at risk. While visiting the refuge and watching for birds, you may also spot some of the following animals:

Common Name	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Mammals</b>					
Black-tailed Deer	rsg	r	r	r	r
Virginia Opossum	r	c	c	c	c
Black-tailed Jackrabbit	sg	c	c	c	c
Western Gray Squirrel	sg	u	u	u	u
California Ground Squirrel	rg	u	u	u	u
Beaver	mr	a	a	a	a
California Vole	gr	c	c	c	c
Muskrat	om	c	c	c	c
Coyote	wide	c	c	c	c
Raccoon	mr	c	c	c	c
Striped Skunk	wide	u	u	u	u
River Otter	or	c	c	c	c
Mink	om	o	o	o	o
Gray Fox	gr	o	o	o	o
<b>Amphibians</b>					
Pacific Treefrog	rm	c	c	c	r
Bullfrog	omr	c	c	c	r
<b>Reptiles</b>					
Western Fence Lizard	sg	c	c	c	c
Gopher Snake	sg	u	c	u	r
Common Kingsnake	sg	u	c	u	r
Common Garter Snake	sm	u	c	u	r
Elegant Garter Snake	sm	u	c	u	r
Western Yellowbelly Racer	rg	u	c	u	r
Western Pond Turtle	om	u	u	u	r
Red-eared slider	om	u	u	u	u



Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge  
1624 Hood-Franklin Road  
Elk Grove, California 95758  
Telephone: 916/775-4421  
Information line: 916/775-4420  
FAX: 916/775-4407  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
<http://stonelakes.fws.gov>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
<http://www.fws.gov>

For Refuge Information  
1 800/546-2565

California Relay Service  
TTY 1 800/735-2929  
Voice 1 800/735-2922

This brochure will be made  
available in other formats  
upon request.

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Front cover: Black-necked Stilt ©Paul Boyte  
Back cover: Yellow-rumped Warbler ©Paul Boyte

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