

Birds of Sacramento NWR



Mallard pairs begin to form long before the spring breeding season. Pairing takes place in the fall, but courtship displays can be seen all winter.



Northern Shovelers have large shovel-shaped bills with 110 fine projections along the edges for straining food from the water.



Snow Geese can be distinguished from Ross's Geese, a similar bird, by the black "grinning patch" on their bill that looks like black lipstick.



Northern Pintails are easily spotted by their distinctive silhouette - slim and long-necked.

As is true of many geese, **Greater White-fronted Goose** pairs stay together for years and migrate together, along with their offspring. Parent and sibling associations may continue throughout their lives.



Although the **American Coot** swims like a duck, it is not related. Coots do not have webbed feet like waterfowl, instead they have lobbed toes that help them swim.

If a predator approaches, a nesting **Killdeer** performs a broken-wing display as if mortally wounded, drawing the intruder away from the eggs or young, at which point the bird "recovers" and flies off.



Black-necked Stilts have the second-longest legs in proportion to their bodies of any bird, exceeded only by flamingos.





Snow Egrets are easy to distinguish because of the “yellow slippers” on their feet.

Great Blue Herons primarily eat fish, but are adaptable and willing to eat other animals. Occasionally a heron will choke trying to eat a fish that is too large to swallow.



Male **Marsh Wrens** build “dummy” nests, which makes it difficult for predators to locate the nest with eggs in it.

White Pelicans don’t dive for their food, instead they work together to surround fish in shallow water then scoop them into the pouches in their bills.



Northern Harriers can often be seen soaring above grasslands and marshes. They are easily distinguished by their white rump patch.



Male **Red-winged Blackbirds** are fiercely territorial during breeding season. They will even attack much larger animals, including horses and people.



The raspy cry of the **Red-tailed Hawk** is often used in movies to represent any eagle or hawk anywhere in the world.



Ring-necked Pheasants were introduced into North America from Asia and can now be found throughout much of the continent.

