

Salton Sea: Poe Road

Habitat

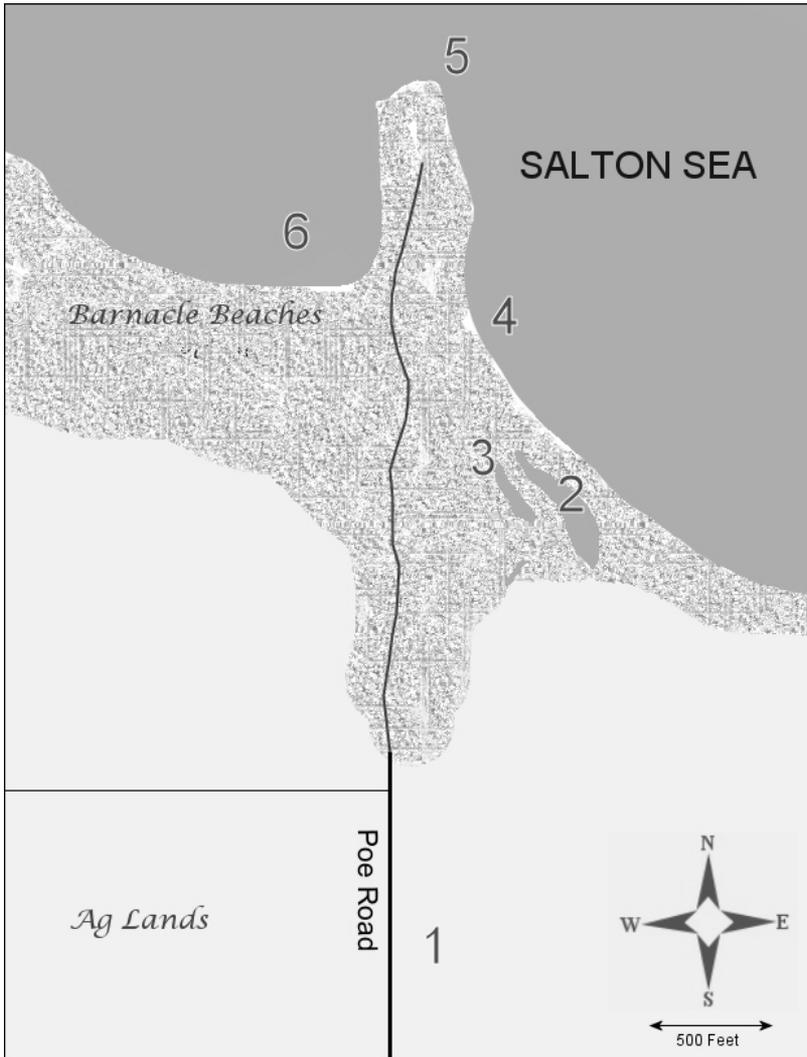
- Open water
- Shoreline
- Agricultural

Target Birds

- Brant (sometimes summering, other times at migration)
- Western Waterfowl (winter)
- Grebes: Western and Clark's (resident)
- Double-crested Cormorant (resident)
- Pelicans: American and Brown (resident)
- Rails: Sora and Virginia
- Shorebirds: Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Spotted, Western and Least Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Marbled Godwit, Long-billed Curlew, Snowy Plover (breeds)
(Almost any North American shorebird is possible here during migration.)
- Gulls: California, Herring (winter), Yellow-footed (summer), and Ring-billed (resident)
- Jaegers (rare migrants)
- Terns: Caspian (resident), Gull-billed (summer), Forster's (resident), and Black (migration)
- Lesser Nighthawk (summer)
- Belted Kingfisher (winter)
- Phoebes: Black (resident) and Say's (winter)
- Loggerhead Shrike (winter)
- All western Swallows (migration and resident)

General Description

In the early days of the Salton Sea there was a boat launch and marina at this location but the Salton Sea kept rising and eventually inundated it. All that remains are some of the power poles and pilings. Now that the sea is receding the shoreline is farther out. Because this is the shallow end of the sea it means that the shoreline will go out drastically in the near future. There should continue to be good birding here with the inflow of water from agriculture.



Poe Road

Birding Suggestions

1) Poe Road

Watch for Greater Roadrunner, Common Ground-Dove, Loggerhead Shrike, Abert's Towhee, and various sparrows along Poe Road.

2) Run-off Ponds

Agricultural drain water forms ephemeral ponds here, which attract puddle ducks, shorebirds, and sometimes, summering Brant. Sora and Virginia Rail

are often seen well here. The shoreline where the “fresh” water empties into the Sea is especially good for gulls, terns, and shorebirds.

3) Barnacle Beach

Snowy Plover nest on the flats in this area. Check around the shallow ponds here for young in the late summer.

4) Shoreline

Check the barnacle shoreline for Red Knot, Ruddy Turnstone and other less common shorebirds during migration and winter. During the past few years both knots and turnstones have been sighted here regularly. Check all the tern species flying by to see if any are Gull-billed, which summer here.

5) Old Pilings

The ruins of the old marina and docks are favorite spots for resting American White and Brown Pelicans, and for scads of Double-crested Cormorants. Check off the point and out over the water for three species of jaeger (they were all here in late September 2010). This spot and the entire shoreline are good locations for Yellow-footed Gull.

6) Bay

This area is usually more protected from offshore winds, and is good for numerous shorebirds. Long-billed Dowitcher and Marbled Godwit are especially common here.

Driving Directions for Poe Road birding locations

From Westmorland (Hwy 86 and Forrester Road):

- Take Hwy 86 west for 9.8
- Turn right (north) onto Poe Road
- Drive one mile to the end of Poe Road

From the observation tower at Unit One of the Sonny Bono Salton Sea NWR:

- Drive south 2.1 miles on Vendel Road to Bannister
- Take Bannister Road west 0.8 miles till it ends at Hwy 86
- Turn right onto Hwy 86
- Drive northwest 2.8 miles on Hwy 86
- Turn right (north) onto Poe Road
- Drive one mile to the end of Poe Road

Site Notes

Ownership

- Private
- Imperial Irrigation District

Vehicle Access

- Mostly accessible by automobile. All off-pavement areas can be really bad when wet.
- Extra caution is advised at this site as the shore of the Salton Sea here is entirely covered by decomposed barnacles and may appear to be dry and solid—but it is really easy to get bogged down and stuck.

Fees

- None

Restrooms

- SBSSNWR at Unit One
- Westmorland

Camping

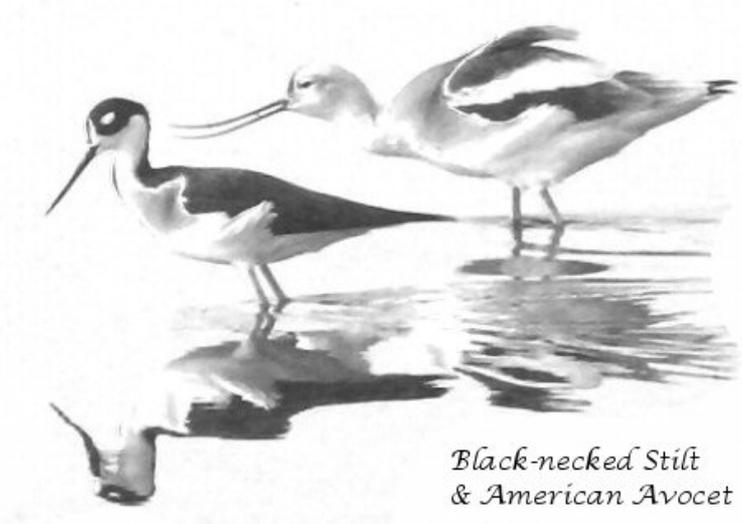
- Undeveloped remote camping if you want to spend the night here on the shore

Food

- Westmorland

Gas

- Westmorland



*Black-necked Stilt
& American Avocet*