



Name	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta		
Status	Recognized	State	California
Priority	State	Counties	Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Yolo
Proposed Criteria	A4ii		
Confirmed Criteria	D1, D4i, D4ii, D4v		

Central Coordinates	Area (acres)	Elevation (meters)
38.10880, -121.58580	213,301	Min:4 Max:49 Avg:28

Bird Conservation Region

Coastal California

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is centered on the southwest arm of Sacramento County, roughly halfway between Sacramento and the East Bay cities of Antioch and Concord. This portion of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, from Walnut Grove downstream to Oakley, was formerly a vast region of bulrush (tule) marsh with brackish water. The conversion of this area to agriculture in the late 1800s involved reclamation of these wetlands and the construction of levees along channels and draining the resulting islands of land for farming. These large blocks of farmland, many of which have sunk up to 25' below sea level, are alternately known as islands or tracts. Not to be confused with these islands are numerous small islets (up to several acres in size) within large river channels that are either natural remnants or mounds of dredge spoils left over from levee construction. These have since converted to or retained native riparian and tidal marsh vegetation, and are often the only such habitat for miles around. The best examples of in-stream islets are in San Joaquin Co., northwest of Stockton. Major tracts and islands with bird habitat include: ? Liberty/Ryer Islands, Solano Co. (Private) ? Sherman Island, Sacramento Co. (CA Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Lower Sherman Island Wildlife Area) ? Tyler Island, Sacramento Co. (Private) ? Webb Tract, Contra Costa Co. (Private) ? Holland/Palm Tracts, Contra Costa Co. (Private) ? Big Break/Iron House WTP, Contra Costa Co. (incl. Big Break Regional Shoreline, East Bay Regional Park District) ? Piper Slough, Contra Costa Co. (Private, with public boat access) ? Bouldin/Venice/Mandeville/Medford Islands and Empire/Ringe Tracts, San Joaquin and Contra Costa Co. (Private) ? Brack Tract/White Slough, San Joaquin Co. (DFG White Slough Wildlife Area.) ? Staten Island, San Joaquin Co. (The Nature Conservancy). Updated February 2010

ORNITHOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The regularly-flooded agricultural lands of the Delta support a rich wintering bird community, including Swainson's Hawk (breeding and wintering), Tundra Swan, Sandhill Crane and Short-eared Owl. Tens of thousands of shorebirds and hundreds of thousands of waterfowl occur in winter and migration. In San Joaquin Co., the Phil and Marilyn Isenberg Ecological Reserve includes Blossom Slough, a series of ponds with a former peripheral canal now managed for wildlife. The Christmas Bird Count for this area regularly exceeds 150 species. The fields in this area are farmed in corn, and support between 55% and 75% of the state's Greater Sandhill Crane population (the remainder winter at the Cosumnes River Preserve and on the refuges of the Sacramento Valley, fide Thelander and Crabtree 1994). In Contra Costa Co., the rice fields of Webb Tract support tens of thousands of wintering geese (particularly Greater White-fronted), and hundreds of Sandhill Crane and White-faced Ibis. Holland and Palm tracts, just northeast of Brentwood, host large numbers of geese and cranes; wintering flocks of Tundra Swan; Tricolored and Yellow-headed blackbirds; and nesting Short-eared Owl and Swainson's Hawk. North of here, the tips of Venice and Mandeville islands support shallow brackish marsh vegetation with high numbers of waterfowl, as well as breeding waders and the only Double-crested Cormorant colony in San Joaquin Co. Significant concentrations of riparian species occur at Liberty Isl., Sherman Isl., and Piper Slough, supporting several pairs of Yellow-breasted Chat and Blue Grosbeak. Long-eared Owl was recently discovered roosting communally at the tip of Ryer Isl.. Big Break, including the Iron House Sanctuary (part of a water treatment facility) supports tidal marsh along the southern shoreline of the Stockton Deep Water Channel with a significant population of Black Rail, a species that probably also occurs in Salicornia habitat at Sherman Isl. (T. Manolis, pers. comm.).

SPECIES DATA AND CRITERIA

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Seasonal/Daily</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Observed</u>	<u>Density (#km/2)</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
<u>Black Rail</u>	-							
<u>Loggerhead Shrike</u>	-							
<u>Long-billed Curlew</u>	-							
<u>Northern Harrier</u>	-							

Peregrine Falcon -



Sandhill Crane -



Short-eared Owl -



Swainson's Hawk -



Tricolored Blackbird

2009	S	non-breeding	1	Individuals	-	-
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Source : From CA Ebird. Observed by Jim Rowoth at Woodbridge Sandhill Crane area



2005	S	unknown	65	Individuals	-	-
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Source : From Ca Ebird. Observed by Chris Conard at Staten Island



White-faced Ibis -



Yellow-breasted Chat -



Yellow-headed Blackbird -



OWNERSHIP

Assessment Date	% of IBA	Ownership
1/1/2008	-	Individual
	82	unset
	-	County/Parrish/County/Parish Park
	4	Non-profit/Land Trust - The Nature Conservancy
	2	State/Wildlife Management Area
	6	State/Other
	2	State/State Recreation Area
	1	State/State Park
1/1/2008		? Liberty/Ryer Islands, Solano Co. (Private) ? Sherman Island, Sacramento Co. (DFG ? ? Lower Sherman Island W.A.?) ? Tyler Island, Sacramento Co. (Private) ? Webb Tract, Contra Costa Co. (Private) ? Holland/Palm Tracts, Contra Costa Co. (Private) ? Big Break/Iron House WTP, Contra Costa Co. (incl. Big Break Regional Shoreline, East Bay Regional Park District) ? Piper Slough, Contra Costa Co. (Private, with public boat access) ? Bouldin/Venice/Mandeville/Medford Islands and Empire/Ringe Tracts, San Joaquin and Contra Costa Co. (Private) ? Brack Tract/White Slough, San Joaquin Co. (DFG ? ?White Slough W.A.?) ? Staten Island, San Joaquin Co. (The Nature Conservancy)

HABITAT

<u>Assessment Date</u>	<u>% of IBA</u>	<u>Habitat</u>
1/1/2008	-	Wetlands
	-	Wetlands/Woody Wetlands/Lowland Riparian
	-	Water/Open Water/Pond
	-	Herbaceous Planted/Cultivated/Row Crops/Cropland
	-	Wetlands/Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands/Brackish Marsh
	-	Wetlands/Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands/Tidal Marshes
	-	Herbaceous Planted/Cultivated/Row Crops/Active Farm
	2	Forested Upland/Evergreen Forest/Redwood
	22	Wetlands/Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands/Saltmarsh
	65	Shrubland/Shrubland/Coastal Scrub

1/1/2008

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