Shorebirds of Suisun Marsh

**Least Sandpiper**  
*Calidris minutilla*  
- Brown upperparts  
- Very small with yellowish legs

**Western Sandpiper**  
*Calidris mauri*  
- Gray upperparts, very pale in winter  
- Black legs

**Dunlin**  
*Calidris alpina*  
- Larger than Least and Western Sandpipers  
- Black, droopy bill

**Spotted Sandpiper**  
*Actitis macularius*  
- Rump bobs up and down while walking

**Semipalmated Plover**  
*Charadrius semipalmatus*  
- One black band on neck  
- Orange/yellow legs

**Black-bellied Plover**  
*Pluvialis squatarola*  
- Gray/mottled gray and white back  
- Black axillaries (armpit) visible in flight

**Killdeer**  
*Charadrius vociferus*  
- Brown back, white belly  
- Two black bands on neck

**Short-billed/Long-billed Dowitcher**  
*Limnodromus sp.*  
- Species very similar, long straight bills  
- White wedge visible on back in flight  
- Feeds with sewing machine-like motion  
- Often in open water, sparse-vegetation

**Wilson's Snipe**  
*Gallinago delicata*  
- Long, straight bill  
- Bold stripes on head and back  
- Often in dense vegetation, well camouflaged  
- Only shorebird in CA that can be hunted
Lesser Yellowlegs
*Tringa flavipes*

- Bright yellow legs, white belly
- Short, straight bill

Greater Yellowlegs
*Tringa melanoleuca*

- Larger than Lesser Yellowlegs
- Bright yellow legs, white belly
- Longer bill, slightly upturned

Willet
*Tringa semipalmata*

- Overall gray/mottled gray back
- Bold black and white stripes in flight

Black-necked Stilt
*Himantopus mexicanus*

- Black back, white belly
- Long, red legs

American Avocet
*Recurvirostra americana*

- Bill curves upward
- Blueish legs, striped wings

Long-billed Curlew
*Numenius americanus*

- Long bill curves downward
- Largest shorebird in North America

Whimbrel
*Numenius phaeopus*

- Body smaller and bill shorter than Long-billed Curlew
- Bill curves downward
- Brown and white head stripes

Marbled Godwit
*Limosa fedoa*

- Orange bill with black tip
- Bill curves slightly upward

Small: < 8 in.

Medium: 8 - 14 in.

Large: > 14 in.

NB = Non-Breeding
B = Breeding

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