

STILT, BLACK NECKED

RANGE:

Throughout southern and western United States, south to Peru.

HABITAT:

Mud flats, pools and grassy marshes. Found in shallow water, salt or fresh, with soft muddy bottom.

SIZE:

13 to 17 inches.

LIFE EXPECTANCY:

12 to 15 years.

REPRODUCTION:

Adult males have a glossy black back, wings, hind neck, crown, and ear with a white spot over the eyes. White on the underside. Females and immature birds have a more brownish back. All have long pink legs and a needle-like black bill. Both adults in turn incubate 4 eggs for about 25 days. Nestlings are precocial. Both adults tend young, which become independent in about 4 weeks and first fly at about 7 to 8 weeks.

DIET:

Crustaceans, snails, beetles, caddisflies, mosquito larvae, grasshoppers and other insects. They also feed on some small fish as well as seeds of aquatic plants.

BEHAVIOR:

- Social. Found in groups of up to 50 individuals.
- Nest in small colonies. Build nests in depression in ground, frequently in grass.
- Prefer to wade in shallow pools, avoids deep water.
- Plucks food from surface of water or mud or probes in soft mud.
- Call is a monotonous series of loud piping sounds. Sounds like yip-yip-yip-yip-yip.

STATUS:

Protected nongame species

REFERENCES:

http://imnh.isu.edu/digitalatlas/bio/birds/gulls/bnst/bnst_inf.htm

http://www.desertusa.com/magoct97/oct_pa/du_bnstil.html

theZOO
LOUISVILLE

PHOTO
COMING
SOON

Order:	Charadriiformes
Family:	Recurvirostridae
Genus:	Himantopus
Species:	mexicanus