



Join us on February 24th and 25th
California Duck Days 2012
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, 45211 Road 32B, Davis, CA



We hope to see you at CA Duck Days on Saturday February 25th at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Headquarters in Davis. Check out the Schedule of Events on the following pages to see what workshops and field trips your family will want to attend, and then don't forget to

register online early at www.yolobasin.org, so you'll get a space on one, or even two, of the field trips. This year you'll see more expert birders assisting and leading trips, and we hope you'll take advantage of their knowledge and enthusiasm.

In addition to field trips and workshops be sure to read about additional Duck Days activities, and save time to visit the Exhibit Hall, which features 25 area environmental organizations, all with representatives to tell you more about what their groups do.

Don't miss the Welcome Reception and Wildlife Art Show at the Davis Art Center on Friday, February 24th, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Davis Mayor Joe Krovoza will be our master of ceremonies. Enjoy the artwork created by Yolo County high school students and the CA Junior Duck Stamp Art, and help us honor these young artists. There will also be good food and drink, including sushi donated by the CA Rice Commission, as well as a raffle and entertainment by Dave Monterey. As always, the reception is free of charge.



Photos by Rob Floerke

Viewing Snow Geese

**Scenes from
CA Duck Days 2011**



Building bird boxes



Learning about tracks



Falconry demonstration



Duck Days Art Exhibit



Fish viewing in the mobile aquarium



Schedule of Events - February 25, 2012

Pre-registration is strongly recommended for California Duck Days 2012 since field trips fill up quickly. Please register online at www.yolobasin.org. All trips leave from the Duck Days Headquarters, 45211 County Road 32B, Davis.

Duck Days 2012 Field Trips

Mystery Bird Trip: 7:00am-4:00pm

Join master birder and popular field trip leader, Terry Colborn, for a full day of birding to locations that are for us to know and you to find out! Terry will take you to some of his favorite places at the best time of day to view birds. You'll see noisy flocks of geese, soaring Sandhill Cranes, elusive songbirds, and who knows what else. This trip is appropriate for beginners as well as advanced birders. Bring a sack lunch and beverage.

Hedgerow Farms: 8:15am-12:15pm

Hedgerow Farms is a well-known native CA seed production farm located north of Winters. A leader in farmland habitat establishment for the past 30 years, Hedgerow produces native seed for over 70 species of native grass, wildflower and wetland edge plants. Spend the morning touring the farm. Also expect to see many species of birds, and learn about planting natives in your own yard. Participants will go home with free native plant plugs. 35 minute driving time each way is included.

Conaway Ranch: 8:30am-12:30pm ♿

Join Mike Hall, Conaway Ranch Wildlife Manager, and ecologist Susan Sanders for a unique opportunity to view the diverse wildlife, habitats, and farm fields of the 17,500-acre privately-owned ranch. Learn what's new at Conaway Ranch, a leader in wildlife friendly farming and conservation, and enjoy a great morning of bird watching. This is a driving tour with frequent stops and short walks. 20 minute driving time each way is included.

UC Davis Russell Ranch Restoration: 8:45-11:45am

This trip, led by Reserve Director Andrew Fulks, will begin at the end of Kinsella Lane, located west of Road 95, off of Russell Blvd. We will walk the restored native grasslands and oak savannah along the banks of Putah Creek. The ranch is a mitigation and research area and is not normally open to the public. We will hike on dirt ranch roads and through some grassland. We'll make a loop back on the top of the banks. Expect numerous views of the creek, riparian forest, valley oak savannah and nest boxes, along the way. Learn about habitat restoration and management of native California grasslands. The hike will be 3 miles round-trip, with fairly level terrain. Wear sturdy shoes, and be prepared for mud. 20 minute driving time each way is included.

Putah Creek Dam to Dam: 9:00am-2:00pm

Long-time Davis birder Dr. Sid England and Randy Beaton will take you on a driving trip to search for birds starting at the Monticello Dam where you'll listen for Canyon Wren and hope to see a soaring Peregrine Falcon. You'll work your way down to the Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve and watch for a Dipper and then on to the Fishing Access Sites where you'll look for various riparian species. Next is Lake Solano Park where Cedar Waxwings and Barrow's Goldeneyes may be sighted, and finally, you'll finish up at the Diversion Dam where you can look for Hooded Mergansers and other water birds. 40 minute driving time each way is included. Bring a sack lunch and beverage.

Central Valley Raptors: 9:15am-12:15pm

Master birder John Sterling will take you in search of the many species of birds of prey that call the Central Valley home during the winter. Learn some of the tricks to identifying these often hard to differentiate birds. Have an exciting morning looking for American Kestrels, Peregrine Falcons, Merlins, Red-shouldered, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Coopers Hawks, and perhaps Golden or Bald Eagles. Even if you can't tell a red-tail from a vulture, join this fun road trip with short walks. Bone up on your i.d. skills at a pre-trip raptor PowerPoint show at 8:15 am.

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area: 9:30am-12:30pm ♿

Join Teri Engbring and birder extraordinaire Todd Easterla on a tour of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Teri will tell you the story of one of the nation's biggest restoration projects and explain how agriculture is helping to maintain a valuable piece of the Pacific Flyway. You'll look for birds with Todd around the flooded rice fields and wetlands that provide winter habitat for thousands of avian visitors from the far north. This driving tour has frequent stops and short walks.

Birding for Beginners: 10:45am-1:45pm ♿

Calling all beginning birders! Mary Schiedt, birding guru and amazing teacher, will introduce you to the world of birding at easy-to-reach local birding spots, including the North Davis Pond. What are those little yellow birds at your feeder or that woodpecker in the oaks at the park? Learn the basics from Mary and apply your new skills in the field. Sack lunch suggested.

Rice Farming First Hand: 1:00-5:00pm

Rice farmer, Jack DeWit, will give you an insider's view of rice growing in the Sacramento Valley. You will have the unique opportunity to visit his rice-fields in Elverta. Wondering why farmers flood rice fields in winter? Jack will explain this and much more. Avian expert John Sterling will be along to point out all the birds. 30-minutes driving time each way included.

East Delta Birding: 1:15-7:00pm

Spend the afternoon birding the various habitats found in the Delta with Audubon Society and Yolo Basin Foundation field trip leader Sami LaRocca. You'll start your birding adventure near West Sacramento at the ship channel, work along the Sacramento River to Clarksburg, continuing on to Walnut Grove and Staten Island. Finishing the trip at the Woodbridge Ecological Reserve, you can watch many species of water birds, especially Sandhill Cranes, settle in for the night. Here a Fish and Game docent will complete the day with his expert knowledge. 1 hour driving time to return is included. Bring a snack and beverage.

Hydrology and Water Quality Basics: 1:30-4:30pm

Head out to the field for a hands-on workshop led by hydrologist Dr. Mike Deas and John McNerney, City of Davis resources specialist. You'll learn about physical characteristics of stream hydrology and water quality. After a brief pre-trip discussion, we'll go to Putah Creek to measure its characteristics (width, depth, velocity, and flow) and collect physical water quality

Workshops (all workshops located on site, except the falconry demo)

Raptors of the Central Valley: 8:15-9:15am

Enjoy tips from John Sterling for recognizing hawks, eagles, falcons, and more before going on the Central Valley Raptors field trip or just for fun.

Duck Calling: 10:00-11:00am

Jeff Smith will teach you techniques to call various ducks and geese. Special pintail whistles will be available. Kids of all ages welcome.

Exploration at the Yolo Demonstration Wetlands: 10:00am-3:00pm

Drop by to discover the fascinating world of local bugs by catching and studying them, and also learn to identify the tracks and scat of various critters that inhabit the wetlands.

Tule Decoys: 10:00am-3:00pm

Have fun making a simple duck decoy from local tules as indigenous people did in the past and continue to do today.

Trout Fishing for Youth: 10:00am-3:00pm

Receive some training and then try your hand at catching trout stocked in the wetlands pond on site. All supplies provided. Sign up for a spot when you arrive.

Waterfowl Drawing: 11:15am-12:15pm

Learn the basics of drawing ducks and geese during this instructional workshop offered by a professional artist. All ages welcome.

parameters (temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH) using tools of the trade. We'll complete a baseline physical description of the creek, something we hope to compare against in future years to identify the changes in Putah Creek through time. This trip will be an adventure for budding scientists of any age.

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area-Tule Ranch: 2:15-4:45pm

Take a hike on the Tule Ranch with John Currey, ag manager for the Wildlife Area and District Manager for the Dixon Resource Conservation District. The Wildlife Area was expanded by 13,000 acres in 2001, and we have been busy building new wetlands over vast areas. We'll learn about this working cattle ranch, tour some of the newly restored wetlands and hope to see thousands of ducks and geese and a good variety of hawks and other birds of prey. Bird expert Michael Perrone will help you identify birds. Enjoy learning about the history of the Tule Ranch, while we roam the last piece of Yolo County prairie. Wear sturdy shoes.

Local Owling: 3:30-7:00pm ♿

Join Mary Schiedt for a late afternoon and early evening search for owls. Owls live in a variety of habitats and you'll have the opportunity to see the best local spots. Look for Burrowing Owls, Barn Owls, Great-horned Owls, Short-eared Owls, and Screech Owls. Mary's skill at imitating owl calls often leads to close-up looks at curious Great-horned Owls coming to check out the intruder. Take a snack and beverage.

Know Your Waterfowl: 10:45-11:45am

Do you know what waterfowl species can be found at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area? Can you tell the difference between a female Mallard and a female Green-winged Teal? Do you know what eclipse plumage is? You'll be a pro after this workshop with waterfowl expert Greg Yarris.

Bat Workshop: 1:45-2:45pm

Increase your knowledge of these misunderstood nocturnal mammals through a presentation by bat expert Corky Quirk and get a close-up look at living bats.

Decoy Painting: 1:00-3:00pm

Josh Tolman will guide participants in the basics of painting duck decoy silhouettes during this fun-filled workshop. Smocks will be provided. Kids of all ages welcome, and your finished decoy is yours to keep!

Bird Dog Demonstration: 2:00-3:00pm

Experience the well-trained bird dogs of trainer Steve Jimenez demonstrating their retrieving skills, and pick up training tips to try on your dogs at home!

Falconry Demonstration: 3:00-4:15pm

Observe the ancient sport of falconry with live birds of prey and expert falconers, Ken Hein and Mike Bierman, who will share their experiences and fly their birds. Meet at Field Trip Launch Site to carpool to a site east of Davis.



Special Exhibit Hall Activities



9am-4pm:

Exhibit Hall, including a Passport Adventure for kids

California Waterfowl's Kids Craft Table

Bird Nest Box Building

Close Encounters with Mallard Ducklings

Raptor Rendezvous (10:30-11:30am & 12:30-1:30pm)



Fishing at Duck Days

Fishing continues to be one of the most popular activities for kids at Duck Days. Thanks to Fish and Game's "Fishing in the City" program the on-site wetlands pond will be stocked again with trout for the occasion. There will also be a special fishing area for the younger anglers. Poles and other necessary gear will be provided, and participants will be able to take home their catch. We encourage parents to stop by the ponds and sign up their children for a time slot as soon as they arrive at Duck Days.



The Basics of Hydrology and Water Quality Testing

Ages: 8 to adult

*See Field Trip Schedule
for details.*



Duck sculptures by Steve Cook

Special Activity:

Fly Fishing for Young People

The Fly Fishers of Davis will be set up near the fishing pond to offer kids a chance to learn the basics of fly fishing AND to learn the art of fly tying. Be sure your children take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Sign them up for a fishing slot and then stop by the Fly Fishers of Davis table to learn what fly fishing is all about.

What you need to know about CA Duck Days

Registration:

This year all registration will be done online at www.yolobasin.org.

Tickets for Duck Days are \$20-\$25 per adult depending on field trip attendance, and children under 16 are free (must be accompanied by an adult). Please call Lori Hewlitt at 530-757-3780 if you have any questions or problems registering online. You may also register in person when you arrive at Duck Days.

Location:

Duck Days will be held at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Department of Fish and Game Headquarters at 45211 County Rd. 32B (E. Chiles Rd.), 1.3 miles east of Mace Blvd. Please see the website at www.yolobasin.org for directions.

Food and Drink:

Coffee, water, sodas, fruit, bagels and sandwiches will be available for purchase at the Festival.