



Join us on February 25th and 26th !

California Duck Days 2011

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, 45211 Road 32B, Davis, CA



We hope to see you at CA Duck Days on Saturday February 26th 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.

Don't miss the Welcome Reception and Wildlife Art Show at the Davis Art Center on Friday, February 25th, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Enjoy the impressive artwork created by Yolo County high school students and the CA Junior Duck Stamp Art. There will also be good food and drink, entertainment by Dave Monterey and great company to kick off Duck Days. The reception is free of charge.





Schedule of Events - February 26, 2011

Pre-registration is strongly recommended for California Duck Days 2011 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 2011 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-12:45pm

Hedgerow Farms is a well-known seed production farm near Winters specializing in growing native plants. The farm has also been instrumental in pioneering and promoting farmland wildlife habitat and conservation practices. Participants will tour the property in a trailer with hay bales for seats. There will be stops and short walking tours to see and learn about native plants, restoration designs and techniques. We'll also keep an eye out for good birds. The seed processing facility will be shown at the end for those who are interested. 35 minute driving time each way is included.

Conaway Ranch: 8:30am-12:30pm ♿

Join Mike Hall, Conaway Ranch Wildlife Manager, 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.

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

Yolo Audubon Society and Yolo Basin Foundation field trip leader Ken Ealy 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

Raptor expert Zach Smith 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. Please note: There is also an afternoon raptor trip that leaves at 1:45pm.

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area "Lite": 9:30-11:30am

This is the perfect first-time trip to the Wildlife Area. It will be a short and sweet overview of what the area has to offer. There will be several stops along the auto tour route. Spotting scopes will be provided for your viewing pleasure. No significant walking.

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area: 10:30am-1:00pm

Ride along with Dave Feliz, the manager of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and hear first hand the story of one of the nation's biggest restoration projects. You'll see flooded rice fields and wetlands that provide winter habitat for thousands of avian visitors from the far north. Learn how agriculture is helping to maintain a valuable piece of the Pacific Flyway. This driving tour has frequent stops and short walks. There is a pre-trip PowerPoint show at 9:45 am.

Birding for Beginners: 11:00am-2:00pm ♿

Calling all beginning birders! Mary Schiedt, birding guru and teacher extraordinaire 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 then go out and apply your new skills. Bring a sack lunch and beverage.

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.

Putah Creek Riparian Reserve: 1:30-4:30pm

This trip, led by Reserve Manager Andrew Fulks, will begin at the Road 98/Pedrick Road parking area, located on Putah Creek, on the northwest upstream side of the Pedrick Road bridge. From there, we will hike on recently renovated trails, downstream to the fire ring picnic grounds. We'll make a loop back on the top of the banks. Expect numerous views of the creek, riparian forest, restored oak woodland, and nest boxes, along the way. The hike will be 2 miles round-trip, with fairly level terrain. Wear sturdy shoes, and be prepared for mud. 15 minute driving time each way is included.

Central Valley Raptors: 1:45-4:45pm

This is a repeat of the morning raptor field trip.

Davis Wetlands: 1:45-4:15pm ♻️

The City of Davis maintains a 400-acre wetland restoration area associated with its Water Pollution Control Facility. Join Yolo Audubon Society and Yolo Basin Foundation field trip leader Betty Berteaux, and learn how the wetlands here use treated wastewater for habitat, and provide treatment for storm water runoff. View numerous resident and wintering birds, including Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets, Buffleheads and White-faced Ibis. This is a driving tour with frequent stops and short walks. 15 minute driving time each way is included.

Ecological Field Techniques: 3:00-5:00pm

Learn about the latest equipment and tried and true methods that field biologists utilize in studying wildlife in the pre-trip workshop (1:30-2:30pm). Then head out to the City of Davis South Fork Preserve for a demonstration of these techniques. Look at cover boards and pit-fall traps for small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Test out the radio tracking equipment and special cameras. Take part in a plant sampling demonstration. This trip is especially relevant for aspiring wildlife biologists of any age.

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

Take a hike on the Tule Ranch with Dave Feliz, the Wildlife Area Manager. The Wildlife Area was expanded by 13,000 acres in 2001, and we have been busy building new wetlands over vast areas. We'll take a two-mile walk around 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. 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.

Workshops (all workshops located on site)

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

Enjoy tips for recognizing hawks, eagles, falcons, and more before going on the raptor field trip or just for fun.

Duck Calling: 9:00-10:00am

Learn techniques to call various ducks and geese. Special pintail whistles will be available. Kids of all ages welcome.

Exploration at the Yolo Demonstration Wetlands: 9:30am-2:00pm

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.

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Workshop: 9:45-10:15am

Join the Manager of the Yolo Wildlife Area for a pre-field trip slide show about the area's restoration efforts and inhabitants.

Tule Decoys: 10:00am-2:00pm

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-2:00pm

Learn the basics of fishing and 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: 10:00-11:00am

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

Bat Workshop: 10:45-11:45am

Learn more about these misunderstood nocturnal mammals through the slides and words of an expert and get a close-up look at living bats.

Ecological Field Techniques: 1:30-2:30pm

Field biologists will discuss their tools of the trade. Field trip to follow at 2:00pm.

Decoy Painting: 1:00-3:00pm

Learn to paint duck decoy silhouettes during this fun-filled workshop led by an expert decoy maker.

Decoy Carving Workshop: 1:00-4:00pm

Learn basic shorebird decoy carving techniques and go home with a decoy. No carving experience necessary! You must preregister. 14 & up.

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

Experience well-trained bird dogs 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, who will share their experiences and fly their birds. Meet at Field Trip Launch Site to carpool.



Special Duck Days 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

10am-2pm:

Trout Fishing

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.



Ecological Field Techniques

New this year is a field techniques demonstration. Wildlife biologists will show participants a range of equipment that they use in the field to study animals and their habitats. This will all start with a pre-trip presentation to be followed by a visit to the Putah Creek South Fork Preserve to see traps, cameras, radio telemetry and plant sampling demonstrations. This is a great opportunity to see how biologists actually gather their data. See Field Trip and Workshop Schedules for details.

Special Workshop:

Decoy Carving Class

Join master carver Jim Burcio from the Pacific Flyway Decoy Association for a carving seminar from 1:00 to 4:00pm. All of the necessary materials, including a study guide and tools, will be provided. Short lectures with lots of hands-on carving time will enable you to complete a life-sized shorebird decoy. This class is limited to 8 people aged 14 and up, and you should register online beforehand to ensure a spot.

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 Dee at 530-757-3780 if you have any questions or problems registering online.

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 or call Dee at 530-757-3780 for more information.

Food and Drink:

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



Please call us with any special needs.