

Mallard, Gadwall, and Cinnamon Teal that breed in the Sacramento Valley are declining. While these birds can use help every year, droughts are especially difficult for them due to lack of flooded wetlands and planted rice. Luckily there are things that farmers can do to help.

NESTING DUCKS NEED YOUR HELP



Maintain water in your ditches.



Defer re-working your internal levees if they have dense cover.



Maintain water levels in your rice fields during the growing season.



Delay mowing your roads and ditch banks until July 15 or mow them before March.



Allow emergent vegetation growth in your warming ponds.



Delay harvest of crops that are suitable for nesting ducks until July 15 (wheat, triticale, etc.).



Leave vegetation on your fallow fields, especially those with tall or dense cover.



If disturbance of nesting hens is unavoidable, take advantage of Egg Salvage operations who will transport eggs to permitted hatcheries.
Contact 1-800-duc-eggs for assistance.



Plant cover crops in the fall on fields that will not be winter flooded.



The above practices also benefit a host of other animals that live here in the Sacramento Valley including pheasant, shorebirds, giant garter snakes and pollinators, to name a few.

For more detailed information on how to make your farms and fields a better place for wildlife during the summer, please reach out to Luke Matthews, Wildlife Programs Manager at the California Rice Commission.

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