



Calendar of Species Present and Management of Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

updated September 2009



Month	Animals Species Likely to Be Present	Plant Species Present	Wildlife Area Management																								
January	<p>General comment: This is a great time for viewing wintering waterfowl. It is also peak hunting season. Most mammals, amphibians and reptiles will not be active.</p> <p>Birds include:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">American Bittern</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Great-Horned Owl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>American Coot</td> <td>Green-winged Teal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>American Kestrel</td> <td>Horned Lark</td> </tr> <tr> <td>American Pipit</td> <td>Killdeer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bufflehead</td> <td>Least Sandpiper</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cinnamon Teal</td> <td>Mallard</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Common Goldeneye</td> <td>Northern Harrier</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dunlin</td> <td>Northern Pintail</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gadwall</td> <td>Northern Shoveler</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Great Egret</td> <td>Red-tailed Hawk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Great Blue Heron</td> <td>Ruddy Duck</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Greater Yellowlegs</td> <td>White-tailed Kite</td> </tr> </table> <p>Mammals: Otters, Coyotes, Raccoons, Jackrabbits active</p> <p>Fish: Sturgeon (come into shallows if Yolo Bypass floods) Catfish, Carp, Striped Bass</p> <p>Amphibians/ Reptiles/ Invertebrates: Most inactive</p>	American Bittern	Great-Horned Owl	American Coot	Green-winged Teal	American Kestrel	Horned Lark	American Pipit	Killdeer	Bufflehead	Least Sandpiper	Cinnamon Teal	Mallard	Common Goldeneye	Northern Harrier	Dunlin	Northern Pintail	Gadwall	Northern Shoveler	Great Egret	Red-tailed Hawk	Great Blue Heron	Ruddy Duck	Greater Yellowlegs	White-tailed Kite	<p>Most plant species dormant.</p> <p><i>Roadside Flowering:</i> Those visible include: Curly Dock (deep red seed heads)</p> <p>Gum Plant (bright yellow sticky seed heads)</p> <p>Stalks of dead Mustard.</p> <p>Curled dried seed heads of Queen Anne's Lace</p> <p><i>Water Plants:</i> Small plants of Tule and Cattail</p> <p>Water Primrose</p>	<p>Natural flooding may occur, but if not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice flooded for birds • Water levels maintained in seasonal and permanent wetlands through flashboard risers, so water flows over them • Road maintenance if not flooded • Monitoring and collection of dead birds, as cold weather increases the chance of avian cholera • Sampling of harvested birds at check station to detect potential presence of Avian Influenza.
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February	<p>General comment: Waterfowl and shorebirds are in abundance. A greater area of the wildlife area is available for wildlife viewing once the hunt season finishes. Most mammals, amphibians and reptiles are inactive.</p> <p>Birds: Similar to January</p> <p>Mammals: Otters, Coyotes, Raccoons, Jackrabbits active</p> <p>Fish include: Sturgeon , Splittail (native minnow) Catfish, Carp(floodplain very important)</p> <p>Amphibians/ Reptiles/ Invertebrates: Most inactive</p>	<p>Similar to January.</p> <p><i>Deciduous trees</i> such as willows may be beginning to leaf.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood control actions taken • End of hunt season • Removal of hunt zone check station • Rice fields continue to be flooded • Pumps checked and maintained in preparation for irrigation 																								
March	<p>Birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterfowl/ shorebirds begin to head North • Red-tailed Hawks dispersing • Western Kingbird arrives now and later • Long-billed Curlews, American Bitterns, Egret and Heron sp all present <p>Mammals: As for February plus Beaver, Otter more active</p> <p>Fish: Catfish, Carp, Striped Bass</p> <p>Amphibians: dormant, temperature dependent.</p> <p>Reptiles: Giant Garter /Gopher Snakes emerge</p> <p>Invertebrates: More aquatic invertebrates dragonfly nymphs, backswimmers, Clouded Sulfur /Cabbage White Butterflies</p>	<p><i>First vernal pool flowers:</i> Goldfields, Miniature Lupine, Butter and Eggs</p> <p><i>Roadside Flowering:</i> Annual grasses growing e.g. Italian Rye (non-native)</p> <p>Foxtail Barley (non-native)</p> <p><i>Trees:</i> Box Elder and Oregon Ash beginning to flower, first few leaves. Willows in leaf with shiny twigs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drain rice fields by removing riser boards (each rice field slightly higher than the next) • Disc fields for planting • Plant Safflower • Grade and gravel roads • Pump maintenance 																								



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<p>April</p>	<p>General Comment: Most migratory birds head North, excellent shorebird viewing.</p> <p>Birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avocets, Black-necked Stilts and Killdeer nesting • tropical migrants - Orioles and Warblers • Swainson’s Hawks arrive and nest <p>Mammals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mexican Free-tailed Bats arriving • Beavers and Otters active • Coyotes, Raccoons, Rabbits, Skunks breeding <p>Fish include: Catfish, Carp, Striped Bass</p> <p>Amphibians: Pacific Chorus Frogs emerging</p> <p>Reptiles: Garter, Gopher and King Snakes are active</p> <p>Invertebrates: more activity, larval and adult dragonflies, damselflies, butterflies emerging</p>	<p><i>Vernal Pools flowering:</i> Downingia, Monkey Flower, Goldfields, Tidy Tips</p> <p><i>Roadside Flowering:</i> Cocklebur seeding</p> <p>Mustard - bright yellow flowers</p> <p>Wild Radish – pink/white flowers</p> <p>Mayweed – white</p> <p>Curly Dock</p> <p>Vetch (pink, pea-like)</p> <p><i>Water Plants:</i> Tule and Cattails taller</p> <p>Swamp Timothy grass</p> <p>Meadow Barley</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water management focus • April 1st drain seasonal wetlands for germination of Swamp Timothy and to avoid problems with invasive weeds (if drawdown too late, it results in need to mow weeds) • Drain mid-April to provide shallow water for wading shorebirds and to stimulate invertebrate production • Prepare fields for planting of Rice, Safflower (if not already done), Milo and Corn. Periodically fallow a field. • Spray pest weed Star Thistle with Transline. • Food plots for wildlife area planted. • Rice and tomatoes are planted.
<p>May</p>	<p>Birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, American Coots and Killdeer with chicks • Duck broods especially Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler • later shorebird migrants include Phalaropes • Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbirds • Marsh Wrens <p>Mammals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mexican Free-tailed Bats active • Beavers, Otters, Muskrats, Jackrabbits, Coyotes, Raccoons active <p>Fish: Catfish, Carp, Striped Bass</p> <p>Amphibians: Pacific Chorus Frogs and American Bullfrogs active</p> <p>Reptiles: Garter, Gopher and King Snakes, Western Pond Turtles active</p> <p>Invertebrates: larval and adult dragonflies, damselflies, mosquitoes, Water Boatman</p>	<p><i>Vernal Pool Flowers</i> finished</p> <p><i>Trees in Leaf:</i> Cottonwood in leaf and with fluffy seeds</p> <p>Willows Oregon Ash Box Elder</p> <p><i>Plants Blooming:</i> Mustard Wild Radish Curly Dock Vetch (pink, pea-like) Mayweed</p> <p><i>Water Plants:</i> Tule Cattails Water Primrose</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field activities increase for DFG and farmers • Disc and mow to remove weeds • Repair pipes and water control structures • Flood to stimulate Watergrass growth • Maintain brood water wet areas to improve survival of birds • School program ends for the summer. • Wild rice is planted.



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<p>June</p>	<p>Birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the end of June, shorebirds begin arriving from north on south-bound migration resident Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, Mallard remain Swainson's Hawks begin congregating in fields being mowed or irrigated. <p>Mammals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mexican Free-tailed Bats active Beavers, Otters, Muskrats, Jackrabbits, Coyotes, Raccoons active <p>Fish: Catfish in toe drain, Carp, Striped Bass</p> <p>Amphibians: Pacific Chorus Frogs and American Bullfrogs</p> <p>Reptiles: Garter, Gopher and King Snakes , Western Pond Turtles active</p> <p>Invertebrates: Crayfish, adult dragonfly sp, damselfly sp, Backswimmers, Diving Beetles, Water Boatman</p>	<p>Similar to April/May unless very hot then flowers finish</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued fieldwork Mow weed sp Cocklebur and Sweet Clover Disc fields Spray Star Thistle (with Transline), Joint Grass (with Roundup) and Perennial Pepperweed (with Telar). Irrigation in seasonal wetlands Maintain brood water Contractors arrive for major restorations Last wild rice is planted
<p>July</p>	<p>Birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duck broods Most of the local raptor species: Swainson's Hawks, Peregrine Falcons, Northern Harriers, Red-tails, Kestrels Mid-July shorebird arrival (here until April): Black-bellied Plovers, Willets, Yellowlegs, Dowitchers, Gulls, Caspian Terns, White Pelicans White faced Ibis nesting in tule marsh. Large concentrations of Tree Swallows found throughout the Wildlife Area. <p>Mammals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mexican Free-tailed Bats active Beavers, Otters, Muskrats, Jackrabbits, Coyotes, Raccoons, Skunks active <p>Fish: Catfish, Carp, Striped Bass</p> <p>Amphibians: Pacific Chorus Frogs and American Bullfrogs active</p> <p>Reptiles: Garter, Gopher and King Snakes, Western Pond Turtles active. Snakes become increasingly nocturnal.</p> <p>Invertebrates: Crayfish, adult dragonfly sp, damselfly sp, Backswimmers, Diving Beetles, Water Boatman, midges, Toe Biters, Alfalfa Butterflies, Woolly Bear Caterpillars</p>	<p><i>Trees in Leaf:</i> Cottonwood Willows- fluffy seeds Oregon Ash Box Elder Blue Elderberry fruiting</p> <p><i>Plants Blooming or in Seed:</i> Gum Plant (yellow sticky flower heads) Sunflowers Pennyroyal Cocklebur seed heads</p> <p><i>Water Plants:</i> Spike Rush Water Primrose Tule Cattails</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shorebird management July 1st flood shorebird ponds Major restoration of ponds: reconfigure micro topography to create swales, islands, ridges Maintain brood water Irrigate trees and crops Mowing and discing of unwanted vegetation in fields continues. This reduces mosquito production in the fall and encourages proliferation of plants beneficial for wildlife.



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August	<p>Birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some waterfowl beginning to return • ‘August Pintail’ group arrive • White-faced Ibis in rice fields • Large flocks of mixed blackbird species <p>Mammals: As for July</p> <p>Fish: Catfish, Carp, Striped Bass</p> <p>Amphibians: As for July</p> <p>Reptiles: As for July</p> <p>Invertebrates: As for July plus increased midge activity, Isabella Tiger Moth - (Woolly Bear Caterpillars)</p>	<p><i>Trees in Leaf:</i> As for July Elderberry still fruiting</p> <p><i>Plants Blooming or in Seed:</i> Gum plants (yellow, sticky flower head) Sunflowers Cocklebur seed heads Queen Anne’s Lace seed heads Curly Dock red seed heads Velvet Leaf – soft heart-shaped leaf, wheel-like seed head</p> <p><i>Water Plants:</i> Tule Potato (white flower) Tule Cattails</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major construction projects • Pump station maintenance • Mow Safflower for dove hunting • Maintain shallow water levels in shorebird ponds • Drain shorebird fields flooded in July • Flood additional shorebird fields August 1st • Monitor botulism in birds (remove dead birds)
September	<p>Birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southbound migration of waterfowl to area • Swainson’s Hawks, warblers and other neo-tropical migrant begin leaving, some arrive from north • Mallards arrive in Watergrass • Mourning Doves • White-faced Ibis • American Pipits arrive (tail-bobbing birds that fly beside road, white flash on tail feathers as they fly) <p>Mammals: Resident species active – see July</p> <p>Fish: Catfish, Carp, Striped Bass</p> <p>Amphibians: Resident species active– see July</p> <p>Reptiles: Resident species active– see July</p> <p>Invertebrates: as for July/ August</p>	<p><i>Trees in Leaf:</i> As for July</p> <p><i>Plants Blooming/ in Seed:</i> Sunflowers Cocklebur seed heads Curly Dock red seed heads Velvet Leaf – soft heart-shaped leaf, wheel-like seed head</p> <p><i>Water Plants:</i> Tule Potato (white flower) Tule Cattails</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest month – rice, tomatoes • September 1st flood seasonal wetlands to provide wintering habitat for waterfowl • Transplant Tule clumps into ponds • Flood up majority of wetlands • Dove-hunting season • Flood Watergrass • School program resumes



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October	<p>Birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large numbers of waterfowl arriving: include Northern Pintails, Ruddy Ducks, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Green-winged Teal <p>Mammals: Resident species active, beavers very busy prior to wintering in lodge</p> <p>Bats leaving for Mexico</p> <p>Fish: Salmon coming into the Yolo Bypass from the Ocean and Sacramento Delta, Carp, Catfish, Striped Bass</p> <p>Amphibians: Less activity in Pacific Chorus Frogs</p> <p>Reptiles: last surface activity for snakes</p> <p>Invertebrates: similar to July but fewer numbers</p>	<p><i>Trees:</i> May be dropping leaves</p> <p><i>Plants Blooming/ in Seed:</i> Sunflowers</p> <p>Cocklebur seed heads</p> <p>Curly Dock red seed heads</p> <p>Velvet Leaf soft heart-shaped leaf, wheel-like seed head</p> <p><i>Water Plants:</i> Tule Cattails</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duck Hunting Season Preparation of hunt facilities: check station, outhouses, roads Hunt zone closed to public Rest of wetlands flooded by pumping and opening gates Transplant Tule clumps (easy irrigation now) Field work and pond manipulation ends School program in full swing Increased public visitation
November	<p>Birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southbound migration of waterfowl to area Snow Geese, White-fronted Geese and Tundra Swans Sandhill Cranes fly over but only rarely land <p>Mammals: Coyotes, Raccoons, Skunks and Jackrabbits active, Beaver and Otter activity slowing down</p> <p>Fish: Increased numbers of Salmon, Carp, Catfish, Striped Bass</p> <p>Amphibians: Little activity</p> <p>Reptiles: Little activity</p> <p>Invertebrates: similar to July but fewer numbers</p>	<p>Most plants dying down Sunflowers may still be around</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road maintenance as rain likely to start Flood rice Pheasant hunt season starts mid-November Continued maintenance of water levels in all wetlands.
December	<p>Birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peak of wintering waterfowl season: geese, swans and duck species (refer January and November) Pintail in large numbers. <p>Mammals: Scarce other than Jackrabbits</p> <p>Fish: Salmon running, Carp, Catfish</p> <p>Amphibians, Reptiles, Invertebrates: Scarce</p>	<p>As for January</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Putah Creek Flashboard Dam removed to facilitate Salmon run (December 1st) Work in hunt check station Danger of flooding by releases of water from reservoirs in Shasta and Oroville. Water levels of these monitored online. Water levels in all wetlands maintained.

Year round bird species include: American Coot, American White Pelican, Cinnamon Teal, Gadwall, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Marsh Wren, Pied-billed Grebe, Snowy Egret



Regularly Seen Animal Species in Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

This is a list of regularly seen species. A more complete list of species can be found on the Yolo Basin Foundation website – www.yolobasin.org. Detailed fact sheets of some of these species follow this table.

BIRDS	BIRDS	REPTILES	AMPHIBIANS	MAMMALS	INVERTEBRATES
<i>Herons/ Egrets/ Other Large Water Birds</i> American Bittern American White Pelican Black-crowned Night Heron California Gull Double-crested Cormorant Great Egret Great Blue Heron Snowy Egret White-faced Ibis <i>Ducks, Geese, Swans/ other Waterfowl Resident:</i> American Coot Cinnamon Teal Common Moorhen Gadwall Mallard Northern Shoveler Pied-billed Grebe <i>Migratory:</i> Bufflehead Common Goldeneye Green-winged Teal Northern Pintail Ruddy Duck Snow Goose Tundra Swan White-fronted Goose	<i>Shorebirds</i> American Avocet Black-necked Stilt Dunlin Dowitcher Greater Yellowlegs Killdeer Least Sandpiper Long-billed Curlew <i>Small Perching Birds</i> Barn Swallow Cliff Swallow Tree Swallow Marsh Wren Black Phoebe Western Meadowlark Horned Lark American Pipit Red-winged Blackbird Yellow-headed Blackbird Brewer's Blackbird Savannah Sparrow Belted Kingfisher Common Yellowthroat <i>Raptors</i> American Kestrel Great-horned Owl Northern Harrier Swainson's Hawk White-tailed Kite	<i>Snakes</i> Aquatic Gopher Snake Common Kingsnake Giant Garter Snake Racer <i>Lizards</i> Western Fence Lizard <i>Turtles</i> Red-eared Slider Western Pond Turtle	American Bullfrog Pacific Chorus Frog Western Toad	Beaver Coyote Jackrabbit Mexican Free-tailed Bat Muskrat Raccoon River Otter Striped Skunk Mink	<i>Pond Insects</i> Backswimmers Diving Beetles Mayflies Water Boatman Water Striders <i>Dragon and Damselflies</i> Bluet Damselfly Blue-eyed Darner Dragonfly Common Green Dragonfly Flame Skimmer Dragonfly (red) Widow Skimmer Dragonfly (gray/black)
			FISH		



Regularly Seen Plant Species in Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

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TREES	SHRUBS	GRASSES	FLOWERING HERBS	WATER- LOVING PLANTS	VERNAL POOL PLANTS
Blue Elderberry	Coyote Brush	Italian Rye	Chicory	Arrowhead or Tule Potato	Blow-wives
Box Elder	Mule Fat	Swamp Timothy	Cocklebur	Cattails	Coyote Thistle
Cotton Wood		Wild Rice	Common Sunflower	Sedges	Flat-faced Downingia
Oregon Ash			Curly Dock	Tule	Goldfields
Willow – Sandbar and Black			Dog Fennel or Mayweed	Watergrass	Miniature Lupine
Valley Oak			Gum Plant	Water Plantain	Popcornflower
			Mustard	Water Primrose	Tidy-Tips
			Pineapple Weed	Water Smartweed	Tomcat Clover
			Queen Anne’s Lace		Tricolored Monkey- flower
			Sweet Clover		
			Velvet Leaf		
			Wild Radish		

