



## Calendar of Species Present and Management of Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area



Month	Animals Species Likely to Be Present	Plant Species Present	Wildlife Area Management																								
<p><b>January</b></p>	<p><b>General comment:</b> 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><b>Birds include:</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>American Bittern</td> <td>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><b>Mammals:</b> Otters, Coyotes, Raccoons, Jackrabbits active</p> <p><b>Fish:</b> Sturgeon ( come into shallows if Yolo Bypass floods) Catfish, Carp, Striped Bass</p> <p><b>Amphibians/ Reptiles/ Invertebrates:</b> 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"> <li>• Rice flooded for birds</li> <li>• Water levels maintained in seasonal and permanent wetlands through flashboard risers, so water flows over them</li> <li>• Road maintenance if not flooded</li> <li>• Monitoring and collection of dead birds, as cold weather increases the chance of avian cholera</li> <li>• Sampling of harvested birds at check station to detect potential presence of Avian Influenza.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>February</b></p>	<p><b>General comment:</b> 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><b>Birds:</b> Similar to January</p> <p><b>Mammals:</b> Otters, Coyotes, Raccoons, Jackrabbits active</p> <p><b>Fish include:</b> Sturgeon , Splittail (native minnow) Catfish, Carp(floodplain very important)</p> <p><b>Amphibians/ Reptiles/ Invertebrates:</b> 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"> <li>• Flood control actions taken</li> <li>• End of hunt season</li> <li>• Removal of hunt zone check station</li> <li>• Rice fields continue to be flooded</li> <li>• Pumps checked and maintained in preparation for irrigation</li> </ul>																								
<p><b>March</b></p>	<p><b>Birds:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterfowl/ shorebirds begin to head North</li> <li>• Red-tailed Hawks dispersing</li> <li>• Western Kingbird arrives now and later</li> <li>• Long-billed Curlews, American Bitterns, Egret and Heron sp all present</li> </ul> <p><b>Mammals:</b> As for February plus Beaver, Otter more active</p> <p><b>Fish:</b> Catfish, Carp, Striped Bass</p> <p><b>Amphibians:</b> dormant, temperature dependent.</p> <p><b>Reptiles:</b> Giant Garter /Gopher Snakes emerge</p> <p><b>Invertebrates:</b> 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"> <li>• Drain rice fields by removing riser boards (each rice field slightly higher than the next)</li> <li>• Disc fields for planting</li> <li>• Plant Safflower</li> <li>• Grade and gravel roads</li> <li>• Pump maintenance</li> </ul>																								



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<p><b>April</b></p>	<p><b>General Comment:</b> Most migratory birds head North, excellent shorebird viewing.</p> <p><b>Birds:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avocets, Black-necked Stilts and Killdeer nesting</li> <li>• tropical migrants - Orioles and Warblers</li> <li>• Swainson's Hawks arrive and nest</li> </ul> <p><b>Mammals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mexican Free-tailed Bats arriving</li> <li>• Beavers and Otters active</li> <li>• Coyotes, Raccoons, Rabbits, Skunks breeding</li> </ul> <p><b>Fish include:</b> Catfish, Carp, Striped Bass</p> <p><b>Amphibians:</b> Pacific Chorus Frogs emerging</p> <p><b>Reptiles:</b> Garter, Gopher and King Snakes are active</p> <p><b>Invertebrates:</b> 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"> <li>• Water management focus</li> <li>• April 1<sup>st</sup> 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)</li> <li>• Drain mid-April to provide shallow water for wading shorebirds and to stimulate invertebrate production</li> <li>• Prepare fields for planting of Rice, Safflower (if not already done), Milo and Corn. Periodically fallow a field.</li> <li>• Spray pest weed Star Thistle with Transline.</li> <li>• Food plots for wildlife area planted.</li> <li>• Rice and tomatoes are planted.</li> </ul>
<p><b>May</b></p>	<p><b>Birds:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, American Coots and Killdeer with chicks</li> <li>• Duck broods especially Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler</li> <li>• later shorebird migrants include Phalaropes</li> <li>• Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbirds</li> <li>• Marsh Wrens</li> </ul> <p><b>Mammals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mexican Free-tailed Bats active</li> <li>• Beavers, Otters, Muskrats, Jackrabbits, Coyotes, Raccoons active</li> </ul> <p><b>Fish:</b> Catfish, Carp, Striped Bass</p> <p><b>Amphibians:</b> Pacific Chorus Frogs and American Bullfrogs active</p> <p><b>Reptiles:</b> Garter, Gopher and King Snakes, Western Pond Turtles active</p> <p><b>Invertebrates:</b> 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"> <li>• Field activities increase for DFG and farmers</li> <li>• Disc and mow to remove weeds</li> <li>• Repair pipes and water control structures</li> <li>• Flood to stimulate Watergrass growth</li> <li>• Maintain brood water wet areas to improve survival of birds</li> <li>• School program ends for the summer.</li> <li>• Wild rice is planted.</li> </ul>



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<p><b>June</b></p>	<p><b>Birds:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the end of June, shorebirds begin arriving from north on south-bound migration</li> <li>resident Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, Mallard remain</li> <li>Swainson's Hawks begin congregating in fields being mowed or irrigated.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mammals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mexican Free-tailed Bats active</li> <li>Beavers, Otters, Muskrats, Jackrabbits, Coyotes, Raccoons active</li> </ul> <p><b>Fish:</b> Catfish in toe drain, Carp, Striped Bass</p> <p><b>Amphibians:</b> Pacific Chorus Frogs and American Bullfrogs</p> <p><b>Reptiles:</b> Garter, Gopher and King Snakes, Western Pond Turtles active</p> <p><b>Invertebrates:</b> 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"> <li>Continued fieldwork</li> <li>Mow weed sp Cocklebur and Sweet Clover</li> <li>Disc fields</li> <li>Spray Star Thistle (with Transline), Joint Grass (with Roundup) and Perennial Pepperweed (with Telar).</li> <li>Irrigation in seasonal wetlands</li> <li>Maintain brood water</li> <li>Contractors arrive for major restorations</li> <li>Last wild rice is planted</li> </ul>
<p><b>July</b></p>	<p><b>Birds:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Duck broods</li> <li>Most of the local raptor species: Swainson's Hawks, Peregrine Falcons, Northern Harriers, Red-tails, Kestrels</li> <li>Mid-July shorebird arrival ( here until April): Black-bellied Plovers, Willets, Yellowlegs, Dowitchers, Gulls, Caspian Terns, White Pelicans</li> <li>White faced Ibis nesting in tule marsh.</li> <li>Large concentrations of Tree Swallows found throughout the Wildlife Area.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mammals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mexican Free-tailed Bats active</li> <li>Beavers, Otters, Muskrats, Jackrabbits, Coyotes, Raccoons, Skunks active</li> </ul> <p><b>Fish:</b> Catfish, Carp, Striped Bass</p> <p><b>Amphibians:</b> Pacific Chorus Frogs and American Bullfrogs active</p> <p><b>Reptiles:</b> Garter, Gopher and King Snakes, Western Pond Turtles active. Snakes become increasingly nocturnal.</p> <p><b>Invertebrates:</b> 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"> <li>Shorebird management</li> <li>July 1<sup>st</sup> flood shorebird ponds</li> <li>Major restoration of ponds: reconfigure micro topography to create swales, islands, ridges</li> <li>Maintain brood water</li> <li>Irrigate trees and crops</li> <li>Mowing and discing of unwanted vegetation in fields continues. This reduces mosquito production in the fall and encourages proliferation of plants beneficial for wildlife.</li> </ul>



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August	<p><b>Birds:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some waterfowl beginning to return</li> <li>• 'August Pintail' group arrive</li> <li>• White-faced Ibis in rice fields</li> <li>• Large flocks of mixed blackbird species</li> </ul> <p><b>Mammals:</b> As for July</p> <p><b>Fish:</b> Catfish, Carp, Striped Bass</p> <p><b>Amphibians:</b> As for July</p> <p><b>Reptiles:</b> As for July</p> <p><b>Invertebrates:</b> 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)</p> <p>Sunflowers</p> <p>Cocklebur seed heads</p> <p>Queen Anne's Lace 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 Potato (white flower) Tule Cattails</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major construction projects</li> <li>• Pump station maintenance</li> <li>• Mow Safflower for dove hunting</li> <li>• Maintain shallow water levels in shorebird ponds</li> <li>• Drain shorebird fields flooded in July</li> <li>• Flood additional shorebird fields August 1st</li> <li>• Monitor botulism in birds ( remove dead birds)</li> </ul>
September	<p><b>Birds:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southbound migration of waterfowl to area</li> <li>• Swainson's Hawks, warblers and other neo-tropical migrant begin leaving, some arrive from north</li> <li>• Mallards arrive in Watergrass</li> <li>• Mourning Doves</li> <li>• White-faced Ibis</li> <li>• American Pipits arrive ( tail-bobbing birds that fly beside road, white flash on tail feathers as they fly)</li> </ul> <p><b>Mammals:</b> Resident species active – see July</p> <p><b>Fish:</b> Catfish, Carp, Striped Bass</p> <p><b>Amphibians:</b> Resident species active– see July</p> <p><b>Reptiles:</b> Resident species active– see July</p> <p><b>Invertebrates:</b> 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"> <li>• Harvest month – rice, tomatoes</li> <li>• September 1<sup>st</sup> flood seasonal wetlands to provide wintering habitat for waterfowl</li> <li>• Transplant Tule clumps into ponds</li> <li>• Flood up majority of wetlands</li> <li>• Dove-hunting season</li> <li>• Flood Watergrass</li> <li>• School program resumes</li> </ul>



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

**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, not a complete list of all species that may be found.*

BIRDS	BIRDS	REPTILES	AMPHIBIANS	MAMMALS	INVERTEBRATES
<b><i>Herons/ Egrets/ Other Large Water Birds</i></b> American Bittern American White Pelican  Black-crowned Night Heron  California Gull Double-crested Cormorant  Great Egret Great Blue Heron Snowy Egret White-faced Ibis  <b><i>Ducks, Geese, Swans/ other Waterfowl</i></b> <b><i>Resident:</i></b> American Coot Cinnamon Teal Common Moorhen Gadwall Mallard Northern Shoveler Pied-billed Grebe  <b><i>Migratory:</i></b> Bufflehead Common Goldeneye Green-winged Teal Northern Pintail Ruddy Duck Snow Goose Tundra Swan White-fronted Goose	<b><i>Shorebirds</i></b> American Avocet Black-necked Stilt Dunlin Dowitcher Greater Yellowlegs Killdeer Least Sandpiper Long-billed Curlew  <b><i>Small Perching Birds</i></b> Barn Swallow Cliff Swallow Tree Swallow  Marsh Wren  Black Phoebe  Western Meadowlark Horned Lark  American Pipit  Red-winged Blackbird Yellow-headed Blackbird Brewers Blackbird  Savannah Sparrow  Belted Kingfisher  Common Yellowthroat  <b><i>Raptors</i></b> American Kestrel Great-horned Owl Northern Harrier Swainson's Hawk White-tailed Kite	<b><i>Snakes</i></b> Aquatic Gopher Snake  Common Kingsnake  Giant Garter Snake  Racer  <b><i>Lizards</i></b> Western Fence Lizard  <b><i>Turtles</i></b> 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	<b><i>Pond Insects</i></b> Backswimmers  Diving Beetles  Mayflies  Water Boatman  Water Striders  <b><i>Dragon and Damselflies</i></b> Bluet Damselfly  Blue-eyed Darner Dragonfly  Common Green Dragonfly  Flame Skimmer Dragonfly (red)  Widow Skimmer Dragonfly (gray/black)  <b><i>Other Insects</i></b> Alfalfa Butterfly  Convergent Ladybird  Cucumber Beetle  Isabella Tiger Moth - (Woolly Bear Caterpillars)  <b><i>Non-insect Invertebrates</i></b> Crawdads (Freshwater Crayfish)  Freshwater Clams
			<b>FISH</b>		



# 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		

