

CRITICAL HUB

Ducks don't stay at the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge all year, but there are times the refuge is vitally important to them – and humans are letting them down.

These dots represent ducks and geese that relied on the **Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge** (★) at key times in their lives – they either hatched, raised ducklings or molted there.

Lower Klamath is a crucial breeding, molting and staging area for waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway. Molting locations are in especially short supply in California.

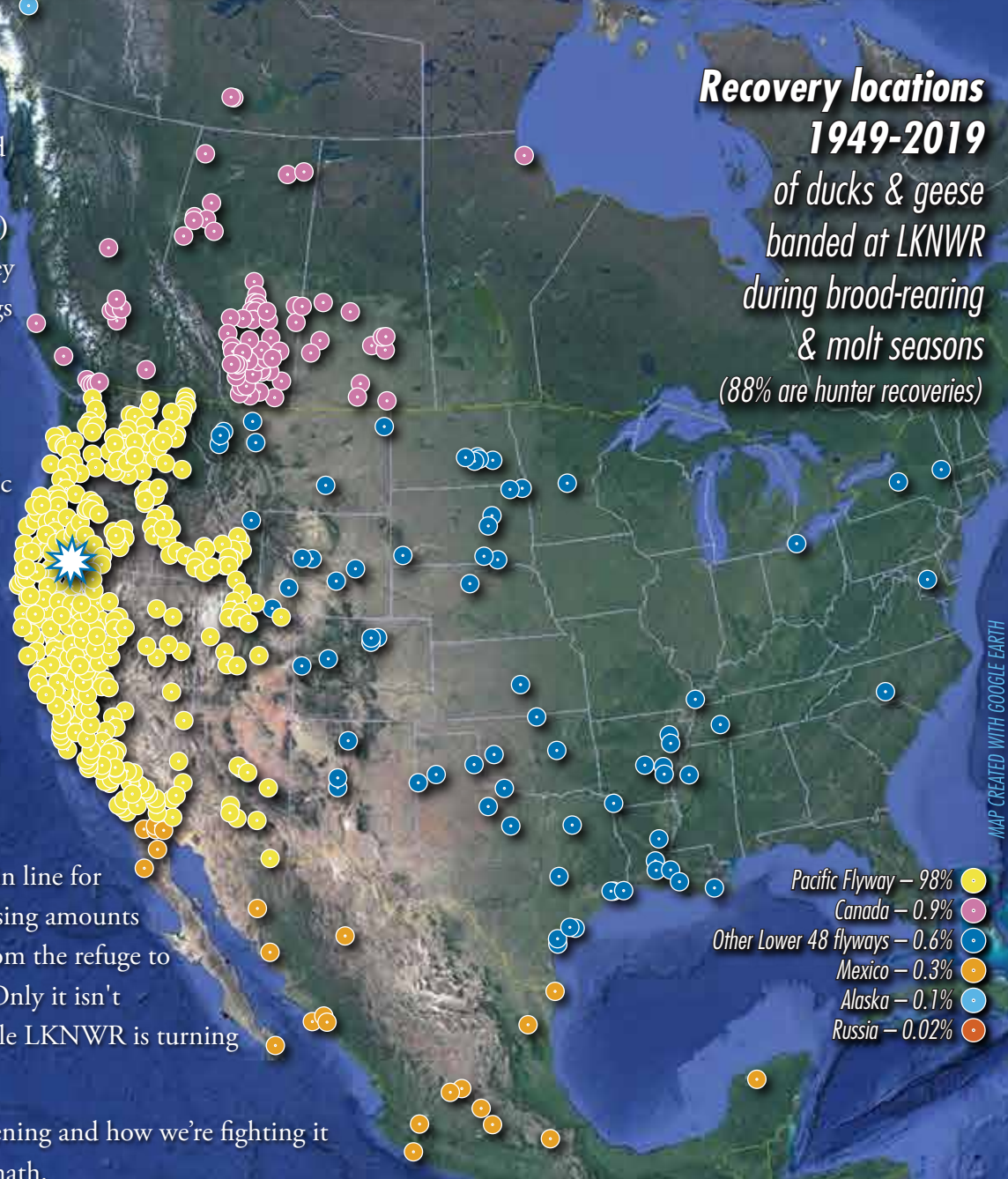
But water deliveries to Lower Klamath have been severely curtailed or cut off at precisely the time they're needed for broods, molting and staging.

Why? The refuge is last in line for water rights, and increasing amounts of water are being withheld from the refuge to help endangered fish species. Only it isn't helping the fish, and meanwhile LKNWR is turning into a duck desert.

Read more about what's happening and how we're fighting it at calwaterfowl.org/lower-klamath.

Turn the page to learn more about the impact of water cuts on birds and hunting at the refuge.

Recovery locations 1949-2019
of ducks & geese banded at LKNWR during brood-rearing & molt seasons
(88% are hunter recoveries)



- Pacific Flyway – 98%
- Canada – 0.9%
- Other Lower 48 flyways – 0.6%
- Mexico – 0.3%
- Alaska – 0.1%
- Russia – 0.02%

CALIFORNIA WATERFOWL FALL 2019

MAP CREATED WITH GOOGLE EARTH

Infographic by Editor Holly A. Heyser
with data from USFWS & USGS



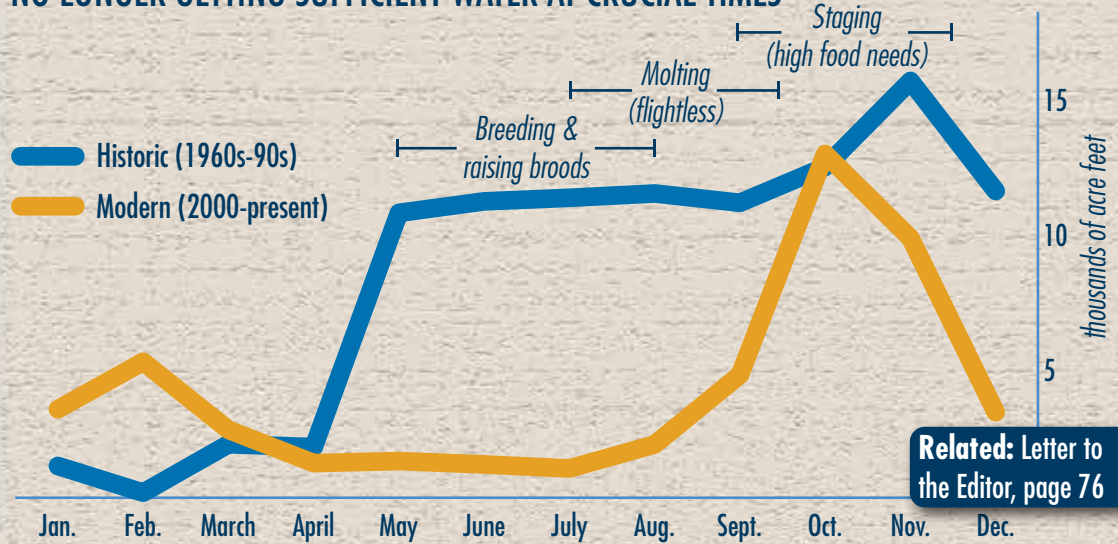
SIGNS OF DISTRESS

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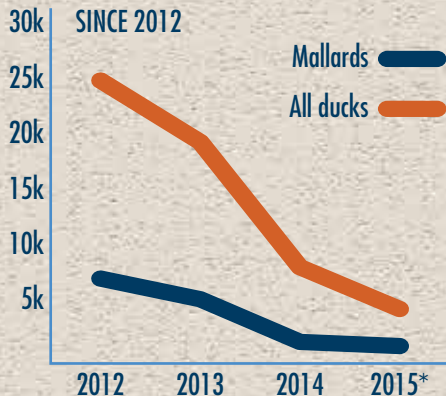
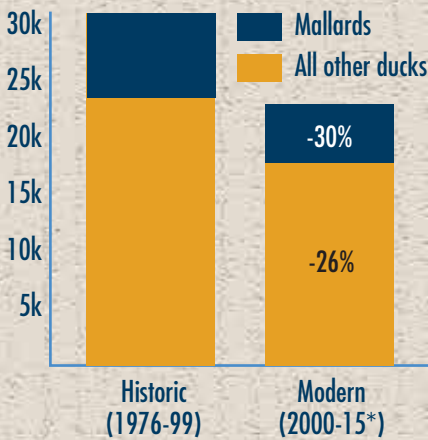
After three fish – coho salmon, Lost River suckers and shortnose suckers – went on the Endangered Species List in the 1990s, the federal government began redirecting water that *used* to go to the **Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge** to try to help the fish. The fish haven't recovered. The ducks may not either.



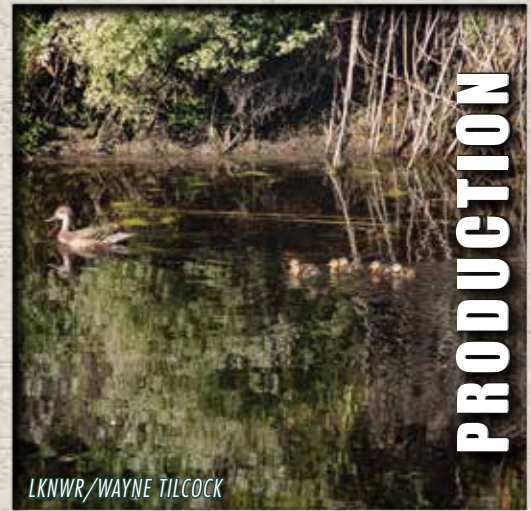
NO LONGER GETTING SUFFICIENT WATER AT CRUCIAL TIMES



FEWER DUCKLINGS BEING PRODUCED, AND TREND IS ACCELERATING



*2015 is the most recent year for which counts are available.



CALIFORNIA WATERFOWL FALL 2019

FALL POPULATIONS



PEAK FALL POPULATION COUNTS TANKING

