



THE 2023 WOOD DUCK REPORT

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Wood ducks have come a long way. Though they were sliding toward extinction due to habitat loss once upon a time, this unique species' population has had an amazing comeback, thanks to conservation efforts such as CWA's California Wood Duck Program. Enthusiastic volunteers of the program build and monitor nest boxes as a substitute to compensate for the loss of natural tree cavities, which wood ducks naturally nest in.

Compared to the previous year, in 2023 CWA saw an increase in the numbers of enrolled nest boxes and volunteers, as well as a 16% increase in the numbers of ducklings hatched. With nearly an additional 26,000 ducklings hatched in the past year from the California Wood Duck Program's boxes since

the program's inception in 1991, that brings our total number of ducklings closer than ever to the long-awaited milestone of 1 million. In fact, we anticipate hitting our goal sometime this upcoming nesting season. Great job, wood duckers!

CWA is grateful to all the volunteers, district managers, sponsors and staff members whose collective efforts have allowed the largest citizen science project of its kind to thrive for over three decades. If you'd like to support our program while enjoying a family-friendly event with food, fun and prizes, please join us at the annual wood duck banquet. The next one takes place on July 27 in Stockton, California. 🦆



2023 BELLROSE AWARD RECIPIENT

The California Wood Duck Program is pleased to announce Caroline Brady as the winner of the 2023 Bellrose Award. As a current environmental scientist of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's waterfowl unit, as well as CWA's former waterfowl biologist, California Wood Duck Program coordinator and waterfowl programs supervisor, there's no denying that Brady has shown untiring commitment to making sure our state's duck populations thrive.

Brady banded thousands of nesting wood duck hens for the Wood Duck Program as a permit holder and collaborated with project and district managers, volunteers and staff all over the state to keep projects running smoothly. Her meticulous record keeping and data management were crucial for helping CWA keep track of wood ducks' nest box use and reproductive success.

Over the years, Brady also successfully recruited new



**Caroline
Brady**

volunteers and increased awareness of the program. Through events like Wood Duck 101, Yolo Duck Days and the Wood Duck Program dinner, Brady raised funds for ducks and taught the public about how to run a productive wood duck project. Countless event participants received firsthand instruction from her on how to assemble and put up boxes, catch hens, band ducks, examine eggs/nests and record data.

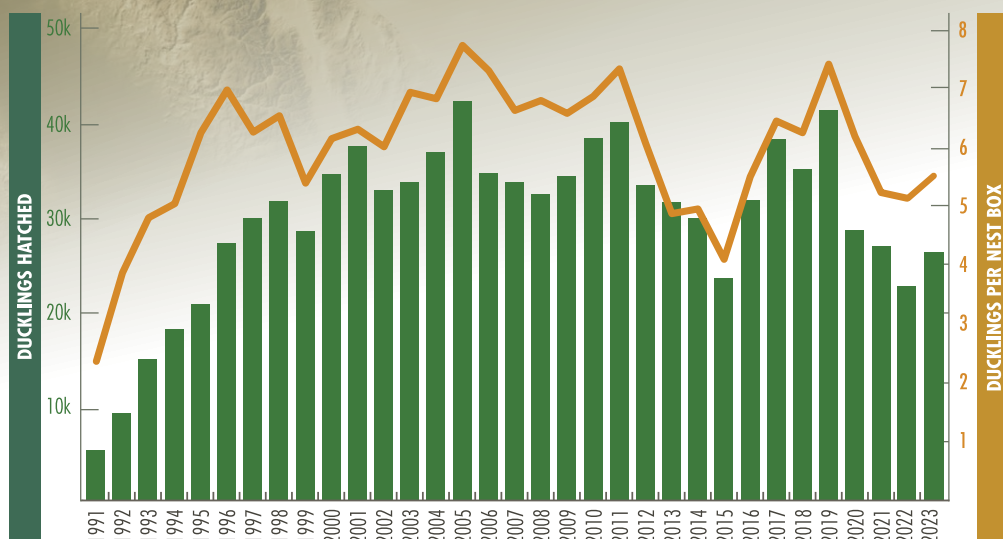
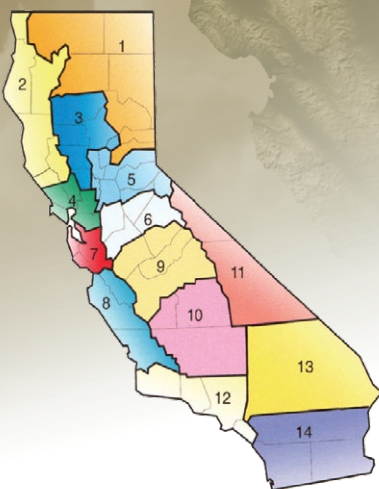
As just one more example, she previously led a group of 40 university students, many of whom were non-hunters, on a tour of wood duck nest boxes at Rancho Esquon to teach them about the Wood Duck Program, the role nest boxes play in helping the species' population, and how hunters give back to the environment. By the end of the tour, on top of learning about waterfowl and wildlife conservation, several students who had originally viewed hunting in a negative light experienced a change of heart. 🦋

2023 WOOD DUCK PROGRAM SPONSORS

The following individuals and companies donated \$100 or more in 2023 to the Waterfowl Fund, which supports the California Wood Duck Program and California Waterfowl's other efforts to grow our state's duck populations. Our staff, Wood Duck Program committee and volunteers would like to recognize these individuals for their generosity and financial commitment to wood duck conservation.

Phillip Albanese	John Edwards	Michele Laubach	Charles Reese
William Bacheller	John Eudy	Legacy Risk &	Nancy Sage
Cheryl Bell	J.B. Ferrarone	Insurance Services	Mike Schuster
Steven Boero	Anthony Giorgianni	Ken Lowney	Roderick Shepard
Andrew Bolger	Robert Giusti	Adam Lyon	John Simmons
Michael Bruno	Brian Gladden	John McCormick	Daniel Smith
R. Doug Cain	Tyler Higgins	Drew McMillan	Zachary Stassi
Mark Carlson	Cory Higgins	Brett Mlinarich	Steven Thomas
Gemma Dalena	Kevin Huber	Matthew Murphy	Stephen Trewwhitt
John DeDominic	J. Miles and Rosanne Reiter	Dylan Olson	Stephen Van Dusen
Dr. Matthew Kemner	Family Foundation	Michael Parker	Adam Voelker
Gordon Dunne	Michael Jameson	Donn Peacock	Tim Westphal
Gregory Dyer	Richard Keely	Kyle Peacock	John Winther
Douglass Eberhardt	Sean Keene	Christopher Peatross	Kimberly Zignago
Wayne Edmiston	James Lacey	Morgan Read	

991,732

DUCKLINGS HATCHED
SINCE 1991

PROJECT NAME	# BOXES	# DUCKLINGS	VOLUNTEERS
District 1, NORTHEAST CALIFORNIA (Nevada, Sierra, Siskiyou, Shasta, Modoc counties). District Manager Craig Ferrari, 530-268-1661.			
1000 Springs Ranch	42	159	Gary Welsh, Jacob Casper
Beedy	6	35	Ted Beedy
Bidwell	26	77	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Ferrari Farms	11	52	Craig Ferrari
Golden Oaks	9	68	Craig Ferrari, Lily McCluskey
Goose Valley	21	17	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Lake Margaret	8	3	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Napoli	6	39	Len Napoli, Gail Napoli
Nevada Co. F & W Commission	16	144	Craig Ferrari, Lily McCluskey
Rancho Codorniz	10	21	Craig Ferrari, Mayo Shattuck, Brad Fowler
Sanders Ranch	19	69	Rick A. Sanders
District 2, NORTH COAST (Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino, Lake counties). District manager position open. Contact Jim Paroli, 209-993-0808, for information.			
Camp Sammy	4	8	Paul Baldwin
Harpshire	3	0	Kevin Harper
Salt Flat	4	8	Robert Heitman

PROJECT NAME	# BOXES	# DUCKLINGS	VOLUNTEERS
District 3, SACRAMENTO VALLEY (Tehama, Glenn, Butte, Colusa, Yolo counties). District Managers Steve Mortensen, 707-592-5545; Mike Johnson, 530-521-8066; Matt Meyer, 510-352-4844; John Garriga, 530-815-4998.			
5R Ranch	6	28	Greg Silva, Patti Silva
49er Duck Club	11	63	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Angel Ranch Duck Club	50	425	John Garriga, Doug Garriga, Jennifer Garriga, Jim Carr, Rod Miller, Paul Fincher
Argo & Vickery Farms	7	70	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello, Matt Drury
Barale Ranch	18	122	David Barale, Pete Barale, Joe Barale, Erik Hora, Greg Stiner
Behring Ranch	240	3783	Isabelle Romo, Ernesto Jimenez, Joe Gennaro, Janine Grupalo, Anayeli Rodrigues
Bens WDP	10	80	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello, Matt Eisen
Broken Wing Duck Club	11	142	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Burgard	36	189	Dirk Burgard
Butte College	69	167	Rick Wittsell, Butte College Natural Resources Management Program students, Brian Huber, Laura Cockrell
Butte Creek Farms	57	119	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello, Matt Eisen
Butte Creek Island Ranch	17	88	CWA

THE CALIFORNIA WOOD DUCK PROGRAM

PROJECT NAME	# BOXES	# DUCKLINGS	VOLUNTEERS
Casa de Patos/Bird Haven Ranch	196	1018	Paul & Sandi Bonderson, Andy Atkinson, Rich Pence, UC Davis
Closed Zone Farms	35	150	Jesus Gomez, Larry Gury
Cozzolino	16	101	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Crippled Mallard	23	121	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Fonseco WDP	17	138	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Foraker Brothers Murdock Ranch Trust I	61	546	CWA
Foraker Brothers Murdock Ranch Trust II	107	666	Brian O'Connor, Kathleen O'Connor
Double Down Duck Club	6	21	Guy Delorefice, Lani Delorefice, Capri Delorefice, Ned Hill, Porter Hill
DC WDP	14	139	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello, Matt Drury, Matt Eisen
• Gordon's Pond	22	90	Bruce Billings
Fresh Water Creek	11	59	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Gardner Farms	16	68	Dan Erben, Avery Erben, Kelsey Erben, Kaila Erben, William Gardner Jr.
Gray Lodge Wildlife Area	340	1611	Nikki Agins, Yvonne Agins, Diana Burke-Knapp, Tina Colbert, Lori Dieter, Donna Dugan, Dan Furr, Dorothy Glass, Ruth Morgan, John Royce, Lena Sannar, Kristin Shorrock, Meghann Shorrock, Edith Shubert, Marie Smith, Dalton Taylor, Stephanie Taylor
Hollywood Duck Club	65	465	David Barale, Pete Barale, Joe Barale, Erik Hora, Greg Stiner
Larry Merlo Youth	82	380	Riley Haugh, Baily Fritter, Rocque Merlo
Little Dry Creek Farms	45	278	Spencer Tuttle, John Howard, Mark Koller
Lone Star Duck Club	10	48	MATT MEYER, DENNIS CORVELLO
Mallard Ranch	50	162	Dominic Gillibert
MVS Fowl Estates	16	138	Matt dePolo, Giovanni dePolo, Anthony dePolo, Vincent Andreuccetti, Luciano Andreuccetti
Nannini Bros.	8	15	Michael Nannini, Jeffrey Nannini, Brian Nannini
North Colusa	3	8	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello, Matt Eisen
Opa's Dead End Duck Club	7	45	William Owen
Packer Rd	19	173	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello, Matt Drury, Matt Eisen
Paradise Farms	9	31	Tiffany Podesta, Anthony Lopez
Pintail II	8	63	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello, Matt Eisen
Pioneer Duck Club	34	438	Matthew Drury, Brad Rudolph, Alexis Rudolph, Bill McDonald
R67 Ranch	19	84	John Garriga, Jennifer Garriga, Doug Garriga
R&R Ranch	27	129	Brenda Bebensee
Rancho Esquon	48	95	Ben Cooper, Diane Valentine
Riverside Cottage	3	28	Kristin Shorrock, Merily Stover, Larry Jendro
RJ Finney Rod & Gun Club	50	206	Dominic Gillibert, Rene Gillibert, Dave Ciapponi
UC Davis - Roosevelt Ranch	100	586	Bill Veghte, Tom Patterson, James Rathjen, Roosevelt Ranch Partners, UC Davis
UC Davis - Russell Ranch	16	37	UC Davis
Sanborn Slough	23	64	CWA
Sebia Duck Club	76	281	Mark Kirsten, Rhys Kirsten, Ryleigh Kirsten, Matt Artz, Ryan Artz, Dan Artz, Anna Artz, Jim Wruck, Jack Dolan, Doug Farel, Jon Berglund, Brian Huber

PROJECT NAME	# BOXES	# DUCKLINGS	VOLUNTEERS
Seven Mile Duck Club	23	202	John Garriga, Doug Garriga, Jennifer Garriga, Gary Lechner, Amy Lechner
Silver Bullet Duck Club	21	212	John Garriga, Doug Garriga, Jennifer Garriga
Stone Creek	10	40	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Sutter Buttes Boys Club	32	88	Walt Sikes, Dean Kwasny
Thuis Ranch	6	0	Steve Mortensen, Neal Van Alfen, Pam Kazmeirczak, Dave Howes, Jack Ensley, Wyatt Ensley, Garrett Ensley
Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area			
• Howard Slough	68	245	Laura Cockrel, Shannon Sinkovich, Caylin Stanley, Matt Manuel, Jepson Manuel, Sibley Manuel, Alex Gonzalez, Mel Raya, Ben Alemania
• Cherokee Farms	28	141	Laura Cockrel, Shannon Sinkovich, Alex Gonzalez, Ben Alemania, Caylin Stanley
• Little Dry Creek	50	98	Laura Cockrel, Shannon Sinkovich, Alex Gonzalez, Ben Alemania, Caylin Stanley
• Llano Seco	15	14	Laura Cockrel, Caylin Stanley, Alex Gonzalez, Mel Raya, Ben Alemania
Vista Ranch	23	114	Mike Schuster, Ruth Mikkelsen, Steve Mortensen
West Delevan Duck Club	7	58	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Willow Creek Wood Ducks	120	1408	Harlan Albers, Noah Albers, Curtus Amaro, John Amaro, Randy Hansen, Troy Hansen
District 4, NORTH BAY (Napa, Sonoma, Marin, Solano, Contra Costa counties). District Manager Robert Franco, 707-290-3601.			
Arnold Ranch Duck Club	45	230	Sophia Koehler, Olivia Koehler, Gianna Koehler, Mike Lenzi, Kyan Larsen, Annika Larsen, Brielle Cardwell, Emma Cardwell, Pete Peters
B & C Kiser	5	48	Dan Bambury
Davis Disco Box	3	39	Myke Davis, Summer Davis, Lea Davis
Denver Ranch	5	0	CWA
Green Valley Creek	9	62	Anthony Iaccarino, Theresa Iaccarino, John Iaccarino
Greenhead Duck Club	22	65	Kevin Brush, Trinity Brush, Malina Brush, Amber Brush
Grizzly Ranch	12	0	CWA
Laguna Creek	4	0	Steve Broadley
McDaniel	7	68	Gary McDaniel, Joeni McDaniel, Gianna Rose McDaniel, Jared McDaniel
Peaceful Glen	6	90	Steve Mortensen, Bob Brown, Jeanie Brown, Dave Howes, Garrett Ensley, Jack Ensley, Wyatt Ensley
Ryer Island Fin & Feather Ranch LLC	40	87	Bill Hobin, Ignacio Vazquez
Willow Pond	7	99	Steve Mortensen, Joann Tomlinson, Dave Howes, Garrett Ensley, Jack Ensley, Wyatt Ensley
District 5, SACRAMENTO/SIERRA (Yuba, Sutter, Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer, Amador, Alpine counties). District Managers Greg Damitz, 916-705-4544; Tim Anderson, 707-474-8448.			
Beale Air Force Base	35	62	Ethan Snee, Jennifer Lederer, Courtney Taylor, Luke Christiansen, Katie Christiansen, Marian Christiansen, Jack Christiansen, Henry Christiansen, Blaine Bower, Peter Joice, Jonathan Boone, Erick Womack, Nicholas DuMars, Courtney Renauld, Drew Shavlik, Brian Wagner
Bear River	24	246	Brett Lawson, Hunter Lawson, Mike Moore, Nick White, Jeff Osberg, Steve Mortensen
Brown's Valley	3	14	Mike Schuster, Ruth Mikkelsen

PROJECT NAME	# BOXES	# DUCKLINGS	VOLUNTEERS
Camp Far West	4	15	Brian Huber, Karlie Huber, Wyatt Huber, Eva Huber, Geneva Williams
Conaway Ranch	71	93	Mike Hall, Conaway Ranch partners, UC Davis
Cosumnes River Preserve	168	567	Nancy Sage, Jim Dunn, Beverly Schilling, Sarah Kirschling, Jen Tryggvason, Denisse Anaya, Katie Giuffre, Timothy Miller, Cathie LaZier, Amber Veselka, Maddy Hill
Footrot Flats	65	160	Mike Cole, Brian Kinney
Greenberg	8	42	Stu Greenberg, Deb Greenberg
Jeri Langham	17	186	Jeri Langham, Max Brodie, Tom Horner, Bob Jensen, Curt Warburton, Nora Papian, Jim Pompy, Bert Pearson
Muck Ranch	2	14	T.G. Bookholtz
North Delta Conservancy	208	1194	John Erickson, Tom Uslan, Laura Uslan, Cliff Feldheim
Pasture Creek	3	39	Josh Holme, Jackson Holme, James Holme
South Lake Tahoe WDP	2	12	Dave Huber, Ginger Huber, Daniel Huber, Brian Huber, Wyatt Huber, Eva Huber, Karlie Huber
South Pleasant Grove	18	143	Greg Damitz
Spenceville Wildlife Area	74	203	Mark Carroll, Emilia Schmall
Swampy Lane	11	68	Jake Messerli
Whitney Oaks	2	16	Ed Price, Mike Francis
William's Pond	6	41	Tad Gantenbein, Erik Gantenbein, Zack Reuter, Jake Reuter
District 6, DELTA (San Joaquin, Calaveras, Stanislaus, Tuolumne counties). District Managers Jim Paroli, CWDP Co-Chair, 209-993-0808; Eric Sheffield, 925-699-9452.			
Black Hole Habitat	60	389	Trevor Carlson, Jim Paroli
Brack Track	6	52	Jim Paroli, Eric Sheffield, Pete Costamagna
Brush Duck Club	17	45	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
City of Modesto Training Facility	6	18	Phil McKay
Das Rios Ranch	12	48	Phil McKay
Eudy	11	26	John Eudy, Robbin Eudy
Kautz Ironstone Winery	50	542	Joe Valente, Claudia Valente
Mandeville Island	360	2148	Jim Paroli, Eric Sheffield, Tony Marnell
McDonald Island	77	402	Jim Paroli, Eric Sheffield
Medford Island	20	27	Rigo Sevilla, Peter Ottesen, Seven Partners
Nelson	69	165	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
San Joaquin Wetland Farms	19	129	Anthony Iaccarino, Theresa Iaccarino, John Iaccarino, Jim Delucchi
Trion Ranch	17	87	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Tyler Island Habitat	17	128	Eric Sheffield, John Viera, Jim Paroli
District 7, SOUTH BAY (San Francisco, San Mateo, Alameda, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara counties). District manager position open. Contact Jim Paroli, 209-993-0808, for information.			
Quarry Lakes	10	0	Dave Riensche, Sarah Riensche, Daniel Riensche, Nathan Riensche, Rebekah Riensche
District 8, CENTRAL COAST (Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo counties). District manager position open. Contact Jim Paroli, 209-993-0808, for information.			
District 9, NORTHERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY (Merced, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno counties). District Managers Erik Knorr, 831-809-1571; Mike Davis, 209-777-3810.			
Dallas Duck Club	115	135	Al Sturla, Anthony Lopez, Rene Lopez, Jess Nelson, Chris Chung, Tiffany Podesta

PROJECT NAME	# BOXES	# DUCKLINGS	VOLUNTEERS
Hollister Duck Club/Los Banos Creek	21	49	Don Alvarado, Sam Alvarado, Erik Hora
Merced River WDP	85	108	Bill Ralph
District 10, SOUTHERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY (Kings, Tulare, Kern counties). District Manager Ken Barton, 818-367-4158.			
California Living Museum	9	29	Andrew Kenyon
Tulare Basin Wetlands Assoc.	18	118	Andrew Kenyon, Ken Barton
District 11, INYO/MONO (Inyo, Mono counties). District manager position open. Contact Jim Paroli, 209-993-0808, for information.			
District 12, SOUTH COAST (Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange counties). District manager position open. Contact Jim Paroli, 209-993-0808, for information.			
District 13, MOJAVE (San Bernardino County). District manager position open. Contact Jim Paroli, 209-993-0808, for information.			
Camp Cady	2	0	Andrew Kenyon, Bruce Kenyon
District 14, IMPERIAL VALLEY (Riverside, San Diego, Imperial counties). District manager position open. Contact Jim Paroli, 209-993-0808, for information.			
So. Cal Wood Ducks			
• Prado Regional Park	34	18	David McMichael, Jenna Carpenter, Alec Mang, Cameron Macbeth, Ashley Anderson, Houston Vassel
• Yorba Regional Park	36	326	Mike Geraci, Rick Spitler, Bob Drouillard, Rock Schumacher, John Higley, Bob Wootton, Len Malena

TOTAL 4,659 25,970 277 volunteers

If you are a volunteer, and your name or project is not listed or is incorrect, please contact Brian Huber at bhuber@calwaterfowl.org.

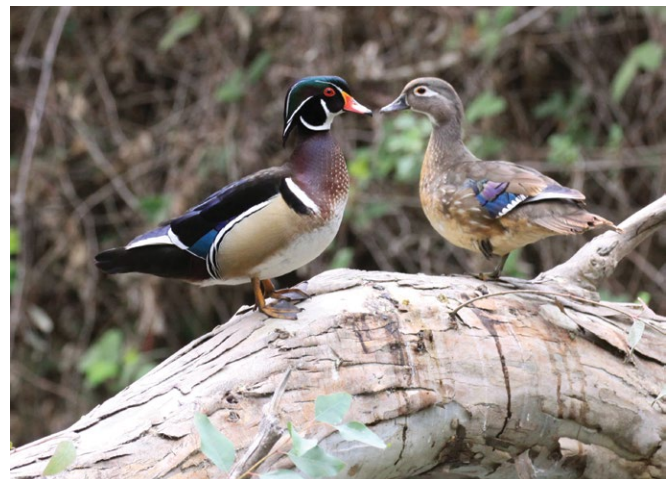


Photo by Harlan Albers

District managers are a vital component of the California Wood Duck Program. They often wear numerous hats by helping train new volunteers, gathering nest box building materials, raising money and coordinating field days and banquets. The California Wood Duck Program could not be as successful as it is without the hard work of our district managers.

If you are interested in participating in the California Wood Duck Program, please contact a district manager for your region. If you are interested in becoming a district manager, contact California Wood Duck Program Coordinator Brian Huber at bhuber@calwaterfowl.org.

A devotion to WOOD DUCKS

By Julie Do

The first time Harlan Albers ever laid eyes on a wood duck was when his brother shot and brought home a drake. The two of them and their father all chipped in money to get the handsome bird mounted, and Albers decided to read up on the species out of curiosity. That's how he learned about the California Wood Duck Program from a CWA magazine. He thought it looked interesting and decided to join, and the rest is history.

Albers started out with just six nest boxes in 1997, with 31 ducklings hatched during the first year. Today, his Willow Creek Duck Boxes project consists of about 120 boxes placed around three different farms, and it's projected to reach a whopping total of 30,000 ducklings hatched this upcoming season. Albers, who is now retired but



Harlan Albers

previously worked in construction, receives donations of plywood and builds all his boxes himself. He assembles them with care and jazzes them up with Spanish moss, and when he finds any fallen trees with nice knotholes that are the right size for nest cavities, he incorporates those, too. He happily drives two hours each way to his project site and braves steep slopes, poison oak, muddy conditions and blackberry thorns to diligently monitor his wood duck boxes.

While Albers loves being involved with the Wood Duck Program, it can come with a variety of other struggles. Heavy rain often poses problems, for instance. Despite the majority of his nest boxes being erected on metal poles to try to deter predators, floods will knock down boxes every now and then, sweeping them away to never be found again, or ruin the wood with water and mud. Sometimes other creatures like owls, flickers, wasps, kestrels or bees from a nearby apiary beat the wood ducks to the boxes. Sometimes

hens abandon nests, too, so whenever Albers encounters abandoned eggs, he rescues them, candles every single one and hands all the viable ones over to CWA. Last year he brought just under 1,000 eggs to Egg Salvage Program Coordinator Jason Coslovich to take to a hatchery.

And from time to time, working on the project means dealing with some heartbreak. Just last year, Albers was excited to have snapped a photo of a hen with dimples on her cheek, alongside a drake. After appropriately dubbing her "Dimples," he patiently waited with high hopes to catch her using a nest box. Two weeks after, he caught her with 21 eggs. Later, when he returned to check on her around the time the eggs were supposed to hatch, he found Dimples in the box — headless. "Ringtail cats," Albers suspected. On other occasions, he finds ducks killed by other predators like raccoons or river otters.

But although not every moment is a happy one, a lot of them are. There's the time when Albers witnessed an astounding 41 ducklings hatch from a single box, cared for by a 6-year-old hen. Another time, he had the pleasure of watching a delinquent duckling try to leap from its box while the disapproving hen repeatedly blocked the hole with her wing. (Eventually the duckling managed to slip out anyway, after multiple failed attempts.)

Albers also delights in seeing the regular visitors. Ever since receiving his sub-banding permit in 2001, he has banded 900 hens. He typically bands between 40-55 hens a year and recaptures about the same number of his previously banded hens, though once in a while he also captures one banded by someone else. One of the oldest hens Albers ever encountered was a hen he recaptured for 10 straight years, and which had had over 200 ducklings during her lifetime. "Catching and banding hens is an up-close look and bond with the hen. You get attached to them," he said.

Why is he so fond of wood ducks in particular? Albers says he enjoys their beauty. "They're fun to watch roost in trees. They're unique and active," he remarked. He also likes listening to the ducks vocalize, especially the calls hens make to each other and their ducklings. His goal is to eventually create a documentary about all the vocalizations. And after all the hardships ducklings endure in nature, Albers says he likes to see them succeed, grow up and fly.

Albers has spent thousands of hours watching the wood ducks from his project and enjoys capturing their activity with his camera. (In fact, his photos have shown up in quite a few wood duck reports over the years, including this one.) Using the photography blinds that he's set up around

the creek, he waits patiently inside, sometimes for up to five hours, to try and capture the moment that ducklings jump from the boxes. It's always an adventure. Once, he even had a hen land directly on his camera lens. "I do see other species such as songbirds, waterbirds, quail, hawks, raccoons, beavers and otters, and have even photographed illegal dumping along the creek," Albers said. "You never know what you're going to see when you are tucked in a concealed blind."

When asked about what he would say to someone who's on the fence about volunteering with the California Wood Duck Program, Albers replied, "It's a lot of work, but it's well worth the effort once you get into it. It makes you feel so good. If you're thinking about doing it, do it because you're going to get more enjoyment out of it than you think you will."

"Part of the whole wood duck nest box experience," he said, "is working with the landowners who allow the use of their property to install nest boxes and hearing the feedback they give you about how they enjoy seeing more wood ducks around than ever before."

Besides mentioning that it's a good way to give back, especially for people who are hunters, Albers added, "It makes you think about what the ducks do growing up. It's so rewarding to be out. You get out into nature; you see deer, raccoons, river otters, all the different waterbirds along the creek. It's just fun." 🦆

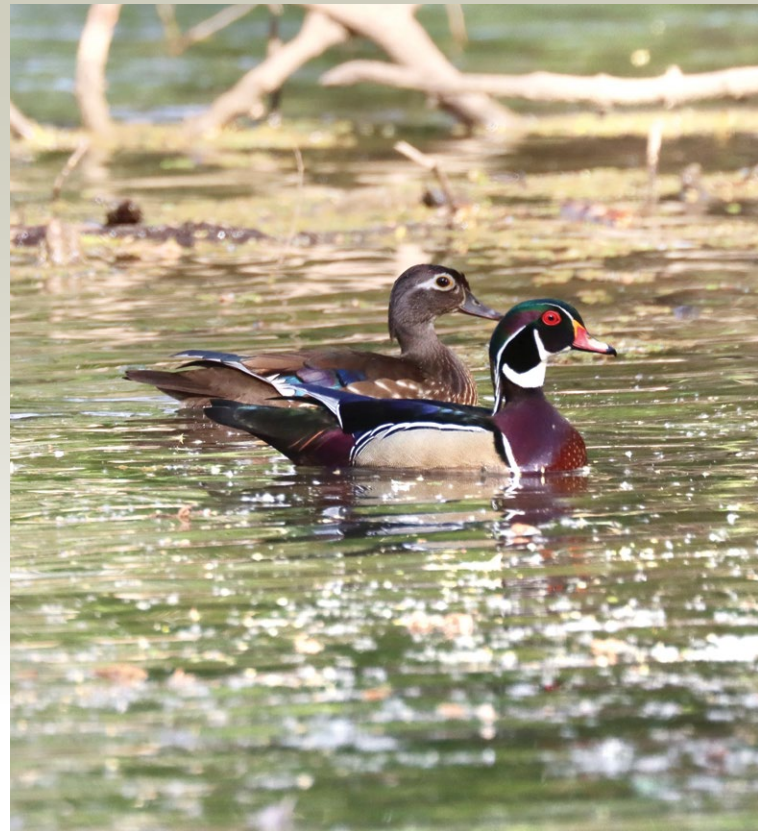


Photo by Harlan Albers

Join California Waterfowl's Pintail Legacy Society! The society consists of individuals and families who have provided conservation leadership through a planned gift as part of their estate or financial plan.



For more information, visit CWAgift.org or contact Gordon L. Nelson, CPA, CFP® at 435-213-9986 or plannedgiving@calwaterfowl.org.

