

CONTENTS

Member profile **32**

Production report **33**

Bellrose Award winner **34**

Program sponsors **36**



Photo by Ted Beedy

THE 2022

WOOD DUCK REPORT

About a century ago, wood ducks were on the brink of extinction due to habitat loss. Today the species is flourishing, thanks to conservation efforts such as building nest boxes to help compensate for the lack of tree cavities where wood ducks would normally lay eggs.

California Waterfowl established the California Wood Duck Program to increase the availability of nest boxes and to give the public a hands-on method of helping wood ducks. Now over 30 years old, the program has become the biggest and most successful citizen science project of its kind. In 2022, CWA maintained preexisting projects and established new ones across the state with the help of our passionate volunteers, district managers and sponsors. And we witnessed thousands more ducklings leap from their nest boxes, bringing us closer to our goal of one million ducks hatched by the program.

Member Profile: Ray Burmaster

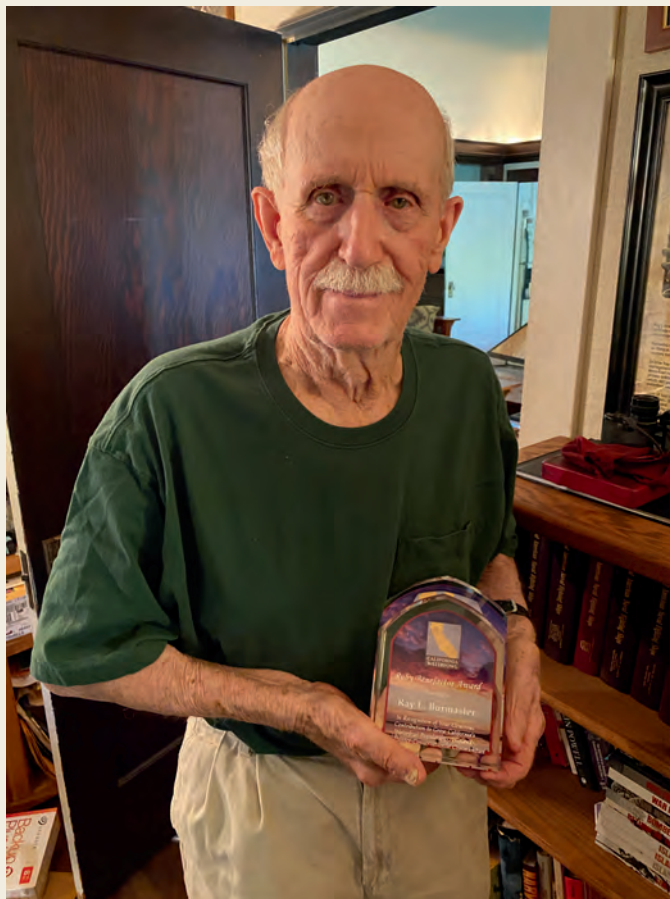
By Julie Do

Ray Burmaster, a former CWA board member of over a decade and a Ruby Benefactor, was eight years old when he got his first real gun. His early days spent out in the tules with his dog kickstarted a lifetime's dedication to conservation and hunting. He is a champion of public land hunting opportunities in California and well-recognized among the waterfowling community.

One of Burmaster's personal achievements was helping to establish the California Wood Duck Program, which took off in 1991 to increase both nest boxes and citizen involvement in the fate of wood ducks. His long-term involvement with the organization allowed him to witness how the program has grown and changed.

In the beginning, Burmaster said, the Wood Duck Program started small and didn't have much money prioritized for it. But it gained traction as more and more people were willing to donate their time, energy and money into building and maintaining nest boxes and monitoring the animals that moved in. Since its inception, the program has amassed numerous different projects, boxes and volunteers in total. Burmaster recalled how pleasantly surprised he was to see the sheer variety of people who got into it, including children, women, groups like Boy Scouts, and hunters and nonhunters alike.

When I paid Burmaster a visit recently, he took me on a tour of his house. In one cozy room piled high with books, maps and magazines, he pointed me toward a booklet on his desk titled *A Guide to Installing and Managing Wood Duck Boxes*, which he helped CWA put together in the 90s. He was particularly proud of this accomplishment. You could give the booklet to anybody, he said, and it



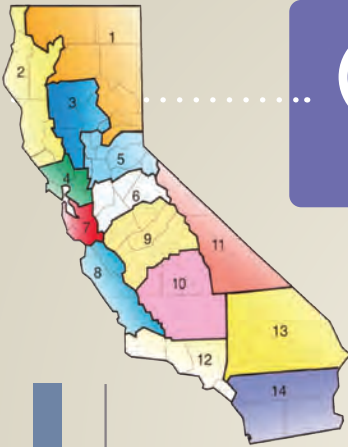
would be in-depth enough that the person could then learn to run his or her own projects to benefit ducks.

When asked about his favorite thing about the California Wood Duck Program, Burmaster said it was getting to see people work together rather than arguing with one other. And every year he looks at how many ducks were produced and is happy to know that the number has reached approximately a million birds.

Burmater owned some of his own boxes too — 10 of them gifted to him by CWA and located along the American River. “When I see a wood duck flying by, it makes me feel good to know that I was a part of that program,” Burmaster said.

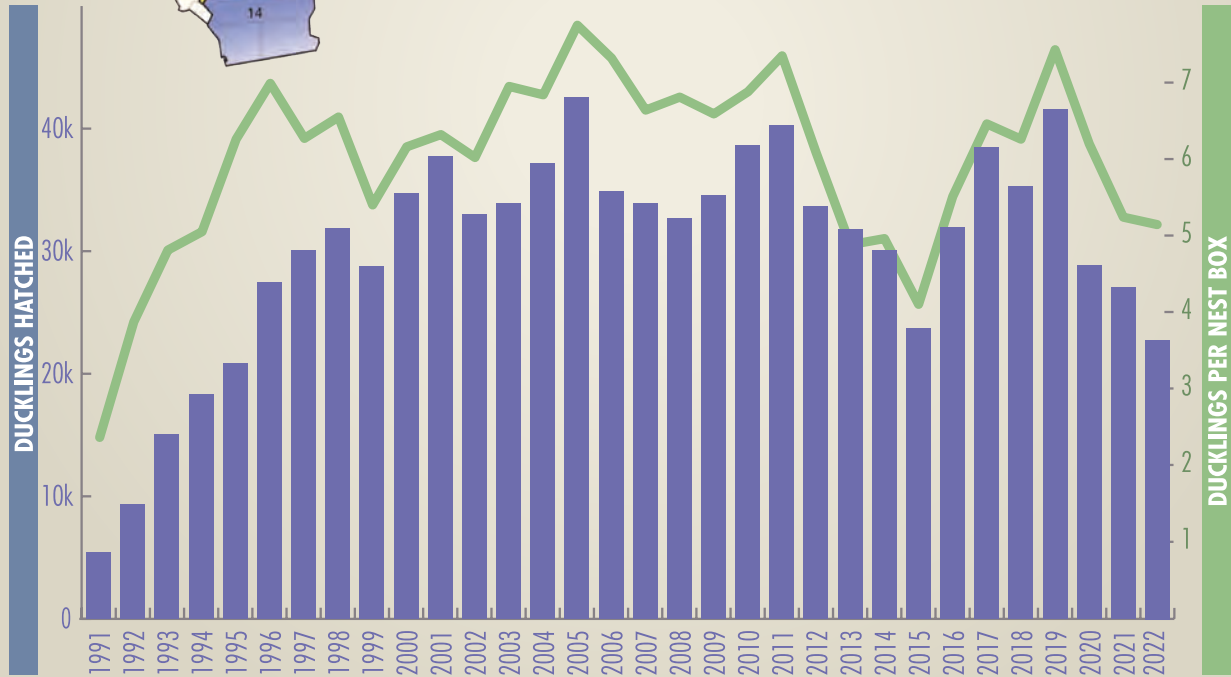
Besides helping with the Wood Duck Program and serving on CWA's Board of Directors and Regulations and Traditions Committee, Burmaster previously chaired the Sacramento Valley Waterfowl Habitat Management Committee, where he led an in-depth investigation of public and private entities' habitat management practices. He also helped establish the Unattached Hunter Committee, a forum for California public hunters that addressed issues affecting public hunting, of which he was an active participant of for many years.

Just last year, Burmaster went out shooting at the age of 91. He's now minimized his hunting due to age but enjoys watching the younger generation get excited about ducks. He recently enrolled his great-grandson into one of CWA's kids camps, and he's also started giving away guns from his collection along with other hunting items to extended family. And though he can't get up close to ducks outdoors anymore, he still surrounds himself with them in the form of countless photos, decoys and memorabilia that decorate his home. 🦆



960,361

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	140	Gary Welsh, Jacob Gerow-Welsh
Beedy	6	43	Ted Beedy
Ferrari Farms	11	58	Craig Ferrari
Golden Oaks	9	74	Craig Ferrari
Napoli	6	42	Len Napoli, Gail Napoli
Nevada Co. F & W Commission	16	101	Craig Ferrari, Lily McCluskey
Rancho Codorniz	10	11	Mayo Shattuck
Sanders Ranch	19	78	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.			
Ford Ranch	6	27	Joe Cooper, Dave Ulrich, Bonnie Ulrich
Harpshire	3	0	Kevin Harper
Salt Flat	4	10	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	4	34	Greg Silva, Patti Silva
49er Duck Club	9	39	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Angel Ranch Duck Club	50	364	John Garriga, Doug Garriga, Jennifer Garriga, Jim Carr, Rod Miller, Wyatt Miller
Argo & Vickery Farms	9	52	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Barale Ranch	25	178	David Barale, Pete Barale, Joe Barale, Erik Hora
Behring Ranch	240	2748	Isabelle Romo, Ernesto Jimenez, Joe Gennaro, Dennis Hammer, Janine Grupalo, Maximus Romo
Bens WDP	10	33	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Brady Ranch	34	157	Mike Johnson, Jim Carr, John Garriga, Doug Garriga, Bryce Johnson, Rod Miller

2023 BELLROSE AWARD RECIPIENT

The California Wood Duck Program honors Jimmy Carr as the recipient of the 2023 Bellrose Award.

Longtime CWA member Carr first became involved with wood ducks in 2009 and helped establish a private wood duck project at his duck club.

Eventually he went on to serve as a District 3 manager for the program, a position he held for six years before retiring recently in 2022. During that time, Carr was involved with banding plenty of birds and assisting with numerous established projects in the Sacramento Valley, as well as starting up new wood duck projects. His efforts over the years have contributed to raising hundreds of wood ducks, and the data he gathered from monitoring



Jimmy Carr

box use and reproductive success has helped provide insight into the species' biology.

On top of all that, Carr has graciously volunteered his time to lend a hand at nearly all of California Waterfowl's wood duck-related events, including the Wood Duck Program dinner, Wood Duck 101 event and Yolo Duck Days.

Dr. Frank C. Bellrose was one of the pioneers of wood duck nesting research. His career-long commitment to understanding wood duck biology began in the late 1930s and resulted in the development of predator-resistant nest boxes. His lifelong dedication to waterfowl, especially the wood duck, is why the California Wood Duck Program honors one outstanding volunteer in his name each year.

PROJECT NAME	# BOXES	# DUCKLINGS	VOLUNTEERS
Broken Wing Duck Club	12	79	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Burgard	36	213	Dirk Burgard
Butte City College	63	184	Rick Wittsell, Butte College Natural Resources Management Program students, Brian Huber, Laura Cockrell
Butte Creek Farms	56	89	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Butte Creek Island Ranch	17	55	CWA
Casa de Patos/Bird Haven Ranch	196	1010	Paul & Sandi Bonderson, UC Davis
Cozzolino	16	36	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Crim-Sky Hi	43	30	CWA
Crippled Mallard	22	191	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Fonseco WDP	12	101	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Foraker Brothers Murdock Ranch Trust I	61	329	CWA
Foraker Brothers Murdock Ranch Trust II	106	490	Brian O'Connor, Kathleen O'Connor
DC WDP	12	109	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
■ Gordon's Pond	22	56	Darold Givens, Ken Stenquist, Eric Swanson, Don Woods, Matt Plut, Bruce Billings

PROJECT NAME	# BOXES	# DUCKLINGS	VOLUNTEERS
Fresh Water Creek	11	76	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Gardner Farms	15	42	Dan Erben, Avery Erben, Kelsey Erben, Kaila Erben, William Gardner Jr.
Gray Lodge Wildlife Area	328	1678	Brandy Chaffin, Tina Colbert, Lori Dieter, Donna Dugan, Dan Furr, Wyatt Gidcumb, Dorothy Glass, Jan Mathews, Sherry Renshaw, John Royce, Graceanne Sanders, Kristin Shorrock, Edith Shubert
Hollywood Duck Club	94	510	David Barale, Pete Barale, Joe Barale, Erik Hora
Joe Paulo Ranch WDP	50	93	Mike Johnson, Bryce Johnson, Joe Paulo, Jim Carr, John Garriga, Doug Garriga, Rod Miller
Larry Merlo Youth	82	446	Mike Johnson, Jim Carr, Ryley Haugh, Baily Fritter, Rocque Merlo, John Garriga, Doug Garriga, Bryce Johnson, Rod Miller
Little Dry Creek Farms	45	312	Spencer Tuttle, John Howard, Mark Koller
Lone Star Duck Club	9	22	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Mallard Ranch	50	156	Dominic Gillibert
MVS Fowl Estates	16	80	Matt dePolo, Giovanni dePolo, Anthony dePolo, Vincent Andreuccetti, Luciano Andreuccetti
Nannini Bros.	8	7	Michael Nannini, Jeffrey Nannini, Brian Nannini

• THE CALIFORNIA WOOD DUCK PROGRAM •

PROJECT NAME	# BOXES	# DUCKLINGS	VOLUNTEERS
North Colusa	3	0	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Opa's Dead End Duck Club	7	29	William Owen
Packer Rd	19	83	Gene Beauchamp, Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Paradise Farms	9	31	Tiffany Podesta, Anthony Lopez
Pintail II	10	42	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Pioneer Duck Club	36	377	Matthew Drury, Brad Rudolph, Alexis Rudolph, Bill McDonald
R67 Ranch	17	102	John Garriga, Jennifer Garriga, Doug Garriga
R&R Ranch	27	171	Brenda Bebensee, Kirk Barber
Rancho Esquon	76	156	Mike Johnson, Bryce Johnson, John Garriga, Jim Carr, Doug Garriga, Claude Grillo, Rod Miller
Riverside Cottage	3	26	Kristin Shorrock, Merrily Stover, Larry Jendro
RJ Finney Rod & Gun Club	50	120	Dominic Gillibert, Rene Gillibert, Dave Ciapponi
UC Davis - Roosevelt Ranch	100	365	Tom Patterson, Roosevelt Ranch Partners, UC Davis
UC Davis - Russell Ranch	16	29	UC Davis
Sanborn Slough	24	67	CWA
Sebia Duck Club	76	291	Mark Kirsten, Rhys Kirsten, Matt Artz, Ryan Artz, Dan Artz, Anna Artz, Jim Wruck, Jack Dolan, Allen Francis, Doug Farel, Jon Berglund
Seven Mile Duck Club	20	184	John Garriga, Doug Garriga, Jennifer Garriga, Gary Lechner, Gillian Lechner, Amy Lechner
Silver Bullet Duck Club	18	161	John Garriga, Doug Garriga, Jennifer Garriga
Stone Creek	9	23	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Thuis Ranch	6	0	Steve Mortensen, Neal Van Alfen, Pam Kazmeirczak, Dave Howes
Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area			
■ Howard Slough	61	523	Laura Cockrel, Shannon Sinkovich, Phillip Caulder, Melany Scannel, Bri Wyatt, Caylin Stanley, Matt Manuel, Jepson Manuel, Sibley Manuel
■ Little Dry Creek	50	247	Laura Cockrel, Shannon Sinkovich, Phillip Caulder, Melany Scannel, Bri Wyatt, Caylin Stanley, Trent Townsend
■ Llano Seco	3	18	Laura Cockrel

PROJECT NAME	# BOXES	# DUCKLINGS	VOLUNTEERS
Vista Ranch	23	76	Mike Schuster, Ruth Mikkelsen, Darya Mishchuk
West Delevan Duck Club	7	53	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Willow Creek Wood Ducks	118	951	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	239	Mike Lenzi, Sophia Koehler, Olivia Koehler, Gianna Koehler, Kyan Larsen, Annika Larson, Brielle Cardwell, Emma Cardwell, Pete Peters
B & C Kiser	5	30	Dan Bambury
Davis Disco Box	3	48	Myke Davis, Summer Davis, Lea Davis
Denverton Ranch	5	0	CWA
Green Valley Creek	9	62	Anthony Iaccarino, Theresa Iaccarino, John Iaccarino
Greenhead Duck Club	24	37	Kevin Brush, Trinity Brush, Malina Brush, Amber Brush
Grizzly Ranch	12	0	CWA
Laguna Creek	4	0	Steve Broadley, Benjamin Broadley
McDaniel	7	47	Gary McDaniel, Joeni McDaniel, Gianna Rose McDaniel, Jared McDaniel
Peaceful Glen	6	40	Steve Mortensen, Bob Brown, Jeanie Brown, Dave Howes, Garrett Ensley, Levi Ensley, Noah Riesche, Jerry Riesche
Ryer Island Fin & Feather Ranch LLC	40	100	Bill Hobin, Ignacio Vazquez
The Teal Club	12	24	Andrew Bogan, Tyra Bogan, Will Svensson, Linda Cabral, Kyla Bogan
Willow Pond	7	0	Steve Mortensen, Joann Tomlinson, Dave Howes
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.			
Bear River	25	78	Brett Lawson, Bo Lawson, Hunter Lawson, Brad Thompson, Toby Woodworth, Steve Mortensen
Brown's Valley	3	18	Mike Schuster, Ruth Mikkelsen, Darya Mishchuk
Chesapeake WDP	33	246	Chris Halsey
Conaway Ranch	71	102	Conaway Ranch partners, UC Davis
Cosumnes River Preserve	200	699	Nancy Sage, Jim Dunn, Ann Burris, Beverly Schilling, Sarah Kirschling, Denisse Anaya, Sara O'Gara, Mike Savino, Timothy Miller, Cathie LaZier, Amber Veselka
Greenberg	8	25	Stu Greenberg, Deb Greenberg

2022 WOOD DUCK PROGRAM SPONSORS

The following individuals and companies donated \$100 or more in 2022 to support the California Wood Duck Program. California Waterfowl and the Wood Duck Program committee and volunteers would like to recognize these individuals for their generosity and financial commitment to wood duck conservation.

Don Alvarado	Cooper Franco	Dirk Minnema
Steve Bennett	Hunter Franco	Bill & Travis Morgan - Guns, Fishing & Other Stuff
T.G. Bookholtz	Robert & Carolyn Franco	Steve Mortensen
Rich Botello	Robert T. Franco	Brian Nixon
Rick Breaux	Josh Gibbons - Delta Calls	Jim Paroli
Bob Brown	Cindy Guynes - The Fence Co.	Michael Parsons
Dennis Corvello	Cory Higgins	Pedrotti Ace Hardware
Christina Cuffman - Scentsy Consultant	Tyler Higgins	Ray Prothero
Robert H. Davies	Dave Howes	John R. Winther
Marilyn DeCillis	Anthony Iaccarino	Dennis Riesche
Douglas M. Eberhardt II	John Iaccarino	Roberta Ross
Garrett Ensley	DanKinder - Kinder's Custom Meats	Deanna & Steve Silvera
Pat Ensley	Jerry Luthin	Pete Smith - FP Smith Parts & Equipment Co.
John Eudy	Gary McDaniel - Gary McDaniel Taxidermy	Darren Solaro
Shasta Fancher	Kevin Mcvey - Wayside Lumber	Mike Woitte
Fernando Hurtado Family	Matt Meyer	
Bailey Franco		

PROJECT NAME	# BOXES	# DUCKLINGS	VOLUNTEERS
Jeri Langham	17	161	Jeri Langham, Max Brodie, Tom Horner, Bob Jensen, Curt Warburton, Nora Papien, Linda Barth, Betty Cooper, Oleta Melnicoe
Moe	9	5	Rich Moe
North Delta Conservancy	233	1207	John Erickson, Tom Uslan, Laura Uslan, Cliff Feldheim
Pasture Creek	3	26	Josh Holme, Jackson Holme, James Holem
South Butte Hunting Club	25	238	Chris Holsey
South Lake Tahoe WDP	2	14	Dave Huber, Ginger Huber, Daniel Huber, Brian Huber, Wyatt Huber, Eva Huber, Karlie Huber
South Pleasant Grove	18	73	Greg Damitz Sr., Gregory W. Damitz Jr.
Swampy Lane	13	116	Jake Messerli, Tim Anderson
Whitney Oaks	5	11	Ed Price, Mike Francis
William's Pond	6	68	Tad Gantenbein, Erik Gantenbein, Zack Reuter, Jake Reuter

PROJECT NAME	# BOXES	# DUCKLINGS	VOLUNTEERS
District 6, DELTA (San Joaquin, Calaveras, Stanislaus, Tuolumne counties). District Managers Jim Paroli, CWDP Co-Chair, 209-993-0808; Eric Sheffield, 925-699-9452.			
Brack Track	12	78	Jim Paroli, Eric Sheffield, Pete Costamagna
Brush Duck Club	19	35	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Eudy	11	29	John Eudy, Robbin Eudy
Kautz Ironstone Winery	50	211	Joe Valente, Claudia Valente
Lake Ranch	3	7	Ben Valverde, John Noriaga, Jon Jackson
Mandeville Island	340	1859	Jim Paroli, Eric Sheffield, Tony Marnell
McDonald Island	68	442	Jim Paroli, Eric Sheffield
Nelson	73	436	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Niles Ranch	4	7	Ben Valverde, John Noriaga
San Joaquin Wetland Farms	19	116	Anthony Iaccarino, Theresa Iaccarino, John Iaccarino, Jim Delucchi, Matias Hernandez Jr.
Trion Ranch	17	64	Matt Meyer, Dennis Corvello
Tyler Island Habitat	17	60	Eric Sheffield, John Uiere

PROJECT NAME	# BOXES	# DUCKLINGS	VOLUNTEERS
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.			
Canada de los Osos Ecological Reserve	12	19	Dave Stocks
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	114	115	Al Sturla, Anthony Lopez, Rene Lopez, Jess Nelson, Chris Chung, Tiffany Podesta
Hollister Duck Club/ Los Banos Creek	21	61	Don Alvarado, Mike Gaffney
District 10, SOUTHERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY (Kings, Tulare, Kern counties). District Manager Ken Barton, 818-367-4158.			
California Living Museum	9	64	Andrew Kenyon
Tulare Basin Wetlands Assoc.	18	82	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.			

PROJECT NAME	# BOXES	# DUCKLINGS	VOLUNTEERS
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	44	133	Bonnie Johnson, Natalia Doshi, Cameron Macbeth, Ajeet Samra, Jenna Carpenter
■ Yorba Regional Park	36	357	Mike Geraci, Rick Spittler, Don Mendenhall, Jim Ehret, Tom Marino, John Higley, Bob Wooton, Joe Boyer, Jon Mgrdichian, Janice Munson
TOTAL 4,422 22,597 261 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.



Photos 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.