Pacific Flyway Habitat in the Sacramento Valley.

Considerable progress has been made to enhance habitat for migratory waterfowl, wintering shorebirds, raptors, riparian songbirds and other wetland dependent species in the Sacramento Valley.

During the winter, reliable water supplies in the Sacramento Valley flood harvested rice fields, provide habitat, irrigate managed wetlands and deliver water to refuges and wildlife areas.

Flooded rice fields, National Wildlife Refuges and State Wildlife Management Areas and intensively managed private wetlands help compensate for the 95% of Central Valley wetlands lost over the years.

National Wildlife Refuges and State Wildlife Areas in the Sacramento Valley provide nearly 27,000 acres of wetland habitats, while privately-managed wetlands provide another 43,000 acres.

Up to 350,000 acres of rice are flooded each winter to provide bird habitats. An additional 43,000 acres of Sacramento Valley wetlands rely on the water drained off rice fields for fall flooding.

The amazing array of bird habitat in the Sacramento Valley receives surface water directly from irrigation water suppliers or indirectly from the return flow of surface water.

Nearly seven million waterfowl and 300,000 shorebirds rely on the Sacramento Valley for food and habitat. Other species which benefit include raptors, riparian songbirds and additional wetland dependent species.

Active management of the Sacramento Valley's flow-through system ensures that the water needed for birds and their habitats will continue to be available.

Information compiled by

Northern California Water Association
www.norcalwater.org/

California Rice Commission
www.calrice.org/

NCWA Northern California Water Association

California Rice