



Special points of interest:

- Spring rains produce increased breeding.
- New property for RVO
- "Sadie"
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Inside this issue:

Waterfowl Breeding Totals

4 Man Blind at Sutter Refuge

Shotshell Selection

California's Wood Duck Program

RVO's Newest Member

Water = Ducks for 2010/2011 Waterfowl Season

June 21, 2010 - The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has completed its 2010 waterfowl breeding population survey. The resulting data show that the overall number of breeding ducks has increased since last year, with the number of mallards – the most abundant duck breeding in the state – increasing 22 percent from last year.

"Abundant late spring precipitation this year resulted in improved habitat conditions in many areas," said DFG's Waterfowl Program biologist Shaun

Oldenburger. "We expect average-to-good waterfowl production in many parts of the state, which will likely translate into improved early season hunting."

The total number of ducks (all species combined) increased from 510,800 last year to 541,300 this year. This estimate is 9 percent below the long-term average. The breeding population of mallards increased from 302,000 in 2009 to 367,900 this year. Mallard numbers are close to their long-term average.



RVO Has Some Additional New Waterfowl Properties

In a never ending search, we continue to find new and exciting properties for our hunters to experience. We have a new four-man pit blind in rice near the east side of the Sutter Refuge Closed Zone and some additional dry rice fields for Spec/Snow hunting in Colusa.

The dry rice fields are also available for day rate or a package,

two-day deal. This offers the seasoned goose hunters a chance to hunt with your own gear on some proven grounds that geese travel daily.

Please email or call for further details.



What Waterfowl Loads to Use?



With so many different brands, shot size and selection now available, it may seem overwhelming. Far too often, we see hunters show up with inadequate shells that are the wrong choice for that specific hunt. These decisions lead to missed shots, crippled birds and most of all, frustration.

We always try our best to decoy waterfowl as close as possible, but having the correct load for the species of waterfowl you're chasing is critical to your successful hunt.

A few recommendation's: When hunting geese—use a 3" or larger shell with BB's or BBB's. Most geese are very stout, hearty birds. Penetration is vital to break bones and dispatch your birds quickly.

With most ducks, we suggest a 3" shell with either BB's, 2's or 3's. The 1 1/8" oz. loads are great for non-stormy days, but you will want to switch to a 1 1/4" oz. magnum load for windy days.

Believe it or not, we see more

missed shots at close ranges than we do at extended ranges just from pure excitement of the hunt.



New Waterfowl Products for 2010/2011



Every year, decoy companies reveal a newer life-like decoy. This year is no exception. Blue Collar Decoys has released a Full Body Widgeon decoy that is unlike no other. With an extremely life-like multiple pose's and painting schemes, these decoys are surely going to add some color to your decoy spread. Check them out at:

www.bluecollardecoys.com

They also offer custom paint schemes to match your specific request and region. Along with the Widgeon decoys, you can find their new Mallard, Eclipse Mallard, Eurasian Widgeon and Black Ducks.



Camouflage Face Paint/Masks... Does It Matter?



So why do you see guys with face paint on and low profile beanies on their heads in lay out blinds or pit blinds? Can ducks and geese really see your face? Can birds make out abnormal shapes? Can waterfowl make see your hands?

The answer is yes. Waterfowl have great vision and when in larger groups or flocks, having that many multiple eyes keying

in your calling, blind and decoys—they definitely can see your face, the glare and movement in any blind, even the slightest movement causes a "flashing effect". This is one of the most overlooked aspects of hunting ducks and geese. You spend a ton of money on your hats, jackets and waders. What about your face and hands? Concealment is your best defense in being hidden. The better you and your blind are

concealed means more waterfowl harvested.



California's Wood Duck Program for CWA



We all love to hunt, but do you ever get the chance to help out a fantastic cause and actually interact on a eye to eye level with waterfowl without a gun? My kids and I spent a day with Robert Franco and Ray Prothero from CWA's California Wood Duck program in the Sutter Area and it was a day we all will never forget. We started the day out early checking out nests, eggs and learning all about one of our most beautiful waterfowl. It did not take long as we were able to band and document hens

sitting in box's built and donated by various groups and organizations. All the data including GPS coordinates, egg counts, return birds to nests, hatchable eggs, chicks lost to predators, land conditions and much more is all sent to CWA to upload into a data base. On the two projects we worked this particular day, over 305 hatchlings have been counted from 38 box's with a lot of eggs left. This is a great program that everyone should take a look at. If interested, please email me

for the contact information.

Great job Robert and Ray!!



"If you turn the imagination loose like a hunting dog, it will often return w/the bird in its mouth"

RVO's Newest Team Member

I am extremely anxious this waterfowl season as a new dog enters my life and a new era starts. I welcome Sadie to our family and team and look forward to creating lifelong memories with my newest hunting partner. Troy from Central Valley Gun Dogs has been feverously bringing up my new girl. Sadie is currently 8 months old and working on her junior hunting title with three

out of four ribbons to go. I cant wait till she comes home in October and we hit the rice fields at the end of the month.



Free Guided Junior Hunt

Last year, we has some great junior hunts at the end of the season at no cost. We were able to really enjoy seeing the young hunters harvest some nice birds, laugh and just have a great time. This year, I would like to donate a guided junior hunt during the season. This would be for two junior hunters (16 or below) and one adult. I am asking that any junior interested just email me why they love waterfowling so

much and how they became involved. We will pick a hunter from the emails and set you up on a trip. With the donated hunt, the juniors hunters participating on the hunt will receive a new duck call and lanyard.

The cut off for the emails will be October 1, 2010.

Lets see why you love to hunt so much?

