



Thursday, October 4th - 4pm - WLDF 258
WiGSS EcoSeries Seminar Presents:



Why doesn't anyone give a damn about breeding waterfowl in California's Central Valley?

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The Prairie Pothole and Boreal Forest regions are widely acknowledged as the epicenters of North American duck production. However, far less is known about waterfowl that remain to breed on what are traditionally categorized as wintering or staging grounds such as California's Central Valley. Annual surveys indicate that in addition to the millions of wintering waterfowl that visit California each year, the state also supports about half a million breeding individuals over the spring and summer. Interannual variation in California's breeding waterfowl populations is most often attributed directly to climate, a problematic explanation given the extent of hydrological alteration. Furthermore, a host of other factors may also affect habitat quality and subsequent reproductive success including human disturbance and predation. I used long-term breeding waterfowl survey data to explore the relative influence of environmental covariates on recent breeding waterfowl populations dynamics and to gain insights into historic conditions.

