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The FL YER

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Post-hunting Season

Reflections on Past Season

It's All in the Time of the Day

Youth Hunt

Why Holding Canvasbacks? Geolocators!

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Photo by Chris Nicolai of a pair of cinnamon teal in Reno

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Cover photo by Chris Nicolai of Daryl Harwell, Chad Harwell, Lynn Warman, Catrina Terry, Chris Eikelberger, Alex Portillo, Emily Nicolai, and Grace Nicolai helping to band canvasbacks in Reno to fit tracking devices called geolocators.

The *FLYER*

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The articles and views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those shared by the NWA membership, its officers, or Board of Directors.

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Nevada Waterfowl Association's mission is to protect, restore, and enhance Nevada's wetlands and the wildlife dependant upon them, especially waterfowl and shorebirds. Nevada Waterfowl Association works closely with organizations such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Lahontan Wetlands Coalition, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, and other conservation organizations that share our goal of preserving Nevada's unique desert wetlands for future generations to enjoy. Nevada Waterfowl Association is a family oriented conservation organization that was created in October 1987 as a 501 ©(3) tax-exempt non-profit corporation by a group of individuals who were alarmed at the rate of loss of Nevada's unique desert wetlands. Nevada Waterfowl Association intends to become a statewide organization through the formation of local chapters throughout the state. Nevada Waterfowl Association is founded upon the principle that all monies raised by the Association in Nevada, will be spent to help Nevada's own wetlands and wetland-dependant wildlife. All donations are tax deductible.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Willie Molini

Oh winter, winter, where art thou? Well, hunting seasons are over, and I hope that all of you had the opportunity to enjoy our great Nevada outdoors. Unfortunately we waterfowl hunters suffered the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" as water for our unique Great Basin wetlands was, to say the least, meager. There was some very limited habitat at the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, Canvasback Club and Carson Lake (Greenhead), but hunting was certainly limited. As I write this, mid-February, the weather seems more like that of late May. Current projections for the 2015 water year look poor, and hence water delivery to our wetlands will possibly be worse than last year. Then we read of long-term climate predictions, by those folks who study such things, about the possibility of future prolonged drought which could last three decades or more! Such a picture makes it hard to be optimistic. Yet we must remain so, as there is little value in being otherwise, especially for the products of nature over which we have little influence or control.

On a brighter note, the 2014 North American fall water fowl population was one of the highest on record. So the resource that we all care so much about is doing remarkably well. These dry wetland conditions do provide us (waterfowl hunters, other wildlife conservationists and wetland managers) the opportunity to do habitat enhancement and wetland infrastructure work that is not possible in wet years. The NWA Board is evaluating potential projects for water delivery enhancement at Humboldt-Toulon WMA, Washoe Lake, Carson Lake and Stillwater NWR wetlands. If any of you have ideas for wetland enhancement projects, we would welcome them. Just contact me or any other Board member listed in the *Flyer*. I can assure you that the NWA Board will remain diligent in seeking opportunities to enhance the use of our precious water resources to maximize their benefit to wetland habitats. We will do so by working closely with our state and Federal wetland management agencies and all other entities that share our interest in maintaining these very valuable wildlife habitats.

As you know the Nevada Legislature is now in session, and this is another front on which we must be diligent to ensure that our wildlife resource and our wise and sustainable use of this resource is not diminished. The Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, which is a coalition of Nevada's major sportsmen's organizations, will play a key role in this effort. I represent NWA on this coalition, and I greatly appreciate the opportunity to be involved in this important work. I will attempt through

this column to keep you updated on legislative happenings of interest to us. A bill has been introduced in the senate to move the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) under the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). This would make NDOW a division under DCNR with the director of NDOW answerable to the Director of DCNR. The Department of Wildlife was established in 1947 as the Department of Fish and Game and remained a stand-alone department for forty-six years until it was moved under DCNR in 1993-2003. It became an autonomous agency again in mid 2003. We strongly believe that this bill is not in the best interest of Nevada sportsmen or Nevada's wildlife as the Department of Wildlife should remain autonomous for many reasons. We will work hard to prevent this bill from becoming law. There will also be introduced a resolution to transfer Federal lands in Nevada to state, county or private ownerships. Again, we feel that such a move would have very negative impacts for sportsmen and other outdoor recreationists. We will strongly oppose this legislation. The Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife is sponsoring a bill to initiate a program designed to educate the public as to the value of hunting, fishing and trapping as the cornerstone of wildlife conservation. This program is based on a similar program in Colorado where recent poll results indicate that 70% of Colorado residents support consumptive use of wildlife. I will report more on this topic in the next *Flyer* as the legislation moves forward.

Finally, please be aware of a couple of important upcoming functions. Your support of these dinners would be most appreciated.

The Wood Duck Project fundraising dinner is scheduled for March 21 in Fallon. The Wood Duck Project has been a great success and this will be the final dinner, although field work will continue. The project has been very capably conducted and supervised by Chris Nicolai, our NWA biologist.

The Reno Chapter dinner will be held May 2 at the Atlantis Hotel in Reno. I hope to see you all there.

William A. Molini, President



REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST SEASON

by Jim Giudici

As I write this, the 2014-15 general duck season has just ended. Or rather, for those who are limited to duck hunting in Northern Nevada, maybe I should call it the season that wasn't given the drought conditions faced in this part of the state. As disappointing as this past season was, it is worth remembering that things could have been a lot worse. The primary public marshes in Lahontan Valley (primarily Stillwater and Carson Lake, aka the Greenhead Club) could have been essentially gone, dried up because of a lack of water rights. But as long-time supporters of Nevada Waterfowl Association know, the water rights purchase program has acquired approximately \$30 million worth of water rights for those marshes. And without water, you have nothing. So it is worth a look back at how far we have come and start focusing on what still needs to be done to restore and save these important marshes.

It was former US Senator Paul Laxalt who took the first serious attempt to craft a federal legislative solution to Northern Nevada's water wars. He was focused on the main issues of securing Congressional approval of the Bi-State agreement between California and Nevada concerning allocation of Truckee River water, saving Pyramid Lake and restoring its fisheries, as well as providing a secure source of water for the Reno/Sparks area. When then-head of the Nevada Department of Wildlife, Willie Molini, asked about the Lahontan Valley marshes, he was told they would not be included in any legislative package. At the same time, the Justice Department took the formal position in court that the marshes had no right to exist because they had no water rights and had then become solely dependent on inefficiencies in the Newlands Project. The US Fish and Wildlife Service instructed the Stillwater manager at that time, Ron Anglin, to prepare to shut Stillwater down because the Service had decided to abandon the marshes and decommission the refuge. The federal government was going to let the marshes be destroyed.

Thankfully, Laxalt's efforts bogged down and did not progress very far by the time he left office. At that point it was Harry Reid, who was then running for his first term in the Senate, who took up the challenge of securing federal legislation. As part of his campaign, he promised to include the marshes and ensure

they would be saved by buying water rights for them. NWA had already bought the first water rights and tried to transfer them to Stillwater. That transfer was blocked because using water rights for wildlife purposes was not an authorized use of Newlands Project water. A key part of the legislation that was ultimately passed as Public Law 101-618 made the transfer of water rights to the marshes a legal use of water. The late Congresswoman Barbara Vucanovich got the legislation through the House of Representatives once she was assured that water rights for the marshes would be treated like any other water right in the Newlands Project. And, of course, newly-elected Senator Reid got the bill passed through the Senate.

But President Bush had been advised by his staff not to sign the legislation into law. It would be the first time in the nation's history that the federal government was going to obligate itself to buy Reclamation Project water rights for a national wildlife refuge. There also were concerns about the impact such a water rights purchase program would have on the existing agricultural interests in the Newlands Project. As the clock literally ticked down to the midnight deadline for President Bush to sign PL 101-618 into law, NWA went into action.

NWA's founding president was Rick Heaney, who happened to be a good friend and duck hunting partner of Sig Rogich. Sig was President Bush's press secretary. Rick called Sig to explain the situation. Sig had been following the legislation and had previously been briefed about the water rights purchase program by NWA representatives. The way I heard it, after Rick's phone call, Sig went into President Bush's office and told him that he owed Sig a favor and Sig was calling in his chips: "Mr. President, I am asking you to save Stillwater because that is where I used to hunt ducks with my buddy Rick Heaney whose organization helped put this legislation together." The rest, as they say, is history. President Bush signed PL 101-618 into law.

I find it ironic that without the duck hunters PL 101-618 would not have become law. All of the parties to PL 101-618 got what they wanted out of the legislation except for us duck hunters without whom nobody would have gotten anything. A key part of the legislation called for the transfer of Carson Lake and Pas-

ture to the State of Nevada to become a state wildlife management area. I intend to say more about this subject in a later article. For now, let's just say that it should not take 20 years to get the transfer done.

The legislation also calls for the acquisition of sufficient water rights to restore and maintain 25,000 acres of primary marsh habitat at Stillwater, Carson Lake and on the Fallon Tribal wetlands. Because the Pyramid Lake Tribe succeeded in limiting transfers of water to the wetlands at the reduced duty rate of 2.99 afa instead of their existing duty rates of 3.5 or 4.5 afa, there probably will never be enough water rights available to purchase for the marshes, let alone enough money to pay for them, in order to attain the 25,000 acre target. We may still see 25,000 acres of marsh habitat in major flood years, but evaporation will quickly reduce the amount of marsh acreage.

It is true that at this time some \$30 million worth of water rights have been purchased for the marshes by the USF&W Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife and NWA. Without those water rights, the marshes would be gone. But, the water that is available for the marshes is not being managed as well as it should be in order to get the maximum habitat available for the birds. There is a dispute brewing with the Service as to how to manage the water that has been bought for Stillwater. That dispute is over the timing of delivery of water to the marshes. For example, this past year Stillwater took most of its water in the spring. Carson Lake, as well as the privately-owned Canvasback Club, took as much of their water as they could in the fall, once the weather cooled and the evaporation rate declined. The feds seem to think that a fall delivery is designed solely to help the duck hunting at the expense of helping shore birds in the spring. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In low water years, like we are experiencing now, it is important that whatever amount of water that is available for the marshes be used to get the most bang for the buck by focusing on the most important habitat needs of the majority of birds. The Lahontan Valley marshes are like a gas station in the middle of the Great Basin Desert where migratory birds such as waterfowl and shore birds need to rest and feed in order to make it across the desert during both their southern migration

in the fall and their northern migration in the spring. That is the most important function of these marshes. Providing nesting habitat for any local birds must take a secondary position to providing as much feed and cover as possible to help the larger numbers of migratory birds.

When the shore birds show up in the spring they are not wading through the mud flats just to cool their feet. They are feeding on the explosion of invertebrates that occurs in the spring. Those insects are an important source of protein and calcium that both shore birds and waterfowl need to travel through the desert and then lay healthy eggs once they got to their northern nesting areas. It takes some time, approximately 28 days after the winter ice melts, in order for the invertebrate populations to build up to the point where birds can efficiently feed on them. Both shore birds and waterfowl follow the spring thaw as they migrate back north through the Lahontan Valley marshes gorging on those invertebrates.

The marshes are at the end of the Newlands Project. It is not possible to just turn a valve in order to deliver water to the marshes and create habitat for the spring migrations. The irrigation season typically starts between March 15th and April 1st of each year. Water that is called for delivery to the marshes must first pass through the system and takes some time to flow from Lahontan Dam to the marshes. Once the water is spread out on the ponds, it still takes another 28 days for the invertebrate populations to get cooking. Usually by that time, the majority of the shore bird spring migration has already passed through Lahontan Valley. Those trailing birds that do take

advantage of the invertebrate feeding opportunity, might be induced to try nesting. But in low water years, the habitat where they are attracted to nest will soon dry up and such nesting will be unsuccessful.

Because there are so many variables in play in Lahontan Valley, the only sure way to maximize the habitat for the spring shore bird migration is to ensure as much water as possible is frozen in the ice over the winter. That way, whenever the thaw occurs each year, there will be water in place to start the invertebrate life cycle in time to provide the habitat and feeding source necessary for shore birds to migrate through on their way back north.

Of course, delivering more water in the fall instead of in the spring also helps maximize the habitat available for the fall migrations of both shore birds and waterfowl. Having a more healthy and vibrant marsh necessarily increases the duck hunting. That is a by-product of proper management.

So what happened this past year at Stillwater? Most of the water available to the refuge was taken in the spring and was used to fill deep ponds in the sanctuary area. Keeping those deep ponds full even during the heat and high evaporation rate of summer did not provide nearly as much feed as the same amount of water could have provided if used on other areas. And personally, it is not as if there is a critical need for Stillwater to maintain deep water ponds because there are plenty of deep water areas for migratory birds throughout Northern Nevada. Pyramid Lake and Walker Lake are just two of those larger deep water areas. In fact, as Walker continues to dry up, it is be-

coming a major habitat for many species of migratory birds.

Even though this past season may have been a bust, that is no reason for us to give up our efforts. When the water rights purchase program started, nearly 20 years ago now, there was a great deal of cooperation and agreement among all the interested parties over how the water would be managed to provide the best habitat for the most birds. NWA then became focused on fighting to get as much water for the marshes as possible and we got distracted from watching how the water was being used. Now that the fight over the duty rate is over, we need to once again turn to how whatever water is available each year is managed. This current year is shaping up to be even worse than last year. Such dry conditions, however, may provide opportunities to do some projects that will enhance the marshes when the water returns. These are our challenges now if we are ever going to restore the Lahontan Valley marshes to what they should be even in these dry years.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE SPONSORS OF THE FALLON DINNER!

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IT'S ALL IN THE TIME OF DAY

by Darren Hamrey



As duck hunters we are the most dedicated, of all types of hunters, to punishing ourselves. It often seems that no matter how early we wake up, it is never early enough. No matter how many decoys we pack, we could always use more. And regardless to how empty we have made our bank account buying hunting gear, we can always find a way to make it even emptier!

It seems that we actually believe that the time, effort, and money spent will actually result in more birds in the bag, as well as more successful hunts under our belts. Now, consider this, you've awaked early, you're the first to the "spot," you have the perfect decoy spread, then you sit for hours

without so much as a chance to click the safety off. Then, all of a sudden you see a truck pull up in the distance. It's midday, hot, the bluebirds are chirping, and this guy jumps out with his one bag of deeks, moseys over to a spot not far from the road, plops down and immediately begins to shoot!

You've done everything right. By the book! And sleepy head Joe Schmo over there does everything "wrong" and gets rewarded for it! This can't be right! I mean, seriously?

Hasn't this same scenario happened to all of us? I know it has happened to me on more occasions than I would like to share. We always expect that if we "get things right" then "POOF," the birds will appear and

magically decoy right in the hole, feet hangin'. WRONG! We forgot to factor in that four-letter word, "LUCK!"

My old man taught me how to hunt at a young age. He taught me how to shoot, what to look for when crossing the ice, what this duck and that duck was (he couldn't teach me how to set decoys because we didn't own any), and he told me something when I was very young that has always stuck with me...."it's all in the time of day."

Well, in simpler terms, that just means that sometimes we need a little luck. Luck comes in many forms; an unexpected storm, a wind shift, an eagle that has so graciously jumped all the birds, you just happened to be sitting in the exact spot the birds want to



be...by accident. All of these things happen but have nothing to do with the preparation of the hunt. However, they can make the difference in the outcome of the hunt drastically.

These types of things have happened so many times over my 29 years of duck hunting. Times like, right when I'm about to call it a day then the duck faucet turns on as if the Duck Gods just can't stand a moment in the marsh without me, practically forcing me to stay and shoot my limit. I mean, hasn't everyone experienced this? It reminds me of a recent hunt we

had on a calm January day.

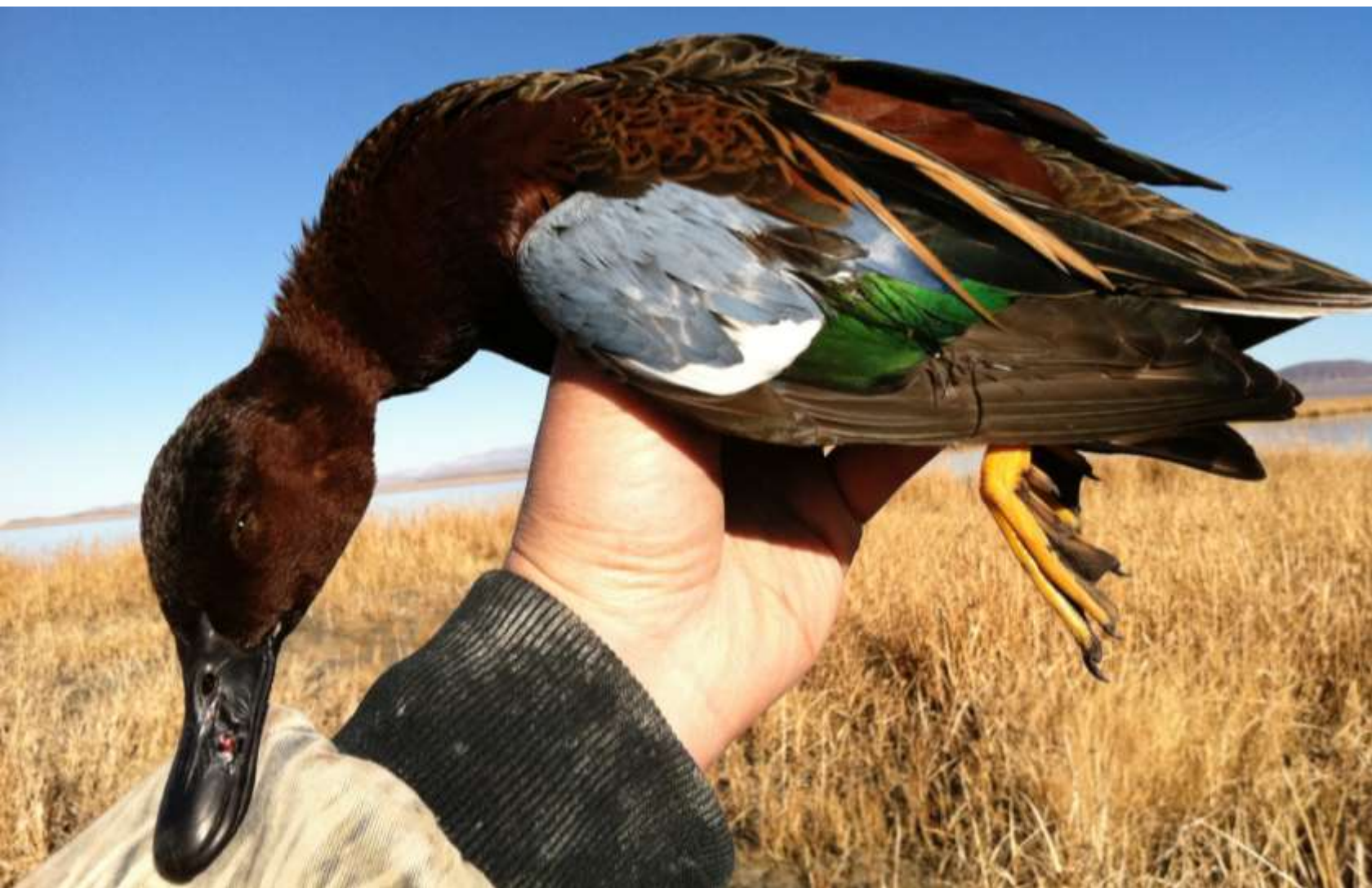
There we were! We had been set up since dark and it was now nearing the 11 o'clock mark. This is generally about the time I start thinking about whether or not I should stop wasting my life away staring into the sun. Then a slight breeze picked up. It had been dead calm all morning. "Uh oh, maybe something will happen." Then along came our first candidate, a drake spoonie, "BOOM," one Mr. Smiley in the blind!

A few more ducks started to bounce around as the breeze continued to stiffen. Before too long, it was a full-blown wind and the sky was alive with birds. A couple more spoonies dropped in, then some green-wingers, and then the mallards. We didn't think things could get any more exciting when we spotted a dark body among a flock of green-wingers quickly approaching. They hooked in right at the edge of the decoys, as I dumped the

first cinnamon teal of the day. Not long after that, a second flock of cinnamon graced green-wingers approached, but this time there were two. My buddies Tom and Justin stoned both of them, as well as a couple more green-wingers.

I think we shot one more mallard after that, before the wind died down and the ducks stopped flying. We had sat there all day but only shot ducks for that small 35-minute window. Had we missed that window of opportunity we would have surely gone home empty handed with our tails between our legs. Although the hunt didn't last long, it was still a hunt for the ages. If we hadn't stuck around we would have missed it completely.

So, when I look back on all those valuable lessons my old man taught me, I can honestly say that the greatest lesson I've learned is that, no matter how prepared you are for the hunt, it's all in the time of day!



A YOUTH HUNT TO REMEMBER

by Dave Stanley



For almost 20 years the State of Nevada has offered a Youth Waterfowl Hunt for youngsters under the age of 16. Originally these hunts took place on a Saturday in September, several weeks before the opening of the general waterfowl season. About 4 years ago the suggestion was made to the Wildlife Commission to approve an additional hunt after the season closed, in early February. Because Federal regulations allow for 2 days of Youth hunting outside the season framework, another day of youth opportunity became part of the Nevada waterfowl season structure. Extremely limited water (wetlands) in the Western Region of the state this September provided little opportunity for the kids on the early hunt. Fortunately, conditions improved somewhat by February.

Our February hunt was planned to take place at the Canvasback Club. The Club's members have supported the Youth Hunt since its inception and there is a loyal following here for continuing the commitment to youth waterfowlers. I have always felt the Youth Hunts were the best days of the waterfowl season. My kids were young enough to hunt when the program started

and now they are sadly, much too old. I, and many hunters like me, always find a few youngsters so that we get to go! This February was no exception.

Josie Vaughn and Zeke Brooke were my guests along with their dads Kenny and Eric. Josie had not been successful harvesting a duck after a few earlier hunts, so this was our goal for the morning. Zeke has shot his fair share of ducks for a 14 year old and is quickly becoming a very skilled waterfowler. Both of them are a joy to spend a day in the marsh with. After getting the kids up early, we set up in a little pothole and waited for the fun to begin. The morning broke clear and calm with a fair number of ducks flying around. Zeke scored first with a green wing teal. While I was out of the blind retrieving a duck, I heard the kids fire a couple of shots, followed by the unmistakable shouts of celebration. I returned to find out that Josie had fired once and cleanly killed her first duck, a green wing teal zipping through the decoys!!!! Less than 2 hours into the day and it was already a huge success. Zeke shot a couple more ducks and we returned to the cabin for breakfast.

The afternoon hunt started earlier

than planned as the wind began to blow around 11:30a.m. We were hunting a bigger body of water, with ample cover to hide everyone, so we were joined by John Carrington (the Ranch Foreman at the Canvasback Club) and his guests, seven year old Grace Nicolai and her dad Chris. For any of you not familiar with the Fallon Wood Duck Project, Chris is the brains behind the valuable research being gathered from this small but important population of wood ducks in the Nevada desert and Grace is his duck banding dynamo. Grace had never shot a flying duck and honestly we were just hoping one would land in the decoys in range of her single shot .410.

Since we were hunting bigger water, we thought the kids would enjoy putting out a big spread. They did!!! When the work was complete, they were hunting over more than 150 mallard, pintail, teal, red-head, canvasback and goose decoys. The wind was increasing and the pintails began to fly. For much of the afternoon there were flocks of 5 to 75 sprig circling over our pond and the surrounding area. It was quite a sight. Occasionally a couple of widgeon, teal, redheads or cans would give us a look.

The strong wind and subsequent rain proved to make shooting a bit more difficult for everyone but they were getting some opportunity, killing the occasional duck and having a blast.

Late in the afternoon a small bunch of teal buzzed the decoys, getting past Josie and Zeke before they saw the teal. Grace shouldered her gun, her dad pulled back the hammer on the .410 and as the teal flared to leave the spread, "Amazing" Grace swung on one and dropped it like a champ! As you can imagine, a rather large celebration ensued with several rounds of high-fives, big smiles and lots of picture taking. It was one of those moments in time we will never forget. A fitting end to a perfect day.

Many thanks to Grace, Josie, Zeke and their dads for sharing this Youth Day with John and I. The fun that was had by all, the comradery between the kids, the beautiful ducky weather and of course the waterfowl, made this a special day for all involved. Hopefully this story will inspire more hunters, whether they be moms, dads, granddads, neighbors, etc., to find a youngster who wants the opportunity to hunt but just needs a little help. You will never regret a minute of it.



BIOLOGIST CORNER

by Chris Nicolai

One of the most common questions I get as a biologist is “where do the birds go”? With ducks and geese, we have a pretty good answer to that question due to banding data and knowing the location of where they were originally banded and then where a responsible hunter shot and reported the true location where they shot the banded bird. However, that only allows understanding of where the bird was that day it made the mistake of being shot. Information like this is excellent for some assessments, and was the driver for the development of the Western Mallard Model which showed that mallards nesting west of southern Alberta were not mixing much with the mid-continent mallards. This type of information allowed the Pacific Flyway to develop harvest models which were separated from the cyclic nature of the prairie breeding midcontinent mallards which increase and decrease frequently, rather than more stable breeding locations of western mallards.

However, what does information does band recovery data miss? We do get a few mallard band recoveries from Alberta. Do all of the adult mallards go to Alberta to molt and just a few got shot there before returning to Nevada for the winter? Or, do some want to stay in Nevada for molt? If so, should we be maintaining wetlands in

the summer for molting Nevada birds?

Aerial surveys also help inform movements and use of habitats. However, again, that is only a snapshot in time. If a count is done each of 4 weeks and the same number of 10,000 is counted, were there 10,000 birds using the area, or could it be 40,000? If the latter, it suggests that birds are flowing through at a good rate.

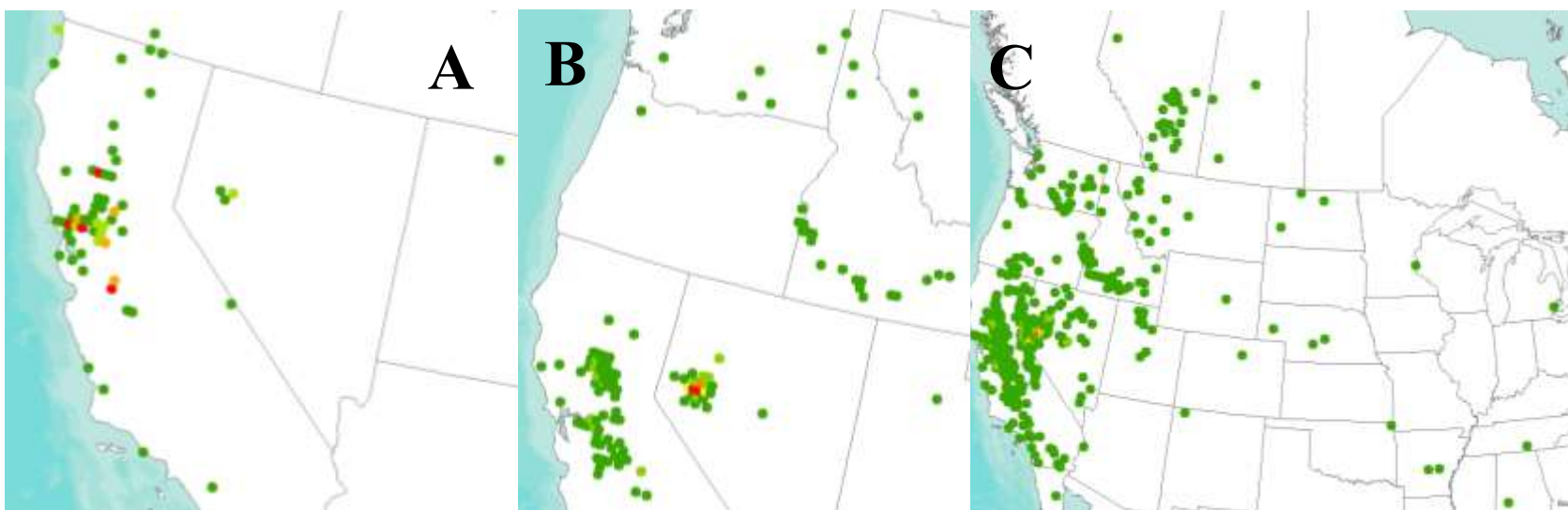
We manage migratory birds as populations. As mentioned before, mallards have the 2 populations, but there is also a third one (eastern mallards). Canvasback, redhead, pintail, and other birds are managed as a single continent-wide population. However, habitat managers manage their piece of the world, be it a hunting club, a national wildlife refuge, etc. A larger scale of habitat planning is performed by the Joint Ventures (JV for short). Nevada is included in the Intermountain West JV. The JVs are the primarily organizations with habitat management goals to satisfy the needs of birds which use those joint ventures.

However, there has been a long disconnect between habitat and population managers. In a dream world, the goal would be to maximize habitat quality to satisfy the year round needs of all birds; this is actually a goal of the current North American Waterfowl Management Plan revision. One key

question, from the example above, is how long do individual birds use each habitat type, or JV? I have included 3 maps for canvasbacks, mallards, and wood ducks which have been banded in western Nevada and the dots show where bands were shot and reported by hunters. However, for canvasbacks, note how no recoveries occur in Canada or Alaska. Although canvasbacks breed throughout the Intermountain West, the bulk of their breeding range includes the prairies and boreal forest, and it is not reflected in the band recovery data.

So, how can we learn which JV's species of ducks use annually, and how long they use each JV? Traditional VHF radios are difficult as you have to go out and track them down. Alternatively, there are satellite transmitters, but they run >\$4000 EACH! Instead, NDOW has funded Nevada Waterfowl Association to use a new technology called geolocators. Geolocators run about \$130 each. They work by using a light meter to collect light data each minute and attach each minute's worth of data to a clock. By building light curves and using the clock, sunrise and sunset can be calculated. And similar to old school sailors, this information can be used to calculate longitude and latitude.

We purchased 64 geolocators



These 3 figures show band recoveries of (A) Canvasbacks, (B) Wood Ducks, and (C) Mallards banded in western Nevada. As mentioned in the text, the distributions of recovery dots probably captures the distribution of mallards and wood ducks, but is likely missing more northern areas for canvasbacks. However, these locations are where they were shot. One thing to learn is what proportion of ducks use each of these areas and how long they spend in each area.

in 2013 (fitted to 48 wood ducks and 16 mallards) and 150 more in 2014 (50 each on canvasbacks, mallards, and wood ducks). We chose mallards and canvasbacks as they represent opposite ends of duck habitat use. The wood ducks were chose as there is potential to gain more insight into the long term wood duck project in Fallon. One caveat for geolocators is that you have to physically reencounter and download the data. For the mallards and canvasbacks, we will have to wait until hunters

shoot and report the banded duck. We attached contact information on a plastic legbands for all species to help get the data. For wood ducks, hunters will shoot a few of them, but most of the downloads will be a result of catching the alive duck again. So far, we have downloaded 10 wood ducks with >14 months of movement data, and we can tell they bred because wood ducks nest in cavities in trees or in man-made nest boxes and light meter collects light data. This is new information because there has never been a study examining what proportion of most ducks, especially wood ducks, attempt to breed in each year. Hopefully the results from these geolocators will shed some light on the movement of ducks within and beyond Nevada.



These photos show how the geolocators were attached to either a legband or a nasal saddle and how easy it is to download the data onto a laptop in the field.



NWA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes, I want to join NWA and help in the effort to save Nevada's endangered desert Wetlands and the wildlife that is dependant on them.

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Email Address _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| _____ Canvasback (under 16) | \$5.00 |
| _____ Student Membership | \$10.00 |
| _____ Regular Membership | \$25.00 |
| _____ Sponsor Membership | \$100.00 |
| _____ Marsh Sponsor | \$500.00 |
| _____ Life Membership | \$1,000.00 |

*Available in five annual payments of \$200.00

☐ Enclosed is my check or Money Order for \$ _____

☐ Please charge to my VISA or Mastercard

Card# _____ Card Type _____ (Visa or MasterCard only) Expiration Date _____

Signature: _____

Please mail to: Nevada Waterfowl Association
5081 West Albuquerque Road
Reno, Nevada 89511

6TH ANNUAL WOOD DUCK EVENT

AND FUNDRAISER – ALL AGES ENCOURAGED

FALLON CONVENTION CENTER / MARCH 21, 2015

5:30AM

Duck Banding

9:30AM

Nest Box Checking

Noon

Doors Open - Kid's Stuff

1pm

Free Spaghetti Lunch

1:45pm

Presentation

2:30pm

Fundraiser

\$1000 raffle in which each banded
wood duck gets a raffle ticket!

Artwork • Black Brant Banding Trip • Hunting Trips • Giant's Tickets
Cold Bay, Alaska Hunting Trip • Guns • Kid's gun • Decoys • camping gear

Tickets are FREE before event

\$20 at door

FREE



For Tickets Call:

Chris 775.830.1632

Ben 775.233.0678

Catrina 916.223.2156

For Information: NEVADAWATERFOWL.ORG