

2023 California Waterfowl Breeding Population Survey Report¹

By
Caroline Brady and Melanie Weaver
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Branch/Waterfowl Unit
1010 Riverside Pkwy
Sacramento, CA 95605

Summary

The annual California Department of Fish and Wildlife Waterfowl Breeding Population Survey has been conducted since 1948. The survey methodology was redesigned and updated in 1991 and has been conducted in its current form since 1992. The purpose of the survey is to estimate waterfowl populations in major concentration areas of the state to inform conservation and management. Data from the survey were incorporated into the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Adaptive Harvest Management framework for Western mallards in 2008 and has since been an integral part of duck harvest management in the Pacific Flyway.

In 2023, the survey was conducted from 24–29 April in the Central Valley and 17–19 May in northeastern California. The total breeding population of ducks in the survey area increased 30% from 2022 but remains 8% below the long-term average (LTA). Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) increased 13% from 2022 and are 38% below the LTA. Gadwalls (*Mareca strepera*) increased 16% from 2022 and are 2% above the long-term average. Cinnamon teal (*Spatula cyanoptera*) increased 45% from 2022 and are 21% below the long-term average. Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) in northeastern California increased 30% compared to 2022 and are 36% above the long-term average.

Rainfall was above or near long-term averages across all strata and snow-water content was well above average throughout much of the Sierra and Cascade ranges. Central Valley water storage levels of major reservoirs are above average for all but Trinity Reservoir. Water allocations for wetland management are 100% for all Central Valley Project management areas. Water allocation to the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Northeastern California is unclear at this time, but water deliveries are expected to remain limited. Other areas in Northeastern California should have adequate water supply for wetland management.

¹ Data are preliminary.

Methods

The procedures used in conducting the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Waterfowl Breeding Population Survey (hereafter California Survey) generally follow those set forth in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Standard Operating Procedures Manual (SOP) for the Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Conditions Survey (USFWS and Canadian Wildlife Service 1987). Survey design and SOPs for the California Survey are as follows:

Strata — The original survey included 11 strata which were: Sacramento Valley, Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta, San Joaquin Grasslands, San Joaquin Desert, Suisun Marsh, Napa and Santa Rosa Valleys, Salinas Valley, Owens Valley, Northeastern California, East Valley (i.e., Central Valley) and West Valley (i.e., Central Valley; Zezulak et al. 1991). Salinas and Owens Valleys were discontinued after 1994; therefore, population estimates in this report only include data from the nine strata currently surveyed (Fig. 1).

Survey Timing — In the Central Valley and Suisun Marsh, about half of all duck nests are initiated by the last week of April. A range of 48–54 days existed between 10% and 90% of nest initiation in the Suisun Marsh during five years of study (McLandress et al. 1996). In northeastern California, nest initiations are later due to the increase in latitude, higher elevations, and correspondingly cooler temperatures. About 50% of mallard nests in northeastern California are initiated by mid-May (Zezulak et al. 1991). Based upon these regional nesting chronologies, surveys are conducted during the latter half of April in the Central Valley and by mid-May in northeastern California.

Survey flights are scheduled to begin no later than two hours after sunrise to ensure adequate lighting and avoid detection problems. Surveys are completed no later than 1400 hours, which facilitates use of Sacramento Executive Airport as a daily stopping point (except in northeastern California).

Survey Sample — The California Survey consists of nine strata (Fig. 1; see Zezulak et al. 1991). A stratum is a defined geographic unit encompassing areas of similar waterfowl densities and is generally of a single or unique complex of habitat type(s). Most strata are continuous spatial units except the Northeastern stratum, where mountainous terrain separates each wetland complex (Fig. 1).

A transect is the sampling unit of the California Survey, which can have multiple segments, be continuous and or disjunct. Segments are a subunit of a transect, most of which total 18 statute miles (29 km), except in the Suisun Marsh, Napa-Santa Rosa and Northeastern strata. Segments in these areas are disjunct as they are designed to fit within the geographic features of the valleys (i.e., Napa-Santa Rosa and Northeastern) or to provide a representative sample of areas surveyed before the 1991 redesign (i.e., Suisun Marsh and Northeastern).

Survey Flight Path — Transects within the Central Valley are oriented 45° from true north. Most waterways in the Central Valley are oriented north-south or east-west, and the prescribed orientation is intended to minimize biases associated with transects that might run parallel or perpendicular to waterways. Latitude and longitude coordinates define each segment's beginning and ending points.

Transect Placement — A randomly selected starting point for generating transects within the Central Valley was established just south of Red Bluff. Segments through most of the Central Valley are located at parallel 14 mi (22.5 km) intervals, except in the San Joaquin Desert where segments are spaced 28 mi (45 km) apart due to low waterfowl densities. East and West Valley starting points were randomly selected and transects were placed between the border of the intensive agricultural areas of the Central Valley and the 500 ft (152 m) elevation line.

Fixed-wing Flight Procedure — The California Survey requires one CDFW pilot and two CDFW observer-biologists. The pilot's responsibility is navigation, including waypoint delineation of segment beginning and ending points. The pilot maintains an air speed of 90–110 mph (145–180 km/hr.) and an altitude of 150 ft (45 m) above ground level. Each observer counts all ducks, geese, mute swans, American coots (*Fulica americana*) and Sandhill cranes (*Antigone canadensis*) within 660 ft (200 m) on each side of the aircraft, creating a total sample width of 1/4 mi (400 m). Observations are recorded using a voice recorder or a laptop computer that archives observations using the Hodges Survey Program (Jack Hodges, USFWS v2014).

Visibility Bias Correction — Several factors (e.g., flight speed, vegetation) preclude ground coverage of most segments. Therefore, the California Survey uses the double-sampling procedure (Koneff et al. 2008), similar to the USFWS SOP. This method incorporates a “complete count” of select segments to correct for detection bias, referred to as a visibility correction factor (VCF). A helicopter is used to obtain the VCF in California. The VCF is conducted in all strata except the Napa-Santa Rosa stratum. Segments were selected based on the relative abundance of waterfowl, representative habitats, and proximity to airports.

Helicopter Flight Procedure — The VCF crew consists of two CDFW observer-biologists and a CDFW helicopter pilot. The helicopter is flown at 40–45 mph (65–70 km/hr) and an altitude of 100 ft (30 m) along segments. The helicopter crew records waterfowl in the same manner as fixed-wing observers.

Data Analysis — The Survey Transcribe Program (Jack Hodges, USFWS v2014) is used to transcribe observations from sound files (.wav). The program produces an ASCII file and a copy is converted into a CSV file which is edited based on criteria in Appendix I. The same process is completed for helicopter data. The Survey Transcribe Program is used to transcribe voice recorder data. Once data are finalized, population estimates are generated using a customized program in R (G. Zimmerman USFWS 2015; R-Core Team 2023, R Studio Team 2023).

A “total indicated birds” (TIB) is calculated for each species on survey segments from both fixed-wing and helicopter data using criteria from previous research (Zezulak et al. 1991, Appendix I). The VCF is calculated for each species based on the ratio of TIB from the fixed-wing crew divided by the TIB from the helicopter crew on replicated segments. The current year VCF is compared to long-term VCF estimates at various pooling levels (e.g., 2 years, 5 years, 10 years, etc.), as well as the USFWS long-term average in the midcontinent. The current year VCF is used if specific criteria are met (Appendix II). The long-term average (CDFW or USFWS) is used for uncommon species (e.g., redhead, *Aythya americana*). A density is derived by dividing the TIB by the segment area (mi²). A mean density is calculated for each species within each

stratum by averaging the densities of each transect. The stratum area for expansion is calculated by subtracting the transect area surveyed (i.e., segment area) from the stratum area. The mean density for each species is multiplied by the VCF then by the expansion factor to derive a population estimate for each stratum.

Results

The 2023 California Survey was flown from 24–29 April in the Central Valley and 17–19 May in northeastern California. Transect-segment 7-20 in the northeastern stratum was not flown. The survey was 95% complete in the Central Valley and 95% complete in Northeastern, for a total survey effort of 95%.

Total breeding ducks in the survey area increased 30% from 2022 (mean (\bar{x}) = 495,438; \pm Standard Error (SE) = 126,681; Coefficient of Variation (CV) = 0.26) and are 9% below long-term average (Table 1). The most abundant species of ducks were mallards (\bar{x} = 202,108; SE = 28,506; CV = 0.14), followed by northern shoveler (\bar{x} = 107,490; SE = 30,790; CV = 0.29), gadwall (\bar{x} = 88,251; SE = 21,369; CV = 0.24), and cinnamon teal (\bar{x} = 33,477; SE = 8,229; CV = 0.25). Mallards, gadwall, northern shovelers, and cinnamon teal comprised 87% of ducks observed.

Mallards increased 13% from 2022 and are 38% below the long-term average. Gadwalls increased 16% from 2022 and are 2% above long-term average. Northern shovelers increased 134% from 2022 and are 236% above long-term average. Cinnamon teal increased 45% from 2022 and are 21% below long-term average.

Other, less numerous, duck species present in the survey include American green-winged teal (*Anas carolinensis*), American wigeon (*Anas americana*), northern pintail (*Anas acuta*), wood duck (*Aix sponsa*), canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*), lesser scaup (*Aythya affinis*), redhead, ring-necked duck (*Aythya collaris*), Common goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*), bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*), and ruddy ducks (*Oxyura jamaicensis*). These species comprise 12% of total ducks (Table 1).

Other species observed on the survey included: American coots, Canada geese, sandhill cranes and mute swans (*Cygnus olor*; Table 1). Statewide estimates for American coots increased 11% from 2022 (\bar{x} = 209,078; SE = 78,337; CV = 0.37) and are 15% below the long-term average (Table 1). Canada geese are counted in all strata (Appendix IV); however, the Northeastern stratum is used to monitor the traditional breeding population within California. Canada geese in the Northeastern stratum increased 30% from 2022 (\bar{x} = 60,353; SE = 14,900; CV = 0.25) and are 36% above long-term average. Sandhill cranes also nest in the Northeastern stratum and are down 19% from 2022 (\bar{x} = 2,691; SE = 3,723; CV = 1.38) but are 36% above their long-term average. In 2007, CDFW began monitoring feral mute swans. Mute swan estimates increased 251% from 2022 (\bar{x} = 4,045; SE = 1,205 CV = 0.30) and are 468% above their 16-year average.

Weather conditions throughout the winter of 2022 and spring of 2023 brought abundant precipitation to much of the survey area (Table 2; NOAA 2023, Western Regional Climate Center 2023). Precipitation throughout the Central Valley was above average (average z-score = 0.88) in all but two strata. Northeastern (z-score = -0.37) and the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta (z-score = -0.13) experienced moderately less precipitation (Table 2).

Snow-water content in the Northeastern stratum overall was 39% above average (Table 3; Natural Resource Conservation Service 2023).

Discussion

The winter of 2022 and spring of 2023 brought abundant precipitation, interrupting the consecutive three-year drought in California. Spring precipitation totals ranged from 4 - 97% above average in all but 2 strata; Northeastern and the Delta were down 44% and 6%, respectively (Table 2). Compared to 2022, total ducks were up 30%, and only 9% below the long-term average (LTA). Mallard (13%), gadwall (16%), and cinnamon teal (45%) were up statewide compared to 2022; these three species comprise 65% of all ducks observed.

Despite a 20% reduction from 2022's estimates, Northeastern still comprised the majority (33%; 67,124 birds; Appendix IV) of the state's breeding of mallards. While still 52% below the LTA, mallards in the Sacramento Valley increased 38% (44,938 birds) from 2022.

Similar to mallard, gadwall estimates in Northeastern were down 26% compared to 2022, but still hosted the majority (45%; 53,892 birds) observed. There was a notable increase in the gadwall estimate in the San Joaquin Grasslands (206%; 13,930 birds) and San Joaquin Desert (1500%; 13,470 birds).

Full water allotments are forecasted in the Central Valley for wetland management and rice planting. Rice planting is estimated to be close to average, at 485,000 acres. Water allocations on Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex are projected to be low despite adequate water supply conditions. Other areas of northeastern California should receive adequate water supply for wetland management.

Abundant rains may improve habitat however, the lack of adequate upland nesting habitat and brood water throughout California will continue to drive the decline of local breeding duck populations. Efforts to improve breeding habitat conditions have increased in California with programs that incentivize landowners to provide suitable nesting and brood habitat for ducks; in 2023 over 17,000 acres have been enrolled in habitat programs. For more information, please see the CDFW Lands Program page at: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Lands/CWHP/Private-Lands-Programs>

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Figure 1. California Breeding Waterfowl Population Survey map.

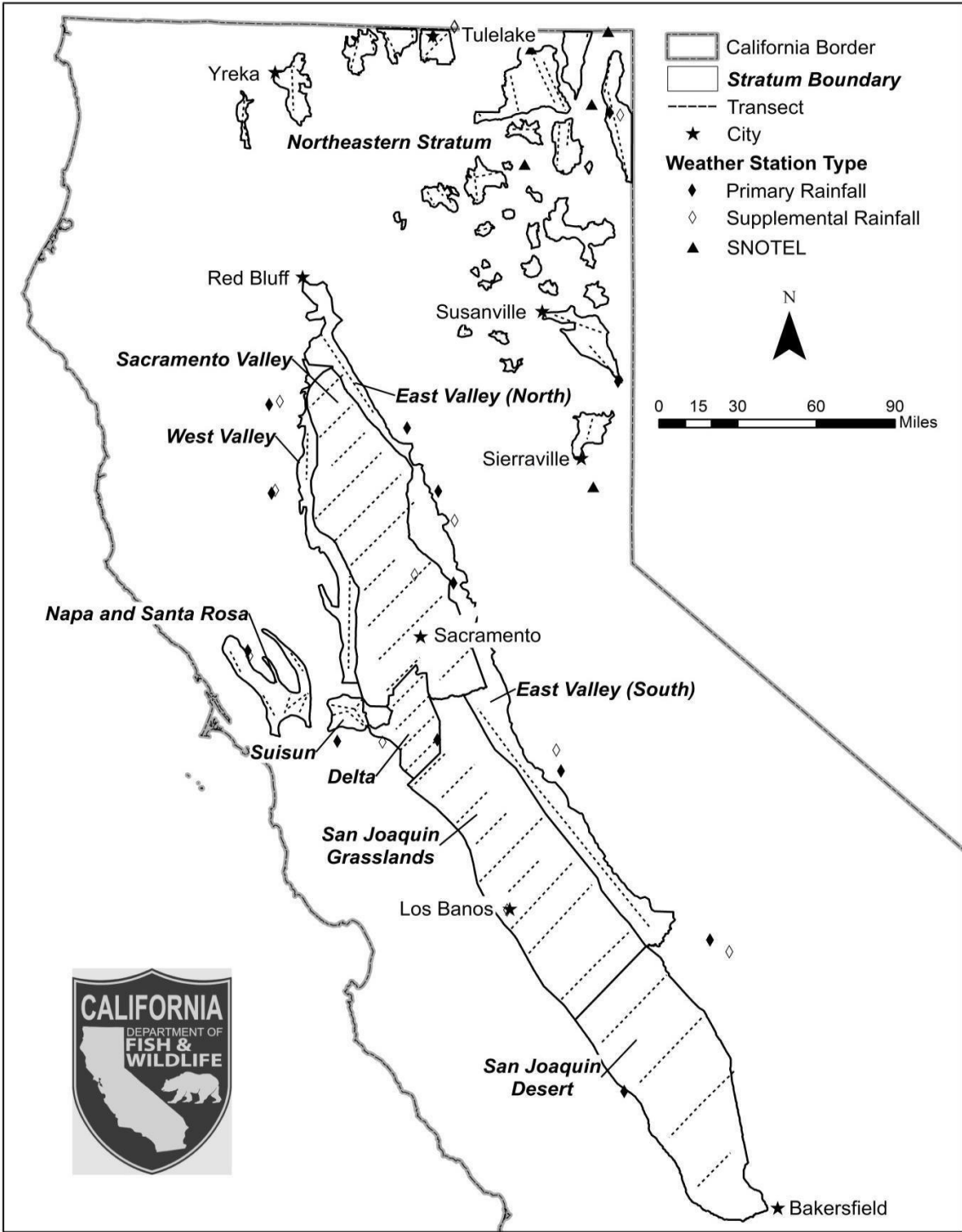


Table 1. California Breeding Waterfowl Population Survey estimates and standard errors.

| | 2023 | SE | CV | 2022 | SE | LTA¹ | % Change | % Change |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | | | | | | 2022 | LTA |
| Mallard | 202,108 | 28,506 | 0.14 | 179,393 | 29,275 | 324,241 | 13% | -38% |
| Gadwall | 88,251 | 21,369 | 0.24 | 76,391 | 21,855 | 86,215 | 16% | 2% |
| American Wigeon | 5,097 | 1,576 | 0.31 | 3,344 | 1,189 | 4,493 | 52% | 13% |
| Green-winged Teal | 11,845 | 5,274 | 0.45 | 10,125 | 6,510 | 4,145 | 17% | 186% |
| Cinnamon Teal | 33,477 | 8,229 | 0.25 | 23,028 | 6,317 | 42,123 | 45% | -21% |
| Northern Shoveler | 107,490 | 30,790 | 0.29 | 46,015 | 10,855 | 34,531 | 134% | 211% |
| Northern Pintail | 6,056 | 2,080 | 0.34 | 4,177 | 1,609 | 6,961 | 45% | -13% |
| Wood Duck | 4,032 | 1,790 | 0.44 | 3,855 | 2,148 | 8,079 | 5% | -50% |
| Redhead | 9,852 | 5,704 | 0.58 | 891 | 830 | 4,053 | 1006% | 143% |
| Canvasback | 4,145 | 1,927 | 0.46 | 433 | 454 | 1,148 | 857% | 261% |
| Lesser Scaup | 489 | 469 | 0.62 | 3,394 | 1,231 | 4,537 | -86% | -89% |
| Ring-necked Duck | 239 | 245 | 0.46 | 2,348 | 1,088 | 977 | -90% | -76% |
| Goldeneye | 338 | 315 | 0.97 | 0 | 0 | 291 | | 16% |
| Bufflehead | 2,024 | 880 | 0.47 | 5,510 | 1,756 | 3,376 | -3% | -40% |
| Ruddy Duck | 19,996 | 17,529 | 0.42 | 20,609 | 16,149 | 15,366 | -51% | 30% |
| Common Merganser | 0 | 0 | 0.58 | 361 | 385 | 502 | -100% | -100% |
| TOTAL DUCKS | 495,438 | 126,681 | 0.26 | 379,872 | 48,803 | 541,269 | 30% | -8% |
| Canada Geese ² | 60,353 | 14,900 | 0.25 | 54,851 | 10,039 | 44,457 | 10% | 36% |
| Goslings ² | 2,119 | 1,305 | 0.62 | 2,251 | 2,469 | 2,979 | -6% | -29% |
| American Coot | 209,078 | 78,337 | 0.37 | 396,561 | 71,127 | 244,927 | -47% | -15% |
| Sandhill Crane ² | 2,691 | 3,723 | 1.38 | 1,823 | 2,006 | 1,982 | 48% | 36% |
| Mute Swan ³ | 4,045 | 1,205 | 0.30 | 1,514 | 753 | 712 | 167% | 468% |

¹Long-term average (LTA); 1992 – 2023 for ducks and coots.

²Northeastern stratum estimates only, LTA for Canada geese = 1993 – 2023, LTA for goslings and Sandhill cranes = 2003 – 2023

³Mute swan LTA = 2003 – 2023.

Table 2. Precipitation (inches)¹ across California Breeding Waterfowl Population Survey strata, 2023.

A sum of precipitation was calculated using numerous weather stations for strata with large area, see Appendix III.

| Strata | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May⁴ | Spring Total | Z-Score |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1-Sacramento Valley | 82.75 | 16.96 | 46.90 | 2.43 | --- | 149.04 | 1.30 |
| 1-Sacramento Valley LTA | 30.29 | 27.32 | 21.70 | 11.45 | | 90.76 | |
| 2-Sac/San Joaquin Delta | 10.88 | 4.62 | 10.27 | 0.29 | --- | 26.06 | -0.13 |
| 2-Sac/San Joaquin Delta LTA | 9.48 | 8.60 | 6.29 | 3.44 | | 27.81 | |
| 3-San Joaquin Desert | 8.52 | 7.85 | 8.09 | 0 | --- | 24.46 | 1.03 |
| 3-San Joaquin Desert LTA | 5.28 | 4.17 | 4.32 | 2.36 | | 16.13 | |
| 4-San Joaquin Grasslands | 20.03 | 8.43 | 17.57 | 0.19 | --- | 46.22 | 0.90 |
| 4-San Joaquin Grasslands LTA | 11.02 | 9.30 | 7.24 | 3.90 | | 31.46 | |
| 5-Suisun | 9.99 | 4.64 | 7.23 | 0.28 | --- | 22.14 | 0.08 |
| 5-Suisun LTA | 6.84 | 6.88 | 5.00 | 2.56 | | 21.28 | |
| 6-Napa/Santa Rosa | 11.91 | 4.03 | 10.97 | 0.67 | --- | 27.58 | 1.51 |
| 6-Napa/Santa Rose LTA | 4.87 | 4.69 | 3.77 | 1.68 | | 15.01 | |
| 10-East Valley (North) ² | 48.88 | 9.47 | 24.11 | 1.53 | --- | 83.99 | 1.23 |
| 10-East Valley (North) LTA | 17.17 | 15.71 | 12.53 | 7.39 | | 52.80 | |
| 10-East Valley (South) | 16.83 | 10.02 | 14.45 | 0.05 | --- | 41.35 | 1.60 |
| 10-East Valley (South) LTA | 6.63 | 5.42 | 5.76 | 3.20 | | 21.01 | |
| 11-West Valley | 40.66 | 8.90 | 28.72 | 1.42 | --- | 79.70 | 1.64 |
| 11-West Valley LTA | 14.34 | 13.01 | 10.38 | 4.54 | | 42.27 | |
| 9-Northeastern | 4.87 | 1.63 | 6.75 | 1.22 | 6.31 | 20.78 | -0.37 |
| 9-Northeastern LTA | 8.06 | 6.06 | 6.39 | 5.71 | | 26.05 | |

¹Data acquired from NOAA NCDC online database or RAWS station online data, LTA 1990 – 2023.

²East Valley was separated into north and south to reflect precipitation more accurately.

Table 3. Snow-water content (inches)¹ across the Northeastern survey stratum, 2023.

| Location | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Season Avg | April Z-Score | % of April Avg |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Adin Mountain | 0.0 | 0.0 | 8.5 | 11.7 | 16.0 | 25.1 | 10.2 | 2.29 | 189% |
| Adin-Mountain LTA | 0.8 | 3.2 | 6.6 | 9.4 | 11.4 | 8.7 | 6.7 | | |
| Cedar Pass | 0.1 | 4.6 | 12.3 | 16.0 | 20.4 | 28.5 | 13.7 | 1.70 | 86% |
| Cedar Pass LTA | 1.3 | 4.3 | 8.4 | 12.0 | 15.4 | 15.3 | 9.8 | | |
| Dismal Swamp | 0.0 | 4.0 | 15.9 | 22.4 | 28.2 | 41.8 | 18.7 | 1.33 | 54% |
| Dismal Swamp LTA | 1.8 | 6.8 | 13.4 | 19.4 | 25.0 | 27.1 | 16.0 | | |
| Independence Lake | 0.0 | 4.4 | 23.7 | 40.8 | 52.7 | 73.3 | 32.5 | 1.74 | 69% |
| Independence Lake LTA | 2.5 | 9.3 | 18.6 | 27.8 | 37.3 | 43.3 | 23.1 | | |

¹Data from NRCS snow telemetry stations, see Figure 1 for locations and Appendix III for additional information.

²LTA 1990–2023.

Appendix I. Guidelines for California Breeding Waterfowl Survey data

Definitions

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Total Indicated Birds: | Drakes, Pairs and Groups combined. |
| Lone Drake: | Single isolated drake without a visible associated hen. |
| Flocked Drakes: | Four or fewer drakes in close association. |
| Pair: | Male and female in close association. |
| Group: | Five or more of mixed-sex grouping of the same species in close association which cannot be separated into singles and pairs. |

Total Indicated Birds = Lone drakes x 1, Pairs x 2, Groups x 1 (AOU_Num)

- Redhead (1460): exclude groups greater than 8
- Ring-necked Duck (1500)
- Lesser Scaup (1490): do not count in Napa and Suisun Strata
- Ruddy Duck (1670)
- Canada Goose (1720): count all broods separately
- Greater white-fronted goose (1710)
- American Coot (2210)
- Sandhill Crane (2060)
- Mute Swan (1782)

Total Indicated Birds = Lone drakes x 2, Pairs x 2, Flocked Drakes x 2, Groups x 1

- Common Merganser (1290)
- Mallard (1320)
- Gadwall (1350)
- American Wigeon (1370): exclude groups
- American Green-winged Teal (1390): exclude groups greater than 8
- Cinnamon Teal (1410)
- Northern Shoveler (1420): exclude groups
- Northern Pintail (1430)
- Wood Duck (1440)
- Canvasback (1470): exclude groups
- Common Goldeneye (1510)
- Bufflehead (1530)
- Blue-winged Teal (1400)

Appendix II. Guidelines for Determining Annual Visibility Correction Factor (VCF).

California VCFs are to be used for most species. The preference is for the current year VCF to reflect habitat or general conditions, especially for mallards. Sample size and Coefficient of Variation (CV) rule: at least 40 observations for the helicopter and fixed wing crews with a CV of 20% or less. If VCF is 1.0 or less do not use. If current year does not meet criteria, use previous year until criteria are met. Pooling can be used if criteria cannot be met, and single year estimate is deemed not reasonable (VCF of 1.5 or less for mallards). In the case of scaup, ring-neck duck, mergansers, and goldeneye (species with few detections/low abundances in California) use U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service VCF.

Appendix III. Weather station metadata.

| Station Name | Station ID | Stratum | Type | Latitude | Longitude | Notes |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--|----------|----------|------------|--------------|
| Juniper Creek RAWS | NWS 040308 | Northeastern | Rainfall | 41.33222 | -120.4725 | Main Station |
| Tule Lake GHCND | GHCND:USC00049053 | Northeastern | Rainfall | 41.96667 | -121.46667 | Main Station |
| Doyle RAWS | NWS 040724 | Northeastern | Rainfall | 40.02222 | -120.1056 | Main Station |
| Surprise Valley RAWS | NWS 043690 | Northeastern | Rainfall | 41.62028 | -120.1566 | Main Station |
| Santa Rosa RAWS | NWS 042009 | West Valley & Napa/Santa Rosa | Rainfall | 38.47861 | -122.7119 | Main Station |
| Thomes Creek RAWS | NWS 40816 | West & Sac Valleys | Rainfall | 39.86444 | -122.6097 | Main Station |
| Stonyford RAWS | NWS 041503 | West & Sac Valleys | Rainfall | 39.36694 | -122.575 | Main Station |
| Fancher Creek RAWS | NWS 044516 | East Valley (South) & San Joaquin Desert | Rainfall | 36.88389 | -119.4658 | Main Station |
| Green Springs RAWS | NWS 43613 | East Valley (South) & San Joaquin Grasslands | Rainfall | 37.83306 | -120.5000 | Main Station |
| Bangor RAWS | NWS 041201 | East Valley (North) & Sac Valley | Rainfall | 39.3975 | -121.3861 | Main Station |
| Cohasset RAWS | NWS 41211 | East Valley (North) & Sac Valley | Rainfall | 39.87167 | -121.7689 | Main Station |
| Lincoln RAWS | NWS 041907 | East Valley (North) & Sac Valley | Rainfall | 38.8825 | -121.2683 | Main Station |
| Sacramento Executive Airport | GHCND:USW00023232 | Sac Valley & Delta | Rainfall | 38.5069 | -121.4950 | Main Station |
| Kettleman Hills RAWS | NWS 044602 | San Joaquin Desert | Rainfall | 36.03333 | -120.0560 | Main Station |
| Los Banos RAWS | NWS 44003 | San Joaquin Grasslands | Rainfall | 37.05472 | -121.0531 | Main Station |
| Stockton Airport | GHCND:USW00023237 | San Joaquin Grasslands & Delta | Rainfall | 37.8891 | -121.2258 | Main Station |
| Napa State Hospital | GHCND:USC00046074 | Suisun | Rainfall | 37.8891 | -122.2647 | Main Station |
| Concord Buchanan Field | GHCND:USW00023254 | Suisun | Rainfall | 37.9917 | -122.0527 | Main Station |
| Dismal Swamp | SNOTEL: 446 | Northeastern | Snow | 41.99 | -120.180 | Main Station |
| Independence Lake | SNOTEL: 541 | Northeastern | Snow | 39.43 | -120.280 | Main Station |
| Adin Mountain | SNOTEL: 301 | Northeastern | Snow | 41.24 | -120.790 | Main Station |
| Cedar Pass | SNOTEL: 391 | Northeastern | Snow | 41.58 | -120.300 | Main Station |

Appendix IV. Population estimates of mallards, gadwall, cinnamon teal and Canada geese by stratum, 1992–2023. SV = Sacramento Valley, DE = Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta, SJD = San Joaquin Desert, SJG = San Joaquin Grasslands, SM = Suisun Marsh, NSR = Napa-Santa Rosa, NE = Northeastern, EV = East Valley, WV = West Valley (see Fig. 1). LTA = long-term average.

Mallards

| Year | SV | DE | SJD | SJG | SM | NSR | NE | EV | WV | TOTAL |
|-------------|---------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| 1992 | 163,030 | 12,453 | 5,075 | 79,859 | 29,713 | 8969 | 44,634 | 23,687 | 8,423 | 375,843 |
| 1993 | 129,527 | 8,602 | 25,643 | 63,203 | 21,847 | 9731 | 69,231 | 28,901 | 2,323 | 359,008 |
| 1994 | 114,249 | 10,143 | 17,097 | 52,107 | 18,104 | 10160 | 66,166 | 17,483 | 6,183 | 311,692 |
| 1995 | 111,410 | 10,184 | 24,056 | 71,188 | 22,705 | 14731 | 80,861 | 23,969 | 9,422 | 368,526 |
| 1996 | 205,040 | 18,519 | 12,033 | 105,438 | 26,523 | 20231 | 92,032 | 43,230 | 12,511 | 535,557 |
| 1997 | 186,048 | 8,089 | 25,207 | 114,370 | 23,054 | 11496 | 79,169 | 51,927 | 15,585 | 514,945 |
| 1998 | 148,754 | 6,741 | 17,917 | 54,344 | 18,349 | 11582 | 67,978 | 21,957 | 12,906 | 360,528 |
| 1999 | 259,325 | 5,832 | 16,693 | 70,724 | 22,127 | 14174 | 144,884 | 17,748 | 8,556 | 560,063 |
| 2000 | 147,384 | 11,263 | 23,327 | 39,461 | 8,882 | 10278 | 83,373 | 17,249 | 6,341 | 347,558 |
| 2001 | 122,509 | 12,141 | 6,093 | 33,014 | 10,881 | 10148 | 96,756 | 7,413 | 3,249 | 302,204 |
| 2002 | 116,758 | 7,816 | 8,728 | 29,121 | 10,066 | 13672 | 64,754 | 8,229 | 6,151 | 265,295 |
| 2003 | 106,957 | 12,176 | 16,362 | 58,323 | 16,669 | 11974 | 87,611 | 19,714 | 7,270 | 337,056 |
| 2004 | 97,422 | 6,303 | 14,421 | 28,513 | 14,092 | 10881 | 70,321 | 14,474 | 5,998 | 262,425 |
| 2005 | 100,143 | 9,459 | 11,345 | 42,739 | 10,883 | 18342 | 98,220 | 22,057 | 4,681 | 317,869 |
| 2006 | 120,808 | 8,196 | 10,679 | 53,264 | 12,077 | 21486 | 128,612 | 37,242 | 7,073 | 399,437 |
| 2007 | 104,601 | 8,319 | 20,904 | 47,590 | 15,691 | 32915 | 131,267 | 20,061 | 6,976 | 388,324 |
| 2008 | 92,539 | 6,465 | 17,165 | 51,548 | 10,330 | 15516 | 85,824 | 13,689 | 4,054 | 297,130 |
| 2009 | 105,141 | 4,943 | 15,818 | 39,981 | 9,094 | 12265 | 95,913 | 14,651 | 4,153 | 301,959 |
| 2010 | 102,139 | 3,948 | 14,371 | 56,255 | 14,531 | 16137 | 128,600 | 16,586 | 15,325 | 367,892 |
| 2011 | 100,972 | 7,293 | 17,693 | 38,956 | 21,501 | 18057 | 87,095 | 17,697 | 5,450 | 314,714 |
| 2012 | 85,641 | 10,136 | 33,456 | 57,816 | 14,486 | 11058 | 138,315 | 22,645 | 8,369 | 381,922 |
| 2013 | 80,903 | 5,929 | 18,323 | 33,418 | 11,580 | 13436 | 120,132 | 12,325 | 2,590 | 298,636 |
| 2014 | 67,914 | 3,826 | 8,445 | 44,586 | 8,901 | 6156 | 90,820 | 5,850 | 2,168 | 238,666 |
| 2015 | 55,086 | 9,452 | 6,568 | 24,349 | 9,704 | 7541 | 54,182 | 1,998 | 4,986 | 173,866 |
| 2016 | 69,389 | 9,240 | 7,015 | 33,952 | 13,668 | 8790 | 99,520 | 16,122 | 6,079 | 263,774 |
| 2017 | 31,134 | 6,151 | 14,913 | 21,386 | 9,921 | 10918 | 86,637 | 13,143 | 4,188 | 198,392 |
| 2018 | 56,915 | 4,850 | 12,520 | 36,929 | 14,150 | 17363 | 109,991 | 17,749 | 2,393 | 272,859 |
| 2019 | 49,307 | 6,085 | 7,893 | 31,049 | 13,625 | 15217 | 97,628 | 14,447 | 4,580 | 239,831 |
| 2022 | 32,478 | 6,823 | 7,206 | 18,186 | 9,019 | 8542 | 83,564 | 11,108 | 2,465 | 179,393 |
| 2023 | 44,938 | 9,138 | 10,620 | 34,708 | 10,163 | 12295 | 67,124 | 9,951 | 3,169 | 202,108 |
| LTA | 106,949 | 8,351 | 14,920 | 48,879 | 15,078 | 13,469 | 91,707 | 18,777 | 6,454 | 324,582 |
| % Δ 2022 | 38% | 34% | 47% | 91% | 13% | 44% | -20% | -10% | 29% | 13% |
| % Δ LTA | -58% | 9% | -29% | -29% | -33% | -9% | -27% | -47% | -51% | -38% |

Appendix IV. Continued...

Gadwall

| Year | SV | DE | SJD | SJG | SM | NSR | NE | EV | WV | TOTAL |
|------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|-------|-------|---------|
| 1992 | 2,332 | 0 | 2,416 | 12,701 | 4,098 | 2,853 | 9,873 | 0 | 0 | 34,274 |
| 1993 | 3,654 | 0 | 4,544 | 9,187 | 4,620 | 2,484 | 41,850 | 461 | 0 | 66,800 |
| 1994 | 2,084 | 0 | 2,776 | 10,852 | 5,370 | 2,368 | 29,909 | 338 | 0 | 53,696 |
| 1995 | 2,927 | 175 | 2,729 | 9,566 | 9,178 | 5,461 | 64,133 | 0 | 252 | 94,421 |
| 1996 | 3,214 | 0 | 2,725 | 20,205 | 10,462 | 6,615 | 45,434 | 1,326 | 0 | 89,982 |
| 1997 | 8,147 | 405 | 7,387 | 13,230 | 11,024 | 15,474 | 36,903 | 1,926 | 0 | 94,496 |
| 1998 | 8,826 | 0 | 5,065 | 11,096 | 9,045 | 2,908 | 41,167 | 385 | 585 | 79,078 |
| 1999 | 20,160 | 184 | 2,870 | 11,995 | 5,894 | 6,403 | 40,389 | 4,539 | 0 | 92,434 |
| 2000 | 5,369 | 848 | 8,247 | 19,255 | 7,363 | 8,116 | 54,162 | 358 | 272 | 103,989 |
| 2001 | 3,731 | 0 | 580 | 8,208 | 4,056 | 7,419 | 44,568 | 0 | 0 | 68,560 |
| 2002 | 4,506 | 215 | 3,026 | 6,118 | 4,952 | 4,742 | 34,814 | 818 | 155 | 59,345 |
| 2003 | 8,572 | 495 | 2,579 | 11,471 | 5,986 | 6,767 | 40,362 | 1,568 | 238 | 78,037 |
| 2004 | 3,819 | 134 | 2,933 | 12,993 | 6,797 | 5,361 | 42,716 | 1,020 | 0 | 75,773 |
| 2005 | 11,455 | 0 | 3,561 | 12,600 | 9,273 | 14,309 | 128,158 | 0 | 0 | 179,356 |
| 2006 | 12,910 | 376 | 5,873 | 14,647 | 7,953 | 5,973 | 74,324 | 0 | 271 | 122,326 |
| 2007 | 6,216 | 463 | 6,159 | 8,547 | 5,445 | 9,152 | 101,041 | 661 | 0 | 137,686 |
| 2008 | 10,601 | 250 | 3,382 | 6,225 | 4,317 | 3,841 | 39,751 | 633 | 0 | 69,000 |
| 2009 | 13,950 | 120 | 2,995 | 8,580 | 6,852 | 11,299 | 63,200 | 2,505 | 0 | 109,502 |
| 2010 | 5,861 | 452 | 2,829 | 9,015 | 5,780 | 3,460 | 55,128 | 0 | 238 | 82,763 |
| 2011 | 6,042 | 206 | 8,693 | 11,176 | 7,450 | 9,981 | 73,263 | 1,371 | 298 | 118,479 |
| 2012 | 6,116 | 322 | 2,684 | 4,070 | 5,442 | 5,393 | 27,500 | 408 | 0 | 51,936 |
| 2013 | 4,259 | 741 | 4,303 | 3,123 | 4,679 | 3,474 | 52,874 | 805 | 153 | 74,410 |
| 2014 | 15,113 | 0 | 8,688 | 9,890 | 5,516 | 3,167 | 50,650 | 235 | 0 | 93,259 |
| 2015 | 14,492 | 123 | 1,545 | 4,425 | 3,103 | 2,407 | 30,721 | 939 | 535 | 58,290 |
| 2016 | 9,432 | 495 | 3,849 | 3,379 | 4,647 | 5,613 | 30,316 | 470 | 179 | 58,380 |
| 2017 | 777 | 116 | 5,768 | 5,600 | 5,308 | 4,206 | 49,603 | 220 | 167 | 71,765 |
| 2018 | 10,778 | 0 | 3,160 | 5,691 | 6,100 | 8,450 | 68,244 | 214 | 0 | 102,637 |
| 2019 | 9,822 | 125 | 3,104 | 6,814 | 4,914 | 6,287 | 79,781 | 474 | 0 | 111,321 |
| 2022 | 8,388 | 811 | 842 | 4,548 | 4,090 | 3,819 | 53,892 | 0 | 0 | 76,391 |
| 2023 | 12,242 | 1,217 | 13,470 | 13,930 | 4,152 | 2,895 | 39,831 | 514 | 0 | 88,251 |
| LTA | 7,860 | 276 | 4,293 | 9,638 | 6,129 | 6,023 | 51,485 | 740 | 111 | 86,555 |
| % Δ | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2022 | 46% | 50% | 1500% | 206% | 2% | -24% | -26% | 0 | 0 | 16% |
| % Δ | | | | | | | | | | |
| LTA | 56% | 341% | 214% | 45% | -32% | -52% | -23% | -31% | -100% | 2% |

Appendix IV. Continued...

Cinnamon Teal

| Year | SV | DE | SJD | SJG | SM | NSR | NE | EV | WV | TOTAL |
|---------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| 1992 | 3,226 | 385 | 3,611 | 19,469 | 2,149 | 395 | 28,505 | 2,928 | 0 | 60,668 |
| 1993 | 3,332 | 0 | 4,972 | 10,890 | 2,497 | 1,223 | 30,591 | 2,268 | 0 | 55,773 |
| 1994 | 4,846 | 321 | 4,017 | 16,585 | 1,793 | 329 | 22,388 | 1,222 | 0 | 51,503 |
| 1995 | 4,575 | 195 | 5,486 | 14,380 | 3,402 | 1,000 | 18,117 | 3,893 | 282 | 51,330 |
| 1996 | 22,944 | 1,666 | 4,466 | 15,300 | 3,987 | 4,883 | 27,305 | 5,885 | 2,407 | 88,842 |
| 1997 | 5,381 | 917 | 10,872 | 14,012 | 1,280 | 470 | 13,649 | 1,308 | 0 | 47,889 |
| 1998 | 3,843 | 229 | 2,151 | 11,113 | 533 | 235 | 15,979 | 1,744 | 0 | 35,828 |
| 1999 | 9,450 | 410 | 4,487 | 12,096 | 1,335 | 841 | 10,716 | 390 | 0 | 39,725 |
| 2000 | 2,979 | 0 | 3,472 | 2,340 | 930 | 456 | 14,512 | 0 | 0 | 24,689 |
| 2001 | 4,019 | 266 | 1,666 | 5,053 | 496 | 273 | 13,926 | 507 | 385 | 26,592 |
| 2002 | 1,789 | 0 | 2,086 | 3,936 | 807 | 547 | 4,843 | 0 | 0 | 14,008 |
| 2003 | 4,353 | 0 | 2,436 | 6,019 | 1,329 | 799 | 13,459 | 988 | 0 | 29,382 |
| 2004 | 3,485 | 0 | 1,857 | 7,511 | 2,764 | 305 | 18,975 | 565 | 0 | 35,461 |
| 2005 | 6,056 | 0 | 4,274 | 7,613 | 1,363 | 1,602 | 14,106 | 2,971 | 0 | 37,984 |
| 2006 | 10,318 | 362 | 2,264 | 11,445 | 2,021 | 743 | 26,285 | 4,131 | 0 | 57,570 |
| 2007 | 2,039 | 243 | 2,282 | 2,563 | 1,358 | 749 | 28,965 | 1,851 | 0 | 40,050 |
| 2008 | 7,054 | 0 | 1,462 | 9,853 | 1,849 | 719 | 21,724 | 445 | 0 | 43,105 |
| 2009 | 7,483 | 235 | 1,469 | 7,922 | 328 | 241 | 32,748 | 447 | 0 | 50,872 |
| 2010 | 2,856 | 170 | 5,860 | 11,849 | 872 | 175 | 22,884 | 3,564 | 246 | 48,478 |
| 2011 | 11,347 | 271 | 10,158 | 10,841 | 1,260 | 1,944 | 26,339 | 1,545 | 0 | 63,704 |
| 2012 | 5,125 | 278 | 869 | 2,343 | 2,198 | 855 | 14,932 | 0 | 0 | 26,600 |
| 2013 | 4,594 | 548 | 857 | 1,732 | 1,020 | 281 | 13,528 | 0 | 0 | 22,560 |
| 2014 | 2,871 | 734 | 0 | 5,157 | 1,366 | 502 | 19,774 | 465 | 0 | 30,870 |
| 2015 | 13,127 | 0 | 0 | 1,547 | 1,594 | 1,506 | 10,407 | 0 | 354 | 28,534 |
| 2016 | 2,465 | 245 | 2,288 | 1,545 | 1,684 | 1,730 | 18,868 | 1,396 | 0 | 30,221 |
| 2017 | 410 | 245 | 1,523 | 3,087 | 897 | 0 | 26,883 | 930 | 0 | 33,975 |
| 2018 | 4,102 | 0 | 3,047 | 4,630 | 3,140 | 1,871 | 60,779 | 930 | 0 | 78,498 |
| 2019 | 3,013 | 674 | 2,098 | 3,306 | 2,059 | 680 | 37,731 | 853 | 0 | 50,415 |
| 2022 | 1,299 | 194 | 0 | 3,257 | 2,042 | 2,442 | 13,795 | 0 | 0 | 23,028 |
| 2023 | 1,948 | 387 | 3,015 | 10,179 | 976 | 1,185 | 15,419 | 368 | 0 | 33,477 |
| LTA | 5,344 | 299 | 3,101 | 7,919 | 1,644 | 966 | 21,271 | 1,386 | 122 | 42,054 |
| % Δ | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2022 | 50% | 100% | - | 213% | -52% | -51% | 12% | 0 | 0 | 45% |
| % Δ LTA | -64% | 29% | -3% | 29% | -41% | 23% | -28% | -73% | 0% | -20% |

Appendix IV. Continued...

Canada Geese

| Year | SV | DE | SJD | SJG | SM | NSR | NE | EV | WV | TOTAL |
|----------|-------|-------|-----|-------|------|-------|--------|-------|-------|---------|
| 1993 | 590 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 98 | 72 | 50,405 | 134 | 0 | 51,299 |
| 1994 | 354 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 59,291 | 468 | 0 | 60,113 |
| 1995 | 708 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 72 | 53,060 | 0 | 0 | 53,840 |
| 1996 | 236 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 72 | 45,298 | 0 | 0 | 45,606 |
| 1997 | 1,651 | 457 | 0 | 74 | 147 | 216 | 32,735 | 134 | 51 | 35,466 |
| 1998 | 884 | 141 | 0 | 0 | 33 | 216 | 68,929 | 936 | 559 | 71,699 |
| 1999 | 649 | 0 | 0 | 3,261 | 229 | 974 | 96,673 | 268 | 508 | 102,562 |
| 2000 | 1,592 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 180 | 902 | 47,903 | 134 | 0 | 50,745 |
| 2001 | 1,474 | 739 | 0 | 741 | 131 | 1,804 | 52,754 | 0 | 1,067 | 58,709 |
| 2002 | 825 | 317 | 0 | 371 | 0 | 1,118 | 47,136 | 1,338 | 203 | 51,308 |
| 2003 | 1,297 | 106 | 0 | 519 | 115 | 1,154 | 32,495 | 1,806 | 203 | 37,695 |
| 2004 | 354 | 176 | 0 | 296 | 65 | 2,706 | 27,424 | 401 | 0 | 31,422 |
| 2005 | 1,484 | 169 | 0 | 711 | 0 | 3,113 | 36,230 | 561 | 1,035 | 43,302 |
| 2006 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 130 | 19,792 | 0 | 244 | 20,185 |
| 2007 | 356 | 567 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 291 | 31,629 | 337 | 154 | 33,333 |
| 2008 | 189 | 150 | 0 | 238 | 0 | 0 | 9,874 | 0 | 0 | 10,451 |
| 2009 | 4,338 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31,989 | 703 | 0 | 37,030 |
| 2010 | 860 | 0 | 0 | 541 | 0 | 865 | 13,999 | 1,394 | 1,324 | 18,983 |
| 2011 | 4,670 | 330 | 0 | 618 | 512 | 2,068 | 36,248 | 4,253 | 794 | 49,493 |
| 2012 | 3,855 | 0 | 0 | 308 | 459 | 2,209 | 41,926 | 4,651 | 1,951 | 55,359 |
| 2013 | 3,327 | 551 | 0 | 929 | 342 | 1,998 | 68,248 | 4,473 | 956 | 80,823 |
| 2014 | 3,049 | 296 | 0 | 2,496 | 197 | 1,692 | 31,209 | 3,378 | 183 | 42,499 |
| 2015 | 2,623 | 254 | 0 | 267 | 79 | 2,169 | 44,322 | 1,609 | 794 | 52,117 |
| 2016 | 8,377 | 423 | 264 | 2,226 | 175 | 2,477 | 44,323 | 3,619 | 796 | 62,679 |
| 2017 | 7,211 | 313 | 0 | 1,233 | 287 | 2,603 | 55,224 | 3,268 | 2,091 | 72,230 |
| 2018 | 4,064 | 587 | 243 | 1,151 | 556 | 1,554 | 54,851 | 3,491 | 1,582 | 68,079 |
| 2019 | 7,943 | 1,377 | 0 | 2,384 | 501 | 5,106 | 48,588 | 3,615 | 1,463 | 70,977 |
| 2022 | 4,075 | 1,195 | 0 | 3,898 | 340 | 997 | 46,359 | 5,478 | 1,786 | 64,128 |
| 2023 | 4,973 | 906 | 0 | 3,378 | 113 | 1,323 | 60,353 | 4,304 | 2,263 | 77,613 |
| LTA | 2,483 | 292 | 17 | 884 | 158 | 1,307 | 44,457 | 1,750 | 690 | 52,060 |
| % Δ 2022 | 22% | -24% | - | -13% | -67% | 33% | 30% | -21% | 27% | 21% |
| % Δ LTA | 100% | 210% | 0% | 282% | -28% | 1% | 36% | 146% | 228% | 49% |