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# SEEKING FARMERS

HELP SAVE BIRDS BY FLOODING YOUR FIELDS AND GET PAID TO DO IT!

**APPLY BY August 14, 2023**

## Short-term flooding for the BirdReturns-Delta Farmlands Program

The BirdReturns Program creates short-term wetland habitat that migratory birds desperately need by paying farmers to flood their fields. Since 2014, BirdReturns has generated over \$10 million in direct payments to farmers and created over 120,000 acres of seasonal wetland habitat. **APPLY AT [BIRDRETURNS.ORG](https://birdreturns.org) BY AUGUST 14, 2023!**

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Farmers with row or field crops who can manage shallow flooding in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Region (*see map on page 2*).

### WHAT IS REQUIRED?

Manage crop stubble post-harvest, flood and hold water for a minimum of 3 weeks between **August 28, 2023** and **October 13, 2023**. Flooding periods start the first Monday of each week.

### HOW AND WHEN TO APPLY?

Submit an easy 1-page online bid form at [BirdReturns.org](https://birdreturns.org) with the field location, preferred timing and duration of flooding (21 days +), crop type of harvested fields, and your best price per flooded acre. **Application Period opens Monday, July 24, 2023 and closes Monday, August 14, 2023, at 12 noon at [birdreturns.org](https://birdreturns.org).**

### WHY IS THIS PROGRAM IMPORTANT TO FARMERS?

- Millions of ducks, geese, swans, cranes and shorebirds depend on wetland habitat in the Central Valley. With post-harvest flooding, privately owned farmlands create surrogate wetland habitat that migratory birds now depend on as they make their long journey from Alaska to California and beyond, then back again in the spring.
- California's Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta is an important place for waterbirds and the drought is dangerously reducing wetland habitat
- Shorebirds are in steep decline, and if they don't get a place to stop and rest during migration this year, population levels may drop even further
- Without our help, other waterbirds that overwinter in the Delta are also likely to suffer including the iconic Sandhill Crane

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [BIRDRETURNS.ORG](https://birdreturns.org) OR CONTACT US:

- **Jerred Dixon** at 916-516-4011  
[jerred.dixon@cfrstaten.com](mailto:jerred.dixon@cfrstaten.com)
- **Billy Abbott** at 530-228-1862  
[william.abbott@tnc.org](mailto:william.abbott@tnc.org)
- **Julia Barfield** at 916-449-2852  
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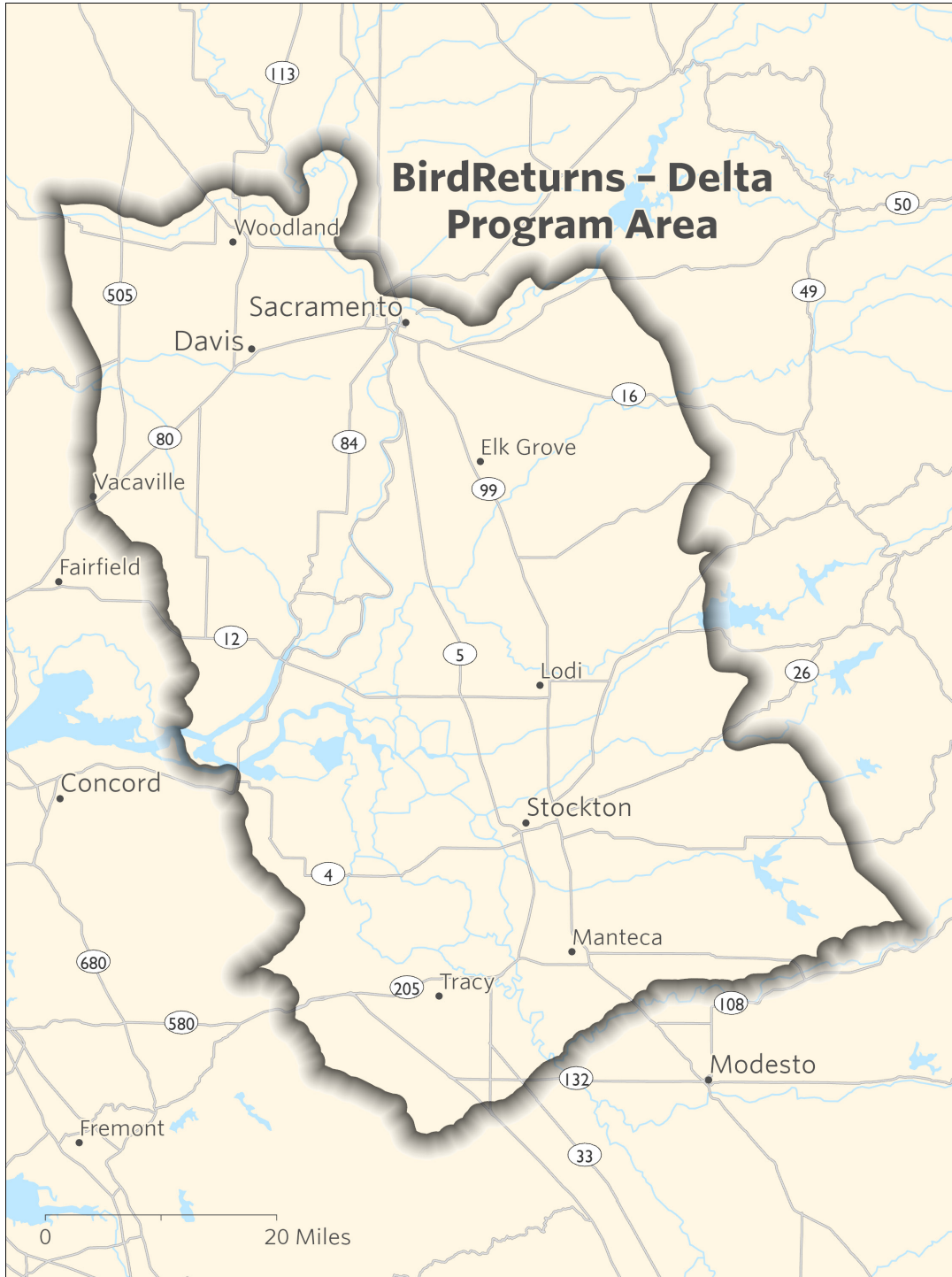
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Imagine traveling thousands of miles without food or rest.

**Migratory birds are in dire need of safe habitat to rest and refuel.**

**Wet fields in late summer make a difference.**

Shallow flooding mimics the mudflat conditions historically plentiful, helping migratory shorebirds rest and refuel on their southward migrations along the Pacific Flyway.

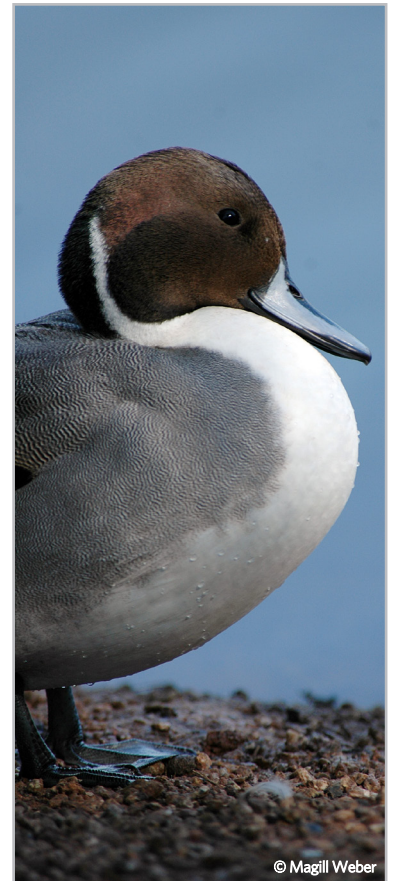


### MAKE BIRD HABITAT YOUR SECOND CROP

Fall flooding post-harvest helps decompose crop residue, can help with salt management, and offer pre-irrigation benefits if extended into the spring. In the Delta, flooding also helps reduce subsidence.

Make helping birds another part of your annual cropping cycle. Diversify your revenue with BirdReturns!

Apply at [BirdReturns.org](http://BirdReturns.org)



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