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OVER 1,200 PINTAILS BANDED FOR SURVIVAL STUDIES

CWA biologists spent February and March rocket netting to capture and band pintails before they headed to northern breeding grounds. Almost 1,300 pintails were marked. The effort moved to Lower Klamath NWR in March and banding occurred on federal, state, and private lands.

Partners included the California Department of Fish and Game, USGS Western Ecological Research Center, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The trapping provided a dual service this year. First, banding is important for generating survival estimates to help determine if moderately increased bag limits on this species could occur without significant impact to pintail breeding populations. This year, a second purpose emerged – sampling for the presence of avian flu. The H5N1 virus strain that has health officials worried was not found.

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