



Planted rice fields benefit birds, fish, Sacramento Valley communities and California's ecosystem year-round.

California's rice fields, spanning from Sacramento to Chico, are known to support [230 different wildlife species](#). In the Sacramento Valley, rice fields are a working floodplain – on the surface providing vital habitat to an array of wildlife while simultaneously growing an aquatic ecosystem teeming with life in the field. Studies currently underway are proving to show California rice field floodplains have the significant potential to benefit juvenile salmon.

“Every acre of rice that’s planted in the spring doubles as invaluable habitat and can also produce nutrient rich food for fish and migrating birds during the winter months,” said President & CEO of the California Rice Commission Tim Johnson.

Birds

With four major migratory routes for birds in North America, the Sacramento Valley sits along the ancient avian migratory route, that spans from the Arctic tundra to South America, known as the Pacific Flyway. Every year, approximately one billion birds migrate through the Sacramento Valley, with nearly 4 million waterfowl and 250,000 shorebirds using the Sacramento Valley and rice fields as a wintering ground. For ducks, geese, and other waterfowl, rice fields provide more than 60% of their fall and winter food supply.



FACT: The Sacramento Valley hosts one of the greatest concentrations of waterfowl in the world and is also designated as a site of International Importance by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network for the integral role rice fields play in sustaining birds populations.

Fish

Even in the “off season”, there are plenty of innovative and collaborative projects happening in rice fields, with farmers, conservations groups, biologists and teams of UC Davis scientists working together to help strengthen and boost imperiled fish populations.



[Fish Food](#) project



[Ricelands Salmon](#) project

“We’ve seen California rice be the solution for the Pacific Flyway’s waterfowl population. We want to help be the solution for fish. California rice growers are an enormous piece of that effort, and everyone is looking forward to the spring, as planting for another season will enviably continue that cycle in helping our wildlife and ecosystem thrive,” said Johnson.

Read- [Environmental Benefits of California Rice](#)

Watch- [Ricelands: Cultivating California’s Environmental Crop](#)

CA Rice in the [News](#)