

Western Birds

The Wingshooter's Newsletter



Covering October, 1996

Through December, 2024

Complete newsletter backissue list



Western Birds
The Wingshooter's Newsletter
EXPANDED EDITION
January 2020
Vol. 16 No. 1
Price \$30

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The Wingshooter's Newsletter
The Guzzlers Special Issue
January 2020
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The Wingshooter's Newsletter
Four guzzlers in east Imperial County
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Opal and Black mountain
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November 2023
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Guzzler K-142 sits in great habitat at the upper end of Short Canyon inside the Kavah Wilderness Area. It is in need of major tank and apron repairs.

Guzzlers in and around the Scodies

It's not a secret that one of my favorite hunting areas in the southern half of California is what I call the "greater Scodie Mountains region." For me, this country includes everything between Jawbone Canyon on the south all the way to Nine Mile Canyon on this north. The hunting is west of Highway 14 and continues north past where Highway 14 merges with Highway 395. There are no guzzlers in the canyons between Highway 178 (Freeman Canyon) and Nine Mile Canyon on the west side of the highway that I know about, but all of these canyons have springs and/or live streams at least

in their upper reaches and can provide excellent bird hunting when there are good hatches, like this year.

This is not to say there is no hunting east of Highway 14 in this region, it's just that everything on the east side of Highway 14 is generally called "the Red Mountain Region" (and all the guzzlers in this area were covered earlier this year in the June, 2023 issue, Vol. 15, No. 6).

Once I got started putting this issue together, I decided it was probably a good idea to pull all the information (Continued on Page 4, see Scodies....)

Western Birds
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Quail hunting areas west of
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Dove opener: A last-
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Vol. 1, No. 1, October, 1996

Desert upland bird prognosis poor for fall '96; how *Western Birds* came about; information on ordering Bobby Rowell guzzler maps, and U.S. Geological Survey maps on CD; five guzzlers mapped in Cleveland National Forest near Corona; GPS coordinates to two guzzlers in Cajon Pass; a quail spot mapped just south of the Cahuilla Indian Reservation near Anza; updates on Camp Cady, Goat Springs, Stoddard Well, and dove spots in Indio; a tip on an Idaho chukar hotspot near Steck Park.

Vol. 1, No. 2, November, 1996

Best blind site information for the San Jacinto Wildlife Area; information on Nevada guzzler maps and the DFG's Wing Beat News; updates on San Jacinto quail, Jackrabbit Trail quail (near San Jacinto Wildlife Area), and the Mojave chukar opener; a tip on Alberta's Bittern Lake Lodge; two guzzler locations mapped near Whitewater off Interstate 10; GPS coordinates for two more guzzlers in the Santa Ana Mountains near Corona.

Vol. 1, No. 3, December, 1996

Bandtail pigeon spot mapped on Black Mountain in San Jacinto Mountains; San Bernardino National Forest's Cleghorn Ridge quail spots outlined; snipe hotspot at San Jacinto Wildlife Area; update on Santa Ana Mountains road closures; five guzzler spots mapped in Cleveland National Forest near Warner Springs; GPS coordinates for three guzzlers north of Victorville.

Vol. 1, No. 4, March, 1997

Special Turkey Issue: General turkey forecast; three private land spots in San Diego, Kern, and San Luis Obispo counties; five public land hotspots mapped in the San Bernardino National Forest; two public land hotspots in the Cleveland National Forest in the Palomar region.

Vol. 1, No. 5, August, 1997

Dove outlook bright in most areas; six dove hotspots from all over Southern California outlined; a private land dove hunt opportunity near Banning; information on three different sets of CD-maps outlined; applying on-line for sage grouse hunts; an evening dove spot near Palm Springs; ptarmigan hotspot in the Eastern Sierra near Lee Vining; three guzzler locations north of Barstow on Opal Mountain mapped; GPS coordinates for Opal Mountain guzzlers and two more guzzlers in Santa Ana Mountains near Corona.

Vol. 1, No. 6, September, 1997

Upland bird forecast mixed for fall of '97; two quail spots near Indio; information on Wonderduck flapping decoys; San Jacinto blind site data; waterfowl spot in desert between Barstow and Kramer's Junction mapped; DFG's new San Felipe Wildlife Area mapped; a dozen guzzlers mapped in the El Paso Mountains near Ridgecrest; GPS coordinates for two more guzzlers in Cajon Pass.

Vol. 2, No. 1, October, 1997

Upland bird opener report; two more guzzler locations in Cajon Pass outlined; BLM map ordering outlined; mountain quail spot in San Bernardino National Forest at Coxe Creek; Owens Valley quail spot near Big Pine; nine guzzlers mapped in Temblor Mountains near Maricopa; woodduck hunting spot near Tinemaha Reservoir in the Owens Valley; a hot duck spot on the north end of the Salton Sea; GPS coordinates for all spots covered in the issue.

Vol. 2, No. 2, November, 1997

Camp Roberts Special Issue: Bird hunting access outlined and 16 guzzlers mapped and GPS coordinates given; High Desert Hunt Club critiqued; updates on San Jacinto snipe, Harper Lake duck hunting, Salton Sea waterfowl, Baldy Mesa quail and Jackrabbit Trail quail spots covered in previous issues; eight guzzlers on BLM land in San Diego County's McCain Valley mapped and GPS coordinates provided; a good Gambel's quail spot in East Mojave near Cima Dome, and GPS coordinates given for an additional guzzler there; GPS coordinates given for three guzzlers in San Luis Obispo County south of Highway 58.

Vol. 2, No. 3, December, 1997

End of season quail and chukar tips; a mountain quail hotspot in Lone Pine Canyon near Wrightwood; a valley quail hotspot near Anza mapped; updates on Harper Lake waterfowl, San Jacinto Wildlife Area, Camp Pendleton quail, and Whitewater quail spots; Big John Flat near Wrightwood mapped for quail; three guzzler mapped and GPS coordinates given in Alphia Canyon in Kern County off Highway 14.

Vol. 2, No. 4, March, 1998

Four public land turkey spots covered — Tecuya Ridge near Gorman, Miranda Pine Mountain in Los Padres National Forest, a spot near Crestline in San Bernardino National Forest, and Fort Hunter-Liggett on the Central Coast; Kern River private land turkey hunt; applying for Camp Pendleton fall hunts; blind site data from San Jacinto; blind site data from Wister; eight guzzlers mapped and GPS coordinates given in El Paso Mountains near Inyokern.

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Vol. 2, No. 5, August, 1998

Dove season forecast good everywhere and five hotspots outlined in Indio and Imperial Valley areas; two dove hotspots in high desert near Victorville; thoughts on hunting chukar with a bow during the early season; Goat Spring mapped for dove and chukar; five guzzlers mapped and GPS coordinates given in Rand Mountains near Red Mountain; three private land dove spots in Kern and San Luis Obispo counties.

Vol. 2, No. 6, September, 1998

Upland season forecast very bright for '98; RZ Spring near Victorville and Bird Springs near Inyokern outlined; three guzzler spots mapped in Sidewinder Mountains off Fairview Valley near Victorville; dove season follow-up with reports from Stoddard Well and Imperial County spots outlined in last issue; Ivanpah and Willow springs in the East Mojave near Stateline mapped for chukar; three more guzzlers mapped and GPS coordinates given in Rand Mountains near Red Mountain.

Vol. 3, No. 1, October, 1998

Quail and chukar opener good everywhere. A tip on Raahauge's public duck hunts. Information on access through private land in Mission Creek Canyon for quail; a map and GPS coordinates to two chukar guzzlers near Blackwater Well east of Red Mountain; opener reports from Ivanpah and Willow springs, Lake Isabella, Mormon Flats in the El Paso Mountains, the Owens Valley, and Sanger Slough; map and GPS coordinates for RZ Spring and a nearby guzzler in the West Mojave north of Victorville; and a map to three more guzzlers off Johnson Road near Apple Valley.

Vol. 3, No. 2, November, 1998

Fobes Ranch Road mountain quail spot in San Jacinto Mountains near Lake Hemet mapped; possible ban on hunting in East Mojave outlined; updates on Baldy Mesa quail with two guzzler locations described and GPS coordinates given, West Mojave's Goat Springs chukar update, and a bandtail spot in the Angeles National Forest. Two chukar guzzlers mapped north of Goat Spring; and 10 quail guzzlers mapped in the Temblor Mountains near Maricopa.

Vol. 3, No. 3, December, 1998

Details to hunting near four natural springs near Apple Valley for chukar; three guzzlers mapped and GPS coordinates given for six quail guzzlers in the Bighorn Mountains near Yucca Valley on the east side of the San Bernardino National Forest; a special

pair of maps to 10 guzzlers in the El Paso Mountains and GPS coordinates given to those and three others nearby — all in great chukar country.

Vol. 3, No. 4, March, 1999

Focus on the west Mojave with directions and maps provided to two guzzlers, Kane Spring, and Bird Spring; information on Cleveland National Forest land acquisitions in prime turkey habitat (and an e-mail update on how to hunt one of the spots [included as an insert sheet in the back issue]); seven guzzler locations and GPS coordinates given for the Caliente Mountains in southern San Luis Obispo County.

Vol. 3, No. 5, August, 1999

Reports on increasing amounts of posted lands near Indio, an update on Stoddard Well north of Apple Valley, directions and GPS coordinates to a guzzler off Highway 247 in the West Mojave, and some Colorado River dove spots near Blythe and Palo Verde. Directions and maps to a couple of very good quail spots in the Caliente Mountains north of Taft. Four guzzler locations and three stock tanks (stock tanks have since been removed) in the East Mojave near Mitchell Caverns mapped and GPS coordinates given.

Vol. 3, No. 6, September, 1999

Update on upland bird production for 1999. A map, details, and GPS coordinates to four guzzler locations on Baldy Mesa in the Cajon Pass area of the San Bernardino National Forest. Orange County's Coal Canyon Ecological Reserve mapped along with a nearby guzzler. Six very good quail guzzlers in San Luis Obispo County detailed, mapped, and GPS coordinates given. Special deal offered on dove and wood duck books.

Vol. 4, No. 1, October, 1999

Upland opener reports generally poor to fair for '99; San Jacinto Wildlife Area's five new blind sites discussed (and blind site data from previous years included as an insert); five more quail guzzlers in the Baldy Mesa area of Cajon Pass mapped; three more guzzlers south of Highway 58 in San Luis Obispo County mapped for quail, and GPS coordinates given for all locations.

Vol. 4, No. 2, November, 1999

Rattlesnake and Two-Hole springs at the base of the Bighorn Mountains of western San Bernardino County detailed and mapped for valley (Gambel's?) and mountain quail; a guzzler in Rattlesnake Canyon on the east side of the San Bernardino Mountains mapped; four quail guzzlers in Deer Park Canyon

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in the Los Padres National Forest in Santa Barbara County east of Highway 33; two duck guides listed, one for the Owens Valley and the other for the lower Colorado River; four more quail guzzlers south of Highway 58 in San Luis Obispo County mapped. GPS coordinates given for all spots.

Vol. 4, No. 3, December, 1999

Five guzzlers in Quatal Canyon east of Highway 33 in Ventura County mapped; both valley and mountain quail use these guzzlers. Field updates from a number of spots covered in previous issues by readers; two guzzler locations in chukar country off Lucerne Valley Cutoff near Stoddard Well in western San Bernardino County; five guzzlers mapped on the eastern edge of the Carrizo Plain in the Temblor Range foothills; public agencies' mismanagement of wildlife water sources.

Vol. 4, No. 4, April, 2000

An update on spring turkey hunting on public land spots in the San Bernardino Mountains and San Diego County. Information on guzzler guides published for Arizona and Nevada. Quail Unlimited Chapter information. A spring and guzzler mapped in the Lucerne Valley northeast of Victorville. San Jacinto Wildlife Area waterfowl results by blind for the '99-00 season.

Vol. 4, No. 5, August, 2000

A comprehensive guide to some of the best dove spots in the Blythe area, with directions to four spots detailed. Plus information on dove hunting on the Carrizo Plain, Camp Cady, Stoddard Well, Goat and Aztec Springs, and the Colorado River Indian Tribes reservation in Arizona. Two guzzlers mapped northwest of Victorville just off Interstate 15, and a map to a spring on Stoddard Mountain north of Victorville. GPS coordinates given to all three spots.

Vol. 4, No. 6, September, 2000

Upland bird production mediocre for '00, especially in desert areas. A guzzler and spring mapped north of Red Mountain off Trona Road. Three guzzlers mapped in Cyrus Canyon near Lake Isabella, and four other guzzlers mapped north of Ojai in Dry Canyon off Lockwood Valley Road. GPS coordinates for all nine locations given. Dove opener reports from all over the region.

Vol. 5, No. 1, October, 2000

Four springs and a guzzler mapped and detailed in the Walker Pass area off Highway 14 in the southern Sierra Nevada near Inyokern. Eight guzzlers in Santa Ana Mountains out of Corona mapped and GPS coordinates given. Hunting updates from East Mojave.

Vol. 5, No. 2, November, 2000

Dry weather hitting guzzlers hard, many dry. Maps and GPS coordinates to a guzzler near Chiriaco Summit off I-60; two guzzlers in the West Mojave just west of Highway 247 north of Lucerne, and Piute Spring in the East Mojave National Preserve is mapped. Also a map and GPS info on five guzzlers off I-8 in San Diego County.

Vol. 5, No. 3, December, 2000

A detailed map and outline of the Dos Palmas Spring area just off the north end of the Salton Sea. Two guzzlers mapped and GPS coordinates given in the Red Mountain region. Another guzzler mapped off Highway 178 near Lake Isabella. How to fight the threat to Cibola National Wildlife Refuge goose hunting.

Vol. 5, No. 4, April, 2001

Turkey hunting expands in Southern California. Detailed maps to a Merriam hotspot in the San Bernardino Mountains and the DFG's Boden Canyon Ecological Reserve in San Diego County. Use of MapTech mapping software and the DeLorme. GPS coordinates for 29 guzzlers from all over Southern California mapped in 1996 and 1997 issues: including nine guzzlers in the Temblor Range west and south of Maricopa (Carrizo Plain area), 12 guzzlers in the El Paso Mountains west of Red Mountain, five guzzlers in the Cleveland National Forest near Warner Hot Springs, and two guzzlers off Interstate 10 at Whitewater.

Vol. 5, No. 5, August, 2001

Dove forecast for whole region, including details to public fields in Imperial Valley and a host of locations in the West Mojave between Victorville and Barstow. Maps and GPS coordinates to four guzzlers in quail and chukar country in Kelso Valley near Lake Isabella. All are in the new Kiavah Wilderness.

Vol. 5, No. 6, September, 2001

Quail and chukar brood count information for Mojave



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Desert and Southern Sierra Nevada. Four guzzler locations in Santa Ana Mountains in the Riverside-Orange county boundary. Waterfowl blind site results for San Jacinto Wildlife Area and the Wister Unit for 2000 season. Four guzzlers in Kelso Valley near Isabella mapped. GPS coordinates for all eight guzzlers in this issue.

Vol. 6, No. 1, October, 2001

Seven guzzlers in the East Mojave mapped and GPS coordinates given in the Caruthers Canyon area, Brown Buttes area, and in Cedar Canyon. Updates on Cajon Pass, Opal Mountain, El Paso Mountains, and southern Sierra guzzlers and their bird numbers.

Vol. 6, No. 2, November, 2001

Five natural springs, three guzzlers, and a windmill/stock tank mapped and GPSed in the East Mojave, including spots just inside the Mojave National Preserve at Kelbaker Road north of Interstate 40, and in the Old Woman Mountains south of I-40 and Essex off Sunflower Springs Road.

Vol. 6, No. 3, December, 2001

Two more guzzlers mapped off Sunflower Springs Road in the East Mojave south of Essex. Three guzzlers in the West Mojave at the foot of the Ord Mountains near Indian petroglyphs are mapped. Hunting directions given to “the big hill” near Apple Valley, along with the four guzzlers near this spot off Johnson Road. Coordinates are listed for all nine guzzlers. Arizona Mearns quail update and an introduction to the Western Gamebird Alliance.

Vol. 6, Nos 4 & 5, August, 2002

Mojave Preserve Special Issue: First compendium 12-page issue with 136 guzzler GPS locations in the Mojave National Preserve. Also a map to the Fenner Hills guzzlers west of Goffs. Information on map resources available, a dove hunting season forecast in Imperial Valley’s public fields, and a guzzler report form. *Note: You may want to order the “new” version, Vol. 9, No. 5, published in October, 2009 for updated and corrected coordinates.*

Vol. 6, No. 6, September, 2002

Update on the 2002 quail and chukar hatch. Maps and coordinates to five guzzlers, and coordinates for a sixth, in the Halloran Springs area north of Interstate 15 east of Baker. A map and coordinates for two guzzlers in Butterbrecht Canyon west of Highway 14 and south of Lake Isabella.

Vol. 7, No. 1, October, 2002

Maps and detailed information on three guzzlers and two springs in the Coxey Meadows area in the San Bernardino Mountains north of Big Bear Lake. Reader reports and coordinate corrections for spots in the Mojave Preserve, including locations of four stock tanks in the Van Winkle Spring area. Maps and coordinates for five big game fiberglass drinkers in the San Bernardino Mountains east of Baldwin Lake in the Granite Peaks for mountain quail (all may have burned in recent fires).

Vol. 7, No. 2, November, 2002

Two guzzlers mapped off Camp Rock Mine Road on the east side of Ord Mountain in the West Mojave, three guzzlers mapped south of Essex in the East Mojave, and a mountain quail guzzler near Wrightwood on Big John Flat mapped. Coordinates given for all six spots.

Vol. 7, No. 3, August, 2003

Dove opener forecast and information on Colorado River reservations and San Jacinto Wildlife Area for the dove opener. Updates and corrections from readers on 21 Mojave Preserve guzzlers, including one “new” guzzler. Three guzzlers mapped and coordinates given in an area south of Essex off Sunflower Springs Road.

Vol. 7, No. 4/5, October, 2003

West Mojave Special Issue: Second compendium 12-page issue with coordinates for 38 guzzlers (located on 12 USGS quad maps) and five special maps in the West Mojave roughly in the area from Victorville to Lucerne to Barstow. *All guzzlers are rated by chukar use.* While many of these guzzlers were in disrepair at the time this issue was published, most have been refurbished by the High Desert Chapter of Quail Forever and are holding water. *Note: You may want to order the “new” version, Vol. 13, No. 6, published in June, 2020 for updated and corrected coordinates and additional guzzler locations in this area.*

Vol. 7, No. 5/6, February, 2004

Red Mountain Special Issue: Third compendium 12-page issue with coordinates for 65 guzzlers and five maps of the Red Mountain region, including the Rand and El Paso mountain ranges. *Guzzlers are rated by chukar use.* Also a map to a chukar spring and guzzler just off Highway 18 between Apple Valley and Lucerne and not covered in the Vol. 7, No. 4/5 issue (See Vol. 8, No. 2 note on coordinates for this guzzler and spring). *Note: You may want to order the “new” version, Vol. 15, No. 6, published in*

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June, 2023 for updated and corrected coordinates and additional guzzler locations in this area.

Vol. 8, No. 1, August, 2004

Dove season roundup with an atypical listing of private operations offering fee dove hunting. Upland bird production information and forecast for '04 season. A map and details to a quail guzzler in the Mojave Preserve near Hackberry Mountain north of Goffs. A detail map of two springs and a guzzler in the Mojave Preserve off Ivanpah Road.

Vol. 8, No. 2, November, 2004

Update on chukar spots in the West Mojave, including Opal Mountain, the Johnson Road guzzlers, and corrected coordinates for the spring and guzzler covered in Vol. 7, No. 5/6 near Apple Valley. Detail and map for three guzzlers east of Hesperia on Juniper Flats along with coordinates for all three plus a nearby spring. A map and coordinates for three guzzlers in the Mojave Preserve between Goffs and Interstate 40.

Vol. 8, No. 3, August, 2005

Update on banner upland bird production for '05 season. A map and coordinates for three guzzlers north of Interstate 15 at Halloran Spring (east of Baker), including Bull Spring and Francis Spring and Valley Wells. Dove season forecast.

Vol. 8, No. 4, July, 2006

Dreary brood counts for '06 season, but good hold-over quail and chukar numbers. More detailed mapping and coordinates to three guzzlers in the East Mojave south of Interstate 15 at Halloran Summit, and another guzzler north of the I-15 at Cima Road/Kingston Road in the Shadow Valley.

Vol. 8, No. 5, August, 2006

Dove season preview with updates on the Imperial Valley public dove fields, San Jacinto, Camp Cady, and the Colorado River from Blythe to Yuma. Quail and chukar broods update for '06. Two guzzlers mapped and GPS coordinates given north of Interstate 15 and east of Kingston Road in the East Mojave.

Vol. 8, No. 6, August, 2007

Dove season preview with updates on all the usual places plus the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve (map e-mailed to subscribers), and the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) reservation. Map of springs for mountain quail in the upper Kern River drainage near Kennedy Meadows.

Vol. 9, No. 1, November, 2007

Announcement of e-edition and e-updates. Detailed maps to two sooty (blue) grouse spots in the Eastern Sierra Nevada near Lee Vining and Bridgeport. Map and information on hunting lower Owens Valley for ducks and upland birds along rewatered stretch of Owens River. A map to quail spots in Arizona Gila River Valley at Wellton.

Vol. 9, No. 2, August, 2008

Dove season preview on all the public hunting spots from Camp Cady to Yuma. Information on brood counts on quail and chukar for '08 season. A map and coordinates to three guzzlers south of Interstate 10 near Chiriaco Summit between Indio and Blythe.

Vol. 9, No. 3, June, 2009

A map to a whole series of desert springs north of Trona in the Argus Range on the east side of the China Lake Naval Weapons Center. Pheasant and snipe hunting tips for San Jacinto Wildlife Area. Two bonus maps of guzzlers in the Mojave National Preserve in the Providence Mountains (and information on how to download all three maps in this issue from our web site).

Vol. 9, No. 4, August, 2009

Dove season preview with detailed information on all of the Indian Reservation hunting programs along the Colorado River from Laughlin to Yuma, along with updates on all the usual public land spots from Camp Cady to the Imperial Valley. This issue is available as a PDF to subscribers.

Vol. 9, No. 5, October, 2009

UPDATED! Mojave Preserve Special Issue: A special revised and updated Mojave Preserve issue (Vol. 6, Nos. 4 & 5) with all the 130-plus guzzlers in the preserve. Coordinates in this issue are all precise (unlike those the original edition, which were off as much as a mile because of mis-marking on master maps).

Vol. 9, No. 6, December, 2009

Details, map, and coordinates to a guzzler and two springs in the Orocopia Mountains north of the Salton Sea out of Thermal. Details of quail hunting spots in Cajon Pass right off Interstate 15 with a map to one guzzler and coordinates for it and three other guzzlers on public land in this same area. Update on West Mojave chukar hunting.

Vol. 10, No. 1, Early August, 2010

Upland bird forecast: a repeat of 2005? Commentary on shooting hen quail. Map to five guzzlers south of Essex in the East Mojave and coordinates for these

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and three others on the same USGS quad. Details and map of two springs and a guzzler in the West Mojave in the West Ord Mountains.

Vol. 10, No. 2, Late August, 2010

Dove season preview with tips on hunting and eating doves. A map and details about two springs just off Highway 247 in the Ord Mountains north of Lucerne in the West Mojave. Details on springs and 11 guzzlers and a map of seven springs and one guzzler just off Highway 163 near Laughlin in southern Nevada.

Vol. 10, No. 3, December 2010

A map and details to two quail and chukar hunting canyons (Indian Wells and Short canyons) in the Southern Sierra near Inyokern. A map to a spring and guzzler in Cajon Pass area of the San Bernardino National Forest. And a map and GPS coordinates to nine more guzzlers near Laughlin in Southern Nevada.

Vol. 10, No. 4, August 2011

Dove special issue with the latest news and information for bird hunting on all five of the Indian Reservations along the Colorado River. Upland bird forecast for 2011, along with a map and coordinates for four more guzzlers in the Laughlin area of southern Nevada. Also news on a new Arizona law that opens up over a million areas to public hunting.

Vol. 10, No. 5, October, 2011

Details and map to two springs and two guzzlers in Dove Spring Canyon in the southern Sierra Nevada off Highway 14. Also a detailed map of the snipe hunting hotspots at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area in western Riverside county, along with three guzzlers on the area. GPS coordinates given for all five guzzlers in this issue.

Vol. 10, No. 6, July, 2012

The fourth special compendium issue of the newsletter with 50 guzzler locations in the **CARRIZO PLAIN REGION** (Temblor and Caliente mountain ranges) west of Maricopa and Taft. Includes locations of five stock tanks holding water in June, 2012, and how many of the guzzlers are in poor condition.

Vol. 11, No. 1, April, 2013

Three nearby spots covered in detail: Three guzzlers at Lake Perris Recreation Area (yes, you can hunt there), two guzzlers near Santa Rosa Summit in southern San Bernardino National Forest, and a guzzler in the Durasno Valley south of Anza. Also detailed map coverage of Mineral Spring in the far East Mojave south of Nipton Road (near stateline).

Vol. 11, No. 2, July 2013

A detailed guide and map to 14 guzzlers on the Cleveland National Forest west out of Corona on Bedford Road and along the Main Divide Road. Two guzzlers between Anza and Palm Springs mapped just south of Highway 74.

Vol. 11, No. 3, November 2013

Three guzzlers mapped at Corn Spring located south of Interstate 10 between Desert Center and Blythe in Gambel's quail country. Four guzzlers scouted remapped north of Highway 79 near Warner Springs. Plus five mountain quail springs in the Scodie Mountains (in the Southern Sierra) mapped and detailed.

Vol. 11, No. 4, May 2014

Eleven guzzlers mapped along Palomar Divide Road just south of Highway 79 on the Cleveland National Forest south and west of Warner Springs. Two guzzlers in the Sheephole Mountains east of Twentynine Palms north of Highway 62 mapped. Both areas also have detailed on-site information.

Vol. 11, No. 5, November 2014

Five guzzlers south of Twentynine Palms in the Pinto Mountains along the north border of Joshua Tree National Park mapped. Ten guzzlers in Ballinger and Deer Park canyons in the Los Padres National Forest north of Santa Barbara mapped.

Vol. 11, No. 6, April 2015

Seven guzzlers and a well south of Palo Verde along the Colorado River mapped with GPS coordinates. Tips on bird hunting in Old Mexico along with a list of reputable outfitters provided for hunters interested in hunting south of the border. Notes on newsletter rates and theft of newsletter information. Please help me keep this premium information just for you.

Vol. 12, No. 1, July 2015

Six guzzlers northwest of Blythe in McCoy Wash mapped and GPS locations given in this gambel's quail area. Three additional guzzlers north of Ramona in Carney Canyon on the Cleveland National Forest mapped and GPSed. Early season forecast for 2015 the quail and chukar opener.

Special Dove E-Edition, August 28, 2015

A last-minute update and forecast for all the Southern California public dove hunting areas, including Western Birds exclusive dove hunting maps of the public fields in the Imperial Valley, Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, San Jacinto Wildlife Area, and Camp Cady Wildlife Area, along with maps for the Cibola

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National Wildlife Refuge and the Cibola Valley Conservation and Wildlife Area. There is also an update on Indian reservation hunting along with Colorado River, license costs, and best areas. This issue also has the latest news on where non-lead ammunition must be used.

Vol. 12, No. 2, October 2015

Three small game guzzlers and a big game guzzler mapped near Wiley Well (southwest of Blythe). Three guzzlers north of Ramona in the Cleveland National Forest mapped. News on new U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Forest Service free digital maps.

Vol. 12, No. 3, January 2016

Seven small game guzzlers on Pinyon Ridge near Wrightwood mapped, plus additional guzzler on Big John Flat remapped. A guzzler north of Desert Center off I-10 mapped. Information on Mojave Preserve stopping guzzler restoration, and some advisories on using Google Earth to find guzzlers.

Vol. 12, No. 4, April 2016

Six small game guzzlers mapped on Orosco Ridge north of Ramona in San Diego County. Four additional guzzlers mapped northeast of Desert Center off of I-10. More advice on using Google Earth and Gaia GPS mapping software on phones.

Vol. 12, No. 5, August 2016

Four guzzlers near Wrightwood mapped on Ball Flat and Table Mountain. A guzzler just north of Lucerne Valley and the hunting area around it mapped. GPS coordinates provided for all guzzlers. Scouting reports for the Mojave, and information on an Iranian chukar hunting *attractor* blind.

Special Dove E-Edition, August 29, 2016

Our last-minute update and forecast for all the Southern California public dove hunting areas, including Western Birds exclusive dove hunting maps of the public fields in the Imperial Valley (both Desert Wildlife Unlimited and Wister fields), Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, San Jacinto Wildlife Area, and Camp Cady Wildlife Area, along with maps for the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge. There is also detailed information on where hunters must use non-lead ammunition

Vol. 12, No. 6, December 2016

Sixteen guzzlers mapped north of Bishop in Mono County on the benches east of the Owens River gorge and west of Highway 6. GPS coordinates given for all 16. Information on *Western Birds'* new Band-tail

Network, and band-tail population trends.

Vol. 13, No. 1, August 2017

Nine guzzlers mapped and GPS coordinates given for a chukar hunting spot in the Shadow Mountains adjacent to El Mirage Dry Lake and west of Victorville. Two more guzzlers mapped and GPS coordinates provided in the Benton Region (north of Bishop) off Highway 6. Update on brood counts for 2018, and the latest on National Park Service bureaucrats' efforts to eliminate guzzlers on the Mojave National Preserve.

Vol. 13, No. 2, January 2018

Four guzzlers mapped and GPS coordinates provided on Sawmill Mountain in the Angeles National Forest east of Interstate 5 and south of Highway 138. Also another nearby guzzler off the Old Ridge Route GPS and mapped. A guzzler near Chiraco Summit off Interstate 10 (east of Indio) mapped and GPSed. Tips on hunting the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Carrizo Plains Ecological Reserve west of Taft and north of Highway 166. A commentary on mountain quail as the ultimate bird hunter's trophy.

Special Dove E-Edition, August 29, 2017

Our last-minute update and forecast for all the Southern California public dove hunting areas, including Western Birds exclusive dove hunting maps of the public fields in the Imperial Valley (both Desert Wildlife Unlimited and Wister fields), Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, San Jacinto Wildlife Area, and Camp Cady Wildlife Area, along with maps for the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge. This issue also has the latest news on the phase-in of non-lead ammunition in California, the most current data on the dove population status nationwide. It also has information on the do and don'ts about hunting around guzzlers.

Vol. 13, No. 2, January 2018

Four guzzlers mapped and GPS coordinates provided on Sawmill Mountain in the Angeles National Forest. This area is located east of Interstate 5 and south of Highway 138. Another guzzler is mapped and GPSed adjacent to this area on the Old Ridge Route. Also a guzzler is mapped off Interstate 10 near Chiraco Summit east of Indio. Lastly, information on hunting the Carrizo Plains Ecological Reserve, and a commentary on mountain quail as the ultimate trophy for upland bird hunters.

Special Dove E-Edition, August 27, 2018

This is the last-minute update and forecast for all the Southern California public dove hunting areas, including Western Birds exclusive dove hunting maps

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of the public fields in the Imperial Valley (both Desert Wildlife Unlimited and Wister fields), Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, San Jacinto Wildlife Area, and Camp Cady Wildlife Area, along with maps for the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge and the Cibola Valley Conservation and Wildlife Area. There is also an update on Indian reservation hunting along with Colorado River, license costs, and best areas. This issue also has the latest news on the phase-in of non-lead ammunition in California. This issue is **AVAILABLE FREE** by simply calling Jim Matthews. Check future dove issues for more updated information.

Vol. 13, No. 3, October 2018

Ten guzzlers across the top of Liebre Mountain (west of Samill Mountain mapped in the last issue) mapped and GPSed, and a commentary on how illegal Angeles National Forest road closures have denied access to this region for three years. Four guzzlers along Frazier Mountain Road (west of Frazier Park) mapped and GPSed in valley and mountain quail habitat. Update on Mojave Preserve staff's effort to abandon or remove all small game guzzlers in wilderness, and abandon most others in Preserve.

Vol. 13, No. 4, April 2019 @

Map and information on the Afton Canyon region on the Mojave River where it flows above ground east of Barstow. Six guzzlers off the New Dixie Mine Road and Highway 247 west of Yucca Valley re-mapped and visited. Mountain quail and big game guzzler mapped in the San Bernardino National Forest near Angeles Oaks. Update on the National Park Service's horrific water management plan that will removed wildlife water from the Mojave National Preserve. Stories document lies told by the park superintendent.

Special Dove E-Edition, August 30, 2019

This is a six-page forecast for the 2019 dove season opener with updates on all of the popular public land hunting spots in the Imperial Valley, Blythe-Palo Verde, San Jacinto, and Camp Cady regions.

Vol. 13, No. 5, October 2019

Four guzzlers mapped just south of Hesperia along the last open-water stretch of the California aqueduct near Lake Silverwood. This spot is still unposted open space with a mix of public and private land, but development is closing in. Two guzzlers mapped near Lake Arrowhead in the San Bernardino National Forest in interesting quail habitat. Mojave Preserve water management plan adopted, ignoring the science, its own management plan, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

~~~~~ End of Print Editions of the newsletter ~~~~~

## **Vol. 13, No. 6, Jan. 2020**

**UPDATED! Special West Mojave Compendium Issue:** This is an expanded and updated West Mojave Special Issue with all of the 50 guzzlers in Barstow to Apple Valley region. It has locations of two guzzlers never mapped before and includes updated information on the guzzlers originally mapped in the first West Mojave issue, Vol. 7, No. 4-5, and some guzzlers mapped in Vol 13, No. 1, Vol. 12, No. 5, and Vol 7, No. 5-6. It also has updated information on all the hunter-conservation groups keeping Southern California guzzlers repaired and filled.

## **Vol. 14, No. 1, May 2020**

Map and information on the four guzzlers in south-eastern Imperial County near the Colorado River and north of Interstate-8. **All 19 of the springs in the West Mojave** (a follow-up to Vol. 13, No. 6 special West Mojave guzzler issue) are listed in this issue with notes on hunting them. A plea to bird hunters to help define lost quail range and water sources in California with a form to submit information to help address the problem.

## **Vol. 14, No. 2, August 2020**

Guzzlers and springs on Opal and Black mountains north of Hinkley and Highway 14 revisited with updates on hunting the region and current conditions. Information and map to two big game drinkers in Eastern Sierra Nevada off Highway 395 near the town of Walker. Information on fire and rainfall databases, Nevada guzzler map book, Utah guzzlers, and Arizona guzzler map book. Lastly a plea to fill out lost water and quail habitat reports.

## **Vol. 14, No. 3, August 28, 2020**

Dove Special Update. News from all of the public land hunting areas in the region. New map of added fields at the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve in Blythe. News of possible COVID impacts on dove opener. Cliff McDonald obituary. Information how dove banding helped increase dove limits from 10 to 15 birds/

## **Vol. 14, No. 4, October 2020**

Upland Bird Forecast: Good news. Quail Calling primer. Map and detailed information for 12 guzzlers on the Chuckwalla Bench just south of Interstate 10 and north of the bombing and gunnery range. Finding and using fire maps for your hunting and updated guide information.

# Digital Backissue List

## Vol. 14, No. 5, December 2020

**Bradshaw Trail Special Issue:** A new complete guide to all of the 24 springs and guzzlers

along the Bradshaw Trail from Palo Verde to Indio. (Includes guzzler information from Vol. 9, No. 6 and Vol. 14, No. 4.) Latest information on if quail need surface water to survive. Story on Sonoran pronghorn coming to Chuckwalla Bench.



## Vol. 14, No. 6, March 2021

**Utah Special Issue:** Maps and GPS coordinates to 21 guzzlers in the extreme southwest corner of Utah between Mesquite, Nev. and St. George, Utah. Story on five small game guzzlers being converted to big game drinkers (for Sonoran pronghorn primarily, but also deer and bighorns). Coordinates provided for four. Information on two additional big game drinkers south of I-10 just before Blythe.

## Vol. 15, No. 1, August 27, 2021

**Dove Opener Issue:** Last minute forecast and update for all of the popular public spots mapped in previous year's dove issues. How we have a 15-bird dove limit. Six guzzlers north of Vidal Junction along Highway 95 mapped. How many shots per dove do you use?

## Vol. 15, No. 2, October 2021

**Upland Bird Forecast Issue:** Dismal. Map and information on Piute Spring in the extreme eastern end of the Mojave Preserve off Highway 95 north of Blythe. Also three guzzlers in this region mapped. Western states upland bird forecast with links to more information. Brief information on some upland hunting podcasts that are available.

## Vol. 15, No. 3, July 2022

**Cajon Pass Special Issue:** Revisiting all of the 17 guzzlers in Cajon Pass. Issue contains detailed hunting information, updates on the guzzlers' status, and maps and GPS locations in this big issue. Also updated information on the four Juniper Flats-Bowen Ranch area guzzlers and the springs in this area

east of Hesperia. Information on a bill that threatens the Pittman-Robertson Act wildlife funding.

## Vol. 15, No. 4, August 28, 2022

**Annual Dove Opener Issue:** This is the 2022 round-up of what to expect at all of the popular dove hunting areas across Southern California and the Colorado River, along with updated maps, where needed, to augment past dove issues. USFWS dove population data, and a story on Lake Perris opening for dove opener. Latest, up-to-the-minute information on steel shotshell availability across the region.

## Vol. 15, No. 5, October, 2022

**Annual Upland Forecast Issue:** Grim news. The bleak Southern California region-by-region breakdown of 2022 production and how prospects look for this season from the Eastern Sierra to the Carrizo to the Colorado River and all across the Mojave Desert. Also, brief information on all the Western states' upland bird forecast. Data on local rainfall and how it affects gamebird production. Some info on more podcasts and reader-caught mistakes.

## Vol. 15, No. 6, June, 2023

**UPDATED! Special Red Mountain Region Compendium Issue:** Remaps and provides precise coordinates for all 71 of the guzzlers in the Rand and El Paso mountain ranges south of Ridgecrest and Inyokern. The area covered is on both sides of Highway 395 but east of Highway 14. It also has news and updates on waterfowl hunting at Lake Perris State Recreation Area and San Jacinto Wildlife Area.

## Vol. 16, No. 1, July, 2023

**Arizona Issue:** Maps and GPS coordinates for 12 big game guzzlers in the Maricopa Mountains in Arizona west of Phoenix, and two other big game drinkers north of I-10 along the Central Arizona Project canal. Information on mountain quail research that needs hunters' help, and scouting for quail and chukar with a rifle and collecting a few cottontails.

## Vol. 16, No. 2, August 28, 2023

**Annual Dove Opener Issue:** In-person scouting information from the Colorado River Indian Trips (CRIT) Reservation south of Parker in Arizona, including maps and details of a whitewing dove hotspot on sudan fields. Also scouting information from Blythe, Cibola, the Imperial Valley, and the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. Current public land hunting maps for all of the public hunting areas across the entire region, and the latest from the USFWS on dove numbers.

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## **Vol. 16, No. 3, October 16, 2023**

**Annual Upland Bird Forecast Issue:** Detailed information by region on this year's quail and chukar hatch and where the hunting will be best for the 2023-24 season. Rainfall gauges across Southern California tell the story on the hatch. Commentary on how and why it takes at least two years of good rain to create good quail numbers. A Last Page story on hunting with old Labradors.

## **Vol 16, No. 4, November, 2023**

**Scodie Mountain Region Compendium Issue:** A special issue covering all 46 guzzlers in the greater Scodie Mountain region of the southern Sierra Nevada with 13 quad maps and GPS coordinates for all the guzzlers. The area covered is all the public land between Highway 14 on the east, Lake Isabella on the west, Jawbone Canyon on the south and Freeman Canyon (Highway 178) on the north. Information on the DFW limiting access to the Canebrake Ecological Reserve for no reason.

## **Vol. 16, No. 5, January, 2024**

Four springs on the north side of the China Lake Naval Weapons Center in the Coso Mountains mapped and detailed, along with two guzzlers on the west edge of the Naval Weapons Center just east of Haiwee Reservoir. Gary Hatfield writes about dogs and The Big Hill in of Johnson Road in the West Mojave.

## **Vol. 16, No 6, June, 2024**

**Special Rabbit Hunting Issue:** Which is also about bird scouting. This issues focuses on using the cottontail rabbit season, which opens July 1 each year, as an excuse to get out bird scouting. Offers a primer on guns and gear needed. Hunting jackrabbits for the table. Also news stories on the BLM's inept management of burros in the Piute Mountains, and how ravens are impacting gamebird and tortoise populations.

## **Vol. 17, No. 1, August 29, 2024**

**Annual Dove Opener Issue:** Field updates from all of the public land hunting spots with the dismal forecast. In the Imperial Valley, the usual Desert Wildlife Unlimited public fields were not planted in 2024 because of the DFW screwing up funding again. The Wister, Finney-Ramer units were planted. Updates on Blyteto Yuma along the Colorado River. Maps of the public areas, including the CRIT reservation field mapped in the 2023 issue. USFWS update on dove number nationwide and the West. Updates on five Indian reservations along the Colorado River. Tips on finding dove flyways. Lastly, the rules about hunting around guzzlers (again!).

## **Vol. 17, No. 2, October 16, 2024**

**Annual Upland Bird Forecast Issue:** Updates on how the 2024 season is shaping up to be the best bird season since at least 2005 with bumper crop populations of valley quail and chukar all across their range in the southern half of California. In depth coverage of rainfall totals across the region and how rain and bird carry over relate to bird numbers: It take two years of good production for a year like this one. How fire closures are impacting hunting. Bureaucracy and politics are going to cost us our hunting rights unless we fight back.

## **GOOGLE EARTH FILES**

All back issues now come with a KMZ or KMX file. These are Google Earth files that open up the locations covered in the issue on the Google mapping software. They can be transferred from Google to other mapping applications (like OnX) or handheld GPS units.

## **COMPENDIUM ISSUES**

Special "compendium" issues with large numbers of guzzlers or springs in specific areas are highlighted with yellow blocks. Please be aware that many old issues were created before precise GPS coordinates were available and were interpolated locations or locations taken when there was still a military scramble on GPS.

## **PDF BACKISSUES**

**ALL issues are now available as PDF files with corresponding .kmz-extension files (Google Earth). Computer printouts are available for all issues at additional cost.**

## **PRINT ISSUES**

**If you want press-printed issues, please call for availability. Only issues published before Vol 13, No. 6, Jan. 2020, were printed newsletters and mailed to subscribers.**

## **WESTERN BIRDS**

## **Subscriptions**







# Back Issue Order Form

Since we started **Western Birds** in October, 1996 we have published over 60 issues, given directions and coordinates to over 800 different hunting locations — from guzzlers to desert springs to top waterfowl blind sites to the best place to shoot a ptarmigan in California's Eastern Sierra Nevada. Five special issues we've published have included the coordinates for all 136 guzzlers in the vast Mojave National Preserve, 50 guzzlers in the West Mojave, 71 guzzlers in the Red Mountain Region, 50 guzzlers in the Carrizo Plain region, and 46 guzzlers in the Scodie Mountain region. All back issues are available only to current subscribers. You can use this fillable PDF form to order back issues.

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