



as salt cedar. Minimal habitat remains for use by millions of shorebirds and waterfowl that migrate annually and depend on these wetlands.

Fortunately, many of the man-made water impoundments in the Southwest are managed actively via timely inundation and drawdown of water from the wetland units. During the summer, the wetland units are allowed to dry which promotes germination and growth of vegetation. In the fall, once the vegetation has seeded, the wetland

is one of the biggest priorities, on larger wetlands habitat is also managed to allow breeding pairs of ducks to seclude themselves from competitors. Immediately following the northward migration in spring, these ducks will begin breeding. Seclusion habitat allows the female duck to improve body condition before breeding. This type of habitat often translates to *bosques* – thick hardwoods that are inundated in the fall. A bosque also attracts birds such as the yellow-billed cuckoo that is currently listed as threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

With an increasing demand for water and land in the Southwest, it is imperative that private landowners be involved in the management and conservation of wetland habitat if future generations are to enjoy them and the wildlife associated with them. Borderlands Research Institute is presently working with landowners and government agencies to ensure just that.

We finished our survey that day counting many individuals of 15 different species of shorebirds and waterfowl. Cooperative efforts from private landowners, Borderlands Research Institute, state land and wildlife agencies, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service will ensure wildlife has access to wetland habitats for years to come.

Historic overbank flooding from many rivers in the Southwest created seasonal wetlands along those rivers. Many of these rivers and wetlands have now been partially or completely drained to provide additional land for agriculture and water for nearby cities and towns. The banks of these rivers have also been invaded by exotic plant species such

units are inundated again to coincide with the migration of waterfowl. This creates habitat and a source of high carbohydrate food which is necessary for the high energy demand during the migration.

Wetland biologists take many things into consideration when managing these wetlands. While production of high quality foods

CAPITAL FARM CREDIT
PART OF THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM

Gold Sponsor of TWA's Annual Convention;
Partner in Promoting and Increasing TWA's Membership;
Exclusive Sponsor of Texas Big Game Awards Landowner of the Year Award

THANK YOU
CAPITAL FARM CREDIT
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

thank you

San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo

FOR SUPPORTING

TWA'S CONSERVATION LEGACY PROGRAMS!

