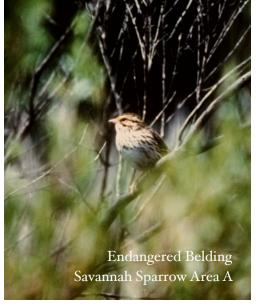
According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency . . .

more than one-third of the United States' threatened and endangered species live only in wetlands, and nearly half use wetlands at some point in their lives. Wetlands benefit both freshwater and marine fisheries by providing spawning and rearing habitats and food supply.







Waterfowl migrating along the Pacific Flyway depend on California wetlands for critical wintering habitat. Wetlands also serve vital hydrological functions, buffering wave erosion, reducing flooding by storing large volumes of water, and filtering toxic run-off.



In California, population growth and associated coastal development have caused the loss of over 90% of our wetlands.



Increasing development pressure has collided with the last remaining wetland habitat and deciding what is a wetland and what is not has become a complex problem.

In San Francisco, a state official suggests, 'If the developer across the table has a lawyer





sitting next to him, then it's a wetland.
Otherwise, he wouldn't have his lawyer with him.'"

Peter Steinhart TRACKS IN THE SKY