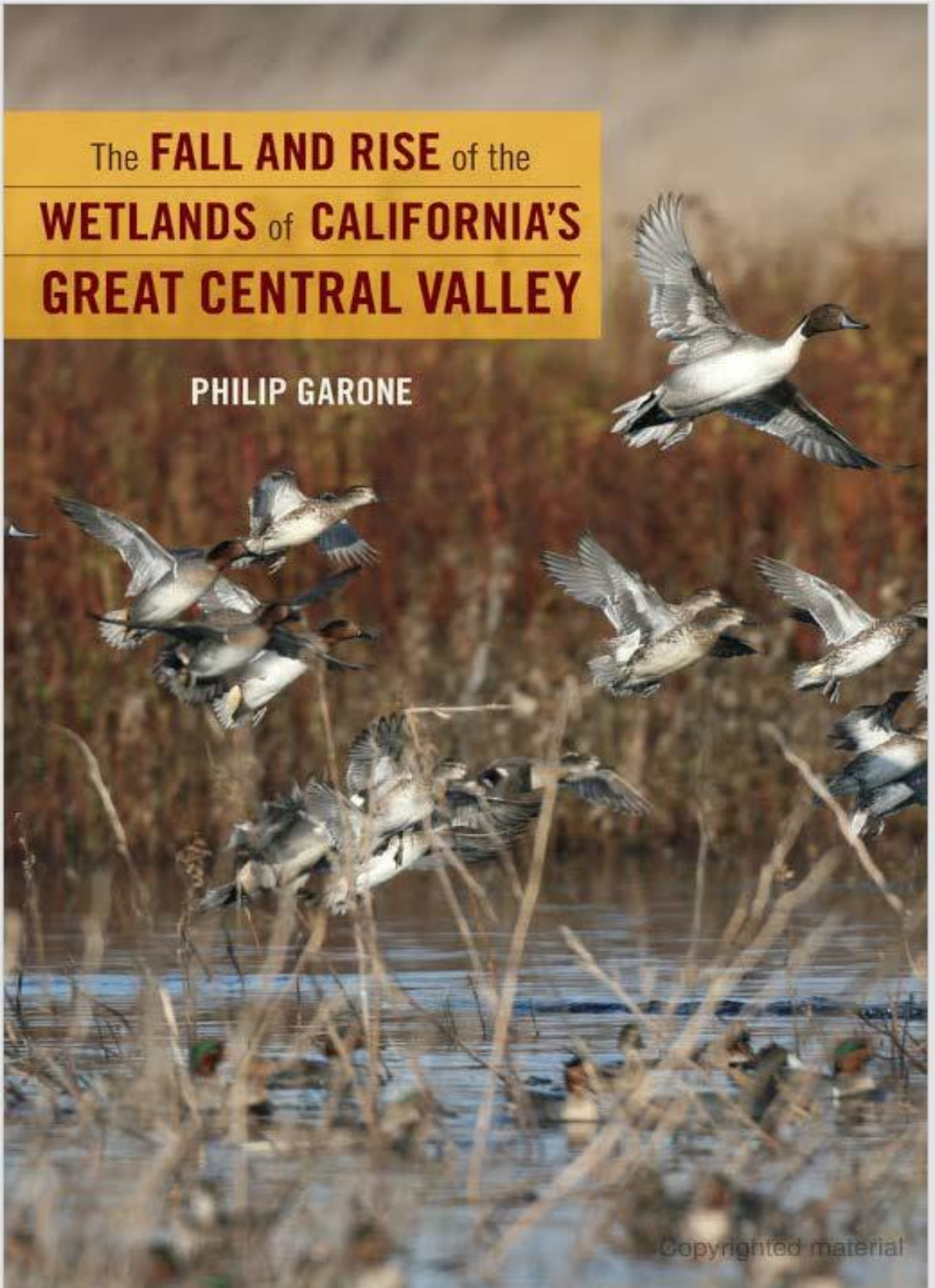


The **FALL AND RISE** of the
WETLANDS of **CALIFORNIA'S**
GREAT CENTRAL VALLEY

PHILIP GARONE



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The Fall and Rise of
the Wetlands of
California's Great
Central Valley

Philip Garone



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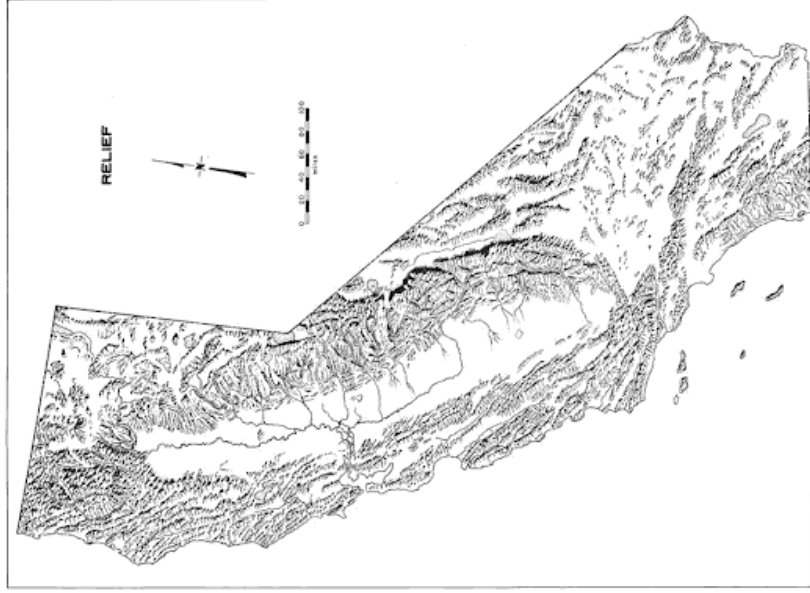
There is something about moving to California—with its stunning landscapes, fascinating geology, and vast wilderness areas—that turns one's interest toward the environment. After arriving in the San Francisco Bay area from the East with degrees in history and medieval studies, I found myself teaching at The Athenian School, a high school with a strong reputation for outdoor and environmental education. Influenced by that physically and intellectually stimulating environment, I soon began working summers as a ranger naturalist in Sequoia National Park, high in the Sierra Nevada but within view of the Central Valley lying far below. In a happy coincidence, Rick Higashi and Teresa Fan, researchers at UC Davis whom I had recently met, appeared unexpectedly in the park one day and first told me about toxicity issues that were affecting waterfowl in the valley, a topic they correctly suggested might be of interest to me. In the Central Valley I sensed a different kind of nature, one that has been remarkably transformed by human actions but still presents glimpses of what it once was and offers tantalizing possibilities for exploration and investigation. With these observations in mind, as I

entered the history doctoral program at UC Davis, the kernel of what has now become this book began taking shape.

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MAP 1. Relief map of California. The Central Valley occupies the center of the state and extends for more than four hundred miles from north to south. The Sacramento River drains the northern portion of the valley, and the San Joaquin River drains the southern portion. The two rivers meet near the center of the state in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Source: Warren A. Beck and Ynez D. Haase, *Historical Atlas of California* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1974). Used with permission.