

Waterfowl Survey for the week of November 5, 2009

Survey Areas	Ducks			Geese			
	Total	Mallards	Other Dabblers	Divers	Total	Dark	Light
Spirit Lake Areas	1000	49%	13%	38%	9000	100%	0%
Ruthven Areas	1000	26%	30%	44%	700	100%	0%
Ingham Areas	300	24%	54%	22%	6500	100%	0%
Black Hawk Lake	1300	61%	13%	26%	300	100%	0%
Bays Branch Areas	1200	57%	28%	14%	5300	100%	0%
Rice Lake Areas	1700	45%	34%	21%	8200	100%	0%
Big Marsh	2300	60%	38%	2%	4000	100%	0%
Sweet Marsh	1600	32%	49%	18%	2500	100%	0%
Green Island	2900	89%	10%	1%	3600	100%	0%
Princeton	400	91%	8%	1%	0	0%	0%
Lake Odessa Areas	39500	66%	30%	4%	2500	100%	0%
Coralville Areas	3300	16%	39%	46%	300	100%	0%
Otter Creek	2600	48%	40%	12%	200	100%	0%
Saylorville Areas	2600	41%	57%	2%	1500	100%	0%
Red Rock	18500	43%	32%	24%	1800	100%	0%
Rathbun Areas	11300	35%	59%	6%	2600	100%	0%
Lake Icaria	300	74%	26%	0%	300	100%	0%
Union County Areas	1500	42%	36%	22%	400	100%	0%
Lake Sugema	400	80%	20%	0%	500	100%	0%
Missouri River Oxbows	1700	91%	6%	3%	4500	100%	0%
Riverton/Forney	19100	64%	22%	14%	100	100%	0%
Total	113400	56%	32%	12%	54200	100%	0%

Weather and migrations during the survey period:

The rains finally ended on Oct. 31 and strong WNW winds blew a few ducks into the state, mostly divers (ring-necked ducks, redheads, and canvasback) and mid-season migrants (green-wings, gadwalls, and wigeon). Canvasback numbers on the Mississippi River jumped another 100,000 to 400,000, while scaup numbers increased from 90,000 to 125,000. The mild weather that settled in for most of the past week did not appear to be conducive to substantial migrations, even though the wind blew from the NW on Nov 2 and Nov. 4. It is unclear if the drop in ducks seen on some northern areas is the result of birds exiting the region or just a redistribution of the birds onto the temporary wetland habitat created by the recent heavy rains. Many managed areas had excessively high water levels last week, but water levels have been brought back to near normal levels on most areas thanks to the past week of dry weather. Reports of hunting success over the past week have been highly variable.