

Waterfowl Survey for the week of October 8, 2009

Survey Areas	Ducks				Geese		
	Total	Mallards	Other Dabblers	Divers	Total	Dark	Light
Spirit Lake Areas	700	34%	60%	6%	1200	200%	0%
Ruthven Areas	1400	33%	67%	0%	700	100%	0%
Ingham Areas	500	14%	80%	5%	1600	100%	0%
Black Hawk Lake	600	14%	86%	0%	100	100%	0%
Bays Branch Areas	1200	22%	78%	0%	5800	100%	0%
Rice Lake Areas	2100	30%	69%	0%	3000	100%	0%
Big Marsh	2700	30%	70%	0%	1800	100%	0%
Sweet Marsh	3300	12%	87%	0%	2100	100%	0%
Green Island	1700	50%	50%	0%	1900	100%	0%
Princeton	900	9%	91%	0%	100	100%	0%
Lake Odessa Areas	5900	20%	80%	0%	1500	100%	0%
Coralville Areas	2200	12%	88%	0%	200	100%	0%
Otter Creek	1500	33%	67%	0%	300	100%	0%
Saylorville Areas	900	21%	79%	0%	500	100%	0%
Red Rock	900	17%	83%	0%	800	100%	0%
Rathbun Areas	4100	18%	82%	0%	1100	100%	0%
Lake Icaria	100	0%	100%	0%	300	100%	0%
Union County Areas	200	47%	47%	7%	300	100%	0%
Lake Sugema	200	20%	80%	0%	200	100%	0%
Missouri River Oxbows	1100	13%	86%	1%	4100	100%	0%
Riverton/Forney	11400	4%	96%	0%	200	100%	0%
Total	43000	17%	82%	0%	26900	104%	0%

Weather and migrations during the survey period:

The youth waterfowl hunting weekend (Oct. 3-4) started a little soggy, but skies cleared for Sunday. Youth hunters appeared to do fair despite the fact that a lot of blue-winged teal had already flown south and had not yet been replaced with mid-season migrants like green-wings, gadwalls, and shovelers. Weather this past week was dominated by overcast skies and drizzle in much of Iowa, with high temperatures in the mid 50s. Wednesday was the exception, with clear skies and highs that reached the upper 60s and lower 70s. The damp conditions also slowed crop harvests this week. Many wildlife units reported a significant influx of ducks between Wednesday evening and Friday morning. The cold weather that moved into the prairies of Canada and North Dakota apparently encouraged some birds to migrate south. Forecasts call for even colder weather in the next 48 hours, which should bring more ducks to Iowa for the opener in the north zone this weekend.