

Waterfowl Survey for the week of

October 22, 2009

Survey Areas	Ducks			Geese			
	Total	Mallards	Other Dabblers	Divers	Total	Dark	Light
Spirit Lake Areas	2200	34%	50%	16%	8000	100%	0%
Ruthven Areas	1300	45%	49%	6%	600	100%	0%
Ingham Areas	200	26%	74%	0%	2300	100%	0%
Black Hawk Lake	200	26%	69%	5%	100	100%	0%
Bays Branch Areas	3000	54%	46%	0%	8200	100%	0%
Rice Lake Areas	2600	59%	32%	10%	4300	100%	0%
Big Marsh	4400	36%	64%	1%	1500	100%	0%
Sweet Marsh	4300	19%	80%	1%	2400	100%	0%
Green Island	7800	78%	22%	0%	1000	100%	0%
Princeton	800	65%	35%	0%	0	0%	0%
Lake Odessa Areas	24600	45%	55%	0%	1900	100%	0%
Coralville Areas	700	33%	64%	3%	100	100%	0%
Otter Creek	500	33%	67%	0%	100	100%	0%
Saylorville Areas	900	18%	82%	0%	800	100%	0%
Red Rock	7900	38%	62%	0%	700	100%	0%
Rathbun Areas	9200	20%	79%	1%	1600	100%	0%
Lake Icaria	200	51%	49%	0%	300	100%	0%
Union County Areas	1000	33%	66%	1%	400	100%	0%
Lake Sugema	200	29%	71%	0%	500	100%	0%
Missouri River Oxbows	700	49%	45%	7%	3600	100%	0%
Riverton/Forney	13400	16%	81%	3%	500	100%	0%
Total	85100	38%	60%	2%	38300	100%	0%

Weather and migrations during the survey period:

Unlike the second duck opener in the north zone, temperatures were seasonably cool across Iowa for the second duck opener in the south zone. Despite light winds and clear skies, hunters fared well on many areas, although the shooting declined substantially after the first couple of hours on most areas. Sunday was also quite mild but strong southerly winds helped keep the decoys moving. Overall, the opening weekend success appeared similar to recent years. Temperatures remained seasonal for most of the week but ENE winds were not conducive to major migrations. Mallard numbers doubled over last week but this increase was offset by a loss in mid-migrants like pintails, wigeon, wood ducks, green-wings and blue-wings from the state. White-fronted geese were noted moving along the Missouri River on 10/17 other than that, no major migrations were observed and hunting pressure was light on many areas. About 40% of the soybeans were harvested as of Monday, which is two weeks behind the 5-year average. Drizzle and rain continue to slow the harvest, but also replenish wetlands across the state.