

# Waterfowl Survey for the week of September 24, 2009

Survey Areas	Ducks				Geese		
	Total	Mallards	Other Dabblers	Divers	Total	Dark	Light
Spirit Lake Areas	800	20%	80%	0%	4100	99%	1%
Ruthven Areas	2100	16%	84%	0%	500	100%	0%
Ingham Areas	300	19%	81%	0%	500	100%	0%
Black Hawk Lake	500	18%	82%	0%	200	100%	0%
Bays Branch Areas	1200	15%	85%	0%	1300	100%	0%
Rice Lake Areas	300	34%	66%	0%	100	100%	0%
Big Marsh	800	22%	78%	0%	600	100%	0%
Sweet Marsh	600	18%	82%	0%	600	100%	0%
Green Island	300	3%	97%	0%	300	100%	0%
Princeton	200	0%	100%	0%	0	0%	0%
Lake Odessa Areas	1700	12%	88%	0%	500	100%	0%
Coralville Areas	1500	14%	86%	0%	100	100%	0%
Otter Creek	1000	31%	69%	0%	100	100%	0%
Saylorville Areas	500	18%	82%	0%	200	100%	0%
Red Rock	600	50%	50%	0%	1200	100%	0%
Rathbun Areas	4700	15%	85%	0%	1400	100%	0%
Lake Icaria	100	0%	100%	0%	200	100%	0%
Union County Areas	100	100%	0%	0%	300	100%	0%
Lake Sugema	300	12%	88%	0%	100	100%	0%
Missouri River Oxbows	300	8%	92%	0%	1300	100%	0%
Riverton/Forney	1300	2%	98%	0%	100	100%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18200</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>13000</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>

### Weather and migrations during the survey period:

The weather for the first split of the duck season on Saturday, September 19, was unseasonably warm, not to mention dry, at least in the northwest third of the state. A weak cold front moved into the state on Sunday, ending the extended dry spell with meager rain showers. The remainder of the week was dominated by cloudy conditions and scattered showers. In contrast to last year, when a major cold front brought a flush of new birds to the state on the Friday before the opener, this year's migrations a week before the opening appeared very light and sporadic. The only noticeable migration that occurred during the 5-day season was on Wednesday. A lack of water on many northern areas, as well as lower numbers of blue-wings, apparently discouraged participation as hunter numbers were generally reported to be average or below average on many areas. Success was variable, as it usually is, but overall, more hunters had fair to excellent success than had poor success.