

WATERFOWL MIGRATION AND HUNTING REPORT
DATA SHEET

MIGRATION YEAR: 2001-2002
Period: August 1st through January 31st

Region: Southern

Area: Wayne E. Kirch WMA

Weather and Habitat Conditions: This migration year 3.15" of precipitation was received which is well below the last 13 year average of 5.23" and the third least amount of precipitation received during the same 13 year period. In August, Tule Reservoir and Dacey Slough were dry, Dacey was 3.0' low, Adams McGill was 1.7' low, Cold Springs was .46 low, and Haymeadow remained at maximum levels until mid September when it dropped to .46 below prescribed levels. Evaporation levels remained extremely high throughout most of the summer and fall with high temperatures in conjunction with daily hot southwest winds and very little precipitation made for drought conditions. Refilling of the reservoirs was very slow due to limited amounts of water available and relentless hot temperatures and wind. Flooding grazed off areas in the Old Place Unit took longer than expected but we managed to have some green up by the end of October. Slow gradual rising of the reservoirs continued throughout the migration period with Dacey Slough remaining dry until mid January. In November, temperatures finally cooled off and skim ice began to form and by month end we had 80% ice coverage. In December temperatures plummeted with lows below zero, the ice thickened to 10" on all reservoirs and by month end we had 99% ice coverage with a layer of snow on top.

Sago Pondweed and nutlet production was fair to good on Cold Springs Reservoir and excellent on Haymeadow Reservoir, Adams McGill Reservoir and Dacey Reservoir. Adams McGill had poor alkali bulrush production on the west side due to the prolong drying and exposure of the mud flats. Eurasia milfoil continues to spread and is now an estimated 100 acres near the buoy on Adams McGill. Dacey Slough had very poor alkali bulrush production as well due to the low water levels at Dacey Reservoir.

Migration Population:	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2001-2002	5-year average
Ducks	454,451	507,355	541,559	506,994	362,329	474,538
Geese	22,712	31,551	30,106	21,708	45,693	30,354
Totals	477,163	538,906	571,665	528,702	408,022	504,892

Hunting Conditions: The season limits were 7/14 for ducks, 3/6 for Canada geese with season lengths of 101 days and 94 days respectively. Restrictions applied to no more than 2-female mallards, 1-pintail, 1-canvasback (Oct. 27-Dec. 2, 2001 only), 4-scaup, and 2-redhead. Snow and Ross geese are closed in the White River Valley.

181 hunters were checked on opening weekend with 2.3 birds per hunter on opening day and 1.2 birds per hunter on the second day. The rest of October hunters averaged 2.0 birds per hunter per day. November hunters averaged 2.59 birds per hunter per day. December hunters averaged .47 birds per hunter per day due to extreme ice conditions.

January hunters averaged 1.4 birds per hunter per day. The hunting season started out unusually warm and very dry which continued through mid November. The end of November brought cold temperatures with a spotty migration. Migrations rapidly increased in December when temperatures plummeted with brisk winds out of the north.

Unfortunately by then many birds were observed bypassing the Area at high altitude due to 99 % ice cover. By January temperatures were still cold but persistent hunters were having good success walking the ditches and creeks as well as hunting near the small inflow pools on the reservoirs where the waterfowl was concentrated. Over 500 Canada geese were observed during the January waterfowl survey. The numbers of hunters this year were about the same as last year. The Jensen Ranch and Forest Moon Ranch were closed to hunting again this year.

During the hunting season 2.05" of precipitation was received.