

Summary of a Pre-season Survey of Waterfowl Conditions

During the middle of September the District Game Managers contacted selected waterfowl observers in their respective districts and submitted reports on the combined opinions of these men. These reports were further summarized on the attached chart. Two hundred and fifty observers were contacted throughout the state.

The following statements are based on information obtained through this survey.

Region I. Observers in the Upper Peninsula generally agreed, the nesting success and waterfowl habitat remained about normal. The abundance of local duck showed little change from that of last year or an average year. One district reported fewer ducks.

Region II Marked differences in opinions as the abundance of ducks was noted in the northern half of the Lower Peninsula. In general the men in the northern and northwestern counties of Region II reported the local ducks as same to fewer as compared to last year and a normal year, while observers in the southern part reported ducks as more to same. The success of the nesting season was generally considered normal.

Region III. In contrast to last year's drought conditions that prevailed in the southern part of the state habitat conditions were considered favorable for both nesting and fall use.

Observers in general were of the opinion there were more local ducks as compared to last fall and same to less as compared to a normal year.

Judging from these reports it appears the hunters can expect a normal number of ducks in the marshes at the opening of the season.

SUMMARY OF PRE-SEASON WATERFOWL CONDITIONS - 1947

Compiled by District Game Managers

he on by ds seen	Relative number of local ducks compared to last year			Relative number of local ducks compared to an average year			Weather Condition		Difference of Opinion		Number of observers contacted	Remarks
	More	Same	Less	More	Same	Less	Favorable	Unfavorable	Yes	No		
Poor												
		X			X		X			X	15	Slight gain in duck population.
		X			X		X			X	17	Not much interest in duck hunting. Conditions normal.
			X			X	X		X		10	Fewer birds. Lots of feed.
		X			X		X			X	14	Most ducks in small ponds and waterholes.
		X to X				X	X		X		23	Hatch average to poor. Normal hunting can be expected.
		X to X			X to X		X		X		19	Average nesting and hatching conditions. Later season desired.
		X			X		X			X	4	Breeding stock reported as low.
	X				X		X		X		15	Local ducks show a definite increase over last year.
X		X			X to X		X		X		22	Little change in waterfowl population as compared to last year. Good hatch.
	X				X		X			X	12	Normal conditions.
	X					X	X			X	14	Normal numbers. Good nesting season.
	X				X to X		X			X	11	More ducks than the previous year at this time of year.
	X				X		X			X	16	Good water conditions for nesting.
	X					X	X			X	26	Duck population low. Nesting conditions favorable.
	X				X		X			X	18	More local ducks observed this year.
X			X			X		X		X	14	Not many ducks and little duck hunting territory in this district.
2	7	6	3		10	6	15	1	5	11	250	