



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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WINTER DUCK COUNT IN PACIFIC FLYWAY SHOWS 18 PERCENT DECREASE

The first report of the results of the winter waterfowl survey, released today by the Portland Regional Office of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of the Interior, shows that the duck population of the Pacific Flyway is 18 percent below last year's total, D. H. Janzen, Director of the Bureau, announced today.

Director Janzen said it would be late February or early March before continental figures on waterfowl population would be available from the Fish and Wildlife Service, but that reports from individual States and the other three flyways would be released as they become available. Included in the continental figures will be the results of the winter surveys made in Canada, Mexico, and on the northern coast of South America.

Pacific Flyway data show that goose populations are down four percent; swans are off 10 percent and coots are down 17 percent. An encouraging increase was noted in black brant which were 53 percent more plentiful than last year.

Only Washington and Oregon showed an increase in ducks. The rest of the flyway, which includes Alaska, the west coast of Mexico, Idaho, Nevada, California, Arizona, and Utah showed varying declines.

A total of 364 State and Federal observers participated in the Pacific Flyway survey. In addition to car and boat travel, 32 aircraft were flown a total of more than 30,000 miles in making the survey. Aerial photography was used in areas of heavy concentrations.

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