



last year. Many of the shallow potholes and lakes formed from last winter's runoff attracted nesting ducks in May, but could dry up in July, reducing chances for survival of the young, flightless birds. This potential danger has been somewhat alleviated in southern Manitoba by recent rains.

Only preliminary reports have been received from survey teams in Alaska, the Northwest Territories, northern Saskatchewan, northern Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec. Late ice breakup and inclement weather have delayed the survey in these northern areas.

Early reports from the Northwest Territories indicate that the number of breeding birds is down 50 percent. A crew flying northern Saskatchewan, northern Manitoba, and Ontario reported substantial increases throughout much of its survey area except for the important Saskatchewan River Delta, where duck populations were down 25 percent.

The duck nesting areas will be flown again by the survey teams in July. The brood count made at that time will reveal the success of the breeding season and will give a reliable index of the number of birds that will move south in the fall. This information, plus other data, will provide the basis for establishing this fall's waterfowl hunting regulations.

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