



The Department also pointed out that the midwinter survey data does not have a direct cause-and-effect relationship with the annual waterfowl hunting regulations. The survey is only one of several sets of information used in establishing hunting regulations each year.

The extensive survey covers the main waterfowl wintering areas of Mexico and Canada as well as all the States. It is coordinated by the Fish and Wildlife Service's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The entire job must be completed as soon as possible to guard against duplicate counts of birds that may move from one area to another because of weather changes.

On the first day of the survey, hundreds of waterfowl observers in the United States, Canada and Mexico climb into cars, boats and airplanes to see how many waterfowl of each species can be observed in the assigned areas. Men and equipment from the Fish and Wildlife Service, State game and fish departments, the United States Armed Forces, the Canadian Wildlife Service, fish and game departments of the Canadian Provinces, and private organizations and individuals all cooperate in carrying out this important survey.

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