

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

news release

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WATERFOWL CONDITIONS REMAIN GOOD

With summer fading into the time of migration, water conditions and duck breeding populations continue to look good as reports come in from the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife surveys in Canada and the United States.

Summing up results to date before final reports are studied next week, Dr. Leslie Glasgow, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife, Parks and Marine Resources, said that water conditions were markedly better than 1968, with the count of July water areas in prairie Canada up 100 percent from last year. "And the duck breeding populations are higher than a year ago," reported the Assistant Secretary.

The combined breeding population of important duck species was 12 percent higher than last year, although still below the 1956-62 average selected by BSWF as a "base" period for waterfowl population objectives.

In a breakdown by species, breeding populations of mallards, pintails, blue-winged teal, widgeons, redheads and canvasbacks showed an increase over 1968. Of the important game species, only green-winged teal and gadwall decreased from 1968.

Normal to excellent production is reported from the prairie pothole regions of southern Canada. The duck hatch is rated excellent in southern Saskatchewan, good in southern Manitoba, normal in southern Alberta. All of these provinces are expected to produce duck flights markedly higher than in 1968, although below the 1956-62 base.

Final evaluation of fall duck flight prospects awaits production reports from Alaska and Canada's Northwest Territories, the northern parts of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario, where a significant number of the continental duck population nests. Production reports are also awaited from several States.

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