

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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WEEKLY REPORTS ON WATERFOWL OUTLOOK ARE PLANNED

The Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service announced today a cooperative project with the Flyway Councils, State fish and game agencies and Ducks Unlimited, a private conservation group, to provide a series of weekly reports on the waterfowl outlook as birds move down the flyways this fall.

The reports, one for each of the four flyways, will describe the progress of fall migration, locations of waterfowl concentrations, and weather and habitat conditions associated with major waterfowl movements.

Field reports from Federal, State, Provincial and other biologists will be sent to regional offices in each flyway. They will be assembled and summarized by Fish and Wildlife Service flyway migratory bird coordinators and relayed to Ducks Unlimited, where the material will be printed and distributed to conservation agencies, newspapers and outdoor editors as a weekly news release.

The reports planned for this fall are an outgrowth of a more limited effort begun last year by the Service and the Mississippi Flyway Council to provide information, primarily to waterfowl managers. Other flyways were included as the season progressed and there were numerous requests for wider distribution of the reports to the public.

The southward migration of ducks and geese, one of the outstanding natural events of the fall season, has fascinated man since the earliest times. The weekly migration reports are expected to be of considerable public interest, particularly to sportsmen and birdwatchers, as well as being useful to wildlife managers.

The reports will be issued beginning early in October and continuing until January when the birds are settled on their wintering areas.

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