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10/1/2008

Dear Joint Venture Partner,

This past spring, cooperators in a developing large-scale mallard telemetry project participated in a migration observation network to document spring mallard chronology and compare these observations with movements of GPS-marked mallards. Andy Raedeke with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) coordinated this effort on an experimental basis and the process worked well. Based on this success, cooperators will be continuing this migration observation network this fall and winter to see if mallards marked with telemetry units this summer in North Dakota and Saskatchewan exhibit "normal" migration behavior. The following maps depict the locations of cooperators from this spring and an example of an output from this effort.

Central and Mississippi Flyway states have already been asked to participate through the Flyway technical sections, and cooperators from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Texas have already agreed to provide data this fall. This letter serves as a formal request from the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture Waterfowl Working Group to the national wildlife refuge staff and state wildlife managers in the MAV portions of Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee for their participation in this Flyway-wide effort.

The protocol for this network is simple: participants quantify mallard abundance at a site on a relative scale from 0-10 (0 = no mallards, 1 = very low mallard numbers, 5 = moderate mallard numbers, 10 = peak mallard numbers) weekly from October 15 – February 15. To facilitate reporting and recording of this information, MDC database managers are developing a web-based data entry form. All participants will need to do is go to a web page, type in the name of their location, type in their weekly ranking (0-10), and click submit. Tim Bixler, the MDC GIS specialist who created the spring migration maps, will create a map each week that can be posted on participants' web pages.

Please let me know if you would be willing to participate in this effort, and I will provide you more specifics on the data collection and entry protocols. The network will be up and running by October 1 in the northern states of the Flyways and I am hopeful we can have participation by LMVJV states by October 15. Feel free to call me if you have any specific questions.

Sincerely,

Luke Naylor  
Chair, Waterfowl Working Group





1	Ten Mile Pond CA	Missouri
2	Duck Creek CA	Missouri
3	Otter Slough CA	Missouri
4	Four Rivers CA	Missouri
5	Settle's Ford CA	Missouri
6	MTC CA	Missouri
7	B.K. Leach CA	Missouri
8	Eagle Bluffs CA	Missouri
9	Grand Pass CA	Missouri
10	Ted Shanks CA	Missouri
11	Fountain Grove CA	Missouri
12	Bob Brown CA	Missouri
13	Nodaway Valley CA	Missouri
14	Windom WMD	Minnesota
15	LQP WMA	Minnesota
16	Thief Lake WMA	Minnesota
17	Huron WMD	South Dakota
18	Chamberlain	South Dakota
19	Watertown	South Dakota
20	Aberdeen	South Dakota
21	Waubay NWR	South Dakota
22	Tewaukon NWR	North Dakota
23	Kulm WMD	North Dakota
24	Arrowwood NWR	North Dakota
25	Devils Lake WMD	North Dakota
26	J. Clark Salyer NWR	North Dakota
27	Lostwood NWR	North Dakota
28	Test Run	North Dakota
29	Brooks	Alberta
30	Camrose	Alberta
31	Edmonton	Alberta
32	Grande Prairie	Alberta
33	Beaverhill	Alberta
34	Milk River	Alberta
35	Missouri Coteau	Saskatchewan
36	Swift Current	Saskatchewan
37	Yorkton	Saskatchewan
38	Saskatoon	Saskatchewan
39	Humboldt	Saskatchewan
40	North Battleford	Saskatchewan
41	Dana Hills	Saskatchewan
42	Brandon	Manitoba
43	Oak Hammock	Manitoba
44	Killarney	Manitoba

### Mallard Migration Phenology Study Area and Site Locations



### Mallard Migration Phenology April 14, 2008

