



Santee-Cooper Delta area than in previous years.

Snow geese and brant populations in the Atlantic Flyway showed a slight decrease from last year but the brant population level is near the long-term average.

There was an increase in wintering Canada geese in the Atlantic Flyway, particularly in the Delaware-Maryland-Virginia area. The survey also indicated an increase in swans over last year.

In the Mississippi Flyway, mild weather, little snow cover, and available food held a larger than usual number of birds in the upper and central States. Flooding in northern Arkansas, Kentucky, and along the Mississippi River increased available habitat. Ducks lingering in the more northern States in the Mississippi Flyway included an estimated 40,000 canvasbacks on the Mississippi River near Keokuk, Iowa. Favorable habitat conditions on the Louisiana coastal marshes continued to hold large numbers of ducks as they have for several years.

For the first time in many years, more snow geese were found in mid-flyway States than in Louisiana, and large numbers of blue geese remained in Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri. About 1,200 swans lingered in Michigan at the time of the survey.

The survey also showed a moderate decrease in the Canada goose population in the Mississippi Flyway.

Survey conditions in the Central Flyway were excellent except in Montana where some snow and fog delayed survey operations. Larger permanent water areas were open and waterfowl were well distributed throughout the Flyway. An estimated 100,000 ducks, mostly pintails, were concentrated near Scott City in western Kansas.

The Canada goose population in the Central Flyway showed a moderate decrease over those tallied during the January 1965 survey.

Habitat conditions in the Pacific Flyway were near normal except in the northern portion of Idaho where low water conditions existed. Snow cover in parts of northern Idaho, eastern Washington, and southern Oregon reduced available food for field feeding species of waterfowl.

Because of the mild weather, duck migration in the Pacific Flyway was less spectacular than in prior years and the birds remained scattered throughout the Flyway. An excellent stand of sago pondweed in southern Oregon attracted large numbers of dabbling ducks that normally would have moved into California. In Oregon's Willamette Valley, flooded corn fields also attracted large numbers of ducks.

More black brant were seen in the northern portions of the Flyway this year and fewer were seen along the west coast of Mexico, probably because of the mild winter. A slight decrease in the total black brant population was indicated by the survey.

The most surprising part of the survey was an apparent drop in the total goose population in the Pacific Flyway. Birds numbering only about half of last year's count were tallied. State and Federal wildlife officials believe such a reduction unrealistic and additional surveys are being conducted to try and locate the approximately 572,000 missing geese.

Swan counts in the Pacific Flyway indicated an overall decrease in population, due to a drop in the relatively numerous whistling swans. Trumpeter swan numbers were very close to the long-term average.

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