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DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
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DUCK BANDING - 1980

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Duck Banding - 1980

In accordance with banding quotas sent to the Wildlife Operations office, Anchorage, we were assigned 500 mallards and 800 green-winged teal to band during 1980.

I. Methods

Trapping operations were conducted by making drives using drive nets, bait trapping and cannon nets. All methods were a "success" in that all trapping attempts produced birds. However, problems with OAS inability to make a suitable aircraft available in time to make drives on flightless birds greatly hindered the success of this type of banding. By late July (when the aircraft became available) most ducks were flying and thus not trappable. We were again forced to use bait traps for the majority of effort in banding.

As in 1979 a Cessna 185 on floats was used for all banding operations. A total of 22 hours and 24 hours flight time was used at Yukon Flats NWR and Minto Lakes respectively.

a.) Minto Lakes

Methods used for bait trapping of ducks at Minto Lakes are the same as described in the 1979 duck trapping report (see attachment). A total of 36 bait trap nights were used to capture 474 ducks. These birds were baited to traps using 2080 pounds of cracked corn and 400 pounds of wheat. Best results were achieved by using cracked corn for bait.

One shot was made with the rocket net. This attempt captured 22 ducks. Our main purpose for using this method was to see if the new nets and rockets were operating as expected.

No attempt was made at drive trapping on Minto Lakes because we were too late for good success on flightless birds. Water levels at Minto were lower than 1979 and thus more shoreline and aquatic vegetation was exposed as duck food and loafing areas (see Table 1).

Two previously banded Pintails were trapped at Minto Lake. Information obtained from the Banding Lab indicated both birds were at least one year old when banded. One (a female) was banded on September 6, 1977 near Wrentham, Alberta, Canada (southern Alberta) and a male was banded on October 1, 1978 near Gridley, California (central California).

b.) Yukon Flats NWR

During July 18 - 21, a series of drives were made on two lakes in the refuge. Two drives each were made on a lake 10 miles southeast of Beaver and 30 miles southwest of Ft. Yukon (Canvasback Lake). These drives allowed a total of 44 ducks to be banded. Needless to say many of the birds at this time were flying and all mallards we observed were flying. One interesting note here is that all birds trapped were adults (see Table 2).

Methods used in the Yukon NWR were basically the same as used to drive flightless geese. Nets were set up in a "V" shape and an aircraft and small raft were used to drive the birds on shore.

Conclusions:

1981 efforts should be timed to coincide with the flightless period of ducks. If large numbers of ducks are to be banded then the majority of effort must be made during mid-July when birds are flightless.

Surveys should be made in early July to locate large numbers of molting birds before banding crews are moved on site.

Those participating with the author were John Trapp, Scott Schliebe, Jim Akaran and Mindy Rowse, all of the Regional office in Anchorage, and Gene Steffen, Washington Office Aircraft Management Staff.

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Table 1. Minto Lakes Duck Banding - August 19 - 23, 1980

	<u>AHY-F</u>	<u>AHY-M</u>	<u>HY-F</u>	<u>HY-M</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mallard	0	0	1 (100)	0	1
Gn-Wg Teal	13 (19)	23 (35)	7 (10)	24 (36)	67
Pintail	178 (42)	152 (36)	61 (14)	37 (8)	428
Total	191 (38)	175 (35)	69 (14)	61 (13)	496

Table 2. Yukon Flats NWR Duck Banding - July 18 - 21, 1980

	<u>AHY-F</u>	<u>AHY-M</u>	<u>HY-F</u>	<u>HY-M</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gr-Wg Teal	2 (33)	4 (67)	0	0	6
Pintail	5 (62)	3 (38)	0	0	8
Shoveler	3 (27)	8 (73)	0	0	11
Wigeon	1 (5)	18 (95)	0	0	19
Total	11 (25)	33 (75)	0	0	44

AHY-After Hatching Year

HY-Hatching Year

M-Male

F-Female

()-Percent of total for each category



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