

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Steven M. Huffaker, Director

Project W-170-R-28

Progress Report



WATERFOWL FALL AND WINTER SURVEYS, BANDING, AND HARVEST

Study II, Job 3

October 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004

Prepared by: Tom Hemker, Wildlife Program Coordinator

September 2004
Boise, Idaho



Findings in this report are preliminary in nature and not for publication without permission of the Director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game adheres to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, or handicap. If you feel you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, or if you desire further information, please write to: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, PO Box 25, Boise, ID 83707; or the Office of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

This publication will be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Idaho Department of Fish and Game for assistance.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT.....	1
STUDY OBJECTIVES.....	1
PROCEDURES.....	1
RESULTS	2
DUCKS (ALL SPECIES).....	2
1991-1995 WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN GOALS	2
MANAGEMENT AREAS	2
Management Area One	2
Management Area Two.....	3
Management Area Three.....	4
POPULATION SURVEYS	4
HARVEST CHARACTERISTICS.....	4
CLIMATIC CONDITIONS.....	5
YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT	5
MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	5
GEESE (ALL SPECIES).....	6
1991-1995 WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN GOALS	6
MANAGEMENT AREAS	6
Management Area One	6
Management Area Two.....	7
Management Area Three.....	8
Management Area Four	8
Management Area Five.....	9
POPULATION SURVEYS	9
HARVEST CHARACTERISTICS.....	9
CLIMATIC CONDITIONS.....	10
MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	10
TRUMPETER SWAN	10
TUNDRA SWAN	10
AMERICAN COOT	11
COMMON SNIPE	11

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

SANDHILL CRANE	11
LITERATURE CITED	11
APPENDIX A.....	20

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Birds counted during the mid-winter waterfowl survey, 1993-2003. No count in 2004.	13
Table 2. Estimated statewide harvest of ducks obtained from the Department telephone survey, 1988-2003.....	14
Table 3. Estimated waterfowl harvest numbers from the USFWS's waterfowl hunter survey for Idaho, 1988-2003.....	15
Table 4. Canada geese counted in Idaho during the mid-winter survey by survey area, 1993 to 2003. No count in 2004.	16
Table 5. Estimated harvest of Canada geese from the Pacific Population (west of U.S. Highway 93) obtained from the Department telephone survey, 1988-2003.....	17
Table 6. Estimated harvest of Canada geese from the Rocky Mountain Population (east of U.S. Highway 93) obtained from the Department telephone survey, 1988-2003.....	18
Table 7. Estimated statewide harvest of Canada geese obtained from the Department telephone survey, 1988-2003.....	19

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Boundaries for Pacific and Rocky Mountain populations of Canada geese.....	12
--	----

**PROGRESS REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

STATE:	<u>Idaho</u>	JOB TITLE:	<u>Upland Game and Waterfowl</u>
PROJECT:	<u>W-170-R-28</u>		<u>Population Status and Trends</u>
SUBPROJECT:	<u>1-7</u>	STUDY NAME:	<u>Waterfowl Fall and Winter</u>
STUDY:	<u>II</u>		<u>Surveys, Banding, and Harvest</u>
JOB:	<u>3</u>		
PERIOD COVERED:	<u>October 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004</u>		

ABSTRACT

The results of the mid-winter waterfowl population surveys conducted by regional personnel and results of harvest surveys are summarized and discussed. The 2004 mid-winter count for total ducks and total waterfowl was not conducted because of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) budget constraints. Harvest data from the USFWS showed duck harvest up 64% and goose harvest was up 130% over 2002. The Department conducted a waterfowl harvest survey for the 2003 season, the second state survey since 1995. These harvest data were about 11% more than the USFWS goose harvest estimate and 21% higher than the USFWS duck harvest estimate. The Department conducted the first Idaho survey to estimate the number of participants in the special youth hunt and estimated that 1,100 adults mentored 1,000 youth hunters during this two-day hunt.

A total of 99 trumpeter swan cygnets were trapped and 50 were translocated to the lower Bear River near Preston in late 2003. A summary of the 2003-2004 waterfowl hunting regulations is provided in Appendix A.

STUDY OBJECTIVES

1. Determine production and trends of resident waterfowl.
2. Estimate waterfowl harvest, hunter participation, and hunter opinions.
3. Determine waterfowl movements, distribution, and survival rates.

PROCEDURES

1. Conduct fall and winter aerial counts of waterfowl.
2. Evaluate the usefulness of fall surveys and consider new techniques to assess waterfowl numbers.
3. Conduct a telephone survey of hunting license buyers.

4. Operate check stations or field checks.
5. Band waterfowl and monitor movements and survival rates.

Harvest data were collected and analyzed by the Bureau of Wildlife. Personnel stationed in the state's seven regions and one sub-region collected all other data.

RESULTS

DUCKS (ALL SPECIES)

1991-1995 WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN GOALS

1. Reverse the decline in number of duck hunters.
2. Reverse the decline in duck harvest.
3. Determine duck nesting success at least twice (every other year) on all WMAs where waterfowl production is a priority.
4. Maintain a 30% nest success for upland nesting ducks on WMAs where waterfowl production is a priority.
5. Develop and implement a predator management strategy for priority WMAs where nest success is less than 30%.
6. Establish duck production surveys in at least one region in cooperation with the USFWS.

MANAGEMENT AREAS

Management Area One

The description, season framework, and bag and possession limits of Management Area One can be found in Appendix A.

Background and Management Philosophy: Management Area One was established in 1985 by emergency order of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission (Commission). This order came as a result of a 1985 USFWS regulation which allowed Indian tribes to have hunting seasons for non-tribal members which differ from the remainder of the state. The first boundaries of Area One included only part of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation and were arrived at after negotiations between the Department, USFWS, and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. The Department did not object to the Tribes' request for a special hunt area because impacts to resident and migrant ducks and law enforcement problems were expected to be minimal. Area One was enlarged after the 1985-1986 hunting season to include the entire Fort Hall Indian Reservation and portions of adjacent counties. The purpose was to place the entire reservation under one set of rules to avoid disputes between the Tribes and the state over Reservation boundaries.

Several times during the late 1980s and early 1990s, the USFWS denied the Department's request to rezone the state. This rezoning would have placed all of northern, central, and southeastern Idaho in one area and southwestern Idaho in another. The USFWS's reasons for denial were low duck numbers continent-wide, a fear of increased harvest, and a strict moratorium on rezoning until duck populations rebounded.

Prior to the 1985-1986 hunting season, the state was divided into two areas: those counties and parts of counties within the Columbia Basin Mallard Wintering Area (northern and southwestern Idaho), and the remainder of the state (central and southeastern Idaho). Bag and possession limits prior to the 1985-1986 season were seven and 14, respectively. Beginning in 1985-1986, season length and bag and possession limits were reduced as mandated by the USFWS because of poor duck production and recruitment continent-wide resulting from drought and habitat degradation.

Early in 1991, the USFWS and Pacific Flyway evaluated the effects of zones on duck harvests. They concluded that zones do not influence harvest and, consequently, the moratorium was lifted on changing zones beginning with the 1991-1992 season. As a result, the Department rezoned the state. It retained Area One with its previous boundaries and divided the remainder of the state into two zones or hunt areas.

For the 2003-2004 season, the Department changed the boundaries for Area One to include all of northern, central, and southeastern Idaho (see Appendix A).

For additional season framework information, refer to the 2003 version of this report. For 2003-2004, the USFWS offered the same 107-day season as in 2002-2003 with the exception of a 60-day "season within a season" for both pintails and canvasbacks. The Tribes chose to start their season one week earlier than the rest of the state, but both seasons were 105 days with no split. The two-day youth waterfowl season was September 27-28.

Management Area Two

The description, season framework, and bag and possession limits of Management Area Two can be found in Appendix A.

Background and Management Philosophy: Management Area Two was established in 1991 as a result of the USFWS lifting its moratorium on zone changes. This area includes those counties that generally freeze up early. From 1985-1986 through 1990-1991, this portion of the state was included with south-central and southwestern Idaho because the USFWS prohibited more than two zones (the Fort Hall area and the remainder of the state). Prior to 1985-1986, much of Area Two was included in the Columbia Basin Mallard Wintering Area that had a 100-day season and bag and possession limits of seven and 14, respectively. Beginning with the 1997-1998 season, Area Two and Area Three were combined and renamed Area Two to simplify the hunting brochure.

For the 2003-2004 season, the Department changed the boundaries for Area Two to include southwestern and south-central Idaho (See Appendix A).

For additional season framework information, refer to the 2003 version of this report. For 2003-2004, the USFWS offered the same 107-day season as in 2002-2003 with the exception of a 60-day “season within a season” for both pintails and canvasbacks. The Tribes chose to start their season one week earlier than the rest of the state, but both seasons were 105 days with no split. The two-day youth waterfowl season was September 27-28.

Management Area Three

Background and Management Philosophy: Management Area Three was established in 1991-1992 as a result of the USFWS lifting its moratorium on zone changes. This area includes those counties that normally freeze up later than those in Area Two. From 1985-1986 through 1990-1991, this portion of the state was included with north and eastern Idaho because the USFWS prohibited more than two zones (the Fort Hall area and the remainder of the state). Prior to 1985-1986, Area Three was included in the Columbia Basin Mallard Wintering Area which had a 100-day season and bag and possession limits of seven and 14, respectively.

Beginning with the 1997-1998 season, Area Three was combined with Area Two and renamed Area Two to simplify the hunting brochure and the state was left with only two duck management areas.

POPULATION SURVEYS

The mid-winter survey was not conducted in 2004. The USFWS predicted a 2003 mid-continent mallard breeding population of 8.8 million birds, which is statistically similar to the 8.5 million bird estimate for 2002, (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2003).

HARVEST CHARACTERISTICS

Telephone Survey: The Department estimated the Idaho waterfowl harvest for the 2003-2004 hunting season for the second time since 1995-1996 (Table 2). The 2003 duck harvest estimate was 320,200, which is 37% above 2002 and 21% above the 2003 USFWS estimate.

Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program (FMGBHIP): The Department entered the FMGBHIP in early 1996. The goal of the program is to obtain improved harvest estimates for all species; by federal mandate, states provide the USFWS with names and addresses of all migratory game bird hunters from which the USFWS draws samples of hunters to survey. Due to computer problems, the Department was not able to comply for the 1996-1997 season, and the USFWS was unable to estimate harvest using the FMGBHIP. The Department complied fully with the USFWS’s request for information for the 1997-1998 through 2003-2004 seasons.

USFWS’s Hunter and Harvest Survey: The USFWS’s preliminary estimate for the 2003-2004 duck harvest was 262,900, up 64% from the 2002 estimate.

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

The winter of 2003-2004 was cold and wet in November and December but dry in southern Idaho with near or above normal temperatures the rest of the winter. The winter was wetter than normal in northern Idaho. As a result, the timing of freeze-up was early in Idaho. The distribution of ducks during the fall migration was somewhat atypical and duck hunting was generally only fair throughout much of the season.

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT

For the fourth year, the USFWS offered all states the option of holding a two-day youth waterfowl hunt during the 2003-2004 season. Pacific Flyway states choosing the option were required to reduce their regular seasons by two days so as not to exceed the 107-day maximum length for migratory bird seasons. States were permitted to hold the hunt outside the regular season framework and regular-season limits applied. The Commission chose to take the option and selected September 27-28 for the hunt that was open to youth 12 through 15 years of age; it also chose full duck (including merganser), coot, and goose limits. The Department conducted the first Idaho survey to estimate the number of participants in this special hunt and estimated that 1,100 adults mentored 1,000 youth hunters during this two-day hunt.

MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The Department continued to meet its 1991-1995 Waterfowl Management Plan goals of reversing the decline in number of duck hunters and ducks harvested since duck numbers remained good, hunter waterfowl validations (stamps) sold remained nearly stable, and the FMGBHIP harvest estimates continued to be strong.

The 1987 Legislature approved a \$5.00 (\$6.50 with the vendor fee) migratory waterfowl stamp which hunters 17 years of age and older were required to buy beginning with the 1987-1988 hunting season. In October 1987, the Department initiated the Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) funded by the revenue generated by this stamp; the upland game habitat stamp, which was also authorized in 1987; and the sale of associated artwork. The migratory waterfowl stamp was reauthorized by the 1995 Legislature with no change in fee. Waterfowl stamp and artwork monies were used to purchase wetlands and develop and improve wetlands on private and government property through the use of cooperative agreements. Over the long term, these projects will help to increase numbers of ducks passing through and wintering in Idaho; they will also increase Idaho's duck production and help to offset any reduced flights of ducks out of Canada. It must be noted, however, that improved habitat and increased duck production in Idaho can only help to "buffer" the effect of fewer Canadian ducks; Idaho will never be able to fully compensate for reduced flights of ducks out of Canada.

Between 1988 and 1998, \$244,511 from the sale of state waterfowl stamp prints was paid to Ducks Unlimited to sponsor wetland development in Canada. The development of wetlands outside Idaho was mandated by state law. This money was used to sponsor the Keho Lake Project (\$340,700) and Kanegawa Project (\$74,200) in southern Alberta. Both projects have

already been completed. The Kanegawa project has been paid in full. A payment of \$32,000 was made in June 2003 on the Keho Lake project.

During the 2000 legislative session, the Department sponsored legislation that ended the habitat stamp program. The cost of these programs was integrated into the general hunting license. Further funding of Canadian waterfowl projects will be with license funding at a level that will be determined annually.

Future management of ducks in Idaho will focus on improving habitat to attract more migrating and wintering birds; increasing local duck production; monitoring local production, especially on Wildlife Management Areas (WMA); and adopting federal harvest regulations designed to take advantage of increasing duck populations.

GEESE (ALL SPECIES)

1991-1995 WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN GOALS

1. Increase Idaho's breeding Canada goose populations and wintering populations.
2. Increase the annual goose harvest to 50,000 birds.
3. Maintain the average number of geese harvested per hunter per season above 3.0.
4. Increase hunter days to 130,000 annually.

MANAGEMENT AREAS

Management Area One

The description, season framework, and bag and possession limits of Management Area One can be found in Appendix A.

Background and Management Philosophy: Management Area One includes both Pacific Population (PP) and Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) Canada geese (Figure 1). The boundary between the two populations is U.S. Highway 93 from the Idaho-Nevada border to Shoshone, State Highway 75 from Shoshone to Challis, and U.S. Highway 93 from Challis to the Montana-Idaho border. The Pacific Population occurs west of this boundary; the Rocky Mountain Population occurs to the east.

Area One was created in 1990 to implement changes in seasons, limits, and hunt area boundaries identified in the 1991-1995 Waterfowl Management Plan. Area One originally included only Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone counties. In 1993, the counties of Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce were added to Area One to take advantage of an increasing resident Canada goose flock. In 1998, Bear Lake, Bonneville, Butte, Caribou, Clark, Custer, Franklin, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Oneida, and Teton counties were

included in Area One to simplify the hunting brochure. In 2003, Area One was expanded to include Adams and Valley counties and all of Area Three (the Fort Hall Indian Reservation).

The 1990-1991 goose season opened two weeks prior to the duck season. The 1991-1992 goose season opened the same day as duck season. The 1992-1993 through 1996-1997 goose seasons opened one week before the duck season. The 1997-1998 through 2001-2002 goose seasons opened the same day as duck season. The 2002-2003 goose season opened one week after the duck season, while in 2003-2004, the seasons again opened on the same day.

Management Area Two

The description, season framework, and bag and possession limits of Management Area Two can be found in Appendix A.

Background and Management Philosophy: Management Area Two (southwestern Idaho) contains PP Canada geese (Figure 1). Prior to the 1991-1992 season, southwestern Idaho (part of the Southwest Region) was in Area Three and had restricted limits for part of the season to protect local breeding flocks. For the 1991-1992 season, southwestern Idaho was combined with the rest of central Idaho (the Clearwater Region; the remainder of the Southwest Region; and parts of the Magic Valley, Southeast, Upper Snake, and Salmon regions) to create the new Area Two. This was possible because southwestern Idaho flocks had exceeded breeding pair objectives, and it was determined they could sustain the additional harvest resulting from a 93-day season and bag and possession limits of two and four, respectively, season-long. The season and limits were the maximum allowed by federal regulations for southwestern Idaho but not for the Clearwater Region.

In 1992-1993, Area Two was reduced slightly in size to simplify the boundary between Area Two and Area Four. This was accomplished by placing all of Custer and Lemhi counties in Area Four, rather than splitting the counties on Highways 75 and 93. For the 1993-1994 season, Area Two was reduced further by placing five northern counties (Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce) in the more liberal Area One to take advantage of an increasing local flock of Canada geese.

For the 1994-1995 season, federal regulations allowed for a 100-day season and bag and possession limits of four and eight, respectively. The Department selected the 100-day season to take advantage of the healthy local population and strong migrant population but chose bag and possession limits of three and six dark geese, respectively, instead of the maximum allowed over concerns that a daily bag of four would result in an over-harvest of local geese. In 1998-1999, the Department added south-central Idaho (Area Three from 1991-1992 through 1997-1998) to Area Two to simplify the hunting rules and hunting brochure.

For the 2002-2003 season, the Department split Area Two back into two separate areas (Area Two and Area Four) and raised the bag and possession limits for Area Two to four and eight geese, respectively. In 2003-2004, Area Two was reduced and Adams and Valley counties were added to Area One. Area Two currently includes all of Washington, Payette, Gem, Boise, Canyon, and Ada counties, plus portions of Owyhee and Elmore counties.

In 1990-1991, the goose season in Area Two opened two weeks prior to the duck season. The 1991-1992 goose season opened the same day as the duck season in the northern portion and one week earlier than the duck season in the southern portion. For the 1992-1993, through 1996-1997 seasons, goose season opened one week prior to duck season. The 1997-1998 through 2001-2002 goose and duck seasons opened on the same day. For 2002-2003, the goose season opened one week after the duck season, while in 2003-2004, the seasons again opened on the same day.

Management Area Three

The description, season framework, and bag and possession limits of Management Area Three can be found in Appendix A.

Background and Management Philosophy: Management Area Three (south-central Idaho) has been under restrictive harvest management (more conservative than allowed by federal regulations) for many years to minimize the harvest of local geese. Seasons have had delayed opening dates and/or reduced bag and possession limits for all or part of the season. Management Area Three was Management Area Four prior to the 1991-1992 season. It includes both PP and RMP geese (Figure 1). The area was enlarged slightly for the 1991-1992 season to include parts of Camas and Elmore counties and an additional portion of Blaine County because of low goose production. The area was enlarged again in 1992-1993 to include all of Blaine and Camas counties because of low goose production.

The 1990-1991 season was the first season for many years that ran the maximum of 93 days allowed by federal regulations. From 1994-1995 through 1997-1998, seasons were extended to 100 days, the maximum allowed, but restrictive limits (two dark geese) were retained to protect local flocks. For 1998-1999 through 2001-2002, the dark goose daily limit was increased to the daily limit (three) and Area Three was combined with Area Two to simplify hunting rules and the hunting brochure; the number designation for the Area was changed to Area Two. In 2002-2003, zones were changed again and the former Area Three (prior to 1998-1999) became Area Four. In 2003-2004, the Area was again renamed Area Three.

The 1990-1991 goose season opened two weeks prior to the duck season. Beginning in 1991-1992, goose seasons in Area Three opened one week prior to the duck season. The 1997-1998 through 2001-2002 goose and duck seasons opened on the same day. The 2002-2003 goose season opened one week after the duck season, while in 2003-2004, the seasons again opened on the same day.

Management Area Four

Background and Management Philosophy: Management Area Four was created in 1991-1992 to take advantage of increased limits and a 93-day season allowed by federal regulations. Bag and possession limits were increased from two and four, respectively, to three and six, respectively, for 1991-1992 due to increasing numbers of geese throughout the population. Beginning in 1993-1994, the season was increased to 100 days, the maximum allowed by federal regulations.

Beginning in 1995-1996, daily bag and possession limits were increased to four and eight, respectively.

Prior to 1991-1992, Area Four was combined with central Idaho to form Area Two. Goose seasons for Area Four have always been set to take full advantage of all days and maximum limits allowed by federal regulations. The 1990-1991 goose season in eastern Idaho opened two weeks prior to the duck season. In 1991-1992, the Area Four goose season opened the same day as duck season. For 1992-1993 through 1996-1997, the goose season opened one week prior to the duck season. The 1997-1998 goose and duck seasons opened on the same day.

In 1998-1999, Area One (north Idaho) and Area Four (central and eastern Idaho) were combined to simplify the hunting brochure. The number designation for the area was changed to Area One and the state was left with only three goose management areas through the 2001-2002 season. For the 2002-2003 season, the Department split Area Two into two separate areas and designated south-central Idaho as Area Four. In 2003-2004, the Department combined Areas One and Three (now called Area One) and the state was again left with only three goose management areas.

Management Area Five

Background and Management Philosophy: Management Area Five was created in 1987 to conform with Area One for ducks. This was made necessary because the Shoshone-Bannock Indian Tribes requested a goose hunting season for non-tribal members which differed from the rest of the state. See "Ducks, Management Area One" for additional information. The Department has not objected to the Tribes' request for a special goose season because their impacts on local and migrant geese and law enforcement problems have been minimal.

Area Five remained in place through the 1997-1998 season. In 1998, the Department combined areas and Area Five was renamed Area Three through the 2002-2003 season. In 2003, the Department combined Area Three (the Fort Hall Indian Reservation) with Area One. The state hasn't had an Area Five since 1998.

POPULATION SURVEYS

The mid-winter survey was not conducted in 2004 because of federal budget constraints.

HARVEST CHARACTERISTICS

Telephone Survey: The Department used a telephone survey to estimate goose harvest in 2003. The estimate for 2003-2004 was 93,500 (Table 7) or 123% above the estimate for 2002-2003.

FMGBHIP: The Department entered the FMGBHIP in early 1996. The goal of the program is to obtain improved harvest estimates for all species; by federal mandate, states provide the USFWS with names and addresses of all migratory game bird hunters from which the USFWS draws samples of hunters to survey. Due to computer problems, the Department was not able to comply for the 1996-1997 season and the USFWS was unable to estimate harvest using the FMGBHIP. The Department complied fully with the USFWS's request for information for the

1997-1998 through 2003-2004 seasons. The USFWS estimate for the 2003-2004 goose harvest was 84,200 or 130% above the estimate of 36,700 for 2002-2003 (Table 3).

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

The winter of 2003-2004 was cold and wet in November and December but dry with normal or above temperatures the rest of the winter. As a result, the timing of freeze-up was early in eastern and northern Idaho and normal to more open than normal in the rest of the state.

MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The Department continued to meet its 1991-1995 Waterfowl Management Plan goals for the total harvest, harvest per hunter per season, and total days hunted statewide since goose numbers remained good in 2003-2004, and hunter validations (stamps) sold remained up substantially from 1990.

The Department's ongoing HIP Program (discussed previously in the duck section) will continue to improve wetland habitat for Canada geese. Future management will be directed toward improving habitat through HIP to attract greater numbers of geese to migrate through and winter in Idaho, increasing local production, and providing maximum hunting opportunity within the framework authorized by the USFWS and within the amount allowable while still meeting local population objectives. Goose depredation problems are becoming significant in some urban areas and will require new strategies to manage these nuisance birds.

TRUMPETER SWAN

A total of 50 trumpeter swan cygnets were translocated from Harriman State Park to the lower Bear River near Preston during the reporting period. Another 49 cygnets were captured and left at the park. In 2003, the Department wrote a study plan for a three-year project to evaluate the effectiveness of this management technique to increase winter distribution of trumpeter swans. The project will include a graduate student project at the University of Idaho.

The Department also continued assisting in monitoring swan movements and distribution across Idaho. An implementation plan for the 1998 Pacific Flyway Trumpeter Swan Management Plan was completed in July 2002. Annual progress reports on this plan are available at the Pacific flyway website at www.pacificflyway.gov.

TUNDRA SWAN

The Department's 1991-1995 Waterfowl Management Plan goals for the tundra swan are to (1) maintain current migrations through Idaho and (2) meet the demand for non-consumptive use. However, during the reporting period, this species received little management emphasis in Idaho. This is because the tundra swan is not classified by the state as a game bird and the species benefits indirectly from other wildlife management programs.

AMERICAN COOT

The Department's 1991-1995 Waterfowl Management Plan goals for the American coot are to (1) maintain Idaho's population, (2) increase the harvest, and (3) provide maximum recreational opportunity. However, during the reporting period, this species received little management emphasis. This is because the American coot is not an important game bird in Idaho and because it benefits indirectly from other wildlife management programs. The 2003-2004 coot harvest estimate was not available when this report was written.

COMMON SNIPE

The Department's 1991-1995 Waterfowl Management Plan goals for the common snipe are to (1) maintain Idaho's common snipe population and (2) maintain the harvest. However, during the reporting period, this species received little management attention. This is because the common snipe is not an important game bird in Idaho and because it benefits indirectly from other wildlife management programs. The snipe harvest was not estimated for the 2003-2004 season.

SANDHILL CRANE

The Department's 1991-1995 Waterfowl Management Plan goals for the Sandhill crane are to (1) maintain current breeding populations and their distribution, (2) maintain current migrations through Idaho, and (3) meet the demand for non-consumptive use. Activities during this reporting period were limited to developing recommendations for 2004 hunts.

LITERATURE CITED

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2003. Waterfowl population status, 2003. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Laurel, Maryland, USA.

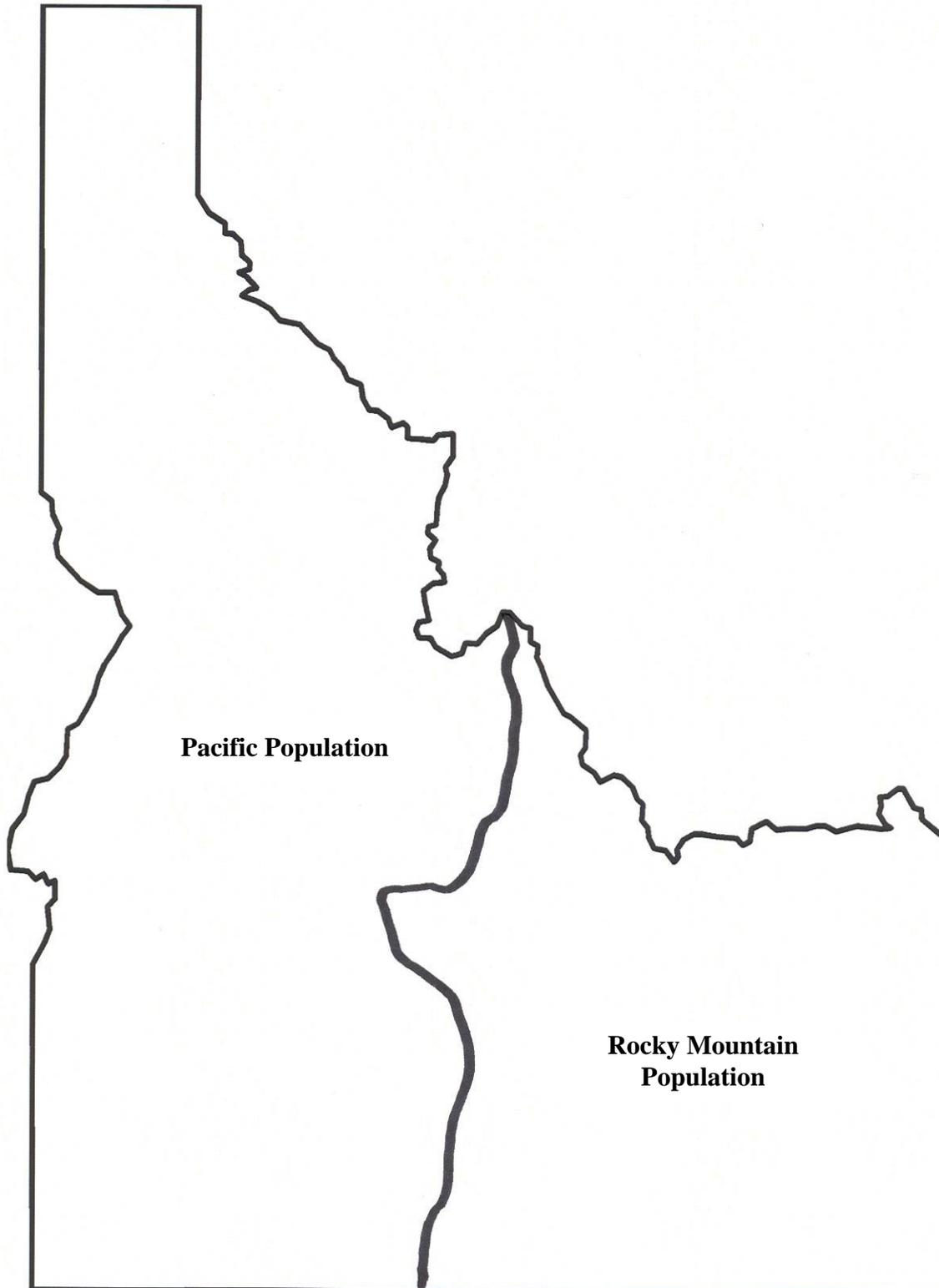


Figure 1. Boundaries for Pacific and Rocky Mountain populations of Canada geese.

Table 1. Birds counted during the mid-winter waterfowl survey, 1993-2003. No count in 2004.

Species	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	^a 2001	2002	1993-2002 10-yr. avg.	^b 2003	% Change from	
													Previous year	10-yr. avg.
Mallard	152,968	171,300	149,479	159,160	140,230	304,126	284,670	261,425	106,516	168,844	189,872	108,034	-36	-43
Gadwall	60	1,505	973	1,482	191	279	186	1,058	45	261	604	602	131	0
Widgeon	7,444	10,624	10,763	9,884	3,463	2,130	3,686	4,164	1,189	1,412	5,476	6,900	389	26
Green-winged Teal	748	705	673	1,702	126	55	118	202	142	249	472	363	46	-23
Blue-winged/ Cinnamon Teal	20	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	-	0	-	-
Shoveler	233	376	23	368	151	31	271	88	1	17	156	25	47	-84
Pintail	112	8,792	432	6,671	2,150	362	1,649	405	1,696	179	2,245	49	-73	-98
Wood duck	147	35	147	334	157	314	277	290	38	503	224	55	-89	-75
Redhead	4,249	8,293	32,829	11,431	16,731	8,209	23,589	17,643	12,750	35,993	17,172	21,324	-41	24
Canvasback	309	161	215	107	168	19	323	165	0	333	180	20	-94	-89
Scaup	2,919	1,713	877	5,177	3,498	2,342	5,275	3,398	7,436	12,313	4,495	9,900	-20	120
Ringneck	965	1,782	4,657	1,404	566	353	734	1,232	282	4,445	1,642	3,411	-23	108
Goldeneye	15,873	13,774	13,775	14,842	10,822	14,090	21,731	19,674	11,921	15,219	15,172	12,018	-21	-21
Bufflehead	431	507	675	1,829	935	1,197	3,141	654	752	1,193	1,131	763	-36	-33
Ruddy duck	57	118	84	79	50	52	225	13	0	7	69	12	71	-83
Merganser	1,380	2,849	3,460	5,111	2,760	3,835	3,418	3,952	1,732	2,792	3,129	1,571	-44	-50
Unidentified ducks	4,529	3,928	20,037	7,841	23,154	3,894	13,667	752	324	835	7,896	225	-73	-97
Total ducks	192,444	226,510	239,099	227,422	205,152	341,288	362,960	315,115	144,824	244,607	249,942	168,014	-31	-33
Snow goose	1	3	0	10	1	18	4	0	0	1	-	0	-	-
Ross'	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	-	0	-	-
Canada goose	27,681	33,755	43,855	70,254	41,433	58,430	66,384	37,961	39,474	29,374	44,860	43,489	48	-3
Lesser Canada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	-	-
Cackling goose	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	-	-
White-front	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	-	0	-	-
Total geese	27,682	33,758	43,856	70,267	41,435	58,448	66,389	37,962	39,474	29,375	44,865	43,489	48	-3
Tundra swan	5	56	167	148	154	85	110	220	174	205	132	178	-13	35
Trumpeter swan	1,052	275	0	0	0	0	0	139	0	1,783	325	1,730	-3	432
Unidentified swan	^c 1,109	244	^c 1,193	^c 1,263	^c 1,411	^c 1,283	^c 1,474	^c 1,940	201	5	1,012	150	2,900	-85
Coot	3,054	9,164	13,958	26,109	14,665	15,324	20,712	38,253	25,763	33,285	20,029	16,042	-52	-20
Total waterfowl	225,346	270,007	298,273	325,209	262,817	416,428	451,645	393,629	210,436	309,260	316,305	229,603	-26	-27

^a Approximately 1/3 of the state's winter habitat was not counted in 2001 because of a fatal aircraft crash and subsequent flying moratorium.

^b Approximately 15% of the state's winter habitat was not counted in 2003 because inclement weather limited aerial surveys in the Magic Valley.

^c Primarily trumpeter swans.

Table 2. Estimated statewide harvest of ducks obtained from the Department telephone survey, 1988-2003.

Year	% license buyers sampled	Harvest	Average birds per hunter per year	Hunters	Days Hunted	Days hunted per hunter per year
1988	4.6	154,400 ± 21,700	9.1	17,000 ± 1,100	111,100 ± 9,300	6.5
1989	3.0	147,000 ± 24,300	8.9	16,500 ± 1,400	116,700 ± 11,500	7.1
1990	3.0	157,800 ± 22,600	9.6	16,400 ± 1,300	120,800 ± 9,800	7.4
1991	4.0	181,500 ± 25,400	10.5	17,300 ± 1,200	156,000 ± 13,000	9.0
1992	2.5	210,700 ± 36,300	11.7	18,000 ± 1,700	145,100 ± 14,300	8.1
1993 ^{a,b}	2.5 ^c	252,100 ± ^a	13.4	18,800 ± ^a	217,400 ± ^a	11.6
1994 ^{a,b}	5.3	300,300 ± 23,400	15.6	19,400 ± 4,000	243,900 ± 16,200	12.6
1995 ^b	3.9 ^c	416,300 ± 33,300	17.9 ± 1.4 ^d	23,300 ± 4,000	309,400 ± 33,500	13.3 ± .7 ^d
1996 ^e	-	-	-	-	-	-
1997 ^e	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998 ^e	-	-	-	-	-	-
1999 ^e	-	-	-	-	-	-
2000 ^e	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001 ^e	-	-	-	-	-	-
2002	4.4 ^f	233,500	12.3	19,000	170,000	9.0
2003	4.0 ^g	320,200	14.4	22,200	200,700	9.0

^a Confidence intervals not available.

^b Survey was conducted by a private contractor using some procedures which differed from those used by the Department in preceding years. Consequently, estimates are not comparable to those for preceding years.

^c Approximate.

^d 95% confidence interval.

^e No harvest estimate; survey not conducted.

^f A total of 839 duck hunters were contacted or about 4.4% of the estimated 19,000 duck hunters.

^g A total of 887 duck hunters were contacted or about 3.9% of the estimated 22,200 duck hunters.

Table 3. Estimated waterfowl harvest numbers from the USFWS's waterfowl hunter survey for Idaho, 1988-2003.

Year	Duck stamps sold	Estimated adult hunters	Total geese harvested ^a	Total ducks harvested ^a
1988	16,597	14,271	26,600	112,900
1989	16,894	14,073	30,500	119,600
1990	17,036	13,443	36,800	96,700
1991	17,151	14,144	39,500	117,880
1992	17,717	14,132	31,700	126,700
1993	21,761	17,972	45,600	153,200
1994	21,229	17,418	61,100	141,300
1995	21,097	18,395	46,900	203,400
1996	22,382	19,751	61,100	245,800
1997	23,697	22,241	40,700	248,600
1998	23,515	21,006	56,700	254,700
1999	24,033	20,795	28,500	228,300
2000	27,134	23,306	86,200	173,200
2001	24,278	12,000/14,900 ^b	64,400	138,600
2002	21,949	14,500 / 9,900 ^b	36,700	160,600
2003 ^c	Not available yet	18,200/15,400 ^b	84,200	262,900

^a Adjusted for exaggeration memory bias and juvenile hunter density.

^b The first number is estimated number of duck hunters and the second number is estimated number of goose hunters.

^c Preliminary estimate July 2004.

Table 4. Canada geese counted in Idaho during the mid-winter survey by survey area, 1993 to 2003. No count in 2004.

Area ^a	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	^b 2001	2002	2003
Survey area #1	709	1,418	1,845	1,448	1,386	817	843	1,331	NS	839	1,730
Survey area #2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NS	0	0
Survey area #3	0	0	0	0	0	28	37	0	NS	0	0
Survey area #4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NS	0	0
Survey area #5	6,179	2,262	6,517	38,968	17,318	14,891	29,310	5,720	18,172	9,233	15,662
Survey area #6	656	7	225	2,158	974	2,425	314	25	NS	153	NS
Survey area #7	298	1,685	2,794	98	4,014	3,861	4,453	604	NS	2,273	493
Survey area #7A	1,666	7,512	2,349	4,496	4,438	4,717	3,280	702	NS	2,144	NS
Survey area #7B	3,595	5,436	2,514	2,322	2,652	2,953	1,261	278	NS	1,413	NS
Survey area #8A	6,349	2,384	9,381	4,891	3,362	2,610	14,075	5,080	12,710	2,190	5,423
Survey area #8B	6,488	3,001	2,968	2,736	2,479	4,575	4,730	1,029	4,129	551	4,479
Survey area #9	550	3,460	7,218	3,893	2,314	5,639	3,366	7,498	1,838	3,499	1,850
Survey area #10	976	6,549	7,286	6,814	1,189	14,519	4,309	14,130	1,212	6,029	13,540
Survey area #11	215	41	758	2,433	1,307	1,395	406	1,560	1,413	1,050	312
Total	27,681	33,755	43,855	70,257	41,433	58,430	66,384	37,957	39,474	29,374	43,489
Rocky Mountain Population ^c	9,210	11,199	10,936	47,070	24,116	22,878	33,784	7,778	18,172	12,369	17,392
Percent	33	33	25	67	58	39	51	21	46	42	40
Pacific Population ^c	18,471	22,556	32,919	23,187	17,317	35,552	32,600	30,184	21,302	17,005	26,097
Percent	67	67	75	33	42	61	49	79	54	58	60
Pacific Population Plan Unit 2 ^d	17,280	15,966	24,875	13,940	14,821	19,638	27,885	14,494	18,677	9,926	12,245
Pacific Population Plan Unit 4 ^d	1,191	6,590	8,044	9,247	2,496	15,914	4,715	15,690	2,625	7,079	13,852

^a Survey Areas are as follows: #1 = South Fork Snake River to Palisades Reservoir, Teton River, Buffalo River, Island Park Reservoir, North Fork (Henry's Fork) of the Snake River and tributaries; #2 = Market Lake WMA, Roberts Slough; #3 = Mud Lake WMA, Camas Creek, Independent Canal; #4 = Camas National Wildlife Refuge; #5 = American Falls Reservoir, Snake River from Massacre Rocks to Blackfoot, Clear Creek, Spring Creek; #6 = Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge; #7 = Hagerman WMA; #7A = Snake River from Massacre Rocks to U.S. Hwy. 93; #7B = Snake River from U.S. Hwy. 93 to State Hwy. 51; #8A = Snake River from State Hwy. 51 to the Ada-Canyon County line (except the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge portion), C.J. Strike WMA, Payette River, Boise River; #8B = Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge portion of the Snake River (Ada-Canyon County line to Farewell Bend); #9 = Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge (Lake Lowell only); #10 = Pend Oreille River, Clark Fork River, Pend Oreille Lake, Coeur d'Alene Lake, Coeur d'Alene River; #11 = Lower Clearwater River, Mann's Lake.

^b Survey is incomplete because of an aircraft crash and IDFG flight restrictions.

^c Rocky Mountain Population includes Survey Areas 1 through 6 and 7A; Pacific Population includes Survey Areas 7, 7B, and 8A through 11.

^d Pacific Population Canada Goose Management Plan Units, Pacific Flyway. Pacific Population Plan Unit 2 includes Survey Areas 7, 7B, 8A, 8B, and 9. Pacific Population Plan Unit 4 includes Survey Areas 10 and 11.

Table 5. Estimated harvest of Canada geese from the Pacific Population (west of U.S. Highway 93) obtained from the Department telephone survey, 1988-2003.

Year	% of license buyers sampled	Harvest	Hunters	Days hunted
1988	4.6	19,700 ± 5,300	5,800 ± 700	45,800 ± 5,500
1989	3.0	20,900 ± 5,900	6,600 ± 900	50,100 ± 8,500
1990	3.0	27,300 ± 8,300	5,300 ± 800	43,900 ± 6,800
1991	4.0	42,700 ± 19,300	5,300 ± 700	52,700 ± 7,300
1992	2.5	40,900 ± 14,200	8,100 ± 1,200	67,500 ± 10,500
1993 ^a	2.5	43,000 ^{b,c}	10,400 ^c	88,700 ^c
1994 ^a	5.5	73,000 ^c	^c	^c
1995 ^a	3.9 ^c	64,700 ± 8,500	15,300 ± 3,500	140,000 ± ^c
1996 ^d	-	-	-	-
1997 ^d	-	-	-	-
1998 ^d	-	-	-	-
1999 ^d	-	-	-	-
2000 ^d	-	-	-	-
2001 ^d	-	-	-	-
2002	4.4 ^e	24,500 ^{c,f}	8,500 ^c	75,700 ^c
2003 ^g	3.3	59,600	9,800	85,100

^a Survey was conducted by a private contractor using some procedures which differed from those used by the Department in preceding years. Consequently, estimates are not comparable to those for preceding years.

^b Rough estimate.

^c Data or confidence intervals not available. Other years show 95% confidence interval.

^d No harvest estimate; survey not conducted.

^e A total of 553 goose hunters were contacted or about 4.4% of the 12,500 estimated goose hunters.

^f The proportion of PP geese in the Magic Valley was estimated to be 67%.

^g A total of 515 goose hunters were contacted or about 3.3 % of the estimated 15,400 goose hunters. In 2003 hunters were specifically asked whether they were hunting in the Pacific or RMP population zones.

Table 6. Estimated harvest of Canada geese from the Rocky Mountain Population (east of U.S. Highway 93) obtained from the Department telephone survey, 1988-2003.

Year	% of license buyers sampled	Harvest	Hunters	Days hunted
1988	4.6	18,600 ± 6,900	4,300 ± 600	32,300 ± 5,800
1989	3.0	25,600 ± 9,300	5,000 ± 800	45,600 ± 14,100
1990	3.0	31,400 ± 12,700	6,300 ± 800	54,100 ± 14,100
1991	4.0	28,500 ± 8,000	7,700 ± 800	64,400 ± 6,900
1992	2.5	20,100 ± 8,300	4,300 ± 900	31,700 ± 6,900
1993 ^a	2.5	31,100 ^{b,c}	6,400 ^c	56,700 ^c
1994 ^a	5.5	29,400 ^{b,c}	^c	^c
1995 ^a	3.9 ^b	33,400 ± 6,600	5,700 ± 2,100	61,600 ^c
1996 ^d	-	-	-	-
1997 ^d	-	-	-	-
1998 ^d	-	-	-	-
1999 ^d	-	-	-	-
2000 ^d	-	-	-	-
2001 ^d	-	-	-	-
2002	4.4 ^e	17,400 ^{c,f}	4,400 ^c	35,600 ^c
2003 ^g	3.3	31,500	5,800	42,300

^a Survey was conducted by a private contractor using some procedures which differed from those used by the Department in preceding years. Consequently, estimates are not comparable to those for preceding years.

^b Rough estimate.

^c Data or confidence interval not available. Other years show 95% confidence interval.

^d No harvest estimate; survey not conducted.

^e A total of 553 goose hunters were contacted or about 4.4% of the 12,500 estimated goose hunters.

^f The proportion of RMP geese in the Magic Valley was estimated to be 33%.

^g A total of 515 goose hunters were contacted or about 3.3 % of the estimated 15,400 goose hunters. In 2003 hunters were specifically asked whether they were hunting in the Pacific or RMP population zones.

Table 7. Estimated statewide harvest of Canada geese obtained from the Department telephone survey, 1988-2003.

Year	% license buyers sampled	Harvest	Average birds per hunter per year	Hunters	Days hunted	Days hunted per hunter per year
1988	4.6	38,300 ± 7,000	3.8	10,200 ± 900	78,200 ± 8,100	7.7
1989	3.0	46,500 ± 10,400	4.0	11,600 ± 1,200	95,700 ± 14,000	8.3
1990	3.0	58,700 ± 15,100	5.1	11,600 ± 1,100	98,000 ± 9,700	8.4
1991	4.0	71,200 ± 19,800	5.5	13,000 ± 1,100	117,100 ± 10,100	9.0
1992	2.5	61,000 ± 17,000	4.9	12,400 ± 1,500	99,200 ± 12,100	8.0
1993 ^a	2.5 ^b	74,100 ± 11,500	4.4	16,800 ± 400	145,400 ± 12,600	8.7
1994 ^a	5.3	102,500 ± 11,500	5.6	17,800 ± 4,000	178,000 ± 13,400	10.1
1995 ^a	3.9 ^b	98,000 ± 10,800	4.7 ± .5 ^c	21,000 ± 4,100	201,600 ± 13,200	9.6 ± .6 ^c
1996 ^d	-	-	-	-	-	-
1997 ^d	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998 ^d	-	-	-	-	-	-
1999 ^d	-	-	-	-	-	-
2000 ^d	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001 ^d	-	-	-	-	-	-
2002	4.4 ^e	41,800	3.3	12,500	110,200	8.8
2003		93,500	6.0	15,700	132,300	8.4

^a Survey was conducted by a private contractor using some procedures which differed from those used by the Department in preceding years. Consequently, estimates are not comparable to those for preceding years.

^b Approximate.

^c 95% confidence interval.

^d No harvest estimate; survey not conducted.

^e A total of 553 goose hunters were contacted or about 4.4% of the 12,500 estimated goose hunters.

^h A total of 515 goose hunters were contacted or about 3.3 % of the estimated 15,400 goose hunters.

APPENDIX A

2003 Waterfowl Seasons & Rules

Idaho
Department of
Fish & Game



REGULATIONS
2003-2004



photo by Cal Groen

Waterfowl Seasons

Including:
**COMMON SNIFE
AND AMERICAN
COOT**

- Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program Validation—REQUIRED
- Nontoxic Shot—REQUIRED
- Federal Migratory Bird Stamp—REQUIRED (All hunters 16 or older)

GOOSE SEASONS AND HUNT AREA DESCRIPTIONS

(Including: DARK GEESE — Canada and White-fronted;
LIGHT GEESE — Ross' and Snow)

AREA 1

Area 1 includes all parts of the state NOT included in Areas 2 and 3 EXCEPT Fremont and Teton counties are CLOSED to the taking of light geese.

OPEN SEASON: OCTOBER 4, 2003 THROUGH JANUARY 16, 2004

AREA 2

Area 2 includes the following counties or portions of counties:

Ada; Boise; Canyon; Elmore west and north of State Highway 20 and west of State Highway 51; Gem; Owyhee west of State Highway 51; Payette; and Washington counties.

OPEN SEASON: OCTOBER 11, 2003 THROUGH JANUARY 23, 2004

AREA 3

Area 3 includes the following counties or portions of counties:

Blaine; Camas; Cassia; Elmore east and south of State Highway 20 and east of State Highway 51; Gooding; Jerome; Lincoln; Minidoka; Owyhee east of Highway 51; Power west of State Highway 37 and State Highway 39; and Twin Falls counties.

OPEN SEASON: OCTOBER 11, 2003 THROUGH JANUARY 23, 2004

SPECIAL YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

- Duck (including merganser and pintails), goose, and coot hunting open for two days only, on September 27 and 28, 2003, to hunters 15 and younger.
- Hunting license — **REQUIRED**.
- Federal migratory game bird harvest information program validation — **REQUIRED**.
- Federal migratory bird stamp — **NOT REQUIRED**.
- **Daily duck (including merganser), goose, and coot bag limits:** Same limits statewide that are in effect during regular seasons.
- At least one adult 18 years of age or older having a valid hunting license, must accompany each youth hunting party into the field at all times. **ADULTS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO HUNT.**
- All other state rules and federal regulations pertaining to the taking of migratory game birds are in effect for this hunt.

**HELP PRESERVE THE TRADITION —
TAKE A KID WATERFOWL HUNTING!**

**STATEWIDE DUCK (Including merganser),
COMMON SNIPE AND AMERICAN COOT
SEASONS AND LIMITS**

CANVASBACK SEASON IS 60 DAYS ONLY—PINTAIL SEASON IS 60 DAYS ONLY

AREA 1

Area 1 includes all parts of the state NOT included in Area 2.

REGULAR SEASON: OCTOBER 4, 2003 THROUGH JANUARY 16, 2004

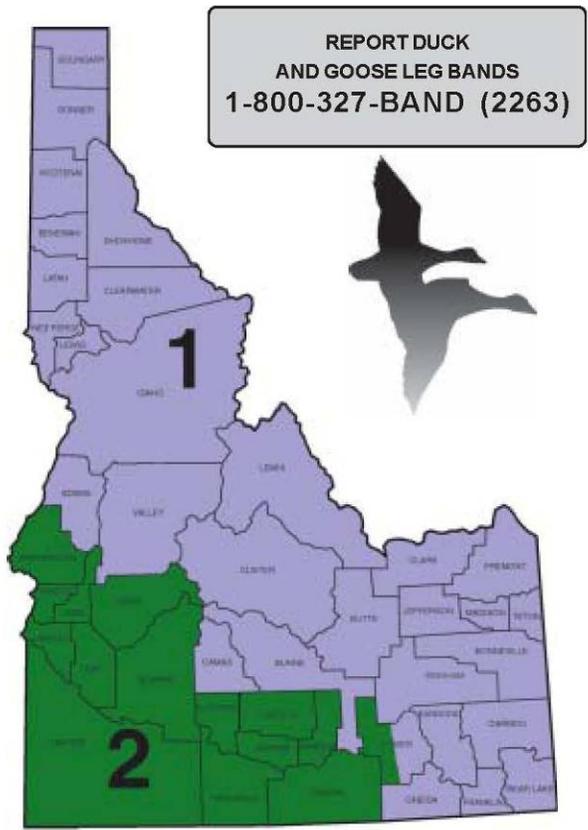
PINTAIL AND CANVASBACK SEASON: OCTOBER 4, 2003 THROUGH DECEMBER 2, 2003

AREA 2

Area 2 includes the following counties or portions of counties:
Ada; Boise; Canyon; Cassia EXCEPT the Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge; Elmore; Gem; Gooding; Lincoln; Minidoka; Owyhee; Payette; Power west of State Highway 37 and State Highway 39 EXCEPT the Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge; Twin Falls; and Washington Counties.

OPEN SEASON: OCTOBER 11, 2003 THROUGH JANUARY 23, 2004

PINTAIL AND CANVASBACK SEASON: OCTOBER 11, 2003 THROUGH DECEMBER 9, 2003



YOUTH WATERFOWL SEASON
see page 11.

DUCKS (INCLUDING MERGANSERS)

- Daily Bag Limit:**
7 of any kind.
- Shall not include more than the following:**
- 1 canvasback
 - 2 female mallards
 - 1 pintail
 - 2 redheads
 - 4 scaup (lesser or greater in the aggregate)
- Possession Limit**
After First Day of Season:
14 of any kind.
- Shall not include more than the following:**
- 2 canvasbacks
 - 4 female mallards
 - 2 pintails
 - 4 redheads
 - 8 scaup (lesser or greater in the aggregate)

COOTS
Daily Bag Limit: 25
Possession Limit
After First Day of Season: 25

COMMON SNIPE
Daily Bag Limit: 8
Possession Limit
After First Day of Season: 16

AMERICAN CROWS

No person shall take American crows:

- From one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.
- With trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol or a shotgun using shells exceeding three and one-half (3 1/2) inches maximum length.
- From boats or other craft having a motor attached UNLESS the motor is completely shut off and forward progress has ceased, or the boat is drifting naturally or it is propelled only by paddle, oars, or pole, or it is beached, moored, or resting at anchor.



AREAS CLOSED TO HUNTING

Areas closed to hunting of upland game birds are also closed to hunting of American crows. See page 8.

SEASONS, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS - STATEWIDE		
SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS
AMERICAN CROW	2002: OCT 1, 2002–JAN 31, 2003 2003: OCT 1, 2003–JAN 31, 2004	NO LIMITS

FALCONRY



GENERAL INFORMATION

Birds of Prey or Raptors: All falcons, hawks, owls and eagles.

Falconry: The sport of taking quarry by means of a trained bird of prey.

Species from the following families may be used for falconry:

- Accipitridae (except the bald eagle).
- Falconidae.
- Strigidae (Great horned owl only).

Hunting season: Upland game birds and upland game animals may be taken by falconry during firearms seasons established for those species. During these seasons, falconers may take regular bag and possession limits. During extended falconry seasons, special limits apply.

Migratory game birds may be taken by falconry during firearms seasons established for those species. However, during firearms seasons and extended falconry seasons, special bag and possession limits apply.

Falconers are now required to have state permits for raptor captive breeding, falconry, falconry capture (nonresidents only), falconry in-state transfer, and falconry meet (nonresidents only). Contact your local IDFG office for more information.

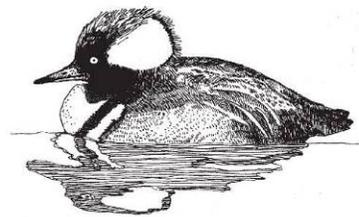
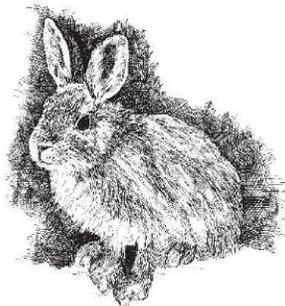
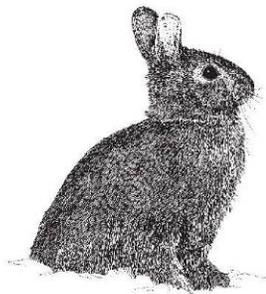
There are special requirements regarding the capture, possession, transfer and use of birds of prey in Idaho. Complete rules are available from: IDFG, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707.

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS ON HUNTING WITH BIRDS OF PREY

Anytime a hunting bird of prey kills quarry that may not be taken under established rules, seasons, bag limits, or license requirements, the falconer must leave the dead quarry where it lies. EXCEPT that the bird of prey may feed upon the quarry before leaving the kill site.

No person may carry a firearm or be accompanied by any person carrying a firearm while hunting by falconry.

FALCONRY SEASONS, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS				
SPECIES	OPEN AND CLOSED AREAS	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMITS	POSSESSION LIMIT (After 1st day of season)
PHEASANTS (All Varieties)	All counties or parts of counties which have a firearms season are open to hunting by falconry.	Aug 15, 2002 to the opening of the firearms season and from the close of firearms season through March 15, 2003. Aug 15, 2003 to the opening of the firearms season and from the close of the firearms season through March 15, 2004	3 of any kind and shall not include more than 1 pheasant (male or female), 1 sage grouse, or 1 sharp-tailed grouse.	6 of any kind and shall not include more than 2 pheasant (male or female), 2 sage grouse or 2 sharp-tailed grouse.
GRAY PATRIDGE CHUKAR PARTRIDGE BOBWHITE QUAIL CALIFORNIA QUAIL	Same as above	Same as above		
FOREST GROUSE (BLUE, RUFFED & SPRUCE)	Same as above	Same as above		
SAGE GROUSE	Same as above	Same as above		
SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	Same as above	Same as above		
CROWS	Open Statewide	Oct 1, 2002 - Jan 31, 2003 Oct 1, 2003 - Jan 31, 2004		
MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS (DUCKS, GEESE, COOTS, MERGANSERS, COMMON SNIPE, MOURNING DOVE)	Open Statewide	The season shall be within the season dates set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for these species. Hunters should check with IDFG offices for actual dates.	3 of any kind	6 of any kind
COTTONTAIL RABBITS	Open Statewide	March 1, 2002 - Aug 31, 2002 March 1, 2003 - Aug 31, 2003	2 of any kind	4 of any kind
SNOWSHOE HARES	Open Statewide	Apr 1, 2002 - Aug 31, 2002 Apr 1, 2003 - Aug 31, 2003		



SANDHILL CRANE SEASONS, LIMITS AND PERMITS

HUNT AREA	HUNT NO.	SEASON	PERMITS
1	9501	September 1-3	65
1	9502	September 4-6	60
1	9503	September 7-9	35
1	9504	September 10-12	25
1	9505	September 13-15	25
2	9506	September 1-7	30
2	9507	September 8-15	30
3	9508	September 1-7	30
3	9509	September 8-15	30

Note: Daily limit is 2 for all hunts. The season limit is 9

On August 30, 2003, any controlled hunt permits that remain unsold after the controlled hunt drawing may be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. In 2003, hunters may purchase as many as 9 permits and tags to hunt cranes. Each additional permit to harvest a crane will cost \$14.50.

The purpose of these hunts is to help reduce crop damage by sandhill cranes. Check with local landowners or Department offices for information on crane use areas and remember: always—
“Ask First to Hunt on Private Property.”

CONTROLLED HUNT WORKSHEET

Applications can be submitted electronically at any IDFG license vendor. Applications can be made using your credit card by calling 1-800-554-8685 or on the Fish and Game website under “What’s New” (www2.state.id.us/fishgame). Controlled hunt worksheets can be mailed with proper fees to: IDFG License Section, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707. Use this worksheet to speed up the application process. Fill in the blanks with your hunting license and controlled hunt numbers before you apply. **Group Applicants:** Two hunters may apply on the same application.

HOW MANY HUNTERS ARE APPLYING?

DESIGNATE \$1 OF FEE TO C.A.P.? (CITIZENS AGAINST POACHING)

	YES	NO
(Single application for deer, elk, antelope, bear, moose, goat, sheep, Canada goose, sandhill crane or turkey)		
NAME #1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Date of birth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LICENSE NUMBER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Group application for deer, elk, antelope, bear, moose, goat, sheep, Canada goose, sandhill crane or turkey)		
NAME #2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Date of birth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LICENSE NUMBER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IDAHO 2003

SANDHILL CRANE Controlled Hunt Season and Application Information



Crane hunters must have a \$1.50 Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) validation on their licenses. This validation is available at any license vendor.

CONTROLLED CRANE HUNTS

Permit Requirements: No person shall hunt sandhill cranes without having in possession the appropriate hunting license, controlled hunt permit, sandhill crane tag and federal HIP validation.

FEES

Application Fee	\$6.50 (non refundable)
Controlled Hunt Permit	\$6.50
Sandhill Crane Tag	\$1.50
Federal HIP Validation	\$1.50

Note: Only the Application Fee is required during the application process. Successful applicants must then purchase permit, tag and federal HIP validation. The HIP validation is required with the first permit only.



Application Dates: June 15, 2003 to July 15, 2003. Applications may be submitted electronically at any Fish & Game license vendor, by telephone (1-800-554-8685), by mail or on the Fish and Game website under "What's New" (www2.state.id.us/fishgame). Mail applications must be received at IDFG Headquarters Office and postmarked no later than the last day of the application period.

Applications will be taken no earlier than the first day of the application period. Applications must comply with the following requirements:

- Only one application form per person or group will be accepted. Additional application forms will result in all applicants being declared ineligible.
- Each applicant for controlled hunts must submit a \$6.50 nonrefundable application fee with their application. One dollar of this fee may be designated for the Citizens Against Poaching program.
- A single payment (either cashier's check, money order, certified check or personal check) may be submitted to cover fees for all applications in the same envelope. If a check or money order is insufficient to cover the fees, all applications will be voided.
- Visa, MasterCard and Discover cards may be used to make telephone or internet applications. Those using the credit card system will pay the \$6.50 fee in addition to a service charge for completing and processing the computerized application and delivering it to Fish and Game. Charges will be explained upon request. To apply by credit card, dial 1-800-554-8685, 24 hours a day. Or look under "What's New" on the IDFG Website.

Group Application is defined as two hunters applying for the same controlled hunt on the same application.

Second Choice Drawing: Single or group applications which are not drawn for the first choice hunt will automatically be entered into a second choice drawing provided the second choice hunt applied for has not been filled.

Notification: It is your responsibility to find out if you were successful in drawing a controlled hunt permit. Applicants can check drawing results under "What's New?" on the Fish and Game website, www2.state.id.us/fishgame by August 10. Successful applicants will be sent a postcard by August 10 informing them of their success. These applicants may go to any vendor and purchase a controlled hunt permit. Controlled hunt permits may also be purchased on the Internet.

Nonresident Permit Limitations: On 2003 controlled hunts, not more than 10 percent of the permits may be issued to nonresidents.

Information in this brochure summarizes the rules and is the official proclamation of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission for the hunting of sandhill cranes in calendar year 2003. Further explanation is available in the current Upland Game Seasons brochure. The official rules are available from the Division of Statewide Administrative Rules, Department of Administration, Statehouse Mall, Boise, ID 83720.



Ask First—For Permission to Hunt on Private Property

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) adheres to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or handicap. If you feel you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility of IDFG, or if you desire further information, please write to: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707, OR The Office of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20516.

Costs associated with this publication are available from IDFG in accordance with section 60-202, Idaho Code. 12-02/75,000/41918

Sandhill Crane Controlled Hunt Areas include the following:

Area 1 — Includes all of Bear Lake County and all of Caribou County EXCEPT that portion downstream from the dam at Alexander Reservoir south of U.S. Highway 30, and that portion lying within the Grays Lake Basin.

Area 2 — Includes all of Teton County.

Area 3 — Includes all of Fremont County.

No mandatory check required for cranes in 2003.

Take a Kid Hunting!



Submitted by:

Tom Hemker

Wildlife Program Coordinator

Approved by:

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Dale E. Toweill
Wildlife Program Coordinator
Federal Aid Coordinator

James W. Unsworth, Chief
Bureau of Wildlife

FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program consists of funds from a 10% to 11% manufacturer's excise tax collected from the sale of handguns, sporting rifles, shotguns, ammunition, and archery equipment. The Federal Aid program then allots the funds back to states through a formula based on each state's geographic area and the number of paid hunting license holders in the state. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game uses the funds to help restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild birds and mammals for the public benefit. These funds are also used to educate hunters to develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to be responsible, ethical hunters. Seventy-five percent of the funds for this project are from Federal Aid. The other 25% comes from license-generated funds.

