



Ring-necked Duck Project Late March Report

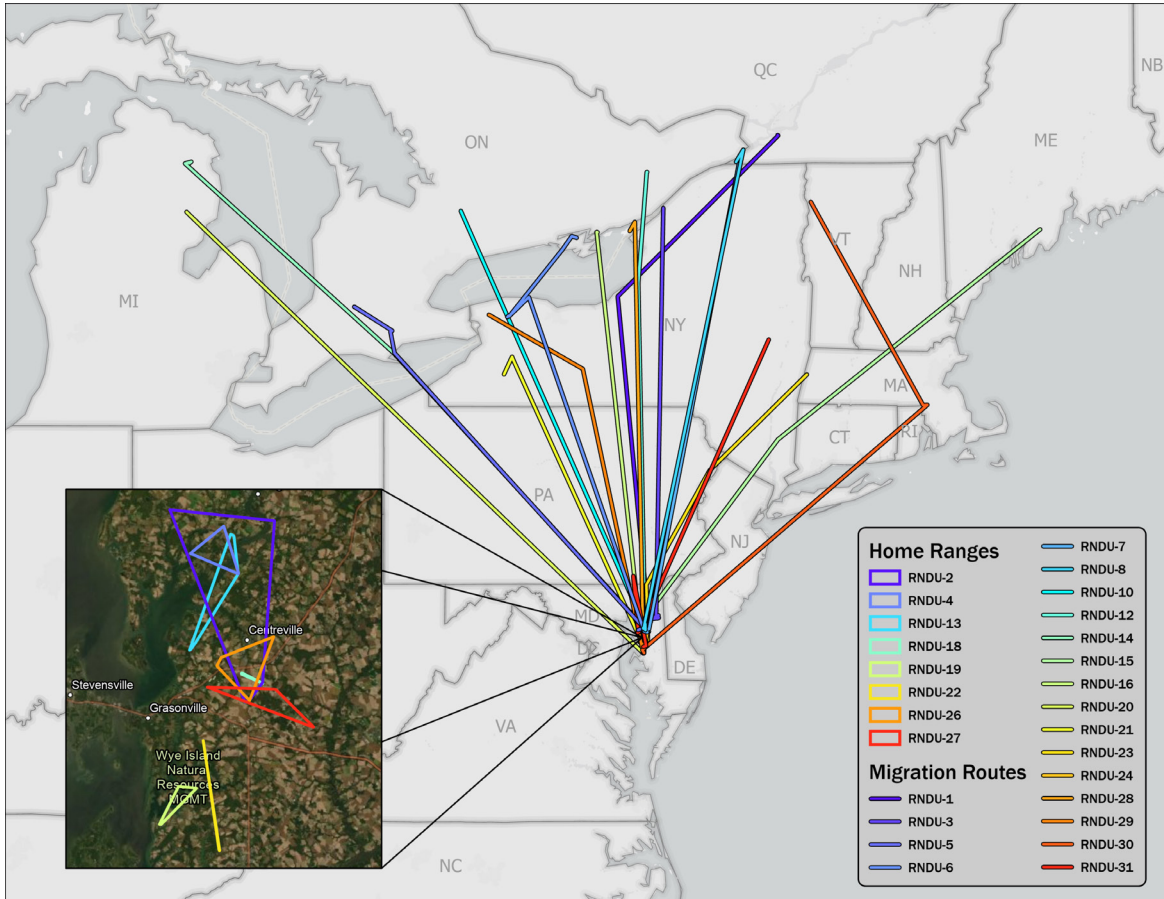
Our marked ring-necked ducks are on the move. We released 31 ringers with satellite transmitters in February on the eastern shore of Maryland. We also still have six birds from the 2020 releases that are continuing to send locations! That reflects our programming for the 2020 transmitters, which saved battery life by not attempting to send location information when the birds moved into northern areas with little cell phone coverage.



Spring movements from remaining 2020 released Ring-necks

We still have radioed ringers marked over a year ago transmitting and they cover all three released areas from 2020: Georgia, South Carolina, and Virginia. All but one 2020 bird returned in the fall to winter near where they were first marked. The birds still transmitting are well into spring migration, with the exception of the one warm weather bird in Florida. For simplicity, on the maps below we are only showing this spring's movements for these older birds. We are hoping in the next report that we can share both their 2020 and 2021 spring movements to see if they used the same migration path.

The 2021 effort on Maryland's eastern shore was a grand success. Delta staff captured 12 ringers and Maryland Department of Natural Resources staff caught the remaining 19. This is the furthest north this project has attempted to capture ringers. Given the difficulty in catching these birds, all of us feel confident we were as close as possible to catching some of the most northerly wintering ring-necks in the Atlantic Flyway. All but 8 of the birds marked this winter have started their spring migrations. Several birds are already in Canada. No strong East-West directional pattern has emerged at this point; birds are currently spaced from Michigan to Maine.



Spring movements of spring 2021 Maryland released Ring-necks