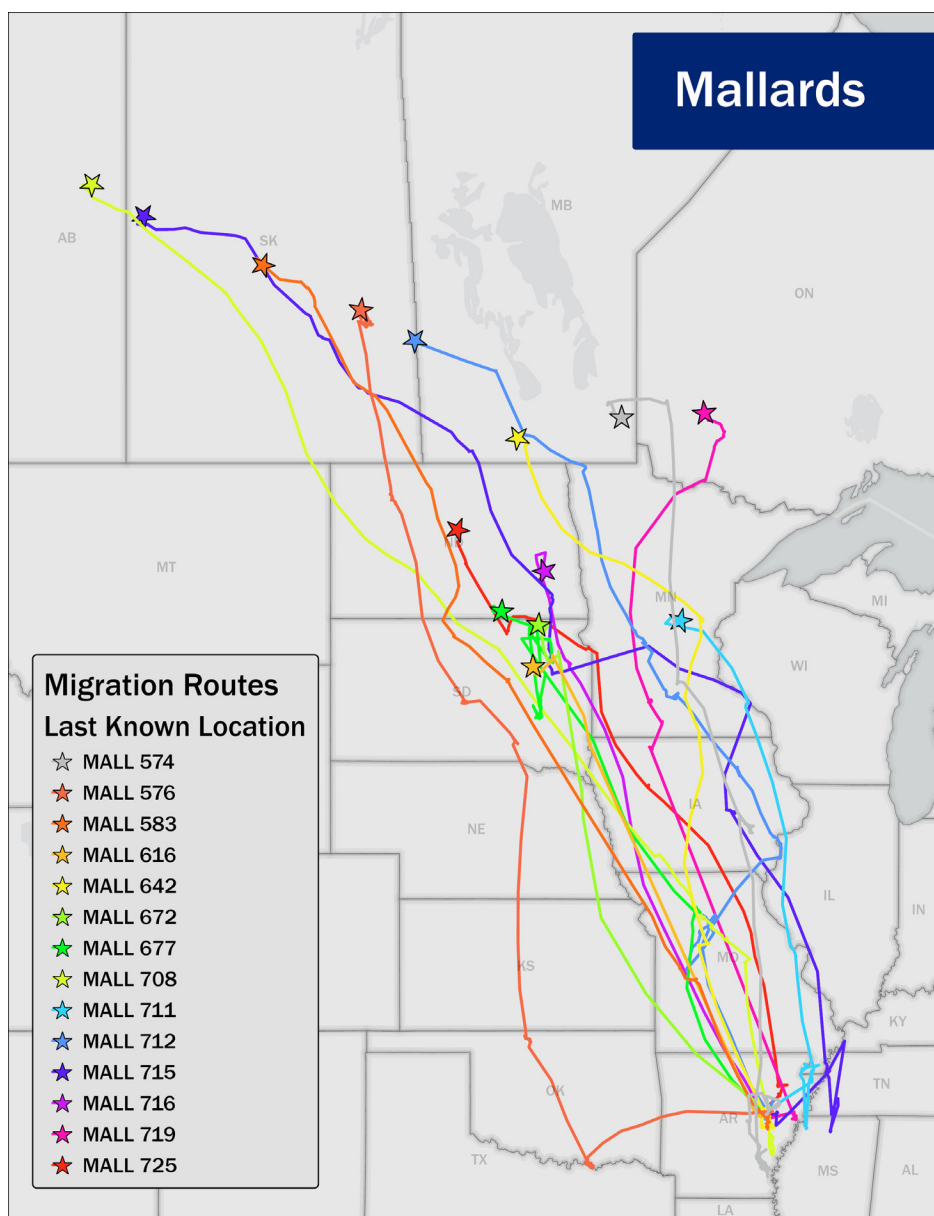
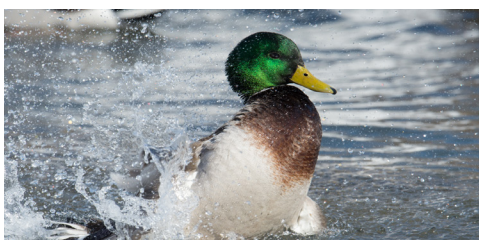


Lower Mississippi Flyway Dabbler Tracking Late May Report

In 2019, Delta Waterfowl initiated a study to better understand the migration and wintering ground habits of puddle duck species using the lower Mississippi Flyway. In partnership with Dr. Doug Osborne of the University of Arkansas, a team of researchers installed backpack-style tracking radios on mallards, wigeon and green-winged

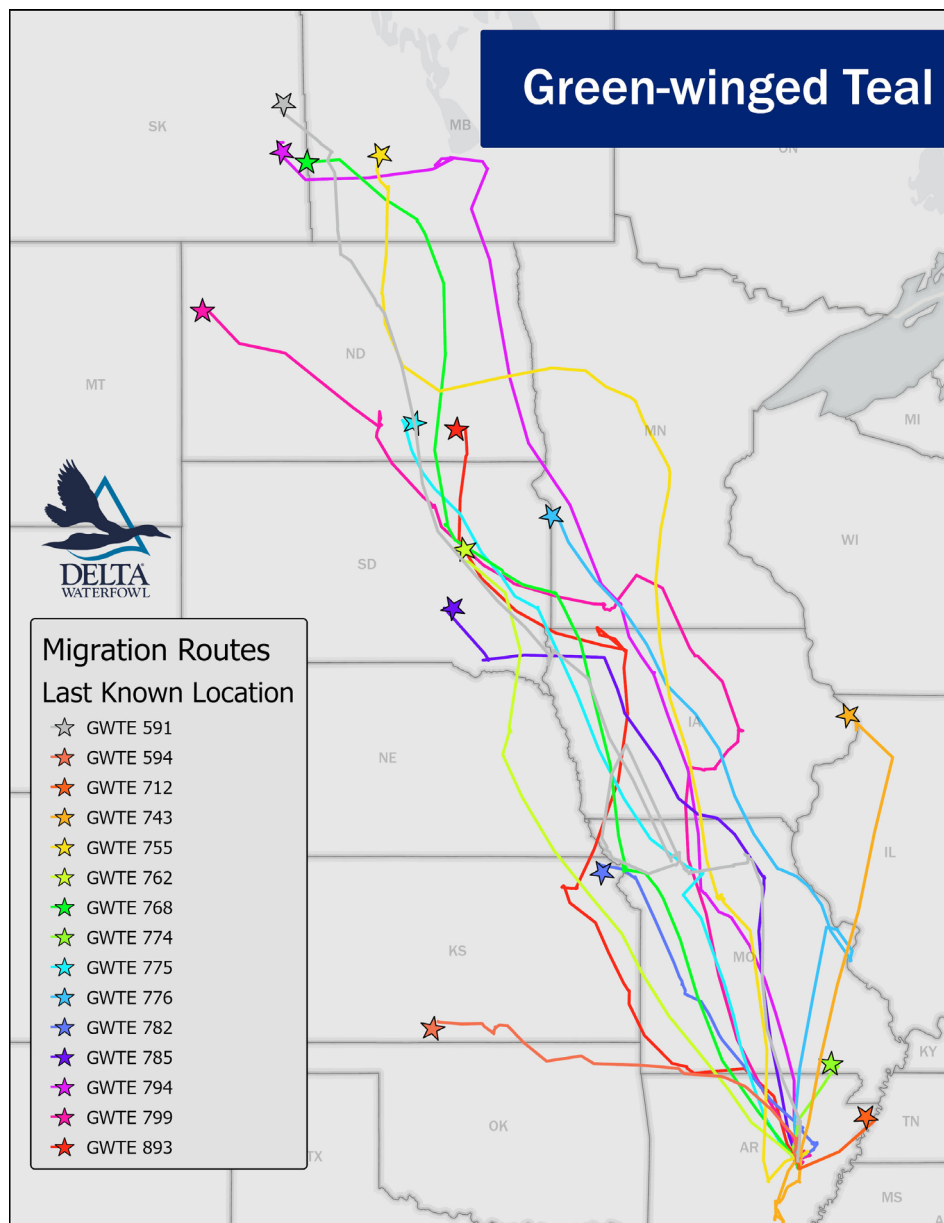
teal. The transmitters were placed on ducks in the winter of 2019-2020, and again in 2020-2021. Following are the most recently recorded movements of the ducks in this important study. Note: Not all ducks in the study will transmit data during each reporting period.

Fourteen mallards have provided information since the last report. Six are in the prairie pothole regions of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, two in the boreal forest of Manitoba and Ontario, five in the Dakotas, and one in Minnesota. All have stopped making large movements and have settled into small nesting territories and likely won't move until pair bonds dissolve.



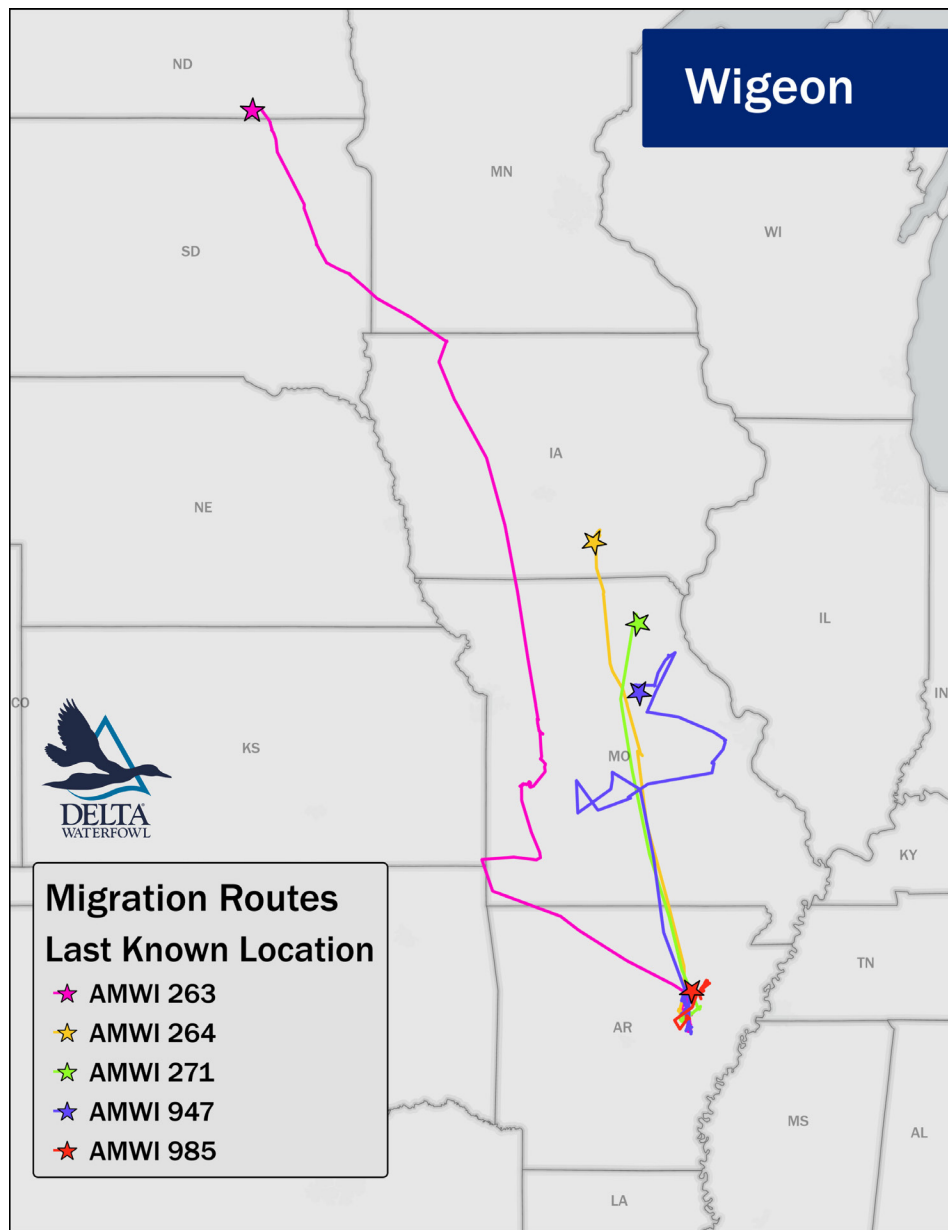
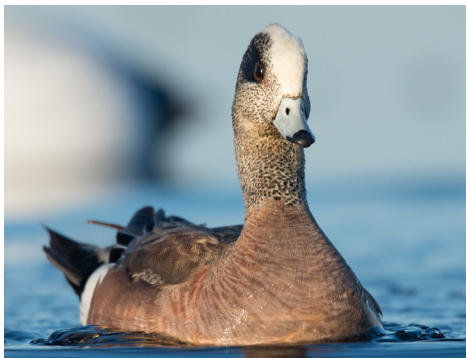
Migration Paths for Mallards as of May 24, 2021

In the past three weeks, 15 green-winged teal have transmitted location data. Five birds checked in at locations south of their traditional breeding areas. Six greenwings are in the Dakotas, while four have crossed into Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Similar to the mallards, it appears that at least some of the greenwings are settling into potential nesting areas.



Migration Paths for green-winged teal as of May 24, 2021

This project is among the first projects attaching radios to wigeon. We might be seeing that wigeon are not as tolerant of the radio backpack units, and as a result, we have less data from this species. However, five wigeon moved since the previous report. Only one of the reporting wigeon is in the prairie region, currently just into North Dakota. Usually the bulk of wigeon nest in Canada's boreal forest region north of the prairies. Knowing that, we'd predict these ducks should be farther north at this point, but we aren't seeing that with our marked wigeon.



Migration Paths for American wigeon as of May 24, 2021.

We plan to resume updates later in the year, likely in late August. By then, birds should be done breeding and have completed the wing molt. The ducks will likely be staging and preparing to begin moving south. The solar-powered transmitters should continue to provide location data for many months, revealing important insights into the movements and habits of puddle ducks.