





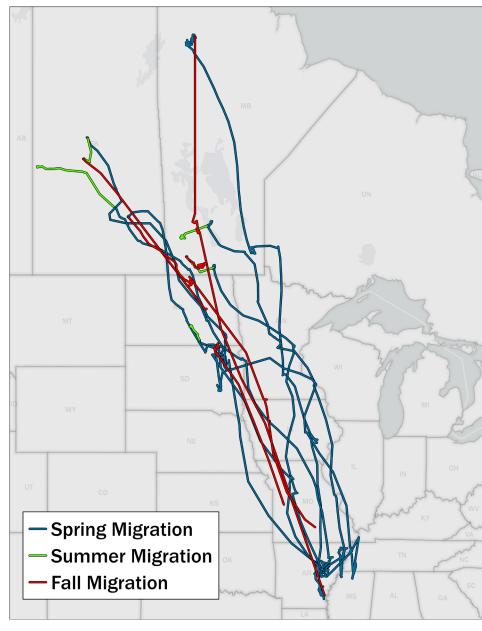
Mississippi Flyway Dabbler Tracking

January 2022 Report

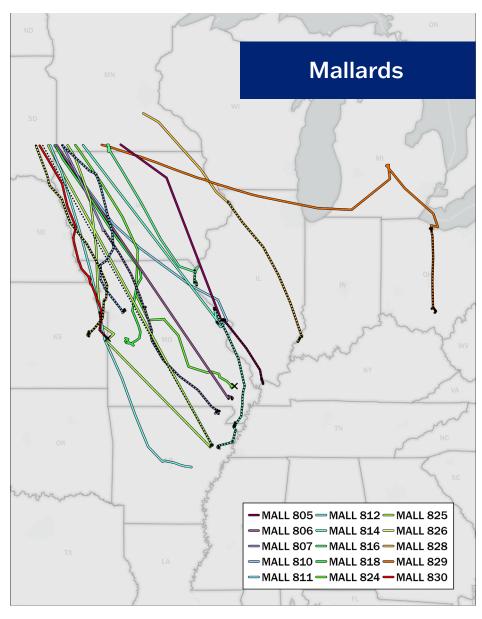
In 2019, Delta Waterfowl initiated a study of migration and wintering ground habits of dabbler in the Mississippi Flyway. We partnered with Dr. Douglas Osborne of the University of Arkansas, and master's degree students Starla Phelps and Daniel Odin, to put radios on mallards, wigeon and green-winged teal during the winters of 2019-

2020, and again in 2020-2021 in east-central Arkansas. In September 2021, 60 additional radios were affixed to mallards and green-winged teal in in South Dakota. The shift to marking in the north is an effort to learn more about the choices ducks make in the fall regarding migration routes, timing, and settling at wintering areas. Following are recently recorded duck movements, but note that not all ducks in the study will transmit location data during each reporting period.

Recall that upon our last dabbler report in early December, the weather to that point had been ridiculously mild in the prairies. Accordingly, many of our marked ducks had stayed pretty far north much later than normal. Fortunately, we have several snow events since then, and unfortunately (if you live here) bitter cold weather. With fields covered in snow, even the hardiest mallards have moved south. We modified the presentation of the ducks' paths by providing both their movement trails prior to the December report and the new movements. We've also depicted radios that have stopped working because the ducks died —



Map 1 - Seasonal migration paths for previously marked ducks as of Jan. 10, 2022



Map 2 - Migration paths for mallards marked in September 2021 as of Jan. 10, 2022

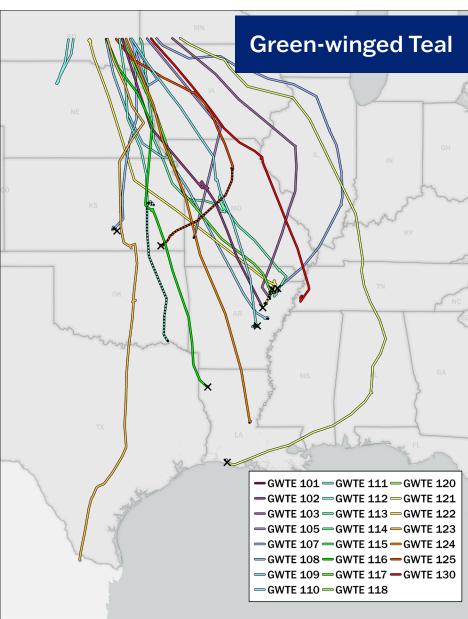
either by hunting or other mortality. We are delighted that two mallards that had not sent any data since they were released have sent data for the first time during this period. As we have mentioned before, the transmitters store data if the unit cannot connect to a cell tower. The transitioning to the new 5G towers also hampers the data transmission.

Fifteen mallards have provided locations. Since the last report, most birds are in the Kansas City area or along the middle Mississippi River system, with one outlier in Ohio. The state distribution is Arkansas (4), Missouri (4), Kansas (2), Illinois (2), Indiana (1), Iowa (1) and Ohio (1).

As expected, the green-winged teal settled into wintering areas sooner than the mallards, perhaps because they depend on wetland plants for food, which means freeze-up sent them packing. Twenty-three have provided movement data since release, but only six of them made substantial movements since the last report. Six of the teal last reported from the Dakotas – four in South Dakota and two in







North Dakota. Those ducks are likely dead. Currently the state distribution is: Arkansas (7), Louisiana (3), Kansas (2), Missouri (2), Oklahoma (1), Texas (1) and Mexico (1).

Map 2 - Migration paths for mallards marked in September 2021 as of Jan. 10, 2022. Solid lines are trails prior to the last report and ticked lines are recent movements since the last report. An X denotes the end of trails for radios that are not updating either due to natural or harvest mortality.

Map 3 - Migration paths for greenwinged teal marked in September 2021 as of Jan. 10, 2022. Solid lines are trails prior to the last report and ticked lines are recent movements since the last report. An X denotes the end of trails for radios that are not updating either due to natural or harvest mortality.

Map 3 - Migration paths for green-winged teal marked in September 2021 as of Jan. 10, 2022.