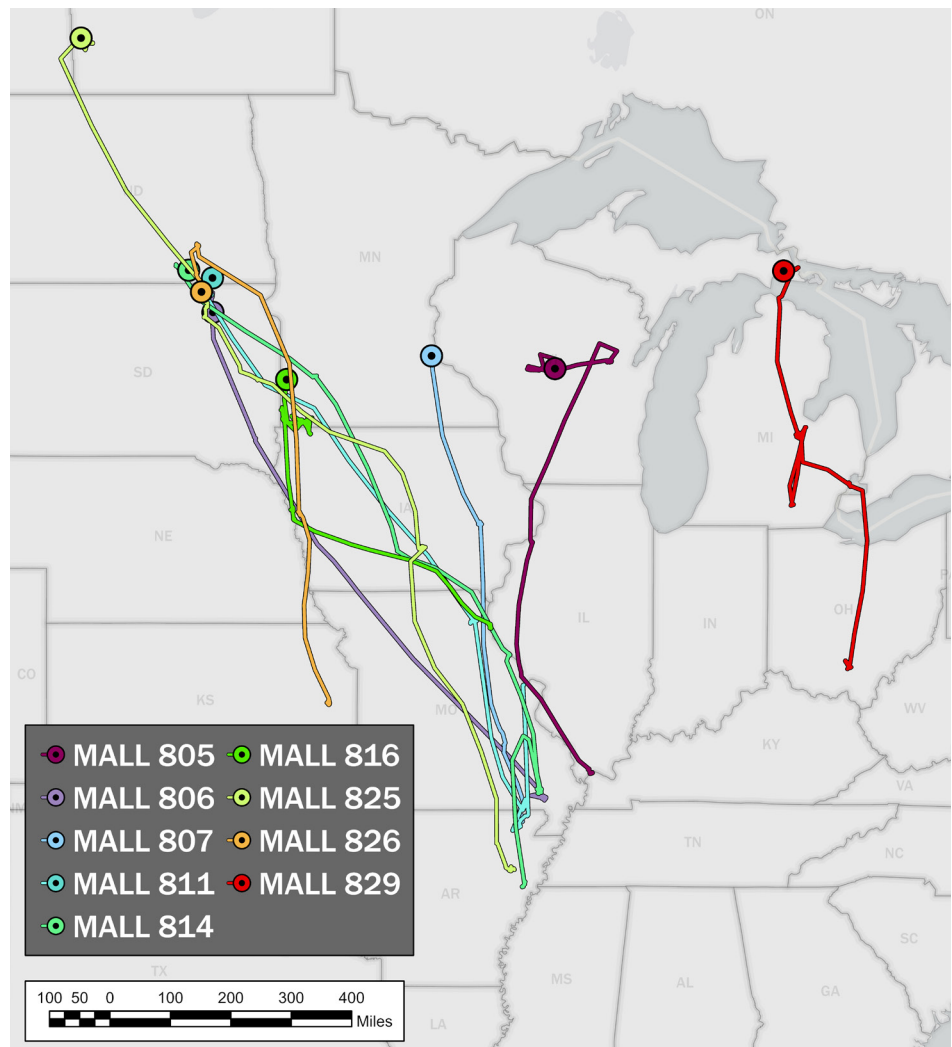


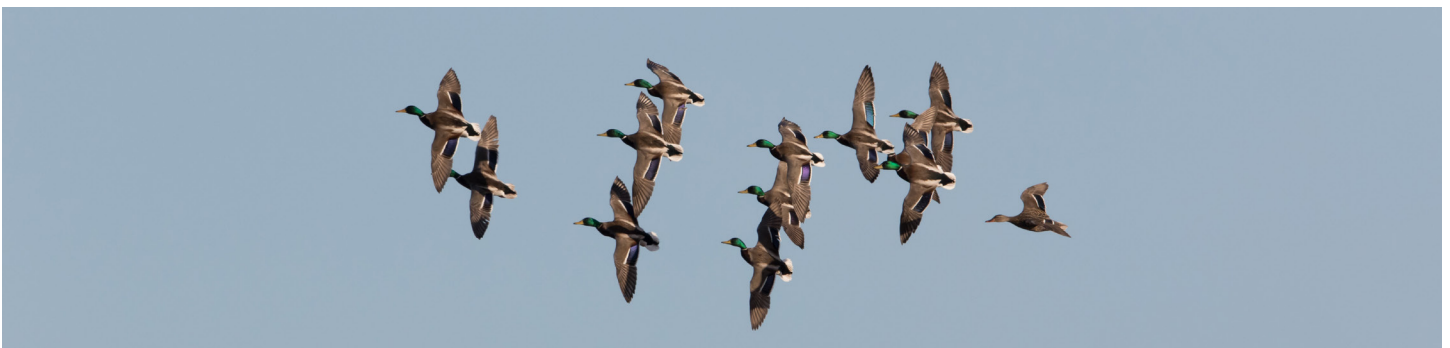
## Mississippi Flyway Dabbler Tracking May 2022 Report

UPDATE – Spring blizzards in the Prairie Pothole Region delayed spring migration, so we decided to delay this report. The great news is that the prairies got a bunch of much-needed water and the breeding waterfowl surveys – cancelled for two years due to COVID – have been restarted.

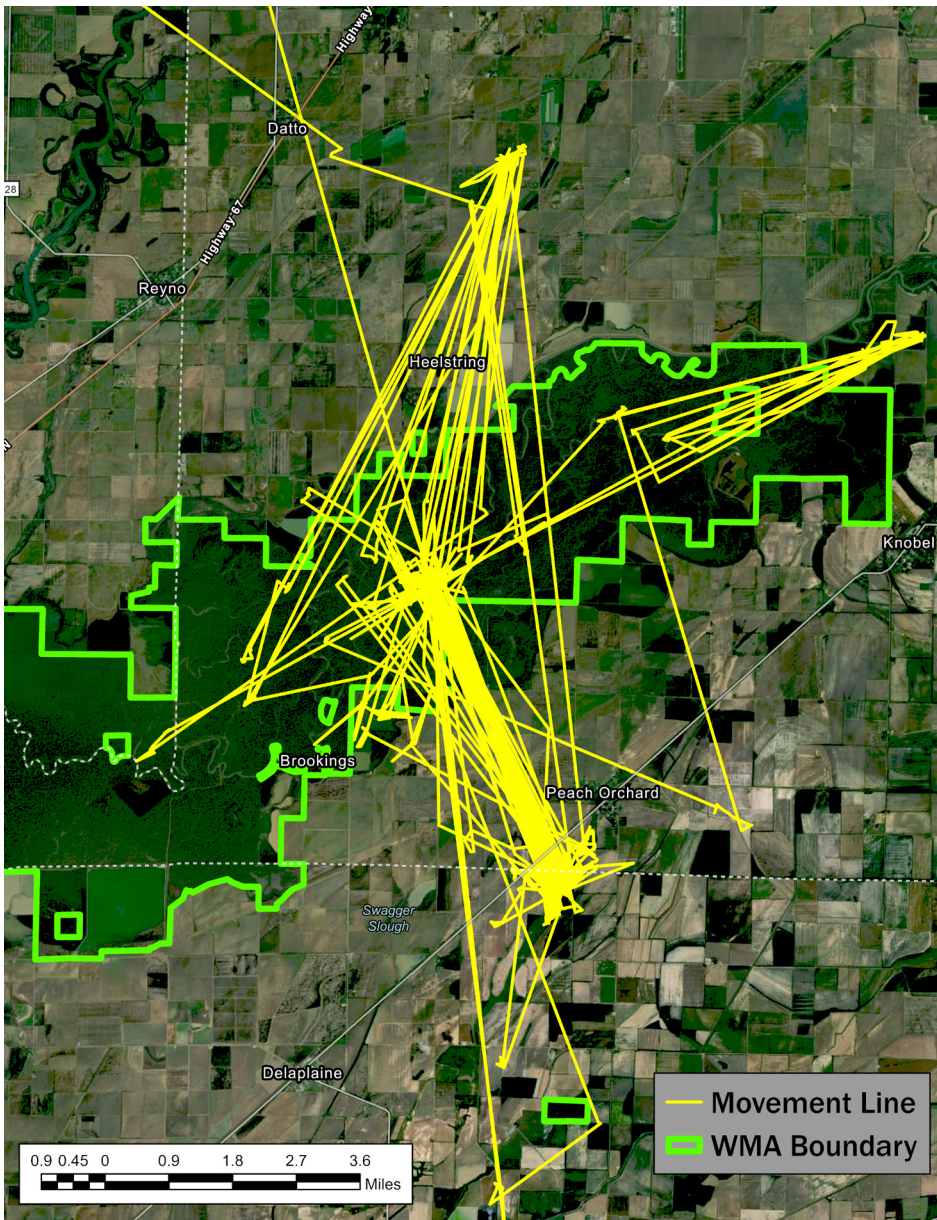
We have nine mallards currently sending locations. Four of the mallards are within 10 miles of where they were marked in September. Others are spread from Michigan to southwestern Manitoba. Of particular note is a female mallard (#807) that we had presumed was dead, as we had not heard from her in months. She surprised us by transmitting all of her winter data on April 30. She last reported at the town of Datto, Arkansas. But then when she spent the winter in no cell coverage area her backpack transmitter did its work and kept accumulating and storing location data. When she



**Map 1.** Spring movements for mallards initially marked in September in northeastern South Dakota. Note that mallard 807 is a bird that did not transmit between January 10 and April 30. Lines begin with their wintering location and dots denote current locations.







**Map 2.** Home range and movements for a female mallard that was missing for months and then transmitted again on April 30 when she again passed a cell tower in Datto, Arkansas. The transmitter stored four months of winter location data. This hen spent the entire four months in a fairly small area in Arkansas – much of it in a heavily hunted wildlife management area.

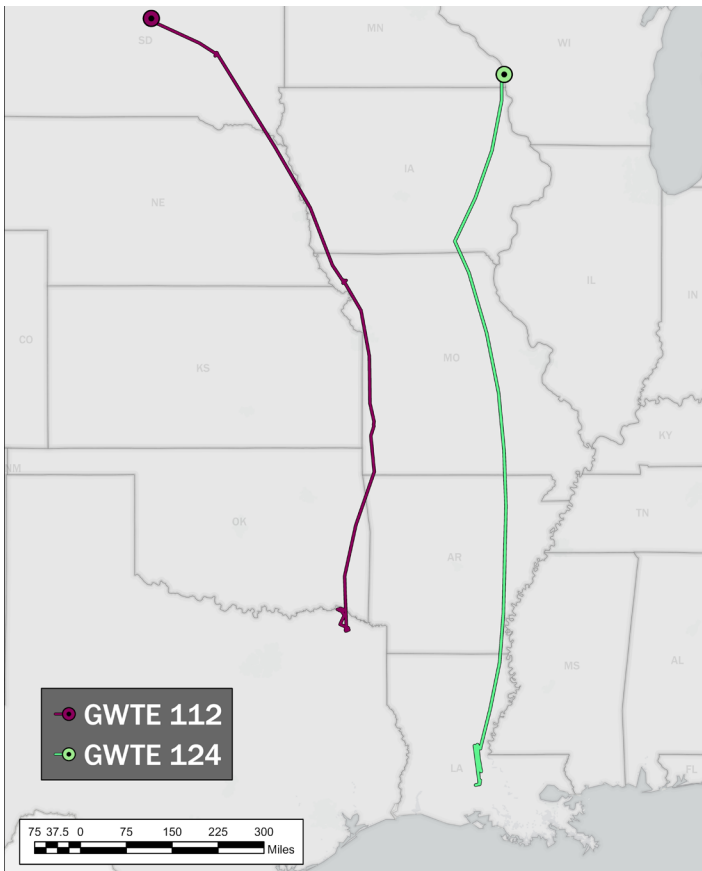
initiated migration and passed back over Datto, Arkansas, her transmitter downloaded four months of location data at once. She had wintered in a 5-mile by 6-mile area, which is also one of the most heavily hunted wildlife management areas in Arkansas.

The two green-winged teal still sending location data are headed north. One male is in southeastern Minnesota. A female is in central South Dakota.

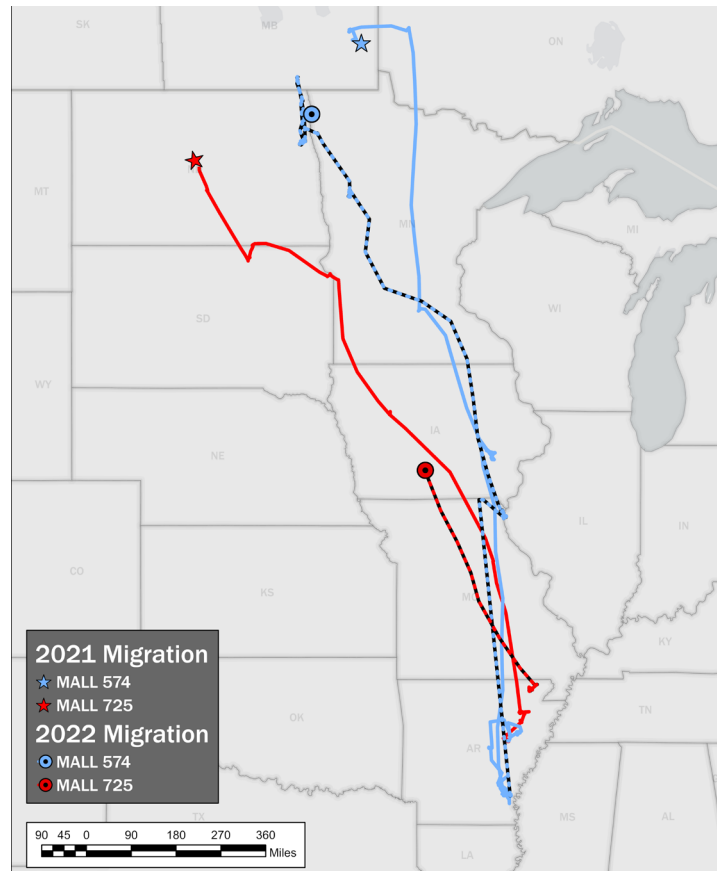
Two mallards that were originally marked in late 2020 in central Arkansas are still sending locations. A female that spent the summer of 2021 in extreme northeastern North Dakota is now in the boreal forest of southeastern Manitoba. A male that spent the summer of 2021 in central North Dakota has currently settled in central Iowa.







**Map 3.** Spring movements of two green-winged teal. Lines begin with their wintering location and dots denote current locations.



**Map 4.** Consecutive spring movements of two mallards originally banded in early 2021. Dotted lines show the spring 2021 movements and the solid color lines show spring 2022 movements. Mallard 574 is a female and Mallard 725 is a male.



Background – In 2019, Delta Waterfowl initiated a study of migration and wintering ground habits of dabblers 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 Arkansas. In September, 60 additional radios were affixed to mallards and green-winged teal 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.