

PRELIMINARY REPORT

TRENDS IN DUCK BREEDING POPULATIONS, 1955-2006

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This preliminary report summarizes information about the status of duck populations and wetland habitats during spring 2006, focusing on areas encompassed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) and Canadian Wildlife Services' (CWS) Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey. This preliminary report does not include estimates from the eastern survey area or information from surveys conducted by State or Provincial agencies. **A final report including survey results from the eastern survey area will be issued.** In the traditional survey area, which includes strata 1-18, 20-50, and 75-77 (Fig. 1), the total duck population estimate (excluding scoters [*Melanitta* spp.], eiders [*Somateria* and *Polysticta* spp.], long-tailed ducks [*Clangula hyemalis*], mergansers [*Mergus* and *Lophodytes* spp.], and wood ducks [*Aix sponsa*]) was 36.2 ± 0.6 [SE] million birds. This was 14% greater than last year's estimate of 31.7 ± 0.6 million birds and 9% above the 1955-2005 long-term average^a. Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) abundance was 7.3 ± 0.2 million birds, which was similar to last year's estimate of 6.8 ± 0.3 million birds and the long-term average. Blue-winged teal (*A. discors*) abundance was 5.9 ± 0.3 million birds. This value was 28% greater than last year's estimate of 4.6 ± 0.2 million birds and 30% above the long-term average. The estimated abundance of green-winged teal (*A. crecca*; 2.6 ± 0.2 million) was 20% greater than last year and 39% above the long-term average. The estimated number of gadwall (*A. strepera*; 2.8 ± 0.2 million) was 30% greater than last year and was 67% above the long-term average, whereas the estimated number of redheads (*Aythya americana*; 0.9 ± 0.1 million) increased 55% over 2005 and was 47% above the long-term average. The abundance of canvasbacks (*A. valisineria*; 0.7 ± 0.1 million) increased 33% over last year and was 23% over the long-term average. Northern shovelers (*Anas clypeata*; 3.7 ± 0.2 million) were 69% above their long-term average. Although the abundances of most species increased over last year and were greater than their long-term averages, American wigeon (*A.*

^a Populations are considered to have changed from the previous year or long-term average if observed significance value associated with change is ≤ 0.10 . Actual p-values are given in tables.

americana; 2.2 ± 0.1 million) and scaup (*Aythya affinis* and *A. marila* combined; 3.2 ± 0.2 million) were 17% and 37% below their long-term averages, respectively. The estimate for scaup was a record low for the second consecutive year. The abundance of northern pintails (*Anas acuta*; 3.4 ± 0.2 million) was 18% below the 1955-2005 average, although this year's estimate was 32% greater than that of last year.

Despite a very warm winter, the quality of habitat for breeding waterfowl in the U.S. and Canada is slightly better this year than last year. Improvements in Canadian and U.S. prairie habitats were primarily due to average to above-average precipitation, warm spring temperatures, and carry-over effects from the good summer conditions of 2005. Improved habitat conditions were reflected in the higher number of ponds counted in Prairie Canada this year compared to last year. The 2006 estimate of ponds in Prairie Canada was 4.4 ± 0.2 million ponds, a 13% increase from last year's estimate of 3.9 ± 0.2 million ponds and 32% above the 1955-2005 average. The parkland and northern grassland regions of Manitoba and Saskatchewan received abundant rain in March and April, which created good to excellent habitat conditions. Higher water tables prevented farm activities in wetland basins and excellent residual nesting cover remained around the potholes. Many of the wetlands flooded beyond their normal basins and into the surrounding uplands. Deeper water in permanent and semi-permanent wetlands, coupled with increased amounts of flooded emergent vegetation and woodland, likely benefited diving ducks and overwater- and cavity-nesting species. However, spring precipitation in the grasslands of southern Saskatchewan and extreme southwestern Manitoba was insufficient to fill seasonal and semi-permanent wetlands or create temporary wetlands for waterfowl, leaving these regions in fair or poor condition at the time of the survey. Above-average precipitation in the fall and spring in parts of southern Alberta improved conditions in this historically important pintail breeding region. This region has been dry since 1998, with the exception of 2003. However, central Alberta remained dry.

Habitat conditions in the U.S. prairies were more variable than those in the Canadian prairies. The 2006 pond estimate for the north-central U.S. (1.6 ± 0.1 million) was similar to last year's estimate and the long-term average. The total pond estimate (Prairie Canada and U.S. combined) was 6.1 ± 0.2 million ponds. This was 13% greater than last year's estimate of 5.4 ± 0.2 million and 26% higher than the long-term average of 4.8 ± 0.1 million ponds. Habitat quality improved minimally in the easternmost regions of North and South Dakota relative to 2005. Small areas of the Eastern Dakotas were in good-to-excellent condition, helped by warm April temperatures and spring rains that advanced vegetation growth by about 2 weeks. However, most of the Drift Prairie, the Missouri Coteau, and the Coteau Slope remained in fair to poor condition due to lack of temporary and seasonal water and the deteriorated condition of semi-permanent basins. Permanent wetlands and dugouts were typically in various stages of recession. The Western Dakotas were generally in fair condition. Most wetland and upland habitats in Montana benefited modestly from average to above-average fall and winter precipitation and improvements in nesting habitat last year. Spring precipitation in Montana during March and April also helped to mitigate several years of drought. A large portion of central Montana was in good condition due to ample late winter and early spring precipitation. Biologists also noted improvements in upland vegetation over previous

years. In this central region, most pond basins were full and stream systems were flowing. However, nesting habitat was generally fair to poor for most of the northern portion of Montana.

Habitat conditions in most northern regions of Canada were improved over last year due to an early ice break-up, warm spring temperatures, and good precipitation levels. In northern Saskatchewan, northern Manitoba, and western Ontario, winter snowfall was sufficient to recharge most beaver ponds and small lakes. Larger lakes and rivers tended to have higher water levels than in recent years. Conditions in the smaller wetlands were ideal. However, in northern Manitoba and northern Saskatchewan, some lakes associated with major rivers were flooded, with some flooded well into the surrounding upland vegetation. The potential for habitat loss due to flooding caused biologists to classify this region as good. In Alberta, water levels improved to the north, except for the Athabasca Delta, where wetlands, especially seasonal wetlands, generally had low water levels. Most of the Northwest Territories had good water levels. Exceptions were the southern part of the Territory where heavy rains in May caused some flooding of nesting habitat, and a dry swath across the central part of the province. In contrast to most of the survey region and to the past few years, spring did not arrive early in Alaska this year. Overall, a more normal spring phenology occurred throughout most of Alaska and the Yukon Territory, with ice lingering in the following regions: the outer coast of the Yukon Delta, the northern Seward Peninsula, and on the Old Crow Flats. Some flooding occurred on a few major rivers. Overall, good waterfowl production is anticipated this year from the northwestern continental area if temperatures remain seasonable.

Spring-like conditions also arrived early in the East, with an early ice break-up and relatively mild temperatures. Biologists reported that habitat conditions were generally good across most of the survey area. Most regions had a warm, dry winter and a dry start to spring. Extreme southern Ontario was relatively dry during the survey period and habitats were in fair to poor condition. However, precipitation after survey completion improved habitat conditions in this region. Abundant rain in May improved water levels in Maine, the Maritimes, southern Ontario, and Quebec, but caused some flooding in southern Ontario and Quebec and along the coast of Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. In Quebec, a very early spring assured good habitat availability. Despite the early spring and the abundance of spring precipitation, a dry winter still left most of the marshes and rivers drier than in past years. Many bogs were noticeably drier than past years or dry entirely in a few cases. Winter precipitation increased to the west and north, resulting in generally good levels in central and northern Ontario. Conditions were good to excellent in central and northern Ontario due to the early spring phenology, generally good water levels, and warm spring temperatures.

The data in this report were contributed by the following individuals:

Alaska, Yukon Territory, and Old Crow Flats (Strata 1-12): B. Conant and E. Mallek

Northern Alberta, Northeastern British Columbia, and Northwest Territories (Strata 13-18, 20, and 77): C. Ferguson and D. Benning^d

Northern Saskatchewan and Northern Manitoba (Strata 21-24): F. Roetker and B. Fortier

Southern and Central Alberta (Strata 26-29, 75, and 76):

Air E. Huggins and C. Pyle
Ground P. Pryor^a, K. Froggatt^b, S. Barry^a, E. Hofman^b, M. Barr^c, D. Chambers^c,
N. Clements^a, N. Fontaine^c, J. Going^a, R. Hunka^c, T. Mathews^c, I. McFarlane^c,
B. Peers^c, C. Pinto^b, and R. Talbot^c

Southern Saskatchewan (Strata 30-35):

Air P. Thorpe, T. Lewis, R. King, and S. Frazer
Ground D. Nieman^a, J. Smith^a, K. Warner^a, D. Caswell^a, J. Caswell^a, J. Leafloor^a,
P. Rakowski^a, M. Schuster^a, B. Bartzan^a, K. Dufour^a, C. Downie^a, P. Nieman^a,
L. Sitter^a, R. Spencer^a, A. Williams^c, F. Baldwin^a, L. Beaudoin^a, S. Lawson^c,
C. Meuckon^a, N. Wiebe^a, and K. Wilkins

Southern Manitoba (Strata 25 and 36-40):

Air R. King and S. Frazer
Ground D. Caswell^a, G. Ball^b, J. Caswell^a, J. Leafloor^a, P. Rakowski^a, M. Schuster^a,
F. Baldwin^a, L. Beaudoin^a, S. Lawson^c, C. Meuckon^a, N. Wiebe^a, and
K. Wilkins

Montana and Western Dakotas (Strata 41-44):

Air R. Bentley and K. Richkus
Ground P. Garrettson and M. Carpenter

Eastern Dakotas (Strata 45-49):

Air J. Solberg and M. Rich
Ground K. Kruse, M. Grovijahn^b, B. McDermott, and D. Whittington

Central Quebec (Strata 68-70):

Air J. Wortham, D. Fronczak, and G. Boomer
Helicopter D. Holtby^b and G. Boomer

New York, Eastern Ontario, Hudson and James Bay Lowlands of Ontario, and Southern Quebec (Strata 52-59):

Air M. Koneff, M. Jones, and R. Raftovich

Central and Western Ontario (Strata 50 and 51):

Air K. Bollinger and J. Bredy

Maine and Maritimes (Strata 62-67):

Air J. Bidwell, H. Obrecht, and J. Goldsberry^d

Habitat information was provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Canadian Wildlife Service biologists.

^a Canadian Wildlife Service

^b State, Provincial, or Tribal Conservation Agency

^c Ducks Unlimited - Canada

^d Other organization

All others – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

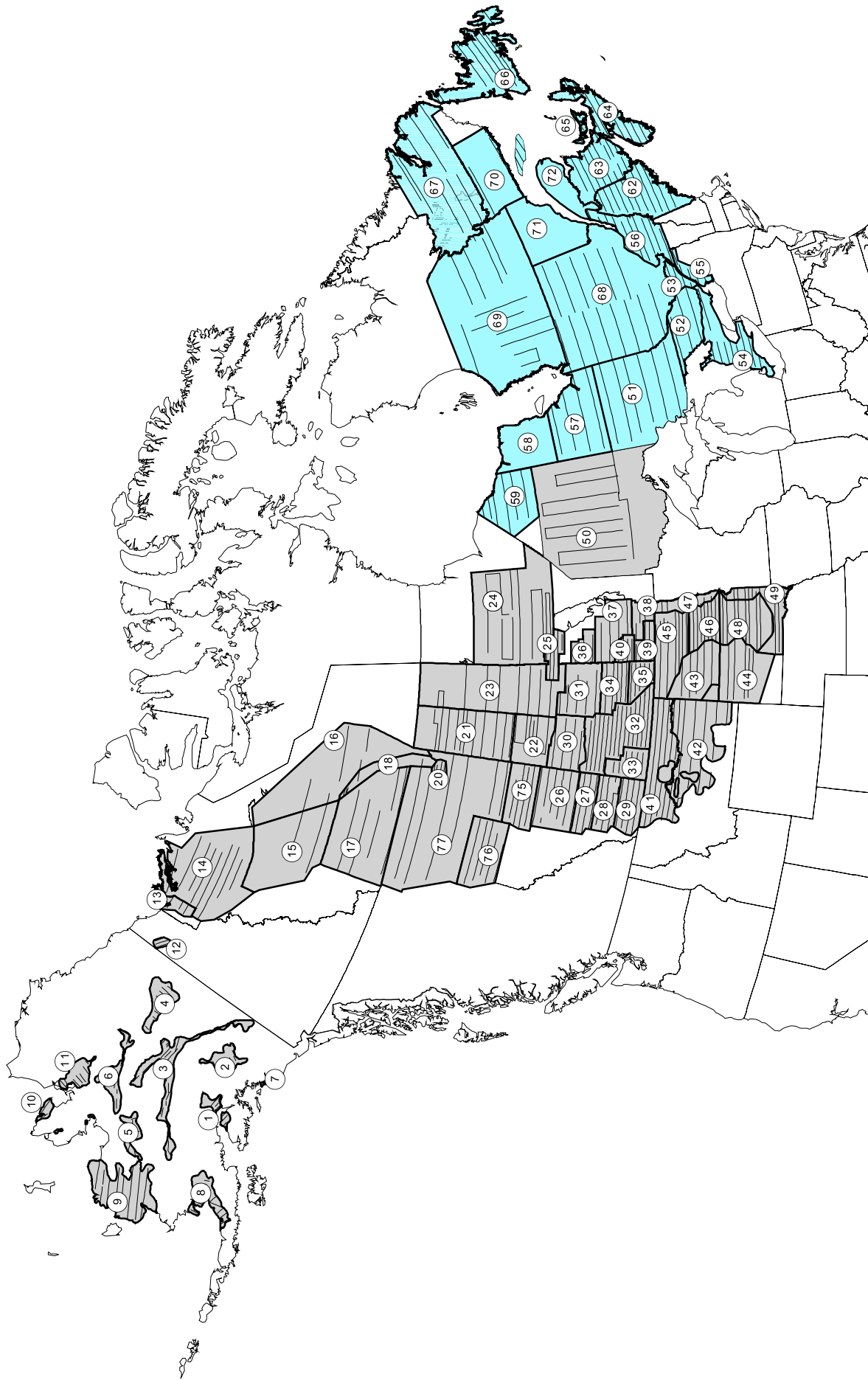


Table 1. Duck breeding population estimates (in thousands) for regions in the traditional survey area.

| Region | 2006 | 2005 | Change from 2005 | | LTA ^a | Change from LTA | |
|--|--------|--------|------------------|----------|------------------|-----------------|----------|
| | | | % | <i>P</i> | | % | <i>P</i> |
| Alaska-Yukon Territory – Old Crow Flats | 4,755 | 5,114 | -7 | 0.149 | 3,550 | +34 | <0.001 |
| C. & N. Alberta – N.E. British Columbia - Northwest Territories | 5,132 | 4,713 | +9 | 0.222 | 7,153 | -28 | <0.001 |
| N. Saskatchewan- N. Manitoba - W. Ontario | 2,711 | 3,223 | -16 | 0.047 | 3,557 | -24 | <0.001 |
| S. Alberta | 4,581 | 3,178 | +44 | <0.001 | 4,283 | +7 | 0.121 |
| S. Saskatchewan | 10,096 | 7,967 | +27 | <0.001 | 7,348 | +37 | <0.001 |
| S. Manitoba | 1,796 | 1,627 | +10 | 0.137 | 1,544 | +16 | 0.003 |
| Montana and western Dakotas | 1,910 | 1,290 | +48 | <0.001 | 1,613 | +18 | 0.001 |
| Eastern Dakotas | 5,181 | 4,623 | +12 | 0.073 | 4,201 | +23 | <0.001 |
| Total ^b | 36,160 | 31,735 | +14 | <0.001 | 33,251 | +9 | <0.001 |

^a Long-term average, 1955-2005.

^b Includes 10 species in Appendix A plus American black duck, ring-necked duck, goldeneyes, bufflehead, and ruddy duck; excludes eiders, long-tailed duck, scoters, mergansers, and wood duck.

Table 2. Mallard breeding population estimates (in thousands) for regions in the traditional survey area.

| Region | 2006 | 2005 | Change from 2005 | | LTA | Change from LTA | |
|--|-------|-------|------------------|----------|-------|-----------------|----------|
| | | | % | <i>P</i> | | % | <i>P</i> |
| Alaska-Yukon Territory – Old Crow Flats | 516 | 703 | -27 | 0.009 | 357 | +44 | 0.001 |
| C. & N. Alberta – N.E. British Columbia - Northwest Territories | 558 | 533 | +5 | 0.818 | 1,086 | -49 | <0.001 |
| N. Saskatchewan- N. Manitoba - W. Ontario | 656 | 937 | -30 | 0.116 | 1,159 | -43 | <0.001 |
| S. Alberta | 901 | 671 | +34 | 0.006 | 1,099 | -18 | <0.001 |
| S. Saskatchewan | 1,832 | 1,729 | +6 | 0.530 | 2,072 | -12 | 0.021 |
| S. Manitoba | 511 | 455 | +12 | 0.351 | 378 | +35 | 0.004 |
| Montana and western Dakotas | 679 | 387 | +76 | <0.001 | 499 | +36 | 0.002 |
| Eastern Dakotas | 1,624 | 1,340 | +21 | 0.140 | 846 | +92 | <0.001 |
| Total | 7,277 | 6,755 | +8 | 0.147 | 7,496 | -3 | 0.338 |

Table 3. Gadwall breeding population estimates (in thousands) for regions in the traditional survey area.

| Region | 2006 | Change from 2005 | | | Change from LTA | | |
|--|-------|------------------|-----|----------|-----------------|------|----------|
| | | 2005 | % | <i>P</i> | LTA | % | <i>P</i> |
| Alaska-Yukon Territory – Old Crow Flats | 2 | 3 | -29 | 0.739 | 2 | 0 | 0.998 |
| C. & N. Alberta – N.E. British Columbia - Northwest Territories | 135 | 77 | +75 | 0.102 | 47 | +187 | 0.006 |
| N. Saskatchewan- N. Manitoba - W. Ontario | 16 | 19 | -14 | 0.747 | 27 | -41 | 0.042 |
| S. Alberta | 455 | 338 | +35 | 0.152 | 309 | +47 | 0.010 |
| S. Saskatchewan | 1,202 | 723 | +66 | 0.006 | 556 | +116 | <0.001 |
| S. Manitoba | 125 | 120 | +4 | 0.820 | 67 | +88 | <0.001 |
| Montana and western Dakotas | 216 | 187 | +16 | 0.474 | 194 | +11 | 0.476 |
| Eastern Dakotas | 673 | 712 | -6 | 0.642 | 491 | +37 | <0.001 |
| Total | 2,825 | 2,179 | +30 | 0.003 | 1,692 | +67 | <0.001 |

Table 4. American wigeon breeding population estimates (in thousands) for regions in the traditional survey area.

| Region | 2006 | Change from 2005 | | | Change from LTA | | |
|--|-------|------------------|-----|----------|-----------------|-----|----------|
| | | 2005 | % | <i>P</i> | LTA | % | <i>P</i> |
| Alaska-Yukon Territory – Old Crow Flats | 822 | 873 | -6 | 0.552 | 511 | +61 | <0.001 |
| C. & N. Alberta – N.E. British Columbia - Northwest Territories | 570 | 583 | -2 | 0.921 | 912 | -38 | <0.001 |
| N. Saskatchewan- N. Manitoba - W. Ontario | 105 | 174 | -40 | 0.080 | 253 | -58 | <0.001 |
| S. Alberta | 189 | 125 | +50 | 0.025 | 296 | -36 | <0.001 |
| S. Saskatchewan | 282 | 294 | -4 | 0.845 | 425 | -34 | <0.001 |
| S. Manitoba | 16 | 34 | -53 | 0.086 | 62 | -74 | <0.001 |
| Montana and western Dakotas | 120 | 67 | +79 | 0.008 | 109 | +10 | 0.531 |
| Eastern Dakotas | 67 | 73 | -8 | 0.767 | 48 | +39 | 0.140 |
| Total | 2,171 | 2,225 | -2 | 0.766 | 2,617 | -17 | <0.001 |

Table 5. Green-winged teal breeding population estimates (in thousands) for regions in the traditional survey area.

| Region | 2006 | Change from 2005 | | | Change from LTA | | |
|--|--------------|------------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|------------|------------------|
| | | 2005 | % | <i>P</i> | LTA | % | <i>P</i> |
| Alaska-Yukon Territory – Old Crow Flats | 780 | 713 | +9 | 0.471 | 358 | +118 | <0.001 |
| C. & N. Alberta – N.E. British Columbia - Northwest Territories | 751 | 437 | +72 | 0.018 | 752 | 0 | 0.990 |
| N. Saskatchewan- N. Manitoba - W. Ontario | 303 | 310 | -2 | 0.896 | 197 | +54 | 0.001 |
| S. Alberta | 178 | 159 | +12 | 0.720 | 194 | -8 | 0.709 |
| S. Saskatchewan | 401 | 359 | +12 | 0.632 | 230 | +75 | 0.007 |
| S. Manitoba | 65 | 55 | +19 | 0.448 | 52 | +27 | 0.215 |
| Montana and western Dakotas | 34 | 83 | -59 | 0.005 | 40 | -15 | 0.364 |
| Eastern Dakotas | 75 | 42 | +81 | 0.164 | 45 | +67 | 0.164 |
| Total | 2,587 | 2,157 | +20 | 0.031 | 1,867 | +39 | <0.001 |

Table 6. Blue-winged teal breeding population estimates (in thousands) for regions in the traditional survey area.

| Region | 2006 | Change from 2005 | | | Change from LTA | | |
|--|--------------|------------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|------------|------------------|
| | | 2005 | % | <i>P</i> | LTA | % | <i>P</i> |
| Alaska-Yukon Territory – Old Crow Flats | 0 | 3 | -100 | 0.339 | 1 | -100 | <0.001 |
| C. & N. Alberta – N.E. British Columbia - Northwest Territories | 316 | 247 | +28 | 0.456 | 270 | +17 | 0.515 |
| N. Saskatchewan- N. Manitoba - W. Ontario | 82 | 139 | -41 | 0.237 | 265 | -69 | <0.001 |
| S. Alberta | 864 | 649 | +33 | 0.126 | 609 | +42 | 0.015 |
| S. Saskatchewan | 2,228 | 1,597 | +40 | 0.019 | 1,218 | +83 | <0.001 |
| S. Manitoba | 426 | 339 | +26 | 0.117 | 382 | +11 | 0.329 |
| Montana and western Dakotas | 346 | 286 | +21 | 0.240 | 263 | +32 | 0.047 |
| Eastern Dakotas | 1,598 | 1,325 | +21 | 0.171 | 1,492 | +7 | 0.418 |
| Total | 5,860 | 4,586 | +28 | 0.001 | 4,501 | +30 | <0.001 |

Table 7. Northern shoveler breeding population estimates (in thousands) for regions in the traditional survey area.

| Region | 2006 | 2005 | Change from 2005 | | LTA | Change from LTA | |
|--|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | | | % | <i>P</i> | | % | <i>P</i> |
| Alaska-Yukon Territory – Old Crow Flats | 409 | 666 | -39 | 0.003 | 267 | +53 | 0.002 |
| C. & N. Alberta – N.E. British Columbia - Northwest Territories | 193 | 213 | -10 | 0.690 | 213 | -10 | 0.498 |
| N. Saskatchewan- N. Manitoba - W. Ontario | 12 | 29 | -59 | 0.016 | 43 | -72 | <0.001 |
| S. Alberta | 701 | 548 | +28 | 0.190 | 360 | +95 | <0.001 |
| S. Saskatchewan | 1,612 | 1,314 | +23 | 0.210 | 648 | +149 | <0.001 |
| S. Manitoba | 178 | 211 | -16 | 0.430 | 107 | +66 | <0.001 |
| Montana and western Dakotas | 163 | 148 | +10 | 0.612 | 149 | +9 | 0.514 |
| Eastern Dakotas | 414 | 464 | -11 | 0.477 | 389 | +6 | 0.594 |
| Total | 3,680 | 3,591 | +2 | 0.765 | 2,177 | +69 | <0.001 |

Table 8. Northern pintail breeding population estimates (in thousands) for regions in the traditional survey area.

| Region | 2006 | 2005 | Change from 2005 | | LTA | Change from LTA | |
|--|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | | | % | <i>P</i> | | % | <i>P</i> |
| Alaska-Yukon Territory – Old Crow Flats | 1,041 | 905 | +15 | 0.310 | 913 | +14 | 0.174 |
| C. & N. Alberta – N.E. British Columbia - Northwest Territories | 126 | 108 | +16 | 0.662 | 378 | -67 | <0.001 |
| N. Saskatchewan- N. Manitoba - W. Ontario | 6 | 8 | -31 | 0.470 | 41 | -86 | <0.001 |
| S. Alberta | 611 | 282 | +116 | <0.001 | 721 | -15 | 0.107 |
| S. Saskatchewan | 1,024 | 858 | +19 | 0.343 | 1,218 | -16 | 0.203 |
| S. Manitoba | 57 | 68 | -16 | 0.480 | 112 | -49 | <0.001 |
| Montana and western Dakotas | 264 | 75 | +252 | <0.001 | 269 | -2 | 0.907 |
| Eastern Dakotas | 257 | 256 | +1 | 0.968 | 459 | -44 | <0.001 |
| Total | 3,386 | 2,561 | +32 | 0.001 | 4,111 | -18 | <0.001 |

Table 9. Redhead breeding population estimates (in thousands) for regions in the traditional survey area.

| Region | 2006 | Change from 2005 | | | Change from LTA | | |
|--|------------|------------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|
| | | 2005 | % | <i>P</i> | LTA | % | <i>P</i> |
| Alaska-Yukon Territory – Old Crow Flats | 10 | <1 | +4000 | 0.106 | 1 | +622 | 0.154 |
| C. & N. Alberta – N.E. British Columbia - Northwest Territories | 59 | 49 | +19 | 0.679 | 38 | +54 | 0.143 |
| N. Saskatchewan- N. Manitoba - W. Ontario | 5 | 13 | -61 | 0.050 | 28 | -82 | <0.001 |
| S. Alberta | 154 | 91 | +69 | 0.074 | 116 | +33 | 0.214 |
| S. Saskatchewan | 435 | 226 | +93 | 0.007 | 190 | +129 | 0.001 |
| S. Manitoba | 102 | 98 | +4 | 0.903 | 72 | +42 | 0.127 |
| Montana and western Dakotas | 12 | 3 | +315 | 0.054 | 9 | +25 | 0.573 |
| Eastern Dakotas | 139 | 112 | +25 | 0.389 | 169 | -17 | 0.284 |
| Total | 916 | 592 | +55 | 0.001 | 624 | +47 | 0.001 |

Table 10. Canvasback breeding population estimates (in thousands) for regions in the traditional survey area.

| Region | 2006 | Change from 2005 | | | Change from LTA | | |
|--|------------|------------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|
| | | 2005 | % | <i>P</i> | LTA | % | <i>P</i> |
| Alaska-Yukon Territory – Old Crow Flats | 73 | 95 | -23 | 0.542 | 91 | -20 | 0.475 |
| C. & N. Alberta – N.E. British Columbia - Northwest Territories | 109 | 98 | +12 | 0.771 | 73 | +50 | 0.177 |
| N. Saskatchewan- N. Manitoba - W. Ontario | 13 | 39 | -67 | 0.068 | 55 | -77 | <0.001 |
| S. Alberta | 76 | 43 | +79 | 0.105 | 64 | +20 | 0.440 |
| S. Saskatchewan | 287 | 162 | +76 | 0.026 | 182 | +57 | 0.037 |
| S. Manitoba | 87 | 48 | +84 | 0.166 | 56 | +56 | 0.221 |
| Montana and western Dakotas | 12 | 5 | +157 | 0.121 | 8 | +58 | 0.321 |
| Eastern Dakotas | 33 | 31 | +5 | 0.875 | 33 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Total | 691 | 521 | +33 | 0.051 | 562 | +23 | 0.067 |

Table 11. Scaup (greater and lesser combined) breeding population estimates (in thousands) for regions in the traditional survey area.

| Region | 2006 | 2005 | Change from 2005 | | LTA | Change from LTA | |
|--|-------|-------|------------------|----------|-------|-----------------|----------|
| | | | % | <i>P</i> | | % | <i>P</i> |
| Alaska-Yukon Territory – Old Crow Flats | 884 | 961 | -8 | 0.500 | 915 | -3 | 0.680 |
| C. & N. Alberta – N.E. British Columbia - Northwest Territories | 1,169 | 1,361 | -14 | 0.316 | 2,627 | -55 | <0.001 |
| N. Saskatchewan- N. Manitoba - W. Ontario | 335 | 349 | -4 | 0.816 | 587 | -43 | <0.001 |
| S. Alberta | 214 | 127 | +69 | 0.071 | 353 | -39 | 0.001 |
| S. Saskatchewan | 391 | 381 | +3 | 0.918 | 416 | -6 | 0.714 |
| S. Manitoba | 97 | 60 | +61 | 0.146 | 135 | -28 | 0.103 |
| Montana and western Dakotas | 19 | 16 | +14 | 0.723 | 53 | -65 | <0.001 |
| Eastern Dakotas | 138 | 132 | +5 | 0.854 | 97 | +42 | 0.097 |
| Total | 3,247 | 3,387 | -4 | 0.586 | 5,184 | -37 | <0.001 |

Table 12. Estimated number (in thousands) of May ponds in portions of prairie and parkland Canada and the northcentral U.S.

| Survey Area | 2006 | 2005 | Change from 2005 | | LTA ^a | Change from LTA | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|
| | | | % | <i>P</i> | | % | <i>P</i> | |
| Prairie Canada | | | | | | | | |
| S. Alberta | 996 | 750 | +33 | 0.020 | 722 | +38 | <0.001 | |
| S. Saskatchewan | 2,719 | 2,415 | +13 | 0.250 | 1,963 | +38 | <0.001 | |
| S. Manitoba | 735 | 755 | -3 | 0.805 | 673 | +9 | 0.351 | |
| Subtotal | 4,450 | 3,921 | +13 | 0.074 | 3,358 | +32 | <0.001 | |
| Northcentral U.S. | | | | | | | | |
| Montana and western Dakotas | 615 | 663 | -7 | 0.512 | 528 | +16 | 0.064 | |
| Eastern Dakotas | 1,030 | 798 | +29 | 0.011 | 994 | +4 | 0.625 | |
| Subtotal | 1,644 | 1,461 | +13 | 0.116 | 1,522 | +8 | 0.159 | |
| Grand Total | 6,094 | 5,381 | +13 | 0.025 | 4,830 | +26 | <0.001 | |

^aLong-term average. Prairie and parkland Canada, 1961-2005; northcentral U.S. and Grand Total, 1974-2005.

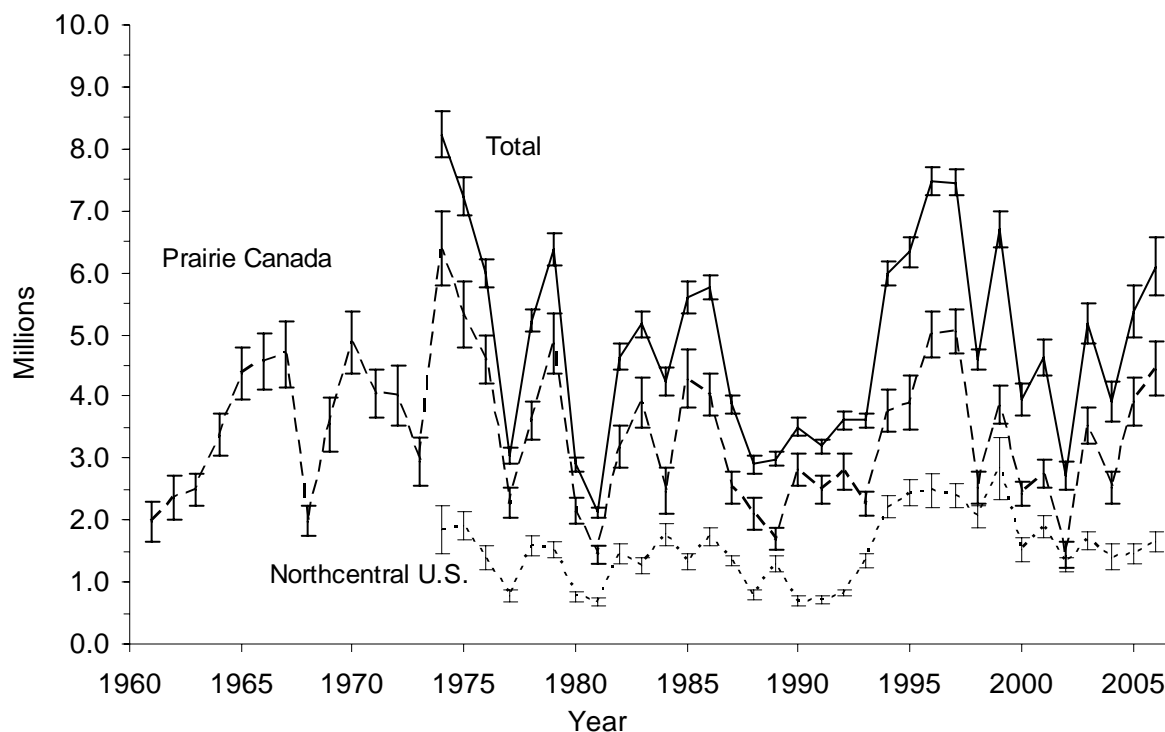


Figure 2. Number of ponds in May and 95% confidence intervals in prairie Canada and the northcentral U.S.

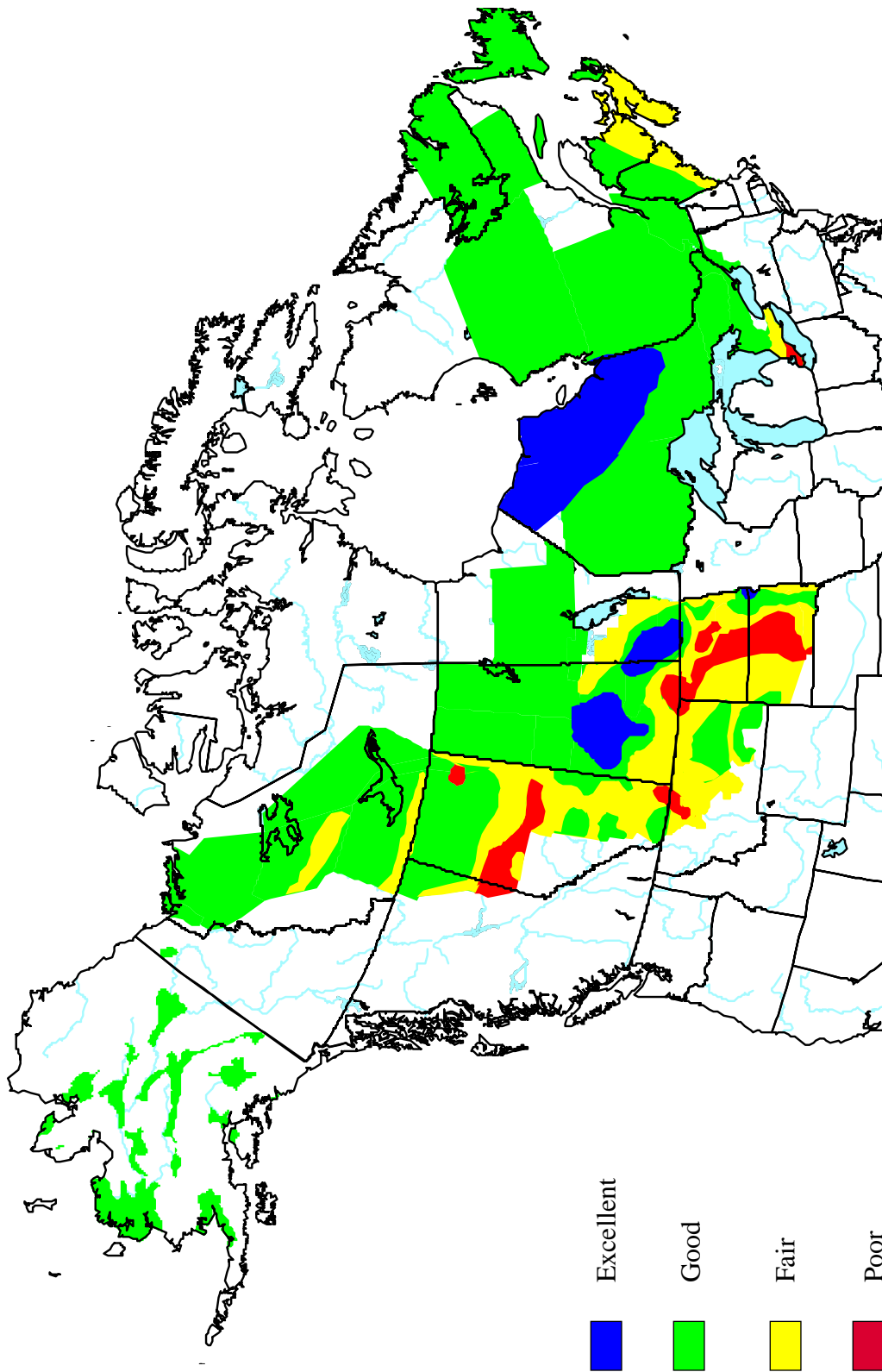


Figure 3. Breeding waterfowl habitat conditions during the 2006 Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey, as judged by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Flyway Biologists.

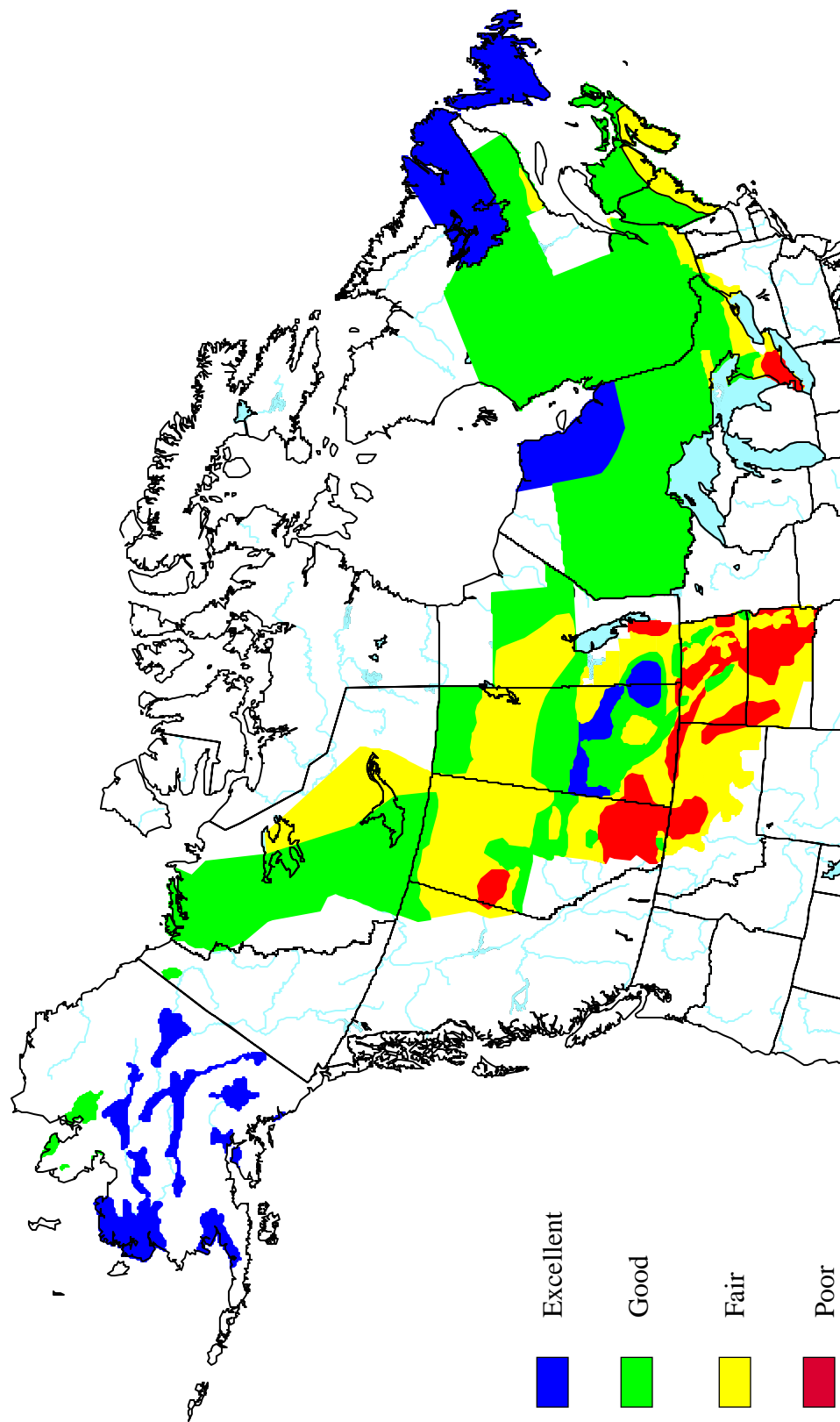


Figure 4. Breeding waterfowl habitat conditions during the 2005 Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey, as judged by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Flyway Biologists.

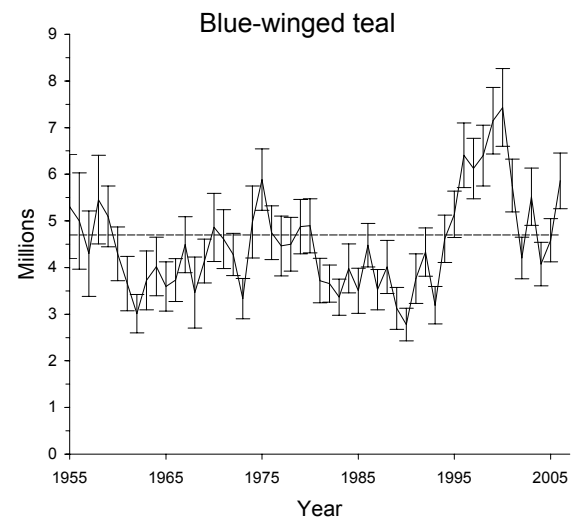
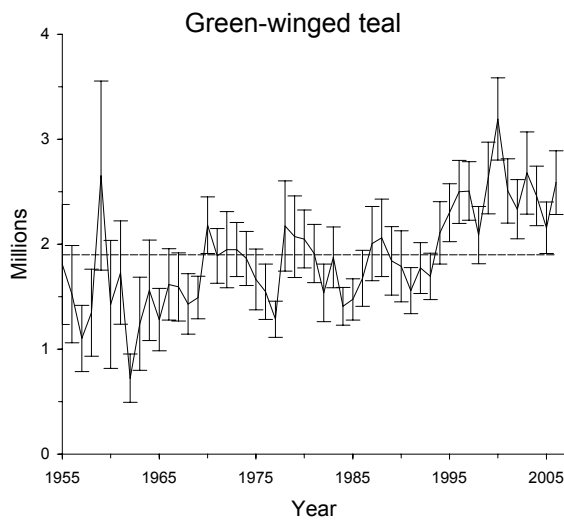
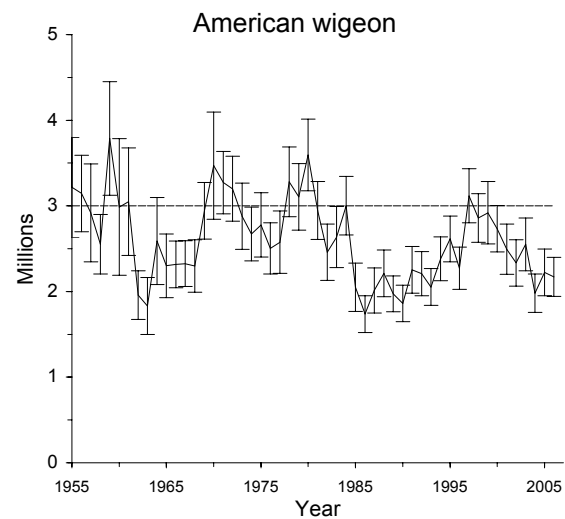
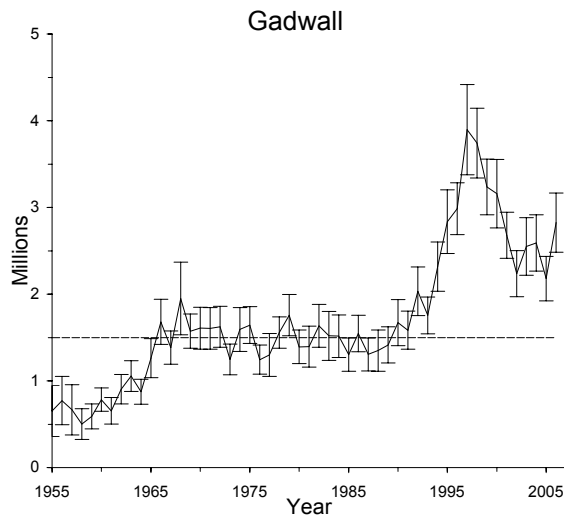
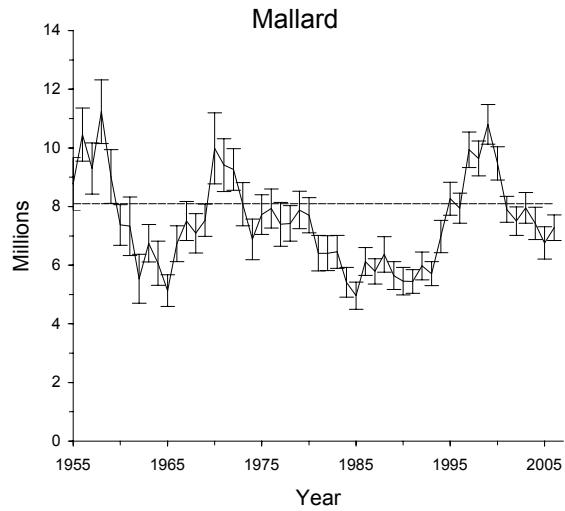
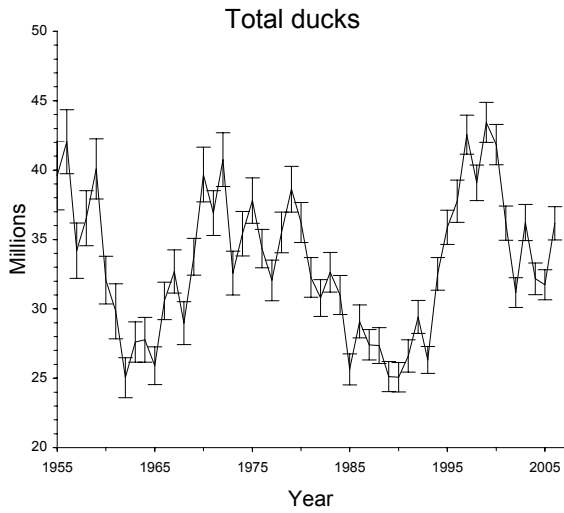


Figure 5. Breeding population estimates, 95% confidence intervals, and North American Waterfowl Management Plan population goal (dashed line) for selected species in the traditional survey area (strata 1-18, 20-50, 75-77).

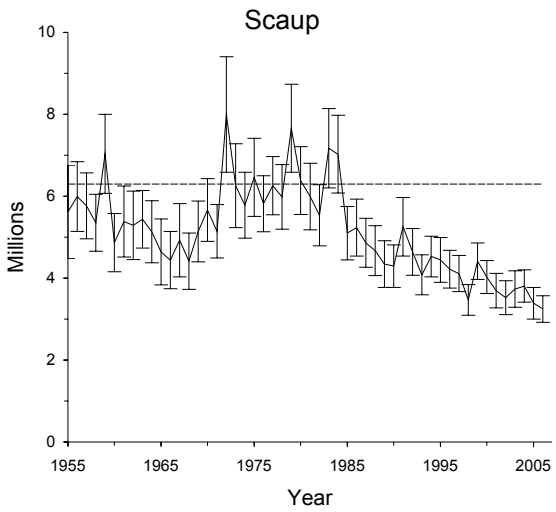
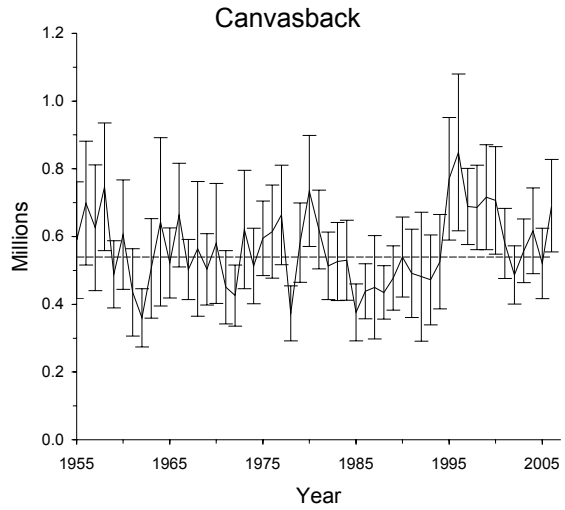
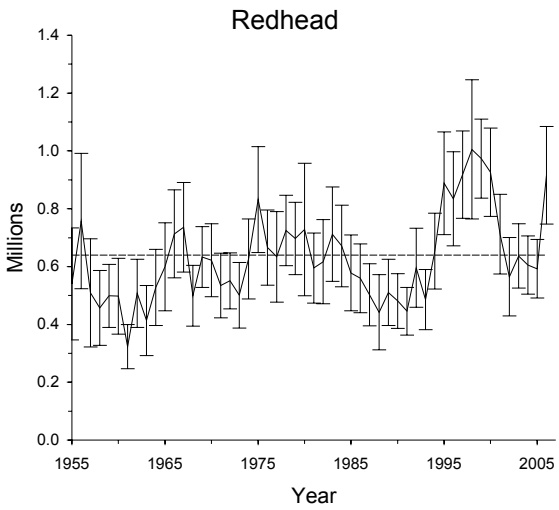
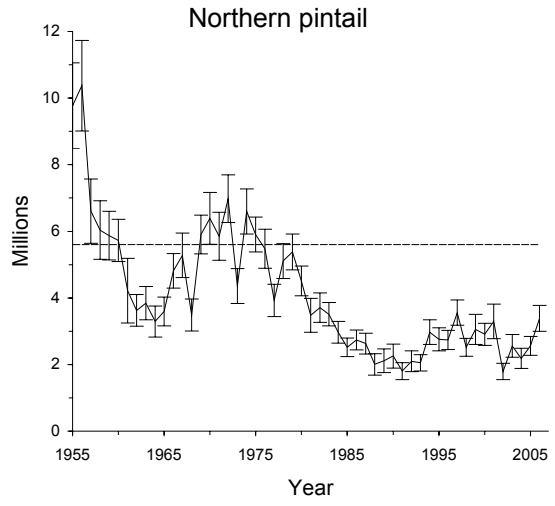
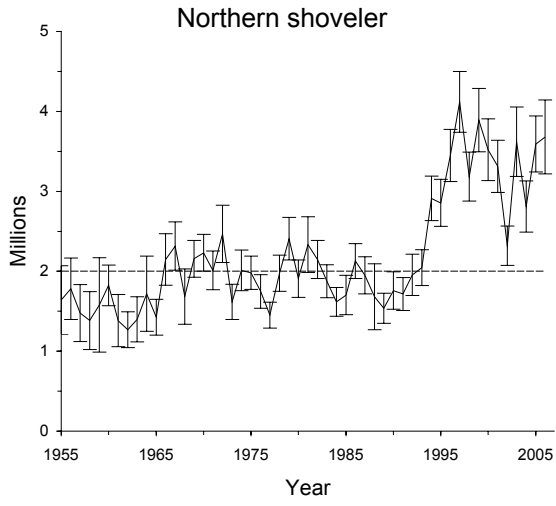


Figure 5 (continued).

Appendix A. Breeding population estimates and standard errors (in thousands) for 10 species of ducks from the traditional survey area (strata 1-18, 20-50, 75-77).

| Year | Mallard | | Gadwall | | American wigeon | | Green-winged teal | | Blue-winged teal | |
|------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| | \hat{N} | \hat{SE} | \hat{N} | \hat{SE} | \hat{N} | \hat{SE} | \hat{N} | \hat{SE} | \hat{N} | \hat{SE} |
| 1955 | 8777.3 | 457.1 | 651.5 | 149.5 | 3216.8 | 297.8 | 1807.2 | 291.5 | 5305.2 | 567.6 |
| 1956 | 10452.7 | 461.8 | 772.6 | 142.4 | 3145.0 | 227.8 | 1525.3 | 236.2 | 4997.6 | 527.6 |
| 1957 | 9296.9 | 443.5 | 666.8 | 148.2 | 2919.8 | 291.5 | 1102.9 | 161.2 | 4299.5 | 467.3 |
| 1958 | 11234.2 | 555.6 | 502.0 | 89.6 | 2551.7 | 177.9 | 1347.4 | 212.2 | 5456.6 | 483.7 |
| 1959 | 9024.3 | 466.6 | 590.0 | 72.7 | 3787.7 | 339.2 | 2653.4 | 459.3 | 5099.3 | 332.7 |
| 1960 | 7371.7 | 354.1 | 784.1 | 68.4 | 2987.6 | 407.0 | 1426.9 | 311.0 | 4293.0 | 294.3 |
| 1961 | 7330.0 | 510.5 | 654.8 | 77.5 | 3048.3 | 319.9 | 1729.3 | 251.5 | 3655.3 | 298.7 |
| 1962 | 5535.9 | 426.9 | 905.1 | 87.0 | 1958.7 | 145.4 | 722.9 | 117.6 | 3011.1 | 209.8 |
| 1963 | 6748.8 | 326.8 | 1055.3 | 89.5 | 1830.8 | 169.9 | 1242.3 | 226.9 | 3723.6 | 323.0 |
| 1964 | 6063.9 | 385.3 | 873.4 | 73.7 | 2589.6 | 259.7 | 1561.3 | 244.7 | 4020.6 | 320.4 |
| 1965 | 5131.7 | 274.8 | 1260.3 | 114.8 | 2301.1 | 189.4 | 1282.0 | 151.0 | 3594.5 | 270.4 |
| 1966 | 6731.9 | 311.4 | 1680.4 | 132.4 | 2318.4 | 139.2 | 1617.3 | 173.6 | 3733.2 | 233.6 |
| 1967 | 7509.5 | 338.2 | 1384.6 | 97.8 | 2325.5 | 136.2 | 1593.7 | 165.7 | 4491.5 | 305.7 |
| 1968 | 7089.2 | 340.8 | 1949.0 | 213.9 | 2298.6 | 156.1 | 1430.9 | 146.6 | 3462.5 | 389.1 |
| 1969 | 7531.6 | 280.2 | 1573.4 | 100.2 | 2941.4 | 168.6 | 1491.0 | 103.5 | 4138.6 | 239.5 |
| 1970 | 9985.9 | 617.2 | 1608.1 | 123.5 | 3469.9 | 318.5 | 2182.5 | 137.7 | 4861.8 | 372.3 |
| 1971 | 9416.4 | 459.5 | 1605.6 | 123.0 | 3272.9 | 186.2 | 1889.3 | 132.9 | 4610.2 | 322.8 |
| 1972 | 9265.5 | 363.9 | 1622.9 | 120.1 | 3200.1 | 194.1 | 1948.2 | 185.8 | 4278.5 | 230.5 |
| 1973 | 8079.2 | 377.5 | 1245.6 | 90.3 | 2877.9 | 197.4 | 1949.2 | 131.9 | 3332.5 | 220.3 |
| 1974 | 6880.2 | 351.8 | 1592.4 | 128.2 | 2672.0 | 159.3 | 1864.5 | 131.2 | 4976.2 | 394.6 |
| 1975 | 7726.9 | 344.1 | 1643.9 | 109.0 | 2778.3 | 192.0 | 1664.8 | 148.1 | 5885.4 | 337.4 |
| 1976 | 7933.6 | 337.4 | 1244.8 | 85.7 | 2505.2 | 152.7 | 1547.5 | 134.0 | 4744.7 | 294.5 |
| 1977 | 7397.1 | 381.8 | 1299.0 | 126.4 | 2575.1 | 185.9 | 1285.8 | 87.9 | 4462.8 | 328.4 |
| 1978 | 7425.0 | 307.0 | 1558.0 | 92.2 | 3282.4 | 208.0 | 2174.2 | 219.1 | 4498.6 | 293.3 |
| 1979 | 7883.4 | 327.0 | 1757.9 | 121.0 | 3106.5 | 198.2 | 2071.7 | 198.5 | 4875.9 | 297.6 |
| 1980 | 7706.5 | 307.2 | 1392.9 | 98.8 | 3595.5 | 213.2 | 2049.9 | 140.7 | 4895.1 | 295.6 |
| 1981 | 6409.7 | 308.4 | 1395.4 | 120.0 | 2946.0 | 173.0 | 1910.5 | 141.7 | 3720.6 | 242.1 |
| 1982 | 6408.5 | 302.2 | 1633.8 | 126.2 | 2458.7 | 167.3 | 1535.7 | 140.2 | 3657.6 | 203.7 |
| 1983 | 6456.0 | 286.9 | 1519.2 | 144.3 | 2636.2 | 181.4 | 1875.0 | 148.0 | 3366.5 | 197.2 |
| 1984 | 5415.3 | 258.4 | 1515.0 | 125.0 | 3002.2 | 174.2 | 1408.2 | 91.5 | 3979.3 | 267.6 |
| 1985 | 4960.9 | 234.7 | 1303.0 | 98.2 | 2050.7 | 143.7 | 1475.4 | 100.3 | 3502.4 | 246.3 |
| 1986 | 6124.2 | 241.6 | 1547.1 | 107.5 | 1736.5 | 109.9 | 1674.9 | 136.1 | 4478.8 | 237.1 |
| 1987 | 5789.8 | 217.9 | 1305.6 | 97.1 | 2012.5 | 134.3 | 2006.2 | 180.4 | 3528.7 | 220.2 |
| 1988 | 6369.3 | 310.3 | 1349.9 | 121.1 | 2211.1 | 139.1 | 2060.8 | 188.3 | 4011.1 | 290.4 |
| 1989 | 5645.4 | 244.1 | 1414.6 | 106.6 | 1972.9 | 106.0 | 1841.7 | 166.4 | 3125.3 | 229.8 |
| 1990 | 5452.4 | 238.6 | 1672.1 | 135.8 | 1860.1 | 108.3 | 1789.5 | 172.7 | 2776.4 | 178.7 |
| 1991 | 5444.6 | 205.6 | 1583.7 | 111.8 | 2254.0 | 139.5 | 1557.8 | 111.3 | 3763.7 | 270.8 |
| 1992 | 5976.1 | 241.0 | 2032.8 | 143.4 | 2208.4 | 131.9 | 1773.1 | 123.7 | 4333.1 | 263.2 |
| 1993 | 5708.3 | 208.9 | 1755.2 | 107.9 | 2053.0 | 109.3 | 1694.5 | 112.7 | 3192.9 | 205.6 |
| 1994 | 6980.1 | 282.8 | 2318.3 | 145.2 | 2382.2 | 130.3 | 2108.4 | 152.2 | 4616.2 | 259.2 |
| 1995 | 8269.4 | 287.5 | 2835.7 | 187.5 | 2614.5 | 136.3 | 2300.6 | 140.3 | 5140.0 | 253.3 |
| 1996 | 7941.3 | 262.9 | 2984.0 | 152.5 | 2271.7 | 125.4 | 2499.5 | 153.4 | 6407.4 | 353.9 |
| 1997 | 9939.7 | 308.5 | 3897.2 | 264.9 | 3117.6 | 161.6 | 2506.6 | 142.5 | 6124.3 | 330.7 |
| 1998 | 9640.4 | 301.6 | 3742.2 | 205.6 | 2857.7 | 145.3 | 2087.3 | 138.9 | 6398.8 | 332.3 |
| 1999 | 10805.7 | 344.5 | 3235.5 | 163.8 | 2920.1 | 185.5 | 2631.0 | 174.6 | 7149.5 | 364.5 |
| 2000 | 9470.2 | 290.2 | 3158.4 | 200.7 | 2733.1 | 138.8 | 3193.5 | 200.1 | 7431.4 | 425.0 |
| 2001 | 7904.0 | 226.9 | 2679.2 | 136.1 | 2493.5 | 149.6 | 2508.7 | 156.4 | 5757.0 | 288.8 |
| 2002 | 7503.7 | 246.5 | 2235.4 | 135.4 | 2334.4 | 137.9 | 2333.5 | 143.8 | 4206.5 | 227.9 |
| 2003 | 7949.7 | 267.3 | 2549.0 | 169.9 | 2551.4 | 156.9 | 2678.5 | 199.7 | 5518.2 | 312.7 |
| 2004 | 7425.3 | 282.0 | 2589.6 | 165.6 | 1981.3 | 114.9 | 2460.8 | 145.2 | 4073.0 | 238.0 |
| 2005 | 6755.3 | 280.8 | 2179.1 | 131.0 | 2225.1 | 139.2 | 2156.9 | 125.8 | 4585.5 | 236.3 |
| 2006 | 7276.5 | 223.7 | 2824.7 | 174.2 | 2171.2 | 115.7 | 2587.2 | 155.3 | 5859.6 | 303.5 |

Appendix A (continued).

| Year | Northern shoveler | | Northern pintail | | Redhead | | Canvasback | | Scaup | |
|------|-------------------|------------|------------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| | \hat{N} | \hat{SE} | \hat{N} | \hat{SE} | \hat{N} | \hat{SE} | \hat{N} | \hat{SE} | \hat{N} | \hat{SE} |
| 1955 | 1642.8 | 218.7 | 9775.1 | 656.1 | 539.9 | 98.9 | 589.3 | 87.8 | 5620.1 | 582.1 |
| 1956 | 1781.4 | 196.4 | 10372.8 | 694.4 | 757.3 | 119.3 | 698.5 | 93.3 | 5994.1 | 434.0 |
| 1957 | 1476.1 | 181.8 | 6606.9 | 493.4 | 509.1 | 95.7 | 626.1 | 94.7 | 5766.9 | 411.7 |
| 1958 | 1383.8 | 185.1 | 6037.9 | 447.9 | 457.1 | 66.2 | 746.8 | 96.1 | 5350.4 | 355.1 |
| 1959 | 1577.6 | 301.1 | 5872.7 | 371.6 | 498.8 | 55.5 | 488.7 | 50.6 | 7037.6 | 492.3 |
| 1960 | 1824.5 | 130.1 | 5722.2 | 323.2 | 497.8 | 67.0 | 605.7 | 82.4 | 4868.6 | 362.5 |
| 1961 | 1383.0 | 166.5 | 4218.2 | 496.2 | 323.3 | 38.8 | 435.3 | 65.7 | 5380.0 | 442.2 |
| 1962 | 1269.0 | 113.9 | 3623.5 | 243.1 | 507.5 | 60.0 | 360.2 | 43.8 | 5286.1 | 426.4 |
| 1963 | 1398.4 | 143.8 | 3846.0 | 255.6 | 413.4 | 61.9 | 506.2 | 74.9 | 5438.4 | 357.9 |
| 1964 | 1718.3 | 240.3 | 3291.2 | 239.4 | 528.1 | 67.3 | 643.6 | 126.9 | 5131.8 | 386.1 |
| 1965 | 1423.7 | 114.1 | 3591.9 | 221.9 | 599.3 | 77.7 | 522.1 | 52.8 | 4640.0 | 411.2 |
| 1966 | 2147.0 | 163.9 | 4811.9 | 265.6 | 713.1 | 77.6 | 663.1 | 78.0 | 4439.2 | 356.2 |
| 1967 | 2314.7 | 154.6 | 5277.7 | 341.9 | 735.7 | 79.0 | 502.6 | 45.4 | 4927.7 | 456.1 |
| 1968 | 1684.5 | 176.8 | 3489.4 | 244.6 | 499.4 | 53.6 | 563.7 | 101.3 | 4412.7 | 351.8 |
| 1969 | 2156.8 | 117.2 | 5903.9 | 296.2 | 633.2 | 53.6 | 503.5 | 53.7 | 5139.8 | 378.5 |
| 1970 | 2230.4 | 117.4 | 6392.0 | 396.7 | 622.3 | 64.3 | 580.1 | 90.4 | 5662.5 | 391.4 |
| 1971 | 2011.4 | 122.7 | 5847.2 | 368.1 | 534.4 | 57.0 | 450.7 | 55.2 | 5143.3 | 333.8 |
| 1972 | 2466.5 | 182.8 | 6979.0 | 364.5 | 550.9 | 49.4 | 425.9 | 46.0 | 7997.0 | 718.0 |
| 1973 | 1619.0 | 112.2 | 4356.2 | 267.0 | 500.8 | 57.7 | 620.5 | 89.1 | 6257.4 | 523.1 |
| 1974 | 2011.3 | 129.9 | 6598.2 | 345.8 | 626.3 | 70.8 | 512.8 | 56.8 | 5780.5 | 409.8 |
| 1975 | 1980.8 | 106.7 | 5900.4 | 267.3 | 831.9 | 93.5 | 595.1 | 56.1 | 6460.0 | 486.0 |
| 1976 | 1748.1 | 106.9 | 5475.6 | 299.2 | 665.9 | 66.3 | 614.4 | 70.1 | 5818.7 | 348.7 |
| 1977 | 1451.8 | 82.1 | 3926.1 | 246.8 | 634.0 | 79.9 | 664.0 | 74.9 | 6260.2 | 362.8 |
| 1978 | 1975.3 | 115.6 | 5108.2 | 267.8 | 724.6 | 62.2 | 373.2 | 41.5 | 5984.4 | 403.0 |
| 1979 | 2406.5 | 135.6 | 5376.1 | 274.4 | 697.5 | 63.8 | 582.0 | 59.8 | 7657.9 | 548.6 |
| 1980 | 1908.2 | 119.9 | 4508.1 | 228.6 | 728.4 | 116.7 | 734.6 | 83.8 | 6381.7 | 421.2 |
| 1981 | 2333.6 | 177.4 | 3479.5 | 260.5 | 594.9 | 62.0 | 620.8 | 59.1 | 5990.9 | 414.2 |
| 1982 | 2147.6 | 121.7 | 3708.8 | 226.6 | 616.9 | 74.2 | 513.3 | 50.9 | 5532.0 | 380.9 |
| 1983 | 1875.7 | 105.3 | 3510.6 | 178.1 | 711.9 | 83.3 | 526.6 | 58.9 | 7173.8 | 494.9 |
| 1984 | 1618.2 | 91.9 | 2964.8 | 166.8 | 671.3 | 72.0 | 530.1 | 60.1 | 7024.3 | 484.7 |
| 1985 | 1702.1 | 125.7 | 2515.5 | 143.0 | 578.2 | 67.1 | 375.9 | 42.9 | 5098.0 | 333.1 |
| 1986 | 2128.2 | 112.0 | 2739.7 | 152.1 | 559.6 | 60.5 | 438.3 | 41.5 | 5235.3 | 355.5 |
| 1987 | 1950.2 | 118.4 | 2628.3 | 159.4 | 502.4 | 54.9 | 450.1 | 77.9 | 4862.7 | 303.8 |
| 1988 | 1680.9 | 210.4 | 2005.5 | 164.0 | 441.9 | 66.2 | 435.0 | 40.2 | 4671.4 | 309.5 |
| 1989 | 1538.3 | 95.9 | 2111.9 | 181.3 | 510.7 | 58.5 | 477.4 | 48.4 | 4342.1 | 291.3 |
| 1990 | 1759.3 | 118.6 | 2256.6 | 183.3 | 480.9 | 48.2 | 539.3 | 60.3 | 4293.1 | 264.9 |
| 1991 | 1716.2 | 104.6 | 1803.4 | 131.3 | 445.6 | 42.1 | 491.2 | 66.4 | 5254.9 | 364.9 |
| 1992 | 1954.4 | 132.1 | 2098.1 | 161.0 | 595.6 | 69.7 | 481.5 | 97.3 | 4639.2 | 291.9 |
| 1993 | 2046.5 | 114.3 | 2053.4 | 124.2 | 485.4 | 53.1 | 472.1 | 67.6 | 4080.1 | 249.4 |
| 1994 | 2912.0 | 141.4 | 2972.3 | 188.0 | 653.5 | 66.7 | 525.6 | 71.1 | 4529.0 | 253.6 |
| 1995 | 2854.9 | 150.3 | 2757.9 | 177.6 | 888.5 | 90.6 | 770.6 | 92.2 | 4446.4 | 277.6 |
| 1996 | 3449.0 | 165.7 | 2735.9 | 147.5 | 834.2 | 83.1 | 848.5 | 118.3 | 4217.4 | 234.5 |
| 1997 | 4120.4 | 194.0 | 3558.0 | 194.2 | 918.3 | 77.2 | 688.8 | 57.2 | 4112.3 | 224.2 |
| 1998 | 3183.2 | 156.5 | 2520.6 | 136.8 | 1005.1 | 122.9 | 685.9 | 63.8 | 3471.9 | 191.2 |
| 1999 | 3889.5 | 202.1 | 3057.9 | 230.5 | 973.4 | 69.5 | 716.0 | 79.1 | 4411.7 | 227.9 |
| 2000 | 3520.7 | 197.9 | 2907.6 | 170.5 | 926.3 | 78.1 | 706.8 | 81.0 | 4026.3 | 205.3 |
| 2001 | 3313.5 | 166.8 | 3296.0 | 266.6 | 712.0 | 70.2 | 579.8 | 52.7 | 3694.0 | 214.9 |
| 2002 | 2318.2 | 125.6 | 1789.7 | 125.2 | 564.8 | 69.0 | 486.6 | 43.8 | 3524.1 | 210.3 |
| 2003 | 3619.6 | 221.4 | 2558.2 | 174.8 | 636.8 | 56.6 | 557.6 | 48.0 | 3734.4 | 225.5 |
| 2004 | 2810.4 | 163.9 | 2184.6 | 155.2 | 605.3 | 51.5 | 617.2 | 64.6 | 3807.2 | 202.3 |
| 2005 | 3591.5 | 178.6 | 2560.5 | 146.8 | 592.3 | 51.7 | 520.6 | 52.9 | 3386.9 | 196.4 |
| 2006 | 3680.2 | 236.5 | 3386.4 | 198.7 | 916.3 | 86.1 | 691.0 | 69.6 | 3246.7 | 166.9 |