

COORDINATED NOVEMBER CANVASBACK INVENTORY - 2009

The coordinated canvasback survey began in 1974 to provide a systematic survey of canvasbacks on major staging areas prior to arrival of most birds on the wintering grounds. The survey has been completed every year except 1980 and provides information that can be compared to breeding population estimates and January counts to help ascertain canvasback status and distribution on key staging areas across the country.

METHODS

State agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Canadian Wildlife Service cooperate to survey major canvasback migration and wintering areas that were selected in 1974. Most major concentration areas have been surveyed each year. Air or ground surveys were scheduled to be conducted on or about 5 November during all years.

Most major concentration areas were surveyed from 3-5 November this year.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Canvasback numbers were 574,000 (Fig. 1). This was 37% above the 2008 count and the highest count on record (Table 1). Survey timing again appeared excellent this year.

The Upper Mississippi River pools, particularly Pool 9 (281,000), and the Ontario portion of Lake St. Clair (162,000) remained the major staging areas for canvasbacks again this year. The number of birds counted on these key staging areas continues to determine the magnitude of the count.

The May Breeding Population Survey indicated 662,000 canvasbacks in 2009, 35% higher than the 2008 estimate and 16% above the long-term (1955-08) average.

Thanks to all the individuals who surveyed canvasbacks and submitted data.

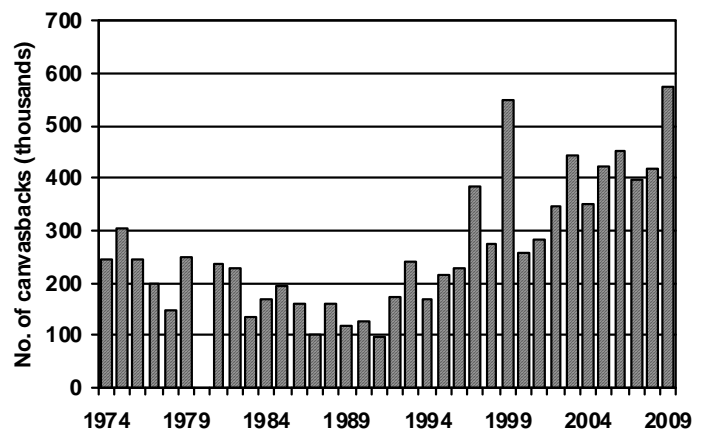


Fig. 1. Number of canvasbacks observed during the Coordinated November Canvasback Survey, 1974-2009.

Table 1. Canvasbacks on major migration areas during the Coordinated Canvasback Survey, 1974-2008 (no survey during 1980).

Area	Number of Canvasbacks																																					
	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1981a	1982b	1983	1984	1985c	1986d	1987e	1988	1989f	1990g	1991h	1992i	1993j	1994k	1995i	1996m	1997n	1998o	1999p	2000q	2001r	2002s	2003t	2004u	2005v	2006w	2007x	2008y	2009z			
Minnesota:																																						
Lake of the Woods	0	1,600	0	0	0	0																																
Lake Christina	5,000	1,600	0	0	25	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	350	2,700	0	0	0	2,100	0	30	2,110	4,100	650				10	1,000	450	1,100	400	320				
Dead Lake	1,000	0	0	0	0	100	100	0	0	0	0	10	10	0	40	0	0			150	140			350	100				0									
Jennie Lake	9	200	0	0	850	45	350	0	0	0					325	1,200																						
Rice Lake NWR	400	500	0	0	750	330	500	2,000	0	0	0	200	0	0	120	90	0	25						4					31									
Leech Lake	500	0	112	0	50	0										100	0																		15			
Ocheda												250	0			0				50														0	300			
Kandiyohi Co. (40 acres)											163	0																										
Upper Rice Lake											2	0																							0			
Height-of-Land Lake											0	10	0	210	0	0	10	22																	100			
Swan Lake (Nicollet Co.)											1,200	370			0	50																			0			
Hanska Lake											800																									10		
Other						27	425	925		25	100	285			150				460	365			1,245	1,593	110	30	249			26	1,444	1,420	113	30				
Subtotal	6,909	3,900	112	0	1,675	502	1,475	2,925	2,465	25	310	875	230	0	985	4,150	22	0	485	2,665	140	30	3,355	6,047	860	30	249	0	67	2,444	1,970	1,213	730	795	0			
Wisconsin	183	721	899	838	187	690	124	58	0	325	46	261	763	586	957	1,989	332	572	413	2,132																		
North Dakota					307	28																																
Iowa																																			195	110	278	
Mississippi River:																																						
Pool 4	30	665	510	0	0	0	1,610	0		1,800	0	342	0	495	3,500	4,000			0	335		360	60	325	75	2,705	80	0	250	95	235	440	840	3,670	40	8,200		
Pool 5	5,050	10,550	6,475	1,500	650	0	3,545	4,800	4,600	2,600	6,260	2,700	4,000	1,580	3,000	4,200			800	155	10	0	30	20	0	460	1,295	210	2,360	1,650	1,945	510	5,775	6,275	2,765	2,585		
Pool 5A	0	25	825	0	0	0	400	500	100	250	130	30	600	887	300	500			50	65	25	15	15	305	2,455	110	550	1,400	825	450	625	1,765	10	75	1,400			
Pool 6	100	0	0	0	50	0	40	50	50	75	607	0							5	50	55	200	255	10	185	115	4,325	1,500	120	410	910	40	0	730	50	410		
Pool 7	30,400	47,225	30,400	14,125	4,861	13,220	17,425	17,900	15,700	7,500	9,447	7,300	10,700	3,531	8,000	5,000	60	56,670	19,585	10,410	19,580	27,705	68,140	82,475	83,925	25,115	39,640	19,135	25,270	58,695	49,475	9,745	46,800	18,095	25,180			
Pool 8	43,200	72,200	50,200	23,250	8,110	285	5,900	12,100	4,700	10,800	17,987	4,500	6,100	5,359	1,500	2,000	0	13,580	1,480	200	100		765	17,100	40,785	80,700	26,355	9,890	59,025	40,075	56,155	38,135	76,475	29,650	38,930			
Pool 9	10,300	28,500	37,300	50,300	25,595	31,635	28,425	30,400	12,500	22,000	27,700	17,000	14,600	7,637	4,000	6,000	0	21,705	86,050	88,875	79,745	108,135	175,750	74,350	290,270	43,310	144,040	164,935	209,290	140,120	216,145	162,625	137,930	157,210	280,735			
Pool 10	0	0	0	0	0	0				50					25	30							155	0				60	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	0	
Pool 11	60	110	200	0	2,100	300				3,200			4,000	800	0		1,500	30	10	170							250	300	1,460	0	3,840	6,600	2,800	12,640	7,840	1,830	2,250	23,530
Pool 12	0	0	0	0	0	0																						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pool 13	2,000	3,450	2,500	1,500	1,670	1,500						2,000		1,280		6,500	7,210	5,800	13,275	15,635	7,100		6,715	4,615	6,210	4,040	290	485		3,950		10,600	23,555	11,165	7,100	15,780		
Pool 14			200	0	0																																0	
Pool 15																																					0	
Pool 16	215	15		275	0	0				25	0	175	0	60	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Pool 17	175	135	100	550	0	80				0	40	200	125	225	65	190		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	200	600				0	10	0	0	0		
Pool 18		215	50	600	2,050	0	125	400		50	230	1,635	190	375	715	585		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Pool 19 (Keokuk)	39,300	24,625	28,090	10,100	17,465	6,010	83,700	47,600	41,310	35,850	52,800	24,625	16,820	35,250	21,990	17,175	19,850	3,800	5,500	15,500	22,600	12,000	8,700	2,550	4,500	1,000	1,800	4,650	1,100	400	500	18,500	13,370	4,200	1,100			
Pool 20	350	125	0	1,300	800	750	340	280	125	200	575	200	600	75	425	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pool 21	0	0	0	80	125	40	25	175	150	0	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Pool 22	65	0	60	225	850	20	160	40	165	200	40	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Pool 23				475	0	0																															0	
Pool 24	125	0	250	590	60	30	50	100	175	480	80	450	75	230	295	0	0	0	400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Pool 25	40	90	65	755	625	975	40	150	305	410	250	480	80	565	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Pool 26	105	30	405	775	660					165	260	1,000	675	740	150	1,320	1,400	1,700	0	400	0	50	1,000	1,825	500	1,100	300			150		0	100	1,050		380		
Subtotal	130,830	188,465	156,995	104,720	66,471	56,370	141,680	114,230	82,890	82,400	119,224	64,664	56,805	57,209	45,605	48,595	28,850	102,420	127,105	131,130	129,750	157,115	261,210	186,350	428,910	157,875	214,640	206,710	308,365	245,630	347,130	268,890	299,305	221,635	398,230			
Ontario:																																						
Lake St. Clair & Detroit River	58,676	34,000	12,063	20,980	21,860	66,299	42,428	51,594	13,632	24,352	26,148	15,876	7,363	38,207	12,922	6,901	7,080	4,864	16,298	11,440	14,371	3,730	32,981	23,710	26,915	48,245	43,708	134,975	130,400	91,837	63,009	132,500	91,000	158,300	164,810			
Long Point (Lk Erie)	47,851	66,731	55,785	40,817	41,249	53,614	42,652	34,114	33,268	26,307	22,423	52,618	22,499	24,897	10,354	14,321	16,552	26,500	42,560	14,010	8,871	18,172	16,915	25,540	8,179	37,179	2,502	1,250	1,736	5,661	7,505	3,823	7,000	783				
Rondeau Pk (Lk Erie)			1,482	639	837	401	390	35	1	0	0	0	3	0	17	100	275	100	610	265	2,425	883	15	610	30	470	153	1,035	1,143	1,625	3,606	2,200		30,360	6,470			
Wolfe Island			800	630	292	144	3,533	3	60	60	109	321	402	235	2,044	782	646	25	85	54	300	217	20	12	37	2	22	5	1	27	11	2		8	10			
Lake St. Francis			35	0	30	41	0	0	0	13	1,093	42	35	100	177	1	0	0																				

Table 1. cont.

Area	Number of Canvasbacks																																					
	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1981a	1982b	1983	1984	1985c	1986d	1987e	1988	1989f	1990g	1991h	1992i	1993j	1994k	1995i	1996m	1997n	1998o	1999p	2000q	2001r	2002s	2003t	2004u	2005v	2006w	2007x	2008y	2009z			
Ohio:																																						
Ohio Power WMA							50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Sandusky Bay	150	850	0	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5														
Maumee Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41																
Western Lake Erie																										55		10		10					300			
Subtotal	150	850	0	500	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	5	0	55	0	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	300	0	0	0	
Indiana																																						
All		78	264	40	440	302	4	12	64	316	64	155	14	132	130	5	324		0	62	30	22	66	0	0	8	52	0										
Illinois:																																						
Southern Il.					1,293		940	1,067								95			0	650	900					0												
Upper Il. Rv. Val.	738	765	185	3,450	3,430	4,130	960	875	605	895	2,820	1,195	1,775	1,285	3,430	1,125	50	0	0	700	0	800	300	0	150		200			300	370	100	0	0				
Lower Il. Rv. Val.	317	460	30	1,375	1,855	2,110	805	1,145	610	905	3,195	760	2,210	2,635	4,440	2,205	350	0	1,800	500	200	500	3,150	600	1,225	150				100	0	700	1,345	0				
Northeast Il.			115	448		7,585		525		805																												
Subtotal	1,055	1,225	330	5,273	6,578	13,825	2,705	3,612	1,215	2,605	6,015	1,955	3,985	3,920	7,870	3,425	400	0	1,800	500	1,550	1,400	3,950	900	1,225	300	0	200	0	400	370	800	1,345	0	0			
New York:																																						
New York			1,185	3,234	6,613	4,026	6,769	8,934	4,961	11,747	4,790	12,185	10,455																									
Atlantic Coast States:																																						
New Jersey			0	0		1,750		330	4,500	4,400	200																											
Maryland (Chesapeake Bay)			7,247	12,247		4,648		1,600	4,400	10,000	125	300	50	1,260			4,440																					
North Carolina			8,700	0		12,775		16,000		20,000	10,750	3,850	8,700	5,782	5,200	3,100	2,700	6,800	18,200			6,200					400	30										
Virginia			1,000	0		65		4,055	575	0	25	50	267			0																						
Subtotal			16,947	12,247		19,238		17,930	12,955	34,975	11,075	4,175	8,800	7,309	5,200	3,100	7,140	6,800	18,200	0	0	6,200	0	0	0	0	400	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Louisiana and Texas:																																						
SE LA																12,280	15,000	<1,000		1,800				5,000	1,000	0	0											
Sweet Lake (SW LA)																500	1,000								100	0	0											
Catahoula Lake																17,500	30,000	15,000	4,000	1,700	35,000	1,000	2,000	800	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	0	1,250	25	36,700		0	2,625			
Toledo Bend																																						
Lock 5, Red River																																						
SW LA coastal																																						
Other LA																																						
Port Arthur, TX																11,000	800																			275	600	
Subtotal																30,280	45,000	16,000	4,000	3,500	35,000	1,000	2,000	5,800	3,100	0	2,000	2,000	0	1,250	25	42,690	370	301	3,225			
Total (exc. NY, NJ MD, VA, LA & TX)	245,779	303,717	247,326	197,259	148,146	250,995	238,803	226,785	136,965	168,910	193,293	161,982	102,096	161,210	120,601	126,226	99,458	173,986	242,981	167,396	213,657	228,611	385,914	272,503	549,081	257,964	284,344	344,457	442,612	349,389	423,643	410,763	396,680	418,178	571,003			
GRAND TOTAL	245,779	303,717	256,758	212,740	154,759	261,484	245,572	237,649	154,681	195,632	198,408	174,492	112,651	162,737	120,601	156,506	148,898	189,986	246,981	170,896	248,657	229,611	387,914	278,303	552,181	257,964	286,344	346,457	442,612	350,639	423,668	453,453	397,050	418,479	574,228			

- a-Survey conducted 4-25 November 1981, see previous reports for dates.
- b-Survey conducted 5-18 November 1982.
- c-Mean value used for Pool 9 in 1985.
- d-Survey conducted 25-28 November 1986.
- e-Survey conducted 15 November - 11 December 1987.
- f-Survey conducted 5-15 November 1989, Lake St. Clair, Ontario estimate thought to be low by approximately 5.
- g-Survey conducted 24 October 1990 on Rush Lake through Winnebago Lake in Wisconsin; Catahoula Lk, LA su and Height-of-Land lakes surveyed 29 October, 1990.
- h-Catahoula Lk - 15 Nov., Indiana sites surveyed 19-26 November, Ohio - 26 November, MD, VA, NC - 15 Nov.
- i-Catahoula Lk - 15 Nov.
- j-Wisconsin, Illinois, Mississippi River, and Catahoula Lk - all surveyed Nov. 8-9; North Carolina (Lake Mattamuske
- k-Survey conducted 2-10 November, Catahoula Lk surveyed Nov. 13
- l-Survey conducted 3-9 November, Catahoula Lk surveyed Nov. 1
- m-Survey conducted 1-8 November, except Catahoula Lk. LA surveyed, Oct. 29, Mississippi River Pools 12 & 13
- n-All major areas surveyed 4-7 Nov
- o-All areas surveyed 2-5 Nov. except Catahoula Lk. surveyed Oct. 30. Some SE LA canvasbacks were in SW LA
- p- All areas surveyed 1-5 Nov. except Long Point, Ont. - 31 Oct., Wolfe Island, Ont. - 8 Nov., SW & SE Louisiana
- q-Major areas surveyed 5-8 Nov.
- r- Survey conducted Nov. 2-15, Upper Miss. River Nov. 13-15.
- s- Survey Upper Miss R. - 31 Oct, Mid-Miss R. - 6 Nov, Mich & Lk. St. Clair - 5-7 Nov., Ontario - 28-31 Oct., Mid
- t- Survey Upper Miss R. - 5-7 Nov., Mid-Miss R. 5 Nov., Mich & Lk. St. Clair - 5-6 Nov., Ontario - , Mid Miss , LA -
- u- Survey Upper Miss R. - 1-3 Nov., Mid-Miss R. 2 Nov., Mich & Lk. St. Clair - 3-5 Nov., LA - 5 Nov.
- v- Survey Upper Miss R. - 8 Nov., Mid-Miss R. 7 Nov., Mich & Lk. St. Clair - 3-5 Nov., LA - 3 Nov.
- w- Survey Upper Miss R. - 7 Nov., Mid-Miss R. 1 Nov., Mich & Lk. St. Clair - 1-6 Nov., LA - 3 Nov.
- x- Survey Upper Miss R. - 29 Oct., Mid-Miss R. 29 Oct., Mich & Lk. St. Clair - 7 Nov., LA - 1 Nov.
- y- Survey Upper Miss R. - 3 Nov., Mid-Miss R. 3 Nov., Mich & Lk. St. Clair - 5 Nov., LA - 30 Oct.
- z- Survey Upper Miss R. - 3 Nov., Mid-Miss R. 2 Nov., Mich & Lk. St. Clair - 5 Nov., LA - 5 Nov.