

Welcome to Madduck's reference desk, a site designed to provide a convenient, single-site access to semi-technical and technical documents that provide the biological and managerial foundation of the collective enterprise known as waterfowl management.

Our reference desk is designed to meet increasing requests from our growing readership about the primary sources of our data and information. Many of you want to learn more or better understand a particular issue -- or research a topic that is more local to your area of interest.

For those of you unfamiliar with these documents, we encourage you to first browse and familiarize yourself with the contents. Keep in mind that our initial posting exceeds 1,600 pages. The answer to any question you might have may not be in the most logical place.

For example, suppose you want to know how many mallards were killed in your home state during the 2007-08 season. You can find the answer in "*Harvest 2006 and 2007*" or the appropriate flyway databook. But if you want to know the historic mallard kill dating back to 1961, your quest can be confounding and confusing. You will need to consult the most recent databook for your flyway, which lists the kill from 1999-2007, as well as the companion volume detailing the harvest from 1961-2001. But when you go to the 1961-2001 data, you find it is not statistically comparable to the 1999-2007 data. (The reason is that former was determined by the old postal survey, the latter by the Harvest Information Program (HIP) survey.)

One of the most significant data sets is found only in the Pacific Flyway Databook. It lists the historic numbers and, more importantly, the distribution of each species across the northern breeding grounds. This is important to waterfowlers in every state.

Other documents crunch numbers and provide a mathematical/statistical rationale for special harvest regulations. Some are sufficiently straightforward to allow for comprehension by anyone with a basic knowledge of math and statistics. One key exception is Adaptive Harvest; its convoluted data manipulations are virtually opaque, even for many highly trained biologists.

We will update the data sets annually. We also plan to expand our reference desk in the near future by periodically adding key biological studies that we believe are of interest to concerned waterfowlers.

A few final notes: Some of these documents are lengthy. The download time can be significant. You will find some pages are aligned vertically. Others feature very small type fonts. We suggest you print these pages and read from the printed page.

Lastly, we note that Madduck began publication as "The Alternative Voice for Sportsmen," reflecting our observation that a significant number of hunters had lost confidence in waterfowl management. It is our belief that in recent years this number has continued to grow at an accelerating pace. We encourage you to read and study these documents. We believe they will give you greater insight into the historic changes that,

for good or ill, have affected our flocks. We believe they will provide you with a greater understanding of the problems we face, and enable you to argue more effectively for a different course of action.