

COMPARISON OF DUCK SITUATION IN IOWA IN 1933 AND 1934

(Lakes visited at about the same season each year, except as noted)

	<u>1933</u>	<u>1934</u>
<u>Pleasant Lake, Buena Vista Co.</u>	400+ ducks	Apparently entirely dry
<u>Storm Lake " " "</u>	200+ ducks (State game 400+ coots refuge)	600+ ducks 100+ coots
<u>South Twin Lake, Calhoun Co.</u>	2000+ ducks 1500+ coots (State game refuge)	Entirely dry, no birds
<u>Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo Co.</u>	No ducks noted	150+ ducks Few coots
<u>Green Slough, Clay Co.</u>	Occasional ducks and coots (early Sept.)	Several hun- dred ducks (more?) and coots (late Sept.)
<u>Mud Lakes " "</u>	Occasional ducks Occasional coots (early Sept.)	Few(?) ducks Several hun- dred coots (late Sept.)
<u>Round Lake " "</u>	Several hundred(?) ducks 500+ coots (State game (early Sept.) refuge)	Few ducks Many coots
<u>Elk Lake " "</u>	70+ ducks Several hundred coots (early Sept.)	Few ducks Occasional coots (late Sept.)
<u>Lost Island Lake" "</u>	700+ ducks and coots	90+ ducks, main duck area of last year dry
<u>Sec. 5 pond, Dickinson Co.</u>	60+ ducks Numerous coots	200+ ducks
<u>Sec. 23 slough " "</u>	35+ ducks	Dry
<u>Sec. 13-14 pond " "</u>	70+ ducks 50+ coots	250+ ducks 150+ coots
<u>Swan Lake " "</u>	Occasional coots (?)	Few ducks 150+ coots
<u>Twp. 99-100 slough" "</u>	Few ducks 400+ coots	100+ ducks 350+ coots
<u>Welsh Lake " "</u>	100+ coots	200+ ducks 100+ coots

	1933	1934
<u>Little Spirit Lake, Dickinson Co.</u>	275+ ducks	Apparently entirely dry
<u>Silver Lake</u> " "	2000+ ducks and coots	A few coots
<u>Swan Lake, Emmet Co.</u>	Many ducks 2500-3000 coots (middle Sept.)	Occasional ducks 350+ coots (late Sept.)
<u>Sec. 36 slough</u> " "	130+ ducks (middle Sept.)	Apparently entirely dry (late Sept.)
<u>High Lake</u> " "	13 ducks (State game Occasional coots refuge) (middle Sept.)	Very few ducks Few coots (late Sept.)
<u>Sec. 21 Lake</u> " "	3 ducks Several coots (middle Sept.)	Fairly numerous coots (Late Sept.)
<u>Sec. 13 slough</u> " "	Occasional coots (middle Sept.)	150+ ducks 125+ coots (late Sept.)
<u>Fourmile Lake</u> " "	2 ducks 200 coots (middle Sept.)	Few ducks 1000+ coots (late Sept.)
<u>Sec. 21 pond</u> " "	No ducks (middle Sept.)	2 ducks (late Sept.)
<u>Goose Lake, Hamilton Co.</u>	1 duck Few coots	Dry
<u>Little Wall Lake</u> " "	16+ ducks 350+ coots	Nearly dry, few birds,
<u>West Twin Lake, Hancock Co.</u>	Occasional coots	40+ ducks
<u>Eagle Lake</u> " "	Occasional (?) ducks 1800+ coots	No ducks
<u>Crystal Lake</u> " "	No ducks	Few coots
<u>Iowa Lake, Osceola Co.</u>	250+ ducks 5000+ coots	300+ ducks 2500+ coots
<u>Blue Lake, Monona Co.</u>	60 ducks 4 coots	Several ducks
<u>Sec. 9 slough, Pocahontas Co.</u>	Few ducks	No ducks
<u>Sunken Island Lake</u> " "	Occasional ducks	200+ ducks
<u>Clear Lake</u> " "	Occasional ducks Coots common	2000+ ducks Coots common
<u>Wall Lake, Sac Co.</u>	250+ ducks (state game 7 coots refuge)	200+ ducks

	<u>1933</u>	<u>1934</u>
<u>Rice Lake, Winnebago Co.</u>	7 ducks	40+ ducks
<u>Browns Lake, Woodbury Co.</u>	300+ ducks	No ducks noted
<u>"Long" Lake, " "</u>	100+ ducks	Dry
<u>Silver Lake, Worth Co.</u>	few ducks 1000 coots	500+ ducks Occasional coots
<u>Elm Lake, Wright Co.</u>	Several coots Occasional(?) ducks	250 ducks
<u>Morse Lake, " "</u>	Several coots	No birds

Summary

1.	Approximate number of ducks seen in 1933 - 7500	
	" " " " " " 1934 - 5800	(80%)
	Approximate number of coots seen in 1933 - 17000	
	" " " " " " 1934 - 7500	(45%)

2. 1934 visits were made more hastily than those of 1933, but with regard to the knowledge of the location of the duck food supply and distribution of birds in 1933. Localities in Clay and Emmet Counties were visited somewhat later in September in 1934 than in 1933, so more birds would be expected.

3. Great decreases in numbers were noted in a few lakes because of their drying up. The most noteworthy of these localities were South Twin Lake, Calhoun Co., and a bay of Lost Island Lake, Clay Co. In the case of the former there was a partially corresponding increase in the number of ducks in Clear Lake, Pocahontas Co., not far distant. In the case of the latter there was no noticeable corresponding increase in the number of ducks in any of the nearby lakes.

4. The Clay County areas, comprising one of the best feeding and breeding regions in the state in 1933, showed in 1934 a decrease in ducks and perhaps an increase in coots, the former in spite of the later season at which they were visited, the latter perhaps because of the later season. Green slough had a greater number of ducks but not enough to offset the decrease because of the drying up of a bay of Lost Island Lake and the unexplained decrease in Round Lake.

5. A slight increase in the number of ducks in a few lakes may have been due to the drying up of other not far distant lakes or may have been due to the slightly later season at which visited. Increase in number of coots in a few lakes may have been due to the slightly later season at which visited.

6. There seems to have been a general decrease in the number of coots in spite of the slightly later season at which several of the lakes were visited (a few, however, were not surveyed thoroughly enough to make certain that there were not more coots present than there appeared to be).

7. An increase in number of ducks and a decrease in coots in the same lake, and vice versa, occurred often enough to suggest that possible differences in food or other habits and possible changes in the lakes and their vegetation may be responsible.
8. Changes in lake levels and possible changes in the vegetation may have had considerable effect on the distribution of the birds.
9. Regardless of the figures shown above under "1" there seems to have been a noticeable though perhaps slight decrease in numbers of both ducks and coots in 1934 over 1933, in spite of a still apparently rather plentiful supply of water and food.

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