

WLF 419 - Waterfowl and Wetlands Ecology

Lecture 1 - Introduction

Next Time: Mating Systems

- ! Why Study Waterfowl?
 - " Science
 - Widely distributed
 - Migratory Behavior
 - Dominant Association with Wetlands
 - One of the most studied group of vertebrates in the world
 - # Mallard - most studied bird in the world
- ! Wildlife Management
- ! Most evolved system of monitoring and management in the World
- ! Enjoyment
- ! History
 - " FOOD
 - Egyptian capturing in 1900 B.C.
 - Domestication for about 4,000 years (Greylag and Swan goose, Mallard, and Muscovy duck)
 - " Hunting
 - Restricted to royalty in Europe but...
 - quickly gained popularity with advent of shotgun in North America
 - mid-1800's to 1900 black powder to automatics
 - Opening of the Prairies - early 1900's (trains)
 - Market Hunting
 - Waterfowl hunting largely unregulated prior to 1918
 - " 1918 - Migratory Bird Treaty Act
 - " 1930' - Dust Bowl Years
 - 1934 - 1st duck stamp
 - 1937 - start of Ducks Unlimited
 - " Loss of habitat (about 50% loss of original 89.3 million ha of wetlands in lower 48) and continued demand for hunting caused a management dilemma

- ! Enter Research, Management, and Conservation - mid-1900's
 - " Early studies of disease and food habits
 - " Individual species accounts
 - " Publication of the Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America (Kortright 1942)
 - " Much expanded research effort after WWII
 - Population dynamics
 - Nutrient dynamics

 - " Designation of Administrative Units - Flyways
 - " Start of Population Surveys
 - " Rapid evolution of approaches to management
 - Adaptive Harvest Management

 - " Food Security Act of 1985 (Farm Bill - Swamp- and Sod-Buster)
 - " WRP and CRP in 1990 Farm Bill
 - " Section 404 of 1977 Clean Water Act
 - " NA Waterfowl Management Plan - 1986
 - NAWCA 1989