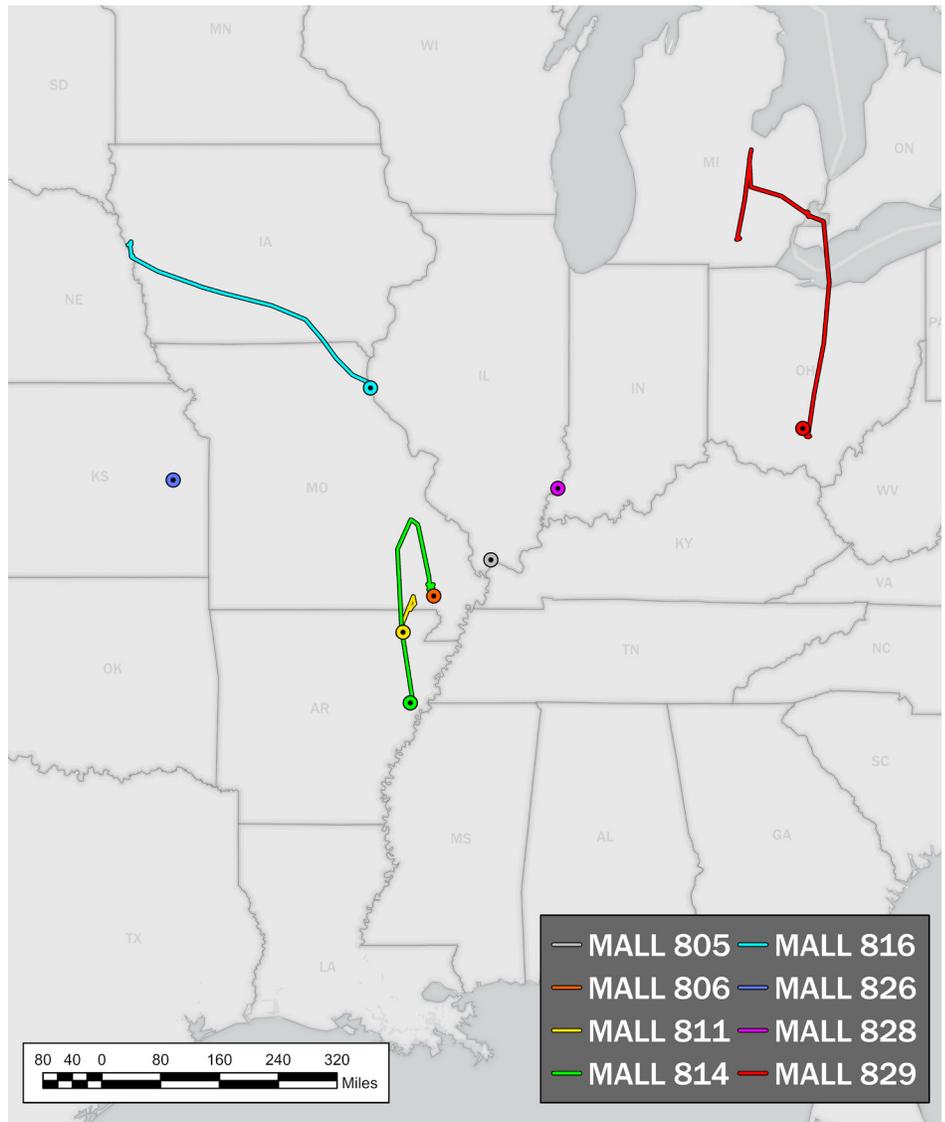


Mississippi Flyway Dabbler Tracking

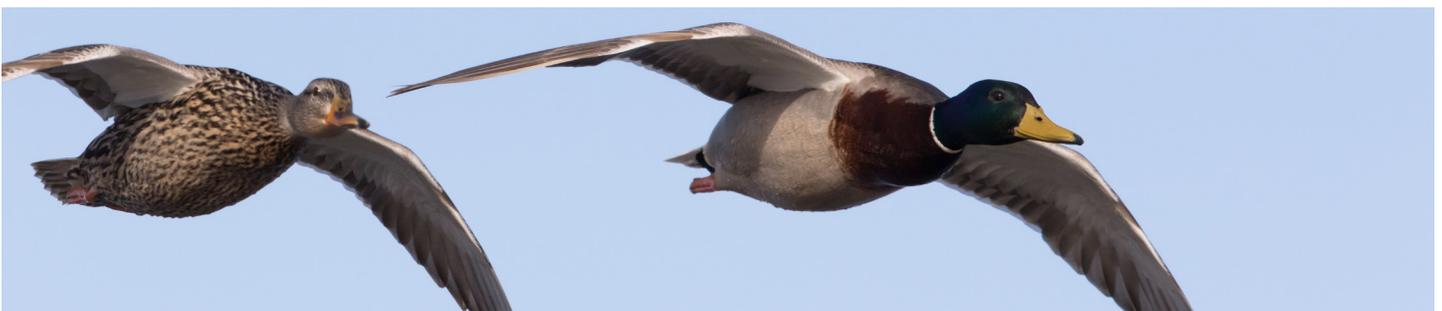
March 2022 Report

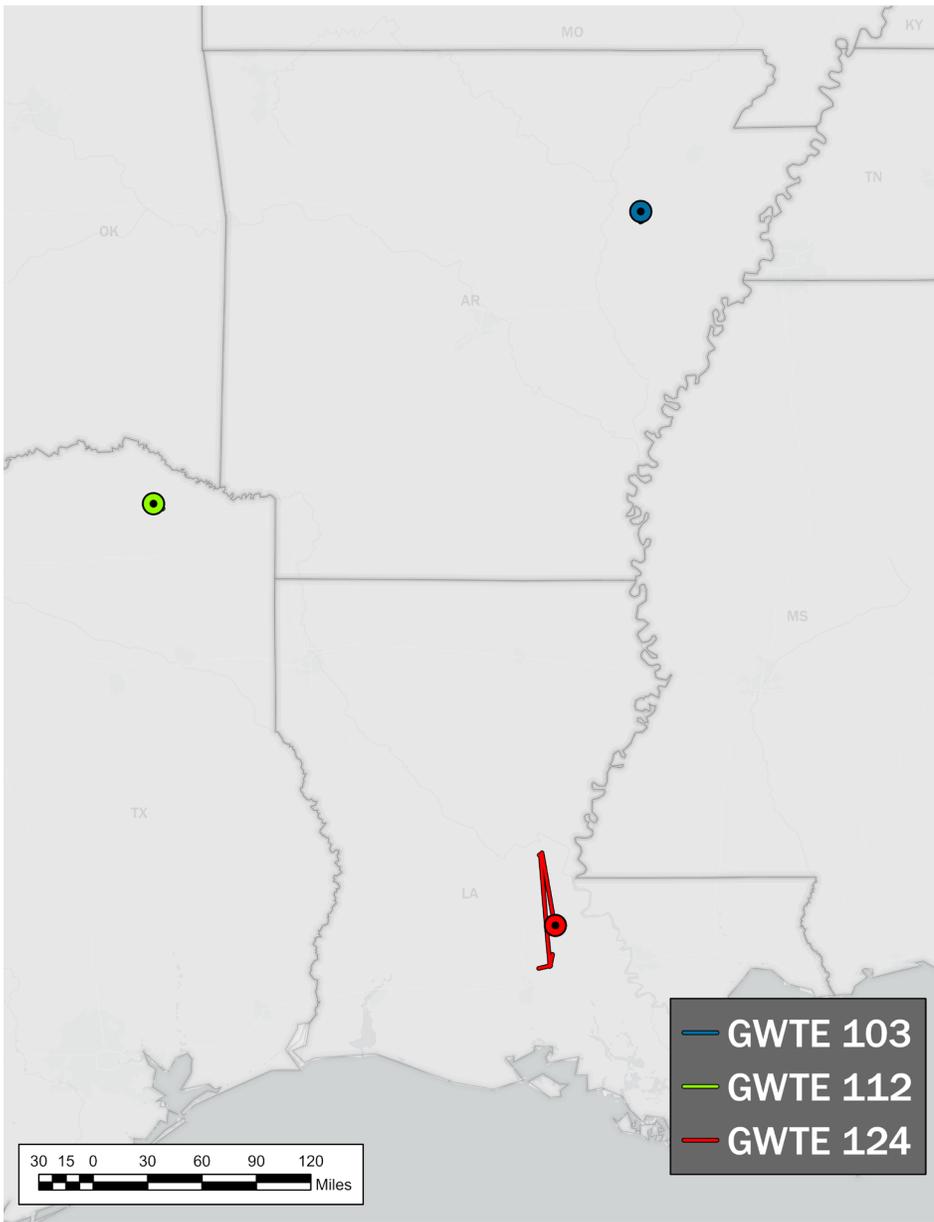
Our last update in late February highlighted the local small-scale movements of several green-wings and mallards. Recent warm weather has spurred lots of movement by geese and some ducks, including some of our radioed birds.

Eight mallards with transmitters have provided location data over the last three weeks (see Map 1). Half have moved from their very localized wintering sites. Interestingly, the two mallards with the greatest movements in the past weeks were the two that wintered the farthest north. A bird that wintered in Ohio took a northern track, hit the corner of Ontario and is now in Michigan. Another mallard that wintered on the Mississippi River floodplain in central Illinois headed northwest and is now using habitats on the Missouri River floodplain in western Iowa. Two mallards that wintered in Arkansas moved shorter distances north into Missouri. The other four mallards are still holding tight at their wintering areas in Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana.

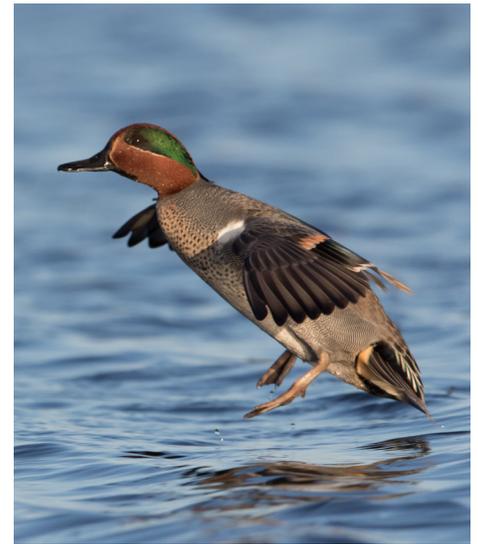


Map 1 – Winter sites and movements for eight marked mallards.





Map 2 - Winter sites for three Green-winged Teal. Note that only the bird in Louisiana has made anything but very local movements. That bird started north then shifted back south.



Three of the radio-tagged green-wings with transmitters have provided location updates recently, but only one bird has moved significantly with spring-like weather. That teal wintered in central Louisiana and has remained in Louisiana. The other two teal are in Texas and Arkansas and are still on their wintering home ranges.

As this update is written, temperatures in North Dakota have spiked, much of our snow is now sheetwater and waves of arctic and temperate breeding geese are passing over Delta's Bismarck office. We suspect we will see major movements of ducks by the next update in three weeks.

Study Background - In 2019, Delta Waterfowl initiated a study of migration and wintering ground habits of dabblers in the Mississippi Flyway. We partnered with Dr. Douglas Osborne of the University of Arkansas, and master's degree students Starla Phelps and Daniel Odin, to put radios on mallards, wigeon and green-winged teal during the winters of 2019-2020, and again in 2020-2021 in east-central Arkansas. In September 2021, 60 additional radios were affixed to mallards and green-winged teal in South Dakota. The shift to marking in the north is an effort to learn more about the choices ducks make in the fall regarding migration routes, timing, and settling at wintering areas. The above are recently recorded duck movements, but note that not all ducks in the study will transmit location data during each reporting period.