

**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES**  
**POST OFFICE BOX 98000**  
**BATON ROUGE, LA 70898-9000**

Waterfowl Population Estimates  
in Louisiana's Coastal Zone Below  
U.S. Highway 90 and on Catahoula Lake

Date: Coastal Zone, September 10-12, 2007,  
Catahoula Lake, September 9, 2007

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September 13, 2007

Pilot: B. Dorsa

Estimates made from Aircraft (\*) Estimate less than 1,000

SPECIES	SOUTHWEST	SOUTHEAST	CATAHOULA LAKE	TOTALS
MALLARD				0
MOTTLED	20,000	16,000		36,000
GADWALL				0
WIGEON				0
GW TEAL	17,000			17,000
BW TEAL	208,000	21,000	20,000	249,000
SHOVELER	*			0
PINTAIL	*			0
<b>TOTAL DABLERS</b>	<b>245,000</b>	<b>37,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>302,000</b>
SCAUP				0
RINGNECKED				0
CANVASBACK				0
TOTAL DIVERS	0	0		0
TOTAL DUCKS	245,000	37,000	20,000	302,000
COOTS				0

**COMMENTS**

The estimate of 249,000 blue-winged teal is lower than last year's September survey (356,000), slightly lower than the 5-year average (263,000), but very near the long-term average of 252,000. In addition to

the blue-wings, another 17,000 green-winged teal were estimated, bringing the total teal estimate to 266,000.

The great majority of teal were observed in southwest Louisiana marshes, where submerged aquatic vegetation (SAVs), and annual seed bearing plants were observed in fair amounts. Moderate numbers of teal also were seen in some flooded agricultural habitats as well. Very few teal were observed in southeast Louisiana, even though marsh conditions appeared good. Catahoula Lake accounted for nearly the same amount of teal observed in southeast marshes.

At the time of this report, rain fall associated with Hurricane Humberto is occurring across the state and the sheet water that will be a product of this likely will affect teal habitat availability and movement. Teal especially like shallow water and are sensitive to changes that may make feeding more or less difficult.

The statewide teal season opens September the 15<sup>th</sup> and runs through the 30<sup>th</sup>.