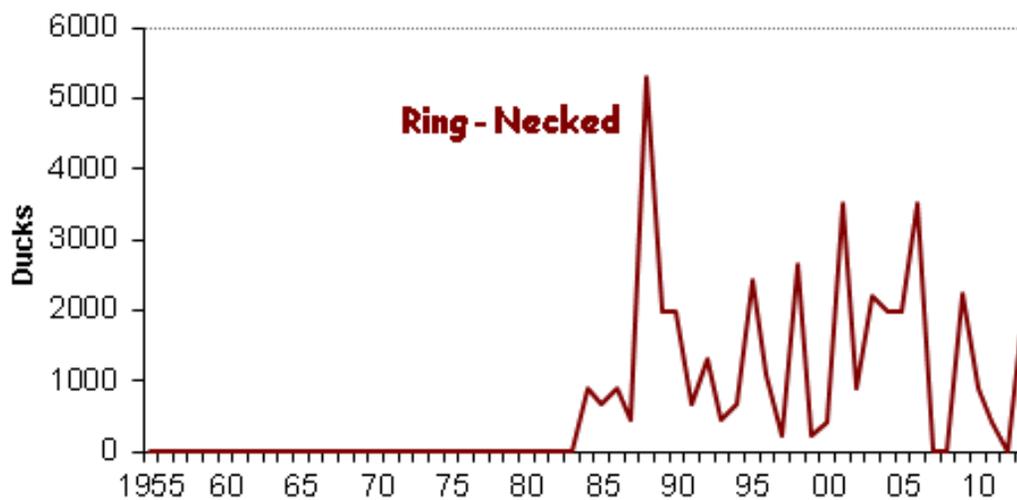
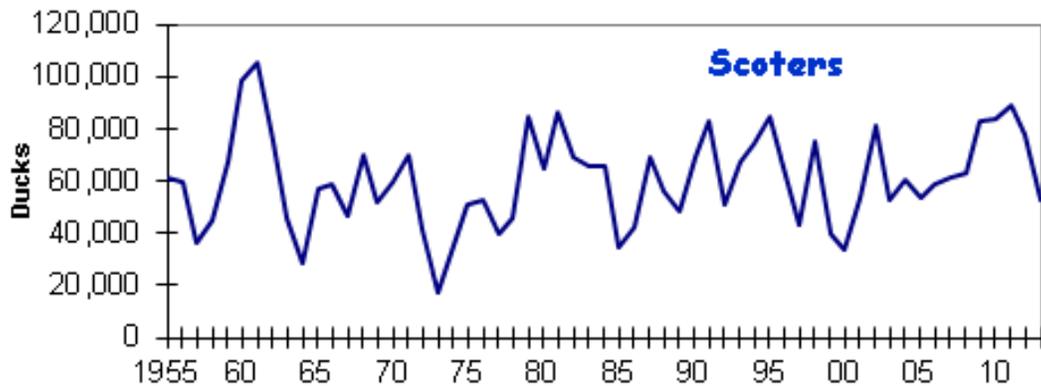
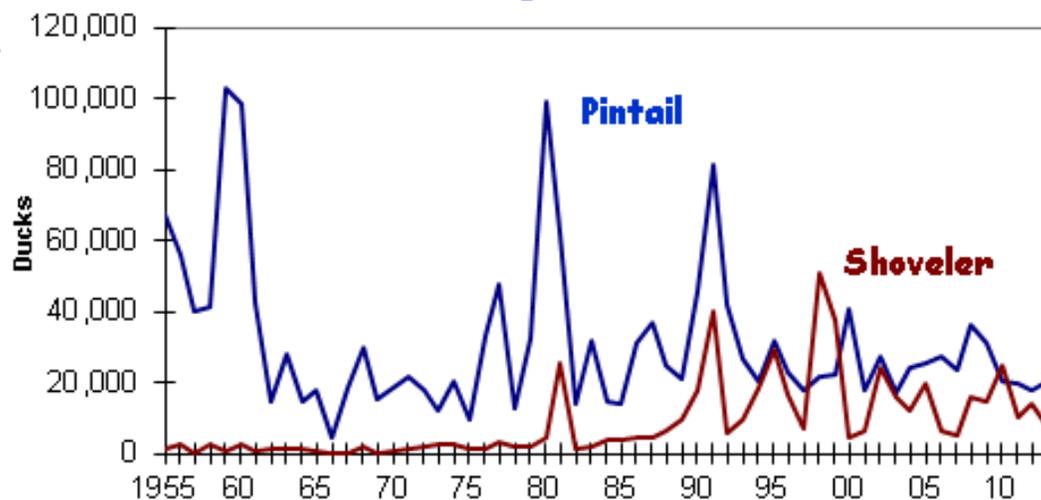


Waterfowl Populations on Old Crow Flats

Diving Ducks



Dabbling Ducks



Data Source: USFWS, Alaska, USA

What is happening?

- The number of ducks, geese and swans breeding in the Old Crow Flats has averaged 280,000 between 1955 and 2009.
- The numbers of two diving ducks are shown on the top graphs. The Scoter (also called "Black Duck") population on the Flats experiences high and low years. Ring-necked Ducks were not observed on the Flats until the mid-80s. Their numbers are low and vary from year to year.
- The dabbling duck graph indicates that the number of Northern Pintails has remained fairly constant whereas the number of Northern Shovellers has been slowly increasing. Both species show large increases in numbers during some years. These years are associated with drought on the Canadian Prairie which causes waterfowl to travel further north in search of suitable breeding habitat.

Why is it happening?

- The increase in Shoveller and Ring-necked Duck populations could indicate a northern extension of the breeding grounds for these species. These population increases may indicate that habitats on the Flats have become more favourable for these two species. It is also possible that destruction of habitat in areas further south have caused ducks to move further north in search of suitable habitat.

Why is it important?

- The Old Crow Flats is an important wetland both locally and internationally. Continental populations of Pintail have experienced a dramatic decline since 1969 -- but Pintail numbers on the Flats have not declined. Similarly, Scoter populations have been declining on the Canadian prairies, but not on the Flats.
- Ducks, geese and swans banded on the Flats have been recovered throughout the continent.
- Continued habitat destruction in the south can only increase the importance of this area in the future.

Technical Notes

- These data were obtained from the US Fish and Wildlife Service which conducts aerial surveys on the Old Crow Flats as part of an on-going, continent-wide waterfowl survey program.

See also:

- Old-Crow River Ice-Free Period
- Temperatures at Old Crow
- Moose Numbers on Old Crow Flats

Data added: March 16, 2014.