

# Integrated Waterbird Management and Monitoring

*A Collaborative Partnership Between Federal, State, and NGO's*

*Project Update - October 2010*

## **Project Overview**

Is there enough habitat, in the right places, and at the right times for waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds (waterbirds) during migration and in winter? The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Joint Ventures, and the Flyway Councils strive to ensure that adequate resting and feeding habitat is available for waterbirds along their flyway journeys. This project combines standardized monitoring and modeling at flyway, regional, and local scales to answer this question and to guide future management decisions about where to focus time and other resources on habitat management and restoration. The project focuses on collaboration among conservation partners located along the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the states, Ducks Unlimited and other non-governmental agencies.

## **Program Website**

We are pleased to announce a web portal for the program: <http://iwmmprogram.ning.com>. In addition to providing a repository for protocols and survey forms, there is a forum, through which we will generate discussion on the pilot fieldwork, and provide regular feedback to all participants. The site is public but to participate in discussions, organize groups, or take advantage of the website's other features, please email [Katie\\_Koch@fws.gov](mailto:Katie_Koch@fws.gov) or [amwilson@usgs.gov](mailto:amwilson@usgs.gov) for assistance.

## **Accomplishments**

- › Held eight workshops to scope the overall project and design decision models (2008-2010);
- › Made presentations to several key partners (Flyway Councils, Joint Ventures, state agencies, national wildlife refuge staff) to gather information, solicit expertise, and share updates on the status of the project (2009-2010);
- › A Project Coordinator has been hired along with 5 seasonal Waterbird Technicians (Summer 2010);
- › Teams of biologists with expertise in the three guilds of waterbirds developed habitat and population monitoring protocols (Summer 2010);
- › Developed a draft flyway scale model based on energetic needs of the birds and GIS maps of available habitat (2010); and
- › Pilot testing of the bird survey and habitat monitoring protocols throughout the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways occurred (Fall 2010).



William Majoros

*Great Blue Heron*



Jim Fenton

*Black Duck*



USFWS

*Flock of shorebirds on their way to wintering grounds in Central and South America.*

## **Fall 2010**

Pilot Waterbird Surveys  
Pilot Habitat Surveys

## **Winter 2011**

Pilot Waterbird Surveys  
Pilot Habitat Surveys  
Analyze Pilot Season Data  
Test Models  
Modify Protocols

## **Spring 2011**

Waterbird Surveys  
Habitat Surveys

