

natural wetlands more frequently than man-made wetlands.

In a number of places minelands have been restored as wetlands with mixed success. In one study, while the number of species in the reclaimed wetlands was as high as in natural wetlands, there were fewer guilds (e.g. dabblers, waders, divers) because of the relative absence of aquatic feeders (Lacki et al. 1991). A guild is a group of species that share a resource in similar ways.

Recently, there has been cause for hope about the waterfowl population

in the United States. Some 83 million ducks migrated south in the fall of 1995, 12 million more than 1994 and 24 million more than 1993, in part because of governmental influence in restoring prairie potholes, in part because of substantial rain in the prairies (Stevens 1995).

Conclusion

Many reasons exist for the dramatic decline of wetland bird populations in North America. Not surprisingly, the basic cause is habitat

disappearance. In the case of wetland birds, the concept of "habitat" has a special meaning and implies specific kinds of management policies. The proper habitat is in most instances a complex of wetlands playing multiple roles. Proper habitat also means the correct size of a wetland and individual wetlands sufficiently close to one another to meet the complicated needs of a species. Restoration management of wetlands is therefore a complicated task, although not without the possibility of success.

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