

Short-distance winter movements of Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

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Key words

Avian Influenza, waterbird movements, risk zones

Background and study goals

The goal of the project is to determine how far and how often mallards move during winter and which environmental factors determine their location. When the environmental factors predicting mallard occurrence are identified, these factors can then be used as criteria for the assignment of risk zones where protective measures need to be taken.

Methods

We captured Mallards at four different locations in the lake Sempach region, equipped 31 individuals with telemetry tags and determined their locations in the period between 16 November 2008 and 4 April 2009.

Results and their relevance

Mallard did not stay within 1km distance of lake Sempach, but tended to move more than 5 km away to wetlands in the hinterland. A severe cold spell in January induced movements away from the lake to small fast running streams that were not frozen. There was a strong association with water bodies, 98 % of the locations were within 100 meters distance from the next water body. Our results suggest that risk zones established 1 km around lakes, do not overlap with the actual locations of Mallards. The probability of contact between Mallards and free range poultry is probably highest within 100 meters distance of lakes, ponds and streams.

Oral presentations

Sauter, A. 2009. Stockentenbewegungen im Winter: Welche Rolle spielen die Stockenten als mögliche Überträger von Vogelgrippenviren. Schweizerische Vogelwarte, 6 April 2009

Sauter, A. 2009. Stockentenbewegungen im Winter: Beiben die Enten innerhalb der Risikogebiete? Technical Corner, BVET, 28 April 2009.

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