

Mottled duck and Purple Swamp Hen Telemetry Update 12/01/09

Currently we are tracking 41 rural mottled ducks and 13 urban birds. We have not been able to find 3 of the rural and 2 of the urban birds during the last few tracking sessions, but will keep searching. We have had 9 mortalities among the rural birds and 2 of the urban birds have died. Until the start of the hunting season we did not have any deaths among our rural birds since the end of the molting period. During the first segment of the waterfowl hunting season we have had 3 birds die. We also are still tracking 8 of the 10 purple swamp hens. Although not confirmed, we believe two have died as the result of alligator predation.

Since the waterfowl hunting season has started some of our rural birds have started using areas they have not used to date. These birds left Storm Water Treatment Area (STA) 1W, which they had been using for a long time, and moved into areas such as the Everglades, agricultural reservoirs, and natural pond habitats. The birds did not move far however, with the longest move being 48 km to the northeast. Despite the hunting activity on the STAs and Lake Okeechobee, the majority of our rural birds are still using STA and Lake Okeechobee habitats. Our urban birds continue to use the same areas they have been using within the West Palm Beach area.

For the most part, the purple swamp hens have remained very close to their release sites. All of the STA 1W birds are now in STA 1E. Not a huge move, but it is a move to a different area. All of the Water Conservation Area 2B birds are still in 2B but moving around.

Stay tuned. More to come.

Mottled Duck and Purple Swamp Hen locations 12/01/09

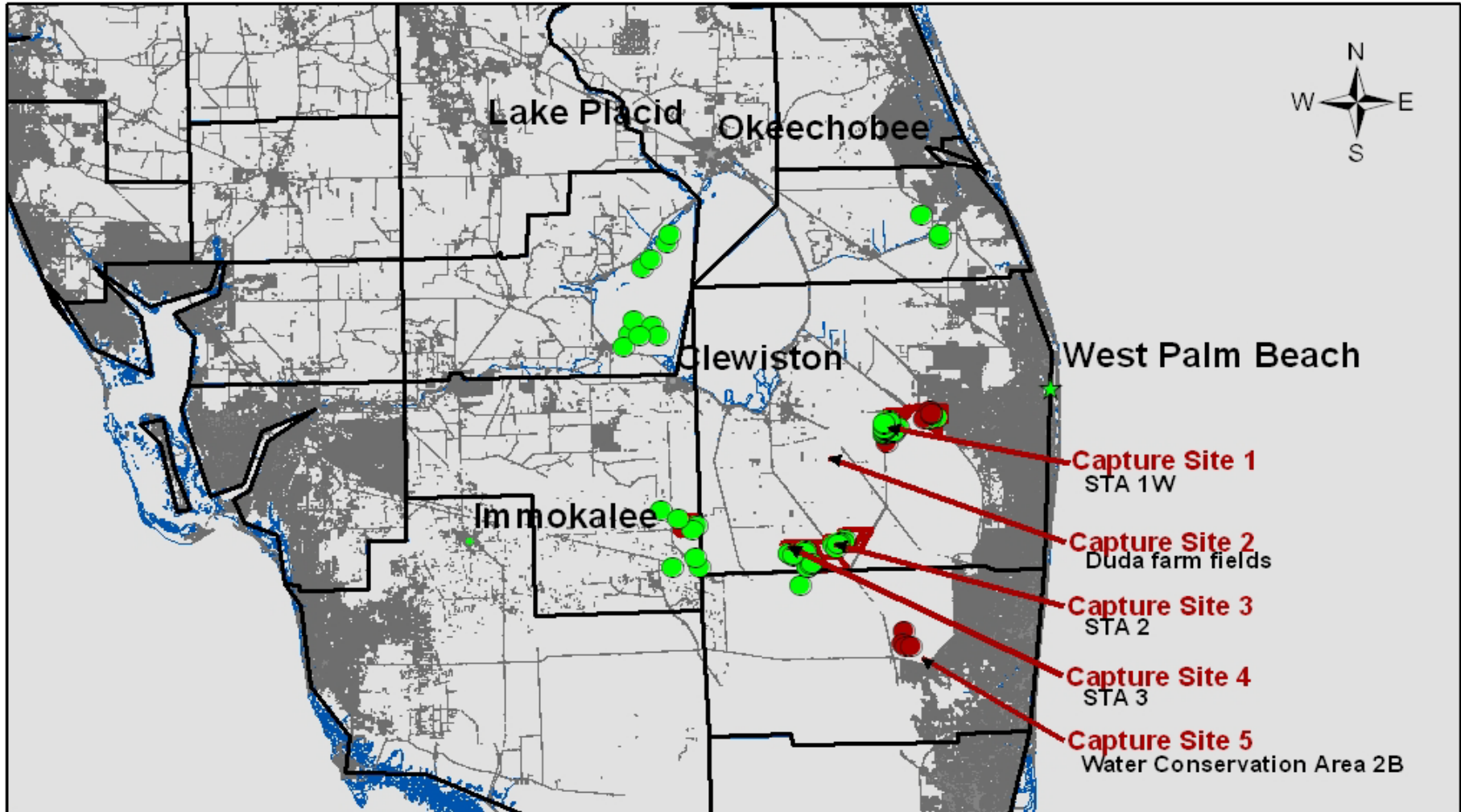


Figure 1