

Mottled duck and Purple Swamp Hen Telemetry Update 10/14/09

Since the last update our mottled ducks continue to move around a bit. The birds that had moved well to the northwest of their capture sites have returned to use areas further south. Most birds are using the Storm Water Treatment Areas (STA) with a few using pasture pond and agricultural reservoir areas to the west and northeast of the EAA. This pattern of movements and habitat use appears to be similar to what we saw last year. It has been a relatively dry fall and many of the pasture ponds are starting to dry up. This is very early for this to occur and unless we get significant winter rain the only water that will be available to the birds by mid-winter will be STA, Lake Okeechobee marsh, and Everglades wetlands. It will be interesting to see if the majority of our birds move to the Everglades again this winter as water on the pastures and STAs becomes scarce. We have had no recent mortalities among our mottled ducks and are currently tracking 45 rural and 14 urban birds.

For the most part, the purple swamp hens have remained very close to their release sites. The exception is one bird that has moved from STA 1W to STA 1E. Not a huge move, bit it is a move to a different area. One bird from Water Conservation Area 2B is now unaccounted for and the radio signal from another bird in this area is very weak. This bird may have been eaten by an alligator or the antenna from the radio is touching the water. We will make an attempt to determine what is up with this bird as soon as we get a chance.

Stay tuned. More to come....

Mottled Duck and Purple Swamp Hen locations 09/26-10/13

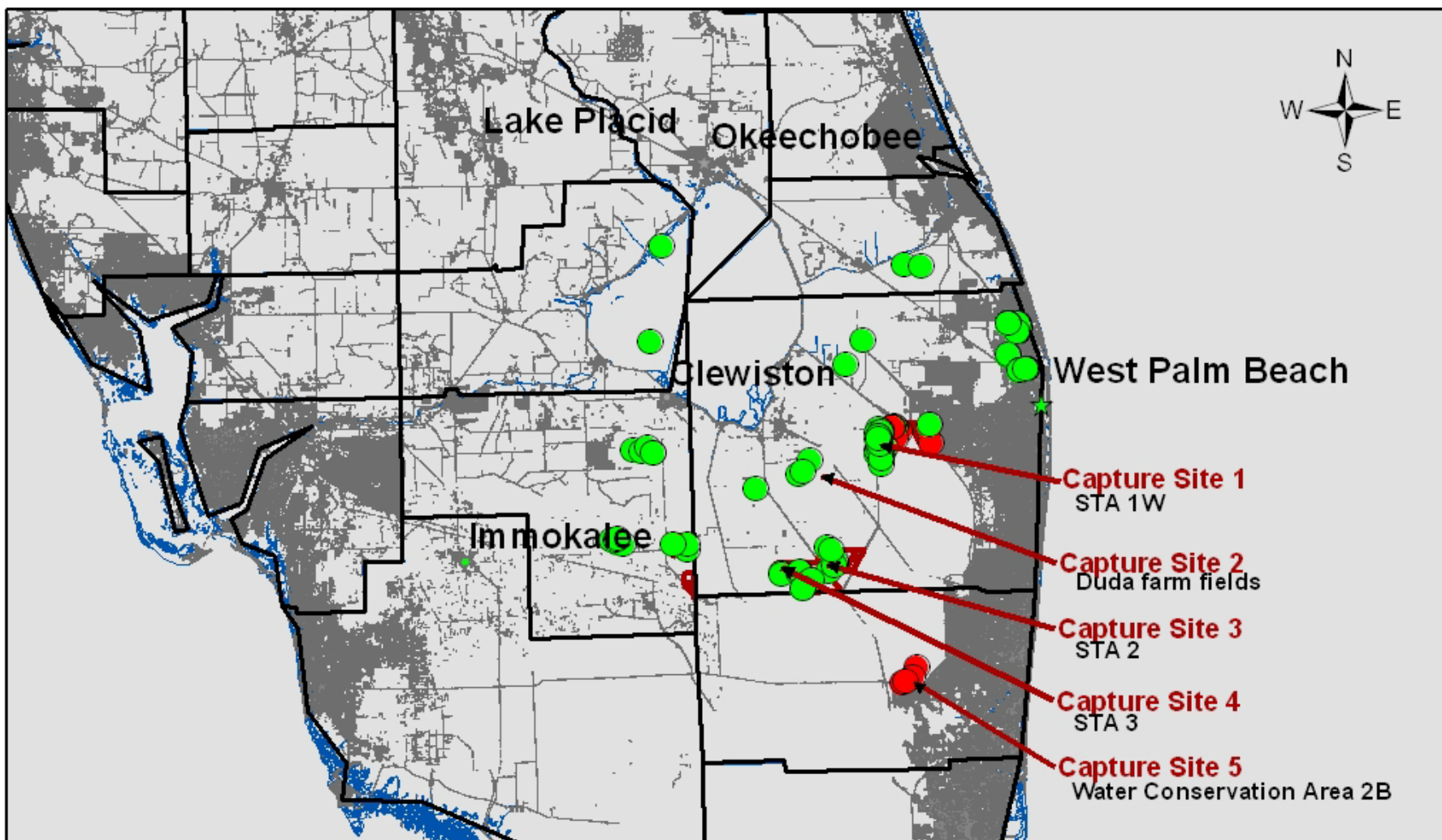


Figure 1