

In the core of the Flint Hills of eastern Kansas, the majority of occupied habitat was burned again this spring, leaving little nesting cover. While periodic burning is essential to prevent woody encroachment into the prairie, burning the same acreage annually in early spring greatly reduces the potential for successful nesting, even when weather is favorable.



Conditions were comparatively better for production throughout the northern Flint Hills due to less spring burning and more rain-fall. Conditions were good for production throughout most of the Smoky Hills region that spans across northcentral and northwest Kansas. The best greater prairie chicken hunting should again be found in native grasslands from the northern Flint Hills westward throughout the Smoky Hills.

A detailed 2011 Kansas Upland Bird Hunting Forecast is available online at the KDWPT website, www.kdwpt.state.ks.us. Click "Hunting/Upland Birds/Upland Bird Regional Forecast" for the complete report.

The following table includes the upland birds seasons for 2011. Possession limits are four times the daily bag limits.

**YOUTH WATERFOWL,
LATE-MIGRATING
DUCK SEASONS
FLYING IN**

Despite dry weather, high duck numbers should draw hunters

The summer of 2011 will be remembered in Kansas as one of the driest, hottest on record, and much of Kansas still needs rain this fall. However, high duck numbers will still provide hunters with options, and the early youth waterfowl seasons are just around the corner. Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) staff at state waterfowl management areas are working hard to provide hunting opportunities, pumping available water into hunting pools.

As of Sept. 20, the following wildlife areas reported fair to good hunting conditions:

Northwest/Northcentral Kansas

- Cedar Bluff — Fair
- Glen Elder — Fair
- Jamestown — Good
- Norton — Fair
- Wilson — Good
- Northeast Kansas
- Benedictine Bottoms — Good
- Perry — Good
- Tuttle Creek — Fair
- Southwest Kansas
- Cheyenne Bottoms — Good
- Isabel — Fair
- Texas Lake — Fair
- Central Kansas
- Council Grove — Fair
- Southcentral Kansas
- Elk City — Fair
- Fall River — Good
- Marais des Cygnes — Good
- Melvern — Fair
- Toronto — Good
- Pomona — Fair
- Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, near Stafford, reported that