

Misleading Data Again About Lake Odessa in Muscatine Journal 12/13/07

Where did Jerry Honts get his data? In Hont's letter to the editor of the Muscatine Journal December 13, 2007 he says "In fact, hunter success in 2005 and 2006 were the highest recorded numbers ever at Odessa, far above the average of 1972." Here is information obtained from documents from Tom Cox US Fish and Wildlife Odessa Refuge Manager. It shows duck harvest (H) at the check station for the season and Peak Duck Counts (PC) in 2005 as (2005, H 3311, PC 30000) and in 2006 as (2006, H 3843, PC 30000). How does that compare to these Harvests and Peak Counts in prior years: (2003, H 3515, PC 7030), (2001, H 4865, PC 65772), (2000, H 3502, PC 61340), (1999, H 3837, PC 20970), (1998, H 5237, PC 84012), (1984, H 4104, PC 60000), (1983, H 4334, PC 69000), (1981, H 4204, PC 171820), (1980, H 4204, PC 171820), (1980, H 5966, PC 54869), (1979, H 8337, PC 124010). All of these prior years had higher duck counts and harvests (ducks killed) than 2005 and 2006 that Mr. Honts mentioned.

I couldn't obtain duck harvests before 1979, but I have peak counts before then. Look at these peak counts at the Odessa Refuge: (1978, PC 113260), (1977 PC 76525), (1976, PC 64655), (1975, PC 61710), (1974, PC 85659), (1973, PC 200940), (1972, PC 199940), (1971, PC 200850), (1970, PC 200850), (1970, PC 150650), (1967, 102565) and get this (1966, 200810). These earlier counts don't include the Horse Shoe Bend area because it didn't exist then. All these prior years have higher peak counts than 2005 and 2006.

Mr. Honts mentions that "Iowa has already lost 95% of her natural wetlands". He fails to mention his source of information and how it relates to Lake Odessa. He fails to mention how many acres of wetlands have been put back in Iowa. Has 60% or more been put back? What is he suggesting, tear up Interstate 80, take out all the shopping malls, and do away with all the roads? Is he disregarding all the wetlands that have been developed in Louisa County on private ground and Horse Shoe Bend (2606 acres) and the DNR Millrace ground (700 acres) North of Wapello and the Louisa County Conservation board ground North of the Iowa River called Indian Slough (1049 acres LCCB web site).

Mr. Honts doesn't know that Mr. Purdy as a member of Louisa County Pheasants Forever (PF) voted to give the Horseshoe Bend project money from PF for seeding when the land was obtained by US Fish and Wildlife.

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