

11 - 17 November 2019 DUCK MIGRATION FORECAST

Michael L. Schummer, Roosevelt Waterfowl Ecologist, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, 1 Forestry Drive, Syracuse, NY 13210

NEW FEATURE HEADLINES:

- 1) Our WSI predicts the second substantial migration of dabbling ducks in the Mississippi and the Atlantic Flyway.
- 2) The first major movement of mallards is predicted in the Atlantic Flyway.
- 3) In the Mississippi Flyway, early season migrants are predicted to make movements into the southern part of the flyway in abundance Tuesday into Wednesday.
- 4) In the Atlantic Flyway, early season migrants are predicted to make movements into the southern part of the flyway in abundance Wednesday into Thursday.
- 5) Our Duck Migration Forecast was recently featured on the [Ducks Unlimited Podcast](#).

WEATHER OVERVIEW: Our [21 October DUCK MIGRATION FORECAST](#) prediction of a switch in early-November to colder temperatures across the Atlantic Flyway continues in the coming week with the second cold front of the month. [Last week](#), we talked about the potential for this November cold outbreak to be relatively short-lived, and while long-term forecasts are relatively difficult this year, it does appear that at least in the near-term that temperatures will moderate substantially by next week. Next week, temperatures in the western Great Lakes (Mississippi Flyway) are predicted to be in the 40s (F) while those in the eastern Great Lakes (Atlantic Flyway) will be near 50 (F). For more on long-term forecasting, see climatologist, [Judah Cohen's blog](#).

The coldest weather of the season will occur this week with temperatures in the teens (F) as far south as Memphis in the Mississippi Flyway on Tuesday night/Wednesday morning. Bitterly unseasonable cold will also occur in the Great Lakes region of the Atlantic Flyway with nighttime temperatures in the teens 4 out of 7 nights this week. Snow is expected in the lower Great Lakes region early in the week (**Fig. 1**) with little opportunity for snow melt through the weekend.

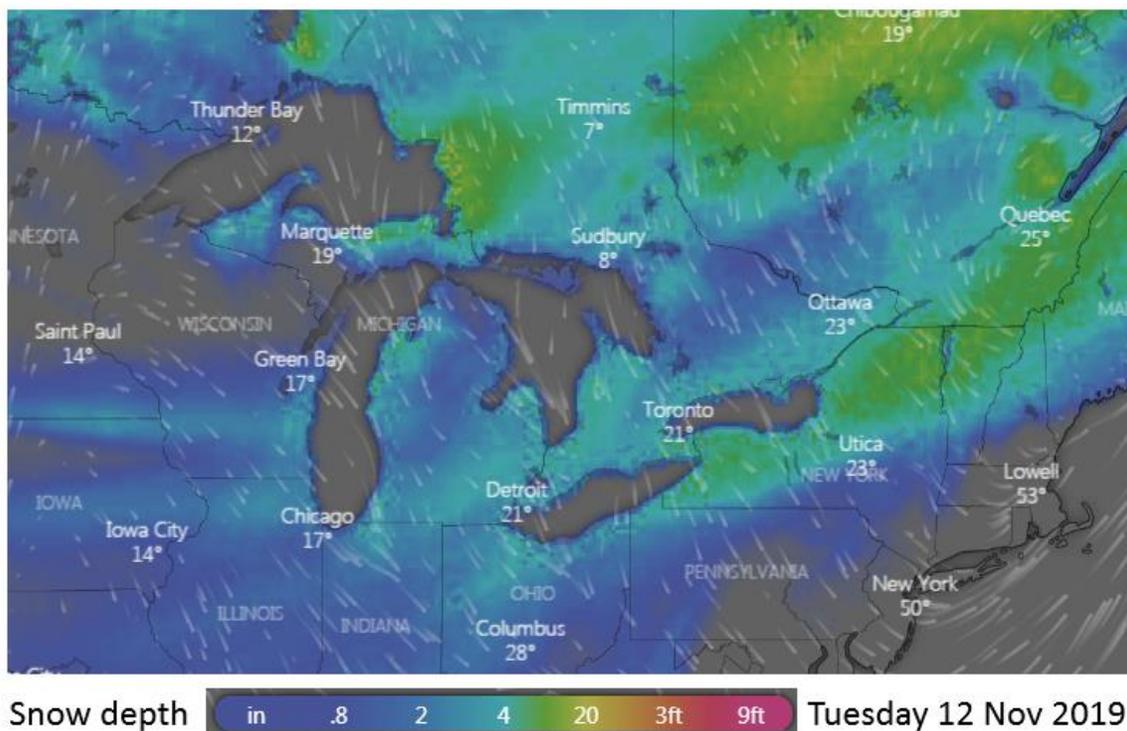


Figure 1. Snow depth predictions for the Great Lakes region of the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyway for noon on Tuesday 12 November 2019.

WEEKLY SPECIES SUMMARY: Our WSI predicts the second substantial migration of dabbling ducks in the Mississippi and the Atlantic Flyway with WSI values great enough to predict mallard and black duck migration out of the Great Lakes region into more southern locales. However, it also is the first week the WSI reaches values great enough to cause mallard and black duck migration out of the latitude of Ottawa, Ontario in the Atlantic Flyway. As such, we expect some mallards and black ducks to leave the Great Lakes region, but also there may be an additional flight this week and this weekend into the same region of mallards and black ducks from areas farther north from Ontario and Quebec. In the Mississippi Flyway, our WSI model for mallards predicts them to be at peak abundance at the latitude of Iowa with increasing abundance at the Missouri latitude (and likely a bit ahead of schedule), but not yet at peak abundance. Substantial movement of early season migrants is expected this coming week. In the Mississippi Flyway, early season migrants are predicted to make movements into the southern part of the flyway in abundance Tuesday into Wednesday. In the Atlantic Flyway, early season migrants are predicted to make movements into the southern part of the flyway in abundance Wednesday into Thursday.

As a reminder, peak abundance of ducks and their decline thereafter are often closely-related, as such, during migration hunters may wish to target times when our WSI predicts that ducks are transitioning from increasing in abundance (color coded RED), to decreasing abundance in your area (color coded BLUE). Our WSI values are an approximation based on 20+ years of data from 20+ location in the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways. As such, we suggest maintaining a log-book while using the WSI thresholds to determine when to hunt in your area because we publish average conditions which vary greatly geographically.

WSI COLOR CODES: We report WSI values and color code each day by species and location as **little to no migration (YELLOW)**, **increasing abundance (RED)**, and **decreasing abundance (BLUE)**. WSI models and thresholds differ among species, so the values by location will differ among some species.

MALLARD AND BLACK DUCK (WSI threshold = 5)

Month	Day	Manitoba Churchill	North Dakota Deville Lake	Michigan Green Bay	Iowa Des Moines	Ohio Columbus	Tennessee Memphis	Ontario Ottawa	New York Syracuse	DC Washington	North Carolina Charlotte
11	8	22	4	5	0	2	-1	5	2	-2	-3
11	9	22	6	0	-6	1	-5	5	2	-3	-4
11	10	24	15	4	2	-8	-13	3	-3	-9	-10
11	11	Frozen out, no more forecast	16	9	10	-1	-4	8	2	-12	-14
11	12		10	10	6	6	4	11	6	-4	-3
11	13		12	9	3	1	-2	11	7	-1	-1
11	14		8	6	4	0	-4	5	2	-4	-5
11	15		10	7	-1	1	-3	11	6	-5	-7
11	16		7	4	-4	-2	-6	13	8	-3	-5
11	17		1	4	-4	-4	-8	7	-1	-7	-8

PINTAIL (WSI threshold = -4)

Month	Day	Manitoba Churchill	North Dakota Deville Lake	Michigan Green Bay	Iowa Des Moines	Ohio Columbus	Tennessee Memphis	Ontario Ottawa	New York Syracuse	DC Washington	North Carolina Charlotte
11	8	52	10	10	2	3	-1	6	3	-2	-3
11	9	56	15	4	-7	2	-6	9	5	-3	-4
11	10	34	26	10	2	-9	-14	8	-1	-9	-11
11	11	Frozen out, no more forecast	29	17	13	-1	-4	15	3	-13	-15
11	12		23	19	11	7	5	23	14	-4	-3
11	13		28	19	9	3	-2	24	16	0	-1
11	14		24	18	12	2	-4	19	11	-5	-6
11	15		28	20	4	4	-3	28	16	-6	-8
11	16		26	18	-4	-2	-6	31	20	-3	-6
11	17		9	20	-4	-4	-8	25	6	-8	-9

GADWALL (WSI threshold = -7)

Month	Day	Manitoba Churchill	North Dakota Deville Lake	Michigan Green Bay	Iowa Des Moines	Ohio Columbus	Tennessee Memphis	Ontario Ottawa	New York Syracuse	DC Washington	North Carolina Charlotte
11	8	46	12	7	0	-4	-9	1	-4	-9	-11
11	9	49	15	5	-3	-2	-9	5	0	-8	-10
11	10	54	18	8	-1	-5	-10	7	0	-8	-10
11	11	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	11	4	-4	-9	10	-1	-9	-11
11	12			15	7	-1	-6	17	7	-8	-10
11	13			17	9	1	-6	19	11	-6	-8
11	14			19	12	3	-4	23	12	-6	-7
11	15			21	7	4	-4	25	15	-5	-6
11	16			23	1	-1	-4	28	17	-6	-7
11	17	25	1	-1	-5	30	11	-6	-7		

SHOVELER (WSI threshold = -9)

Month	Day	Manitoba Churchill	North Dakota Deville Lake	Michigan Green Bay	Iowa Des Moines	Ohio Columbus	Tennessee Memphis	Ontario Ottawa	New York Syracuse	DC Washington	North Carolina Charlotte
11	8	46	12	7	0	-4	-9	1	-4	-9	-11
11	9	49	15	5	-3	-2	-9	5	0	-8	-10
11	10	54	18	8	-1	-5	-10	7	0	-8	-10
11	11	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	11	4	-4	-9	10	-1	-9	-11
11	12			15	7	-1	-6	17	7	-8	-10
11	13			17	9	1	-6	19	11	-6	-8
11	14			19	12	3	-4	23	12	-6	-7
11	15			21	7	4	-4	25	15	-5	-6
11	16			23	1	-1	-4	28	17	-6	-7
11	17	25	1	-1	-5	30	11	-6	-7		

WIGEON and GREEN-WINGED TEAL (WSI threshold = -10)

Month	Day	Manitoba Churchill	North Dakota Deville Lake	Michigan Green Bay	Iowa Des Moines	Ohio Columbus	Tennessee Memphis	Ontario Ottawa	New York Syracuse	DC Washington	North Carolina Charlotte
11	8	46	12	7	0	-4	-9	1	-4	-9	-11
11	9	49	15	5	-3	-2	-9	5	0	-8	-10
11	10	54	18	8	-1	-5	-10	7	0	-8	-10
11	11	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	11	4	-4	-9	10	-1	-9	-11
11	12			15	7	-1	-6	17	7	-8	-10
11	13			17	9	1	-6	19	11	-6	-8
11	14			19	12	3	-4	23	12	-6	-7
11	15			21	7	4	-4	25	15	-5	-6
11	16			23	1	-1	-4	28	17	-6	-7
11	17	25	1	-1	-5	30	11	-6	-7		