

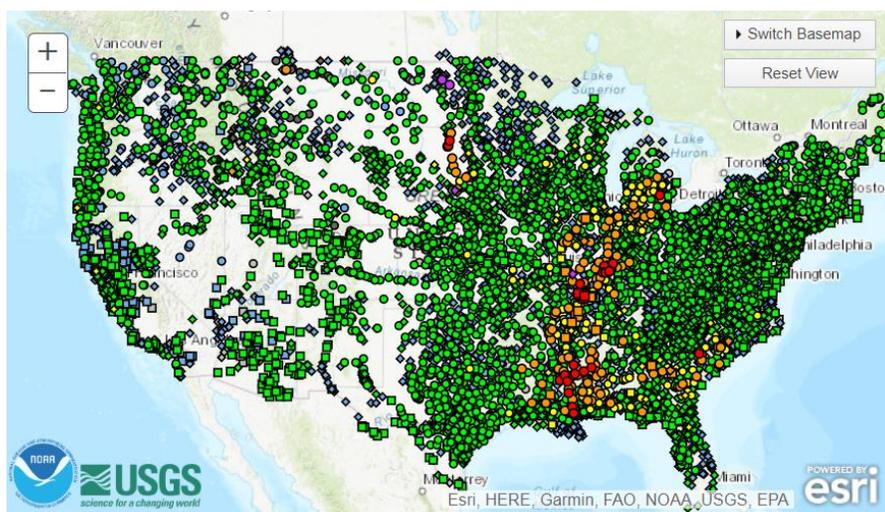
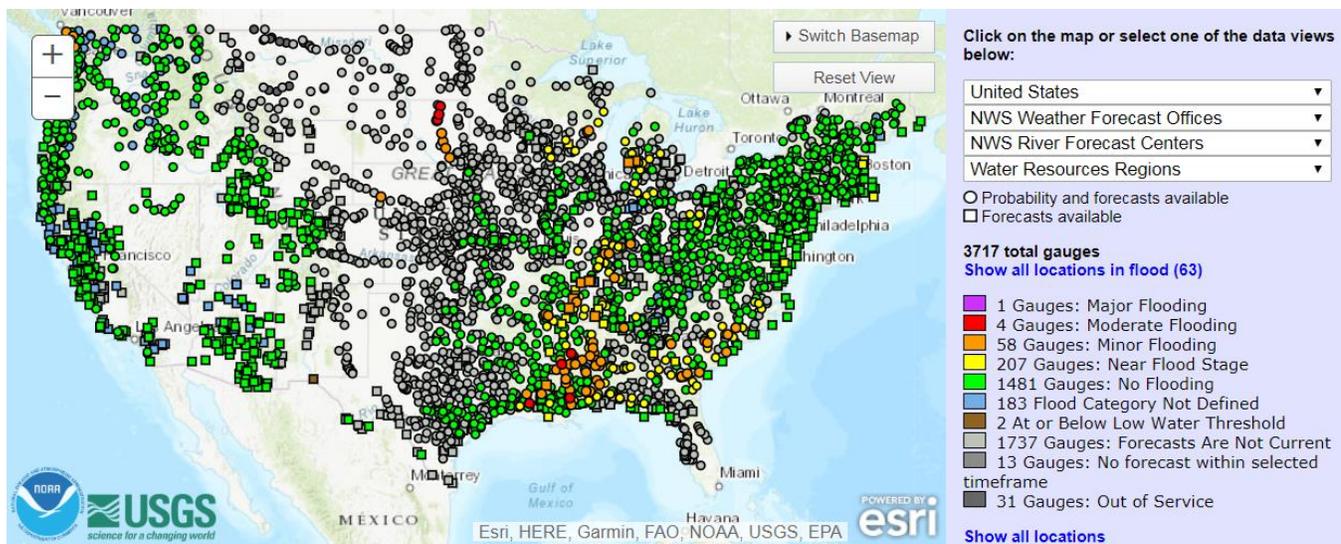
# 13 December – 19 January 2020 DUCK MIGRATION FORECAST

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## HEADLINES:

- 1) Temperatures will be relatively mild early in the week in the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways, but decline on Wed in the Mississippi and Thursday/Friday in the Atlantic Flyway.
- 2) A relatively short-lived cold front in the mid-continent will cause WSI values to increase enough to predict migration by mallards in the Mississippi Flyway. In the Atlantic Flyway, temperatures will not be as severe, but included with snowfall over the weekend, WSI values predict migration by mallards and black ducks.
- 3) WSI values for dabbling ducks other than mallards and black ducks reach values great enough to cause migration in the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways, but we do not expect substantial movements of these ducks.
- 4) More information about winter weather & duck migration, listen to our interview on the [DU podcast here](#).

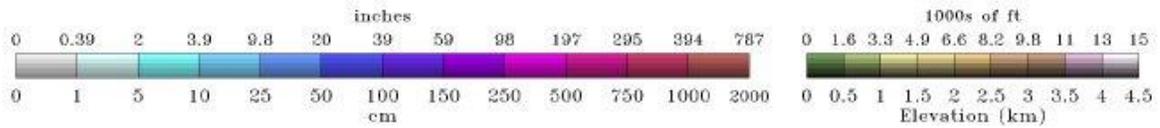
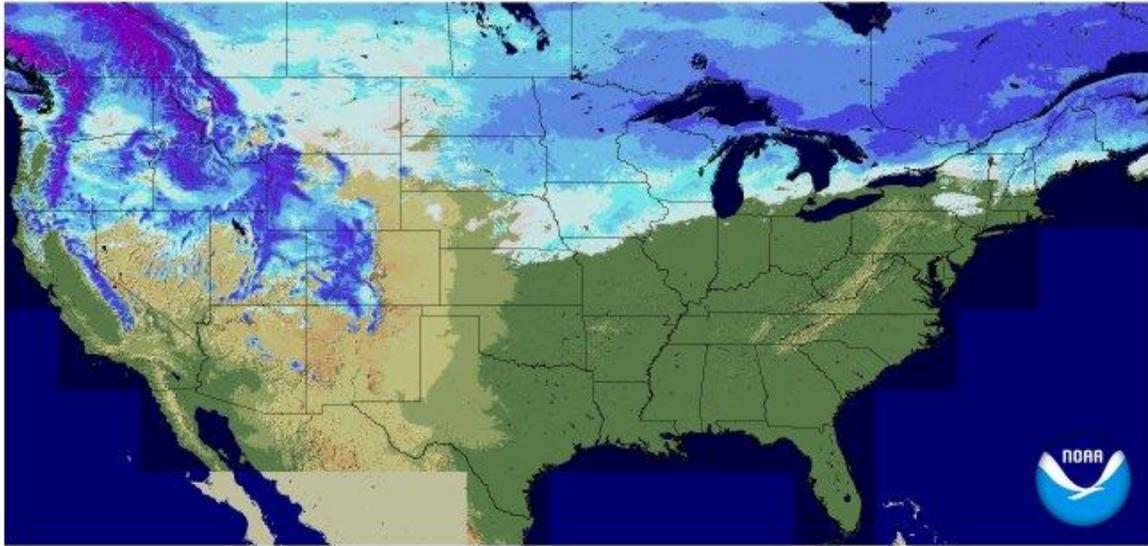
**WEATHER OVERVIEW:** Temperatures in the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyway decline for the coming week. A quick cold front will move across eastern North America, Wed through Friday. A relatively substantial snowfall event is forecast for the Great Lakes region of the Atlantic Flyway this weekend. Ongoing and increasing river flooding is occurring in eastern North America and is expected to continue for the coming week (**Fig. 1**). Snow cover also remains relatively non-existent for the 2019-2020 winter, especially in the eastern US (**Fig. 2**).



**Figure 1.** River stages throughout North America 5 December 2020 (top) and 15 January 2020 (bottom). In the Mississippi Flyway and SE region of the Atlantic Flyway flooding continues in many locales.

16 January 2020

Snow Depth  
 2020-01-16 06 UTC



16 January 2019

Snow Depth  
 2019-01-16 06 UTC

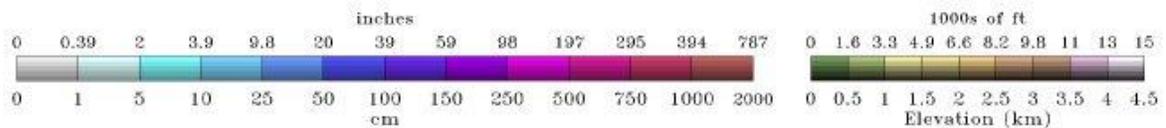
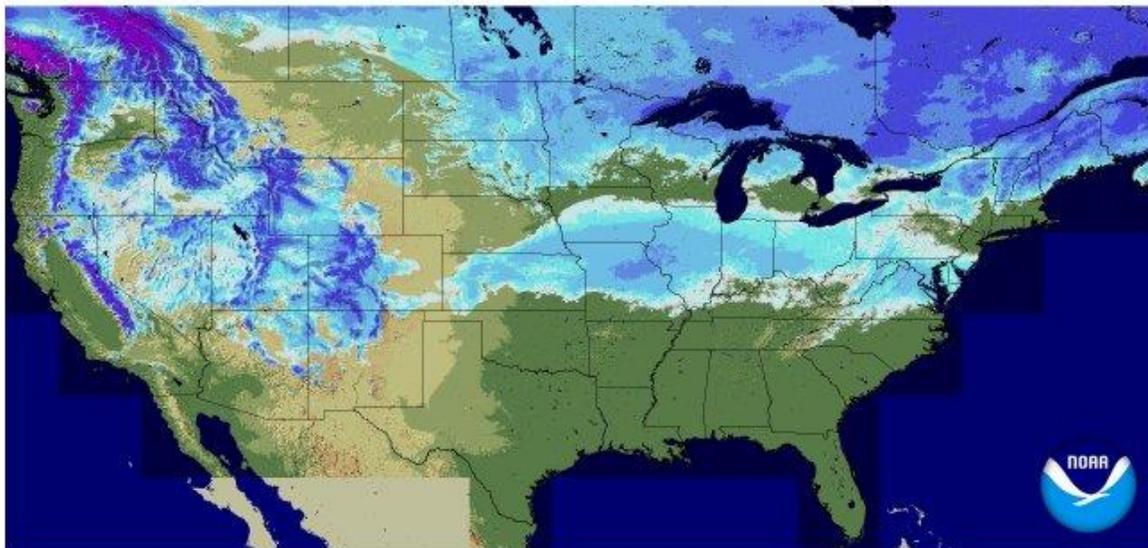


Figure 2. Comparison of between 2020 and 2019 snow cover in North America for 16 January.

**WEEKLY SPECIES SUMMARY:** Migration kicks back into gear this week but don't expect large movements of ducks. Other than a few are, WSI values are only slightly greater than thresholds known to cause southward migration of dabbling ducks. The greatest likelihood of mallard migration is Wednesday and Saturday in the Mississippi Flyway and Thursday into Friday night and Sunday in the Atlantic Flyway. Snowfall at the northern end of the Atlantic Flyway is predicted for Saturday and into Sunday which edges the WSI above the migration threshold, but mallards and black ducks are the only dabbling ducks that remain here in abundance, as such it is unlikely that much movement of these ducks south will occur. Mid-latitude locations see WSI values great enough to cause migration of pintail, teal, wigeon, and shoveler, but don't expect substantial movements. River flooding also continues to provide foraging and refugia opportunities for ducks and will likely negatively affect movement of ducks to southern latitudes.

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 Deviils Lake	Michigan Green Bay	Iowa Des Moines	Ohio Columbus	Tennessee Memphis	Ontario Ottawa	New York Syracuse	DC Washington	North Carolina Charlotte
1	6	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-1	-1	-7	Frozen out, no more forecast	0	-5	-8
1	7				-1	-2	-5		-1	-3	-5
1	8				-2	2	-10		5	-1	-6
1	9				0	-8	-15		3	-3	-10
1	10				3	-12	-16		-7	-13	-16
1	11				9	-16	-12		-12	-14	-16
1	12	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	6	-8	-4	Frozen out, no more forecast	-7	-14	-17
1	13				2	-4	-7		-1	-9	-16
1	14				4	-6	-13		-4	-8	-15
1	15				11	-5	-12		-3	-10	-16
1	16				14	2	-6		5	-5	-8
1	17				5	0	-11		10	0	-5
1	18				13	-1	-7		3	-3	-6
1	19				20	6	-10		6	-1	-11

**PINTAIL (WSI threshold = -4)**

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

**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
1	6						-8			-8	-11
1	7	Frozen out, no more forecast	-8	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-7	-10				
1	8						-9			-6	-10
1	9						-9			-6	-10
1	10						-10			-7	-10
1	11						-11			-8	-11
1	12						-11			-8	-12
1	13						-10			-8	-13
1	14	Frozen out, no more forecast	-11	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-9	-13				
1	15						-12			-10	-15
1	16						-11			-10	-15
1	17						-11			-9	-15
1	18						-10			-7	-13
1	19						-7			-6	-12

**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
1	6						-8			-8	-11
1	7	Frozen out, no more forecast	-8	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-7	-10				
1	8						-9			-6	-10
1	9						-9			-6	-10
1	10						-10			-7	-10
1	11						-11			-8	-11
1	12						-11			-8	-12
1	13						-10			-8	-13
1	14	Frozen out, no more forecast	-11	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-9	-13				
1	15						-12			-10	-15
1	16						-11			-10	-15
1	17						-11			-9	-15
1	18						-10			-7	-13
1	19						-7			-6	-12

**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
1	7						-8			-7	-10
1	8	Frozen out, no more forecast	-9	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-6	-10				
1	9						-9			-6	-10
1	10						-10			-7	-10
1	11						-11			-8	-11
1	12						-11			-8	-12
1	13						-10			-8	-13
1	14	Frozen out, no more forecast	-11	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-9	-13				
1	15						-12			-10	-15
1	16						-11			-10	-15
1	17						-11			-9	-15
1	18						-10			-7	-13
1	19						-7			-6	-12