

16 – 22 December 2019 DUCK MIGRATION FORECAST

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HEADLINES:

- 1) Our WSI predicts migration of mallards this week with greatest potential on Wednesday and Thursday night in the Mississippi Flyway and Thursday through Saturday night in the Atlantic Flyway.
- 2) Our WSI predicts that dabbling ducks other than mallards and black ducks will make substantial movements out of mid-latitude regions of the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways this week and into southern latitudes in these flyways.
- 3) Areas south of North Carolina in the Atlantic Flyway should observe their first major movement of dabbling ducks.

WEATHER OVERVIEW: A substantial cold front will sweep across the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyway this week followed by a strong warming trend towards the weekend and into next week. Teens and single digits will occur at night in the Mississippi Flyway mid-week and move east into the Atlantic Flyway for later in the week. Particularly cold temperatures in the single digits to near zero will occur in the Great Lake region of the Atlantic Flyway. Snow continues locally in the northern Mississippi and Atlantic Flyway, but is predicted to have a great chance of occurring in the Great Lakes region. These snowy conditions make it difficult for field feeding mallards and can increase migration of these ducks to southern latitudes. Of substantial note is the landscape level flooding last spring into summer 2019 that greatly reduced availability of quality managed and unmanaged riverine habitats at mid-latitudes (e.g., Missouri). Reports suggest this resulted in substantial overflight of many ducks to southern latitudes when weather was severe enough to start migration. As such, many southern and northern areas have relatively quality duck availability and shooting but many mid-latitude areas suffered from lack of habitat to attract ducks. This has been especially true in the Mississippi Flyway for 2019.

WEEKLY SPECIES SUMMARY: The greatest migration of the week is predicted for dabbling ducks other than mallards and black ducks out of mid-latitude areas of the Atlantic Flyway (e.g., North Carolina) and into southern states, i.e., South Carolina, Georgia, Florida. Greatest likelihood of movement is for wigeon and green-winged teal into more southern locales, with shovelers making lesser movements and gadwall hanging up at northern latitudes to a greater degree. However, mid-latitude areas also may get an influx of additional ducks from the north, especially mallards and black ducks that are predicted to make movements out of the Great Lakes region Thursday through Saturday. In the Mississippi Flyway, a strong movement of mallards out of mid-latitude areas is predicted to be ongoing and continuing throughout this week with greatest likelihood of movements south on Wednesday and Thursday night.

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
12	9			11	4	-9	-11	-2	-3	-12	-14
12	10	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	20	9	-1	-2	4	-2	-10	-12
12	11			23	10	5	-3	12	6	-1	-4
12	12			17	1	4	-3	12	6	1	-2
12	13			11	6	-2	-6	6	0	-3	-4
12	14			11	8	-3	-7	1	-4	-7	-10
12	15			13	11	-1	-5	9	0	-8	-8
12	16	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	8	1	-1	12	3	-3	-12
12	17				6	4	-3	9	4	-3	-9
12	18				6	9	-5	17	8	0	-3
12	19				-3	6	-6	22	14	3	-3
12	20				-1	3	-8	20	13	0	-6
12	21				-4	0	-8	16	6	-2	-5
12	22				-4	0	-8	11	4	-5	-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
12	9				5	-9	-11			-13	-15
12	10	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	11	-1	-2	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-11	-13
12	11				13	6	-3			-1	-4
12	12				4	6	-4			2	-2
12	13				9	-2	-7			-3	-4
12	14				13	-3	-8			-8	-10
12	15				17	-1	-5			-9	-8
12	16	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	14	3	0	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-3	-13
12	17				13	10	-3			-3	-9
12	18				13	17	-5			1	-3
12	19				-3	15	-7			4	-3
12	20				-1	13	-8			2	-6
12	21				-3	7	-9			-2	-6
12	22				-5	7	-9			-5	-8

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
12	9					-4	-9			-6	-9
12	10	Frozen out, no more forecast	-4	-9	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-7	-10			
12	11					-2	-8			-6	-9
12	12					0	-8			-4	-8
12	13					-2	-7			-5	-8
12	14					-2	-7			-6	-8
12	15					-2	-7			-6	-8
12	16	Frozen out, no more forecast	2	-4	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-6	-9			
12	17					7	-4			-5	-8
12	18					11	-4			-2	-7
12	19					12	-5			-1	-7
12	20					14	-5			0	-7
12	21					10	-6			-3	-7
12	22					10	-6			-3	-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
12	9	Frozen out, no more forecast	-4	-9	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-6	-9			
12	10					-4	-9			-7	-10
12	11					-2	-8			-6	-9
12	12					0	-8			-4	-8
12	13					-2	-7			-5	-8
12	14	-2	-7	-6	-8						
12	15	-2	-7	-6	-8						
12	16	Frozen out, no more forecast	2	-4	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-6	-9			
12	17					7	-4			-5	-8
12	18					11	-4			-2	-7
12	19					12	-5			-1	-7
12	20					14	-5			0	-7
12	21					10	-6			-3	-7
12	22					10	-6			-3	-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
12	9	Frozen out, no more forecast	-4	-9	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-6	-9			
12	10					-4	-9			-7	-10
12	11					-2	-8			-6	-9
12	12					0	-8			-4	-8
12	13					-2	-7			-5	-8
12	14	-2	-7	-6	-8						
12	15	-2	-7	-6	-8						
12	16	Frozen out, no more forecast	2	-4	Frozen out, no more forecast	Frozen out, no more forecast	-6	-9			
12	17					7	-4			-5	-8
12	18					11	-4			-2	-7
12	19					12	-5			-1	-7
12	20					14	-5			0	-7
12	21					10	-6			-3	-7
12	22					10	-6			-3	-7